Fort Sam Houston

News Leader ©

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Briefs

Post Garage Sale, Feb. 7

A Post Garage Sale will be held in the Macarthur Pavilion parking lot, Feb. 7, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free and open to the public. Visitors enter through the Walters Street or Binz Engleman gates.

Black History Month luncheon, Feb. 12

The Chaplains office will sponsor a Black History Month luncheon, Feb. 12, 11:30 a.m to 1 p.m. at the FSH NCO Club. Duty uniform. Cost is $6. Open to all FSH personnel.

Red Cross Open House, Feb. 12

The American Red Cross will hold an Open House on Feb. 12, 2-4 p.m. at the Station House, corner of Patch and Harney Roads. Information about Red Cross services, volunteer opportunities and training courses on FSH including CPR and first aid, babysitter's training, learn-to-swim programs will be offered. For information, call 221-3355.

Office closures, Feb. 13

The Gen. Vogel Processing Center, Bldg. 367, Student Personnel, Bldg. 1290, and the ID Card Office at BAMC will be closed Feb. 13. The offices will resume services on Feb. 17, 7:30 a.m.

Bldg. 902 Memorialization Ceremony, Feb. 20

The 32nd Medical Brigade will conduct a memorialization ceremony of the Lt. Col. Karen Wagner Hall, Bldg. 902 on Harney Road, Feb. 20, 10 a.m.

'It's Not Easy Being Green' Conference, Feb. 27-28

"It's Not Easy Being Green" Conference will be held Feb. 27-28 at Dodd Field Chapel. Registration deadline is Feb. 18. For information, call Judity Markelz at 655-0238 or Kim Taylor at 566-6526.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jose Raymundo

Staff Sgt. Christian Estores, 418th Medical Logistics Company operations sergeant, oversees the uneven parallel bars competition during the company's "Squad Stakes" competition held Jan. 28-30. See more photos on Pages 16-17.

Competition focuses on fitness and training

By Esther Garcia
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

The 418th Medical Logistics Company, Special Troops Battalion, conducted a motivational "Squad Stakes" competition Jan. 28-30. The three-day event focused on evaluating training conducted over the previous quarter with an added fun factor.

The company's senior leadership selected five high-speed Noncommissioned Officers to be team captains and randomly selected 35 Soldiers for six teams. The first event was the NATO obstacle course and a 3-mile road march held at Salado Creek.

On the morning of the second day, with motivational music blaring in the background the competition for the physical fitness event began. Each team member had to complete 50 push-ups, 50 sit-ups, and 100 4-count jumping jacks in record time until all the teams completed every event. Timing was the factor that would

*See **Competition** on Page 16*

AMEDD Museum presents 'Legacy of Heroes,' featuring orthopedic surgeons

By Ret. Col. Tom Munley
Special to News Leader

The U.S. Army Medical Department Museum Foundation and the Army Medical Department Museum are currently hosting a commemorative exhibit and film honoring orthopedic surgeons' contributions in World War II.

The "Legacy of Heroes" is an award-winning exhibit and film project by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons illustrating the contributions of orthopedic surgeons during World War II.

The multimedia exhibit, open now through Feb. 28 tells the courageous, inspiring, and sometimes-heartbreaking stories of orthopedic surgeons who served in World War II. The Legacy of Heroes exhibit can be viewed in the museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

*See **Museum** on Page 3*

Proposed 2005 Budget contains money for troop pay raise

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

The president's proposed fiscal 2005 budget boosts defense spending to continue the war on terror, providing another pay raise for troops and increasing homeland security spending.

"We will devote the resources necessary to win the war on terror and protect our homeland," President Bush said Jan. 31 during his weekly radio address to the nation.

With U.S. forces deployed worldwide in the fight against terrorism, Bush noted his proposed budget boosts defense spending by 7 percent, with money earmarked for equipment, ammunition and troop housing.

"We'll keep our military strong and ready for every challenge that may come," the commander in chief vowed.

Bush observed that military pay has increased 21 percent since he took office. He said his proposed fiscal 2005 budget contains funding to increase service members' pay by another 3.5 percent next year.

"Our troops put their lives on the line to defend America," Bush pointed out, "and we owe them our best in return."

Bush said his proposed budget "nearly triples homeland security spending over 2001 levels, including an increase of nearly 10 percent next year, to $30.5 billion." This money, he explained, would be used to improve security at borders, airports and seaports, and to better prepare the U.S. against biological attack.

The president said his proposed fiscal 2005 budget also contains money to boost the FBI's budget by 11 percent, and a $357-million increase in counterterrorism activities.

"America will not let its guard down in our war on terror," Bush concluded.

Army strives to combat identity theft for Soldiers

By Andrea Takash
Army News Service

The Army is working to ensure that thieves can't steal the personal information of Soldiers, their families and Army civilians.

Over the past five years, 27 million American adults have been victims of identity theft, according to the Federal Trade Commission's 2003 Identity Theft Survey Report.

"Identity theft was the number two most reported crime to the federal government in 2003, and it is on the rise," said Peter D. Anzulewicz, information assurance analyst, Army Web Risk Assessment Cell.

The Army Web Risk Assessment Cell in the Information Assurance Directorate will release a distance learning training course on Feb. 1 that contains a section on DoD and Army Web site policy and an interactive Web site. The interactive Web site will test Web administrators' knowledge of the policies.

"The distance learning training course will teach Web administrators what is and is not permitted on publicly accessible Army Web sites," Anzulewicz said.

"We have been working with other Department of Defense agencies to minimize the risk of identity

*See **Army** on Page 3*

Notice to credit cardholders, be aware of new credit card scams

By John Ziu
Special to the News Leader

During the past week, there have been several reports of external fraudulent activity targeted toward or affecting the government's charge card program.

All agency/organization program coordinators, charge card managers, cardholders, and other employees processing the card program should be aware of the following:

Do not give out account information in response to a fraudulent e-mail indicating it is from Visa officials, stating that cardholders have to "reactivate" their accounts due to a "technical security update." The e-mail directs the user to click a link that appears to be the Visa Web site, but is actually a fake mirror image. Entering personal information into that site could result in identity theft.

Note that no one from Visa banks will ever call or e-mail a cardholder and ask for an account number or other personal information. Thus far, this action has been targeted at government travel cardholders. Cardholders should report any attempts to the A/OPC and to the bank's 800 number on the back of the credit card as soon as they occur.

Information warns of a potential scam whereas unknown callers falsely identify themselves as bank employees working with the government charge card program. The scam operators claim to be checking suspicious card activity and may ask for account numbers, social security numbers, and other personal information. Be aware that bank employees would not take these actions.

The A/OPCs should be the only persons requesting this type of information.

Cardholders should report any attempts to the A/OPC and to the bank's 800 number on the back of the credit card as soon as they occur.

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BAMC Soldier medic saves boys from rushing water

Story and photo by Capt. Mark Williford
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Pfc. Kimberly Johnston, a Brooke Army Medical Center operating room specialist, helped save two San Antonio children after both fell into a drainage ditch filled with rushing water following the Jan. 16 storms.

Johnston pulled into a Texaco convenience store around 9 p.m. on Jan. 16. As she walked past a 12-year-old boy sitting on the curb, she had a strange feeling something was wrong.

"He was shaking and soaking wet," Johnston said, "I asked him if he was okay and he said his friend was in the ditch across the street."

Johnston said she could tell the boy was showing signs of shock and hypothermia. It was then that her medical training took over.

"I told the store clerk to call for help," Johnston said. "I ran across Harry Wurzbach Road to check on the other one."

Not knowing what lay ahead, Johnston said she was afraid she was going to find a youngster floating face down in the water dead.

"I saw a 10-year-old standing on a log and holding on to a concrete bridge column," Johnston said. "I asked him how he was doing and he said he was cold."

Seeing the child shivering and standing in four feet of rushing rainwater, she had to make a quick decision.

Pfc. Kimberly Johnston points to the drainage area where she saved a 10-year-old boy. Although the waters have subsided from the Jan. 16 storm, overflows from Salado Creek and debris still remain. During storms, San Antonio's drainage control system frequently fills with rushing water to prevent flooding in other areas.

"There was about a 10 foot drop into the concrete ditch and I had to figure a way to get him out," said Johnston. "If he fell back into the water, I knew he would be swept away."

Johnston said the only option she had was to pull the child out. Having no belt or rope available to throw out as a rescue line only made matters worse.

"I tried to wave down several cars but no one wanted to stop," Johnston said. "So I had no choice, I pulled off my shirt and used it as if were a rope."

Using her shirt as a lifeline showed promise at first. As the boy began pulling himself out of the culvert, he fell back into the rushing current.

"I jumped into the water and grabbed him," said Johnston. "The current was so strong that it made it hard to walk to the edge."

Johnston said she was able to push the boy out of the ditch by using her head.

Having the boy sit atop her head as if were a seat cushion, she literally benched pressed him up like a car jack lifting an automobile in the air.

The youngster was able to pull himself up and out onto the grass embankment.

"I quickly put my wet shirt back on when I saw the paramedics," Johnston said. "I didn't think about how funny I must have looked without a shirt and pushing a 10-year-old out of the water."

The boys, later identified as Zachary, 10 and Shawn, 12, were immediately treated by San Antonio medical personnel for shock and hypothermia.

Johnston later learned the two were riding on their roller blades when Zachary fell into the drainage culvert near Nacogdoches Street and Harry Wurzbach Road.

"Zachary jumped in to save Shawn but he couldn't swim," Johnston said. "Both boys were then swept into separate concrete drainage pipes."

As muddy rainwater pushed the two for over a quarter of a mile under city streets, they eventually emerged near the 410-Loop area.

Johnston said she, "just reacted" and credits her childhood swimming experiences in Miami, Fla., and her military training for helping her take quick action.

"I know people saw the boy sitting at the convenience store but no one ever stopped of asked him if he needed help."

Museum

Continued from Page 1

The guest speaker series includes a presentation Tuesday, Feb. 17, by Col. Mark Bagg, Chief of Orthopedics, Brooke Army Medical Center and Consultant to the Surgeon General, U.S. Army, who will present his observations about orthopedics in the recent (and ongoing) conflict in Iraq.

On Tuesday Feb. 24, Dr. Nicolas E. Walsh, Chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Medical School, will present information on new developments in prosthetic devices.

This never-before documented history of orthopedic surgeons and their wartime experiences not only shares personal, detailed accounts of individuals, but also chronicles the great strides made in the treatment of orthopedic trauma as a result of developments from World War II.

More than 100 Academy members—also World War II veterans now in their 70s and 80s—were interviewed to record and preserve their individuals stories, many of which are included in the book Legacy of Heroes, documentary film Wounded in Action, and all of which are featured on the Web site, www.legacy-ofheroes.aaos.org. Some of these veterans were taken back to the beaches at Normandy and Pearl Harbor where they served, to reflect on both tragic memories, heroic moments, and the impact these experiences had on their lives.

It has been said that World War II created an obscene training ground for surgeons, but despite the gruesome and tragic nature of their training, these present-day orthopedic surgeons have taken the positive from the situation. As veteran John T. Hayes, M.D. stated, "…from wartime experiences, we've learned to rebuild the broken bodies, and we've learned to take care of the terrible wounds that we now see on the highways; that we once saw in the war. The joy of orthopedic surgery is that we rebuild people. It's a wonderful, optimistic branch of surgery."

Many of the veterans entered the war as medics or litter-bearers and then were pushed forward as necessary to treat the wounded. They then received formal training as orthopedic surgeons after the war. The sheer numbers of the wounded created opportunities to attempt bold new surgical techniques. The intricacies of hand surgery, prosthetics, and spine surgery were developed and refined as orthopedic surgeons treated tens of thousands of casualties. Internal and external fixation, prosthetics, joint replacement, bone fusion, the use of antibiotics, etc., were also further developed as a result of the war.

For information, call Tom McMasters, Army Medical Department Museum at 221-6358.

Army

Continued from Page 1

theft through the removal of inappropriate personal information from Army publicly accessible Web sites during the AWRAC review of Web content," Anzulewicz said.

For example, commanders' biographies on the Web no longer list the names of family members. The publicly accessible Web sites should only list office names and phone numbers. The only names on the Web sites should be Army spokespeople, Anzulewicz said.

Anzulewicz explained that it is imperative for securing personal information that Web administrators, Web masters and commanders understand the DoD and Army's Web policies. "Criminals don't have to be clever to steal identities; they are just a keyboard away," he said.

In 2003 alone, consumers reported losses totaling more than $400 million from fraud, according to Consumer Sentinel, the complaint database maintained by the FTC.\

Under the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act, it is a federal crime when someone transfers or uses a means of identification of another person with the intent to commit any unlawful activity that constitutes a violation of Federal law.

Identity theft takes only minutes for thieves to accomplish, while recovering from identity theft takes months to years for the victims of this serious crime, Anzulewicz said.

He said it is more dangerous when Soldiers become victims of identity theft.

"If a Soldier in Baghdad has his credit card stolen, the criminal will max it out without his knowledge. Then, his wife back in the states can't buy food for the kids. The Soldier is thinking of his family starving back in the states. Identity theft makes Soldiers ineffective and puts them in harms way," Anzulewicz said.

Three common ways of stealing identities exist. "Most identity thieves take personal information out of mailboxes or trash cans," Anzulewicz said. However, the Internet is a growing outlet for criminals, he said "People give their personal information away everyday on the Internet," Anzulewicz said.

He said Soldiers and their families can protect themselves from identity theft by being cautious of giving out their personal information.

"Also, make sure you check your credit card bills for abnormal charges. Invest in a shredder and shred all of your personal information before throwing it away," he said.

If your credit card is missing or stolen, Anzulewicz said immediately call the credit card company. "Ask that a 'fraud alert' be placed in your file," he said.

Furthermore, he advises people to order an annual copy of their credit report from the three credit reporting agencies — Equifax, Trans Union and Experian. Check for accuracy on the reports and make sure the activities listed were authorized.

Identity theft victims should call the Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Hotline at 1-877-ID-THEFT, Anzulewicz said. When people call the hotline, trained personnel guide them through the steps needed to resolve their issues resulting from identity theft.

For more information on identity theft, go to the Federal Trade Commission's Web site at http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/.

NCO Academy announces NCO of the Year

Story and photo by Esther Garcia
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Sgt. 1st Class Wendy Carter, an instructor with the Noncommissioned Officer's Academy, has been selected as NCO of the Year for the NCO Academy. In a ceremony held Jan. 29 at the NCO Academy, Paul Mathsen, commander, NCO Academy, said, "She is a good Soldier and a great Soldier. She has been a platoon Soldier, a squad leader, she has done it all and she has made us proud".

Carter entered the military in 1988. She completed her basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Carter is an instructor for the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer's Course. As the experienced small group leader, Carter's duties include training selected active duty and Reserve Components Noncommissioned Officers in tactical, technical and leadership skills and foster Noncommissioned Officer development as Platoon Sergeants. Her goal is to prepare Noncommissioned Officers to lead and train soldiers.

Carter's military education includes the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer's Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer's Course, Primary Leadership Development Course, and Battle Staff.

Her military awards include the Army Commendation Medal (3OLC), Army Achievement Medal (3OLC), Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Ribbon (bronze star), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (bronze star), Armed Forces Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (#3), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Nato Medal (bronze star), and Sharpshooter.

Carter has a bachelor's degree in General Studies from Lexington University.

Carter competed in the Small Group Leader of the Quarter Board and then at the Small Group Leader of the Year. She next competes at the Army Medical Department Center and school level.

At a ceremony held at the NCO Academy Carter was presented with numerous gifts from the Fort Sam and San Antonio community.

"The Army has been nothing but good to me, I have learned a lot and seen a lot while in the Army," said Carter.

Paul Mathsen, commander, Noncommissioned Officer's Academy, congratulates Sgt. 1st Class Wendy Carter for her selection as the NCO of the Year for the NCO Academy.

Photo by Esther Garcia

From right, Col. Glenn Ballard, commander 5th Bde.(Health Services, 95th Division and Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Gomez, 95th Division, present Staff Sgt. Michael Thornhill, Staff Sgt. Russell Bowles, Sgt. 1st Class Herbert Lee, and Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Mayes with a commander's coin recognizing their contributions to the 32nd Medical Brigade training mission.

Reserve trainers complete mission

By Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Four reserve component soldier-instructors assigned to the 232nd Medical Battalion as 91W cadre discussed their experiences at Fort Sam Houston with Brig. Gen. James Archer, assistant division commander, 95th Division, Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Gomez, 95th Division, Col. Glenn Ballard, commander 5th Bde (Health Services), 95th Division. The telephone conference and a brief social ended their yearlong active duty tours with the 32nd Medical Brigade, which began March 1, 2003. The soldiers enjoyed their instructor tours here, experiencing strong counterpart camaraderie with battalion active duty peers. Each of the reservists had extensive experience teaching the 91W transition course, additional skill identifier courses, and medical courses such as combat lifesaver. All indicated that the 91W instruction program and the quality of instructors is preparing the initial entry training students to be effective healthcare specialists on the battlefield and in medical facilities. Each of the reservists also was impressed with peer support from the 232nd Medical Battalion staff and instructors. The reservists also acknowledged the smooth transition during mobilization and deployment and great healthcare provided by Brook Army Medical Center.

Photo by Phil Reidinger

Gilbert De La Portilla, president, Texas Crime Prevention Association, presents Lt. Col. Floyd Williams, Provost Marshal, and Master Sgt. Suzanne McGlothin, Provost sergeant major, Texas Night Out recognition awards for coordinating the post participation. Other committee members are Spcs. Dennis Fair, Patrick Hebner, Nicole Davis, and Linda Furlow. Committee members Spcs. Samantha Compton, Naomi Garcia, Davyd Smith, and Desarei Hoss could not attend the awards ceremony.

Post recognized for National Night Out success

By Linda Furlow
Special to the News Leader

The Fort Sam Houston community participated for the first time in National Night Out as one of more than 10,000 communities participating in the 20th Anniversary of National Night Out in 2003. There were fourteen parties held on post and approximately 20 percent of the installation's residents attended a party in their housing area.

Fort Sam Houston was one of three military installations recognized by the National Association of Town Watch for their efforts in making National Night Out 2003 a success.

The Texas National Night Out committee also recognized the Fort Sam Houston Law Enforcement Command for their efforts coordinating the post participation. Gilbert De La Portilla, Texas Crime Prevention Association president, presented the award and thanked the command for their efforts in preventing crime during the Texas Night Out recognition awards ceremony held in the Provost Marshal Office Conference Room on Monday. Lt. Col. Floyd Williams, Provost Marshal, also presented the soldiers who helped plan the event with a commander's coin.

This year National Night Out will be held on Aug. 3. The Law Enforcement Command is looking forward to more participation from our community. For information or to register your party, call the Crime Prevention Section at 221-9686.

Super Soldiers receive Christian message, food and fun during Super Bowl

The Soldiers of the 187th Medical Battalion celebrated teamwork as they shared an evening filled with food and fun in the Army Medical Department Center and School. A place that usually represents academics, stressful exams and critical performance was quickly transformed into a large pep rally for Super Bowl Sunday.

Although Blesse Auditorium was filled with fans for each team, the common denominator was teamwork. Lt. Col. John Collins communicated that the 187th and the Army are a team of teams, and as we each do our part with the goal of excellence, we in the Army win, we as a nation win. Chaplain David R. Schlichter spoke about "Choosing your Team" during halftime. He emphasized the important choice each individual must make when choosing who their coach will be. "Will you allow Christ to be your coach or will you continue to do things your way. God leaves the choice up to you." Soldiers from the three IET companies, one ASI company and a few cadre sprinkled throughout enjoyed an evening of great football and friendly rivalry as each cheered their team on with great enthusiasm.

Great appreciation was extended to the "The Men of the Chapel," who prepared the 400 hamburgers that were devoured, and 200 hotdogs and all the "fixins." The Men of the Chapel is an organization of chapel attendees, Catholic and Protestant, who desire to make a difference in the military community and lives of Soldier's.

Courtesy photo

Soldiers enjoy an evening of great football and friendly rivalry as each cheered their team with great enthusiasm during Super Bowl Sunday at Blesse Auditorium.

Former Special Troops Battalion commander sets high goals for ANA

Story and photo by Maj. Richard C. Sater
Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan

The nametag reads Vrentas, lieutenant colonel, Army issue. The caduceus on his collar marks his branch, medical. Badges on the uniform spell out some of his history: Special Forces tab, combat medic badge, master parachutist, air assault, 82nd Airborne combat patch.

His business card is crammed full: Lt. Col. Gregory L. Vrentas, U.S. Army, chief of medical plans and operations for the Afghan National Army Plans and Design Team, under the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan.

Good doctoring is essential for the sustenance of any army. Vrentas envisions trained medics at the battalion level; clinics at the brigade or garrison level; four or five fully-staffed provincial military hospitals situated around the country; and a 400-bed national military hospital. Those are big plans.

Though he would make a handsome cowboy, he's no maverick - the Plans and Design Team consists of approximately 30 members, developing every facet of designing, training and equipping the Afghan National Army. Vrentas attacks his job with a single-mind conviction that will have long-term consequence.

"A Soldier who knows he's going to be cared for is willing to engage an enemy," he says. Ideally, a wounded Soldier will be treated on the battlefield and then evacuated to a proper facility. "We fix him and return him to duty. If we can accomplish that, we can sustain this army," he says.

The south stretches gently across his voice, pitched deep, volume set to "low." He expresses himself sparely, as if to match his economic build, no nonsense.

Military medical care is measured against five tiers, Level I, the field medic; Level II provides casualty stabilization, damage control and advanced trauma life-support; Level III includes resuscitative surgery for repair and intensive care unit capability; IV covers reconstructive surgery and extended care, while Level V is rehabilitation and long-term definitive care.

Maj. Gen. (Dr.) A.Z. Yaftali, Afghan national Army Surgeon General, confers in his office with Lt. Col. Greg Vrentas, former Special Troops Battalion commander and currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He rates the current level of the Afghan Army's medical care at "a II-plus or a III-minus." Strong Level III care isn't currently available anywhere in the country, by his assessment. He faults three things – first, the medical staff's current capability. "They have a strong skill set, but it's antiquated. It's never been honed and polished."

Second is the "tremendous lack" of equipment and supplies, and third is the disintegrating infrastructure.

"We're concentrating on building the medical architecture from Level I to Level IV," he says. Level V might be out of reach now, but even if he won't admit as much, he's mulling it over like a dog worrying a soup-bone.

"We're fortunate," he says. "We have a good group of Afghan counterparts prepared to take the lead and produce their own medics. And they're proud, tremendously professional."

Vrentas foresees a year at least, to transform the deteriorating facility into that national military hospital he wants. He also estimates three to five years to accelerate the medical staff to proper speed, and that will require institutions to teach Army medics, doctors, dentists, nurses and specialists.

Recruits chosen as combat medics receive basic qualification at the ANA Central Corps Headquarters camp in nearby Pol-e-Charki. The first company of combat medics - U.S.-trained after the Army model - graduated last year. The second course is underway, taught this time primarily by Afghan military doctors, under the supervision of a U.S. military training team.

"We've already made a quantum leap in training at Level I and Level II," he says. Approximately 160 medics have been trained thus far, toward his goal of 2,200-man ANA medical force.

The doctors themselves initially train for three years at the Kabul Medical Institute, subsequently completing years four through six, internship and residency, at the military hospital. Such training academies "must remain solvent to maintain the medical capability of the ANA," Vrentas insists.

Another of his initiatives has made a difference as well. Recruits must now pass a basic physical examination prior to acceptance into the ANA. Even that simple process has led to a healthier force.

The Army is intended to swell upwards of 70,000 soldiers in the next several years. Lack of resources to build and sustain a force of that size will defeat it, and the opportunity – and responsibility – of U.S. and coalition forces to make a difference will be forfeited, Vrentas believes.

"Afghanistan's window of opportunity will close with the global community's ever-drifting attention span. And another generation, or a different coalition, will be left to sift out the mess.

"If we can grow an Afghan National Army," he says, "we'll have security in this country. If you're not actively working to do that – or killing Taliban and al Qaida – then what are you doing here?"

Military retirees to see pay increase

On Feb. 2, an estimated 150,000 military retirees will see an increase in their pay. The National Defense Authorization Act, enacted in November 2003, significantly modified a long-standing law preventing retirees from receiving full-retired pay if they also received disability pay from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The new law allows concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability pay for retirees with more than 20 years of service and a disability rating of 50 percent or greater. This restored pay will be phased in over a 10-year period that began on Jan. 1.

Retirees are not required to take any action to receive the additional pay. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has already identified eligible retirees and begun making adjustments to their military retired pay.

The first payments are due the first business day of February for the law change that was effective Jan. 1 of this year. The additional funds will be paid on Feb. 2, based on entitlement for January 1-31, 2004. The restored pay is paid on the same schedule as current military retired pay. Recurring payments will be made on the first business day of each month based on entitlement for the prior month.

For the majority of military retirees, the additional money is taxable income and subject to federal tax withholding.

One category of military retirees that is eligible for additional funds but will not be paid on February 2, 2004, are those who receive retired pay based on a disability percentage instead of years of service. Further guidance is needed from the Department of Defense to determine how the law will be applied in these cases. Once guidance is received, payments will be made retroactive to Jan. 1, 2004. An estimated 2,800 military retirees fall into this category.

For more details regarding who is eligible for the restored pay and how payments will be made, visit www.dfas.mil and see the topics under "Retired and Annuitant Pay," or visit the myPay Web site at https://mypay.dfas.mil.

DFAS clarifies retroactive civilian pay raise implementation

The additional 2.1 percent pay raise for civilian employees authorized by the President on Jan. 23, will be retroactive to Jan. 11. However, before it can take effect, an Executive Order must be issued addressing how the increase will be split between base and locality pay.

After the Executive Order is issued, the Office of Personnel Management will publish new salary tables based on that guidance. These tables must then be integrated into the personnel system before any retroactive pay adjustment processing can begin. Once the adjustments are processed by the personnel system, calculation of employee pay increases by payroll systems can begin.

As in 2003, not all employees will receive the retroactive part of the pay increase at the same time. Due to transaction volume, payroll processing of this change must take place over the course of multiple paydays. The specific dates when employees can expect to receive the retroactive portion of the pay increase will be published as soon as they are available.

For more information about DFAS, visit http://www.dfas.mil.

Source: Defense Finance and Accounting Service news release.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Allbright

Fifth U.S. Army top NCO transfers responsibility, retires

Left, Fifth U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Teddy E. Harman passes the unit's colors to Fifth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark during a change of responsibility ceremony held in the Quadrangle on Jan. 30. Harman also retired following 33 years of military service. Command Sgt. Maj. George L. Nieves accepted the colors as the new Fifth U.S. Army command sergeant major. Nieves' previous assignment was command sergeant major for Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Guanatanamo, Cuba.

What is HOOAH 4 HEALTH?

HOOAH 4 HEALTH (H4H) is a web-based health promotion and prevention program developed to respond to the needs of the U.S. Army Reserve Components. The site was launched in May 2000 and since then over 46 million hits have been recorded.

The users of www.hooah4health.com include not only Reserve Component citizen-soldiers and active Army personnel, but also their co-workers and families. Also, many users are elementary school children, and requests to link to this innovative U.S. Army web site originate from around the world. Body, mind, spirit, environment, prevention, change, family and lifestyle are the primary wellness topics contained in a user-friendly environment. The HOOAH 4 HEALTH newsletter is available online at http://www.h4hnewsletter.us/.

Black History Month Trivia Question of the Week

In recognition of Black History Month, during the month of February, a series of trivia question about well-known facts, events and personalities will be published. The answers and the winner's name will be published in the following week's issue. Answers must be sent via e-mail to Gayle.Ellis@CEN.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL or delivered in a sealed envelope, addressed to Gayle Ellis, Black Employment Program committee member in Bldg. 2841, Room 1335, by close of business Tuesday, following the publication of questions. The winner will be the first set of correct answers received. E-mail responses are highly encouraged.

The following are the questions for this week:

1. Who is Michael P. Anderson and why is he important?
2. Why was Idlewood, Michigan important to blacks from the 1940s to the 1960s?
3. On May 16, 1997, President Clinton made a public apology to blacks for what reason?
4. What African American lost his life in the Challenger disaster in 1986?
5. Name two famous black athletes from the 1930s, 1940s or 1950s that were pioneers in their sports. What are their names and what was their sport?

Hint: Use www.blackhistory.com and www.pbs.org to find the answers.

RLBC, Supply and Services Division personnel to relocate March 1

Effective March 1, Readiness, Logistics Business Center's Supply and Services Division, Property Management Branch personnel will relocate from Bldg. 4197 to Bldgs. 2640 and 4011.

The following changes will occur:

- Customer Services Section will move to Bldg. 2640, Room 46, upstairs in the CIF building.

- Material Management Section depot item managers and hand receipt managers will relocate to Bldg 4011, Room 115.

-Central Issue Facility, Admin Section will remain in Bldg. 2640, but will move downstairs to Room 12.

- Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants Section will move to Bldg. 2640, Room 11, downstairs in the office of the chief, Supply and Services Division.

- Supply Systems Analyst will remain in Bldg. 2640, but will relocate to Room 14, Food Service Branch.

The telephone numbers remain unchanged. Point of contact for this move is Vanessa Alford at 221-4575.

Blood is the fluid of life

The BAMC Blood Bank is running critically low of O Negative blood.

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

Contact the Donor Center to lend a helping hand. To donate blood now, call the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at 295-4655 or 295-4989.

Fort Sam Houston Celebrates African American History Month

February 2004

Today - Opening Ceremony will be held at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797 on Stanley Road, 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Sarah F. Davis, Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Feb. 11 - A Blood Drive sponsored by the U.S. Army Garrison Equal Opportunity Office will be held at BAMC Medical Mall, 8 a.m. to noon.

Feb. 12 - Black History Month Luncheon sponsored by the Installation Chaplains Office will be held at the NCO Club at 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker is Chaplain (Col.) Richard M. Hartsell, SWR CMD. Tickets are $6 per person and may be obtained by calling the Garrison Equal Opportunity Advisor at 295-0561.

Feb. 18 - Workshop "Where Do We Go From Here?" will be held in the basement of Bldg. 2263, on Stanley Road, 7:30 a.m. to noon. Information on the following topics will be available: 14th Amendment, Affirmative Action Plan, Conflict Management, Education updates, Job Assistance, Financial Aid and Health Issues.

Feb. 19 - For Soldiers in Initial Entry Training, the Capoiers Dancers will perform at the Hacienda Recreation Center, 6-7 p.m.

Feb. 19 - Medical Command Black History Program will be held in Wood Auditorium, 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guest speaker is Dr. Angela McPherson Williams, assistant to the principal, St. Phillips College. Food sampling will be available.

Feb. 20 - A memeralization ceremony for Lt. Col. Karen Wagner Hall, Bldg. 902, 32nd Medical Brigade, located on Harney Road will be held at 9:45 a.m.

Feb. 26 - An Oratory Competition will be held in Wood Auditorium, Medical Command Headquarters, 10-10:45 a.m. The deadline to register is Feb. 13. Deadline to submit essay is Feb. 18. The topic is: Applying Jefferson's writings that "all men are created equal," do you believe America has made progress in education? This event is open to the public. For information, call Maj. Vereen at 221-6722.

Advance preparation makes taxes filing less taxing

By Capt. Mary Meek
Tax Assistance Center

In just one week of operation, the Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center has already saved the FSH community $38,397 in tax preparation and filing fees. Most taxpayers who have visited the Tax Assistance Center are able to complete their tax return and have it electronically filed the same day. For other taxpayers, the tax preparation process cannot be completed in one visit because of incomplete information or documentation. A little advanced planning may prevent delay in this process.

The following subjects seem to have caused taxpayers some difficulty during the tax preparation process this season:

Child Tax Credit - The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 raised the Child Tax Credit to a maximum of $1,000 per child in 2003 from $600 per child in 2002. Many eligible taxpayers who claimed the Child Tax Credit on their 2002 tax returns received an advance payment of the 2003 increase in this credit.

If you received this advance payment, you must reduce your 2003 Child Tax Credit by the amount of the payment. As a consequence, you must know the amount of payment received to compute your taxes. Similarly, if you did not receive an advanced Child Tax Credit, you must know the reason why you did not receive this credit and provide your tax preparer with this information. Please note that you are considered to have received the credit if your advance payment was offset to pay back taxes or other government debts.

Taxpayers who may have forgotten the amount of their payment or misplaced the notice may use the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov to verify the amount of credit received. This information may be accessed under "Your 2003 Advance Child Tax Credit." Have the following information at hand to access Child Tax Credit information: the taxpayer's Social Security Number, 2002 filing status, the total number of exemptions (not dependents) claimed on the taxpayer's 2002 federal return. Taxpayers who do not have Internet access may use an automated application provided by the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Last year's tax returns - Bring your 2002 Federal Income Tax return when you have your 2003 Federal Income Tax return prepared. This allows a tax preparer to review what happened last year and ensure that you benefit from some items that may have carried forward from prior years, such as capital loss carry-forwards. Additionally, if there is a difference between your refund/amount due from last year and this year, a preparer can look through your previous year's return and identify what has changed for you.

Power of Attorney - If your spouse will not be present to sign your tax return, fill out IRS Form 2848. You may download it directly from the Internet at www.irs.gov. This form does not need to be notarized and can be good for multiple tax years.

While Powers of Attorney issued by most JAG offices are legally valid, the IRS has refused to accept them in the past, unless they specifically state the type of tax to be prepared (i.e., income), the form authorized (i.e., Form 1040), and the tax year authorized (i.e., 2003-2004). The safe alternative is to use the IRS's form.

Social Security cards - Taxpayers need to bring the actual Social Security cards for each dependent they are claiming. This allows the tax center to verify the name and Social Security Number of the dependent. Additionally, female taxpayers must file with the last name shown on their Social Security card. With electronic filing, the IRS crosschecks names and Social Security Numbers with the Social Security Administration's records. If a taxpayer's name or Social Security Number is not listed as it appears on the Social Security card, the IRS will reject the return.

Documents needed - Taxpayers must bring all documents supporting their deductions. If a taxpayer wishes to take a charitable deduction, the taxpayer must bring in the receipt from the donation. This allows the tax preparer to determine if the item is one that qualifies for a deduction, and to determine the amount of the deduction. Taxpayers cannot "ballpark" their deduction amounts, but must show evidence of the expense.

No business income - Army Regulations prohibit the Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center from providing tax assistance to private businesses. The one exception provided in Army Regulation for private business tax assistance, however, is for Family Child Care providers who operate through FSH. If you earn income and have an inventory or expenses to offset that income, the Tax Assistance Center cannot prepare your taxes.

Although this list is not intended to be exhaustive of potential tax problems for 2003, it does represent the issues encountered most often during this filing season. The main Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center is located in the Officer's Club, Bldg. 407 on Dickman Road. The Tax Assistance Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will remain open until April 17. The main Tax Assistance Center sees a limited number of clients each day with priority given to active duty in uniform. Sign-in sessions begin at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Information contained in this article is general in nature and does not constitute legal advice. Consult an attorney to answer questions particular to your situation.

Cole DECA students win district honors

By Dr. Gloria Davila
FSH ISD Associate Superintendent

Eleven Cole Jr./Sr. High School students competed in the District 2 Distributive Education Clubs of America Career Development Conference on Jan. 24. Five students won District level honors and two won alternate. The winners included Will Davis in Marketing Management, Charissa Kahue in Business Services Marketing, Justin Mass in Full Service Restaurant Marketing, Kenneth Peterson in Vehicles and Petroleum Marketing, and David Talamantez in Marketing Management. The two alternates were Ciara Goodwin in Quick Serve Restaurant Marketing and Israel Tovar in Business Services Marketing. Doug Smith, marketing and vocational education teacher, coached the students to a successful competition.

Photo by Dr. Roland Rios

From left, DECA team members (front row) Ciara Goodwin, Charissa Kahue, Kenneth Peterson, (back row) Justin Maas, Will Davis, Israel Tovar. Not pictured, is David Talamantez.

Corps of Engineers contractors to begin ordnance removal at FSH

Contractors for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin removal of unexploded ordnance on a future school site at Fort Sam Houston, Feb. 17. Work is expected to continue for approximately seven weeks and will be limited to a 25 square acre area at the end of Winans Road, adjacent to the Fort Sam Houston National cemetery.

The Corps has employed the contracting firm of U.S.A. Environmental Incorporated to complete the removal of any unexploded ordnance that was left behind on the site as a result of World War I re-enactments. During those re-enactments, practice munitions were used, but the Corps urges the public to understand that although they are practice munitions, they still have the potential to be extremely hazardous. Residents of the area are encouraged to stay away from the exclusion zone of the worksite and not to touch any unidentifiable item.

During the removal of the unexploded ordnance, residents may experience loud explosions as a result of any live munitions found and being disposed of. Residents of Fort Sam Houston may also experience increased traffic on or along Winans Road during the seven-week removal period.

For information about ordnance removal at Fort Sam Houston, call Eric Kirwan at (817) 886-1673.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers news release.

AFTB upcoming events

Level I Classes
Agenda:
Monday, Feb. 9, 8:45 a.m. to Noon
- Family and Military Expectations (Great Expectations!)
- Impact of the Mission on Family Life
- Introduction to Military/Community Resources
- Military Terms, Acronyms (Break the Code!)
- Military Customs & Courtesies

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 8:45 a.m. to Noon
- Basic Problem Solving (Show me how to fix it!)
- Supporting Your Child's Education
- Benefits, Entitlements and Compensation
- Chain of Command/Chain of Concern (Who's in charge?)

All classes are held in the Roadrunner Community Center, for registration or information, call 221-2705.

Note: Registration deadline is Thursday, Feb. 5.

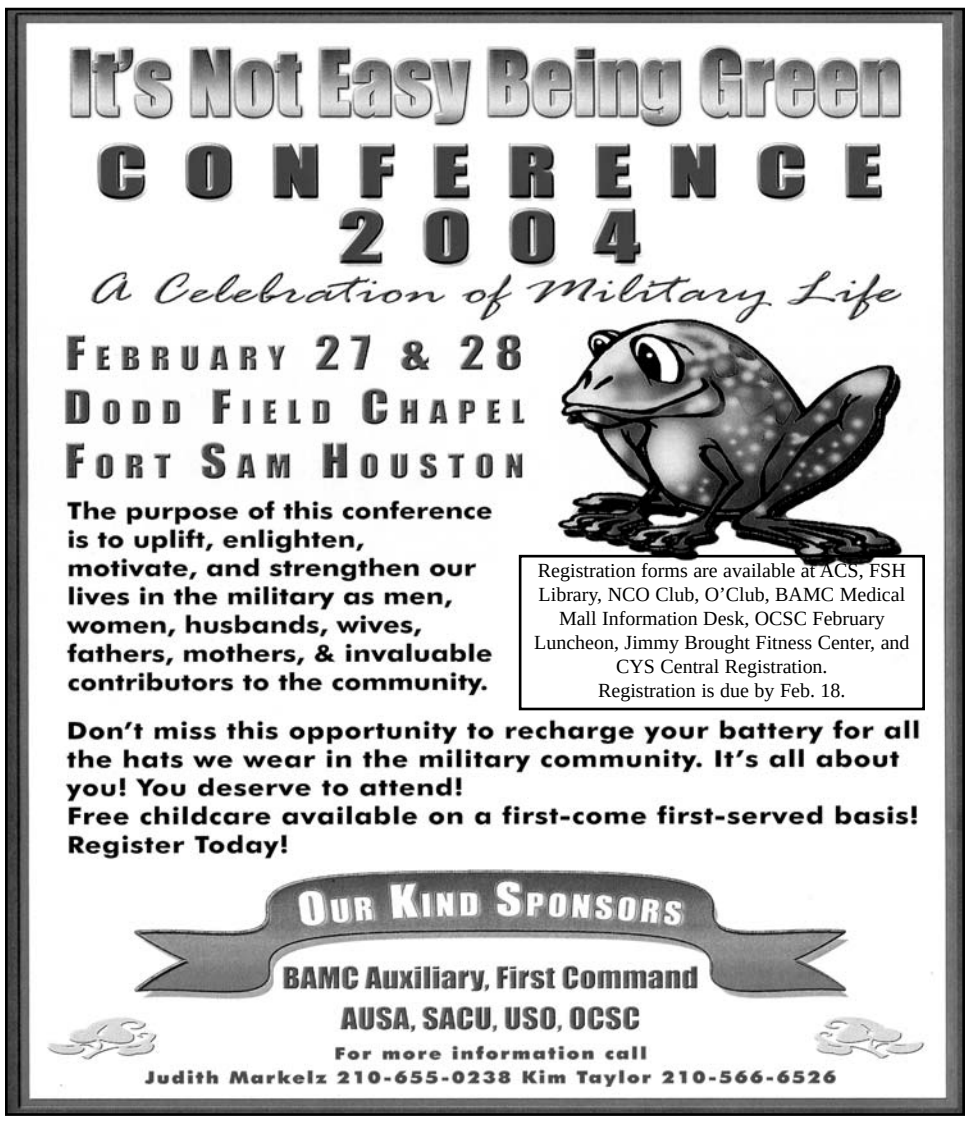
Army Community Services Family Advocacy Program Class Schedule February 2004

Class	Dates	Time
Beyond Your First Baby	6	8 a.m. to Noon
Building Effective Anger Management Skills Series 5-6	5, 12	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Getting Ready for Childbirth	8, 15	9 a.m. to Noon
Girl Talk! Ages 6-8	11	3-4 p.m.
Helping Us Grow Securely (H.U.G.S.) Playgroup	10	9-11 a.m.
Parenting with Love & Logic (ages 0-12)	12, 19	9-11:30 a.m.
S.T.E.P. Program for Parents of Teens	11	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Stress Management I & II	10	1-2 p.m.
Teen Talk	5, 12	4-5 p.m.
You & Your Baby	11	8 a.m. to Noon

Note: To sign up for classes or for more information, call ACS Family Advocacy Program at 221-0349/2418.

Free grounds admission to the Rodeo, Feb. 12-13

The San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo is offering "Free Grounds Admission" Feb. 12-13 to those with a valid military identification card. Additionally, a $5 discount is offered to all military on all $20 tickets Feb. 12-13. The gates open at 8:30 a.m. and the exhibits open at 10 a.m. The livestock barns will be open early. Carnival vouchers for rides are also available at a 50 percent discount for the military. Vouchers are available at the rodeo ticket office at the SBC Center, southwest corner.



BAMC EFMP Clinic hours

The Exceptional Family Member Program hours of operation at Brooke Army Medical Center are as follows:

Monday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 7:30-11 a.m.
Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday, 1-4:30 p.m.

Note: Limited hours on Tuesday and Friday

The EFMP Clinic is located in the Pediatric Department on the 1st floor of BAMC, the phone number is 916-5721 or DSN 429-5721, the fax number is 916-1254 or DSN 429-1254.

Scholarships for Military Children application deadline Feb. 18

By Carrie Williams
Defense Commissary Agency

Didn't find any "college cash" in your stocking? There's still time to apply for Scholarships for Military Children money. Applications for the $1,500 scholarships are due at the nearest commissary by close of business Feb. 18. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The application can be downloaded through a link on the front page of http://www.commissaries.com or downloaded directly from http://www.militaryscholar.org and filled out by hand or on the computer. Copies of the application are also available at commissaries worldwide.

Students should put on their thinking caps and give it their best shot when it comes to writing the scholarship essay. "In past years the essay has been a key factor in deciding among the many outstanding applicants," said program liaison Edna Hoogewind, Defense Commissary Agency. This year's topic is "What aspect of military life has had the greatest influence on you?"

Applications must be in the store by close of business on Feb. 18, and students who are not hand-delivering applications are advised to use a delivery method that supplies a return receipt.

After March 29, applicants may visit www.militaryscholar.org and go to the "Verification of Receipt" section. Scholarship managers will respond to "Verification of Receipt" e-mails until June 15.

Applicants should check all materials carefully for simple things, like making sure the application is signed or that it's the 2004 application, not one from previous years.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2004, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Additional instructions can be found on the application or at www.militaryscholar.org.

Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization best known for building comfort homes near military medical facilities, administers the Scholarships for Military Children program. Fisher House Foundation uses the services of Scholarship Managers, a professional firm that has handled more than 400 programs, to screen applicants and award scholarships. Neither Fisher House nor DeCA are involved in the decision process.

The Scholarships for Military Children program has awarded nearly 1,500 scholarships and nearly $2 million since the first awards in 2001. Scholarships are funded through the voluntary donations of the various manufacturers, brokers and suppliers that sell products in commissaries.

FSH Army Family Action Plan Community Forum scheduled for March 25-26

The Army Family Action Plan Community Forum is the first step in the process that conveys input from The Army Family to Army Leadership. The process lets soldiers, DA civilians, retirees, and their families say what is working and what is not working in their community – and what they think will fix it. It alerts commanders and Army leaders to areas of concern that need their attention and provides a mechanism for reporting back to the local community on the progress of the issues submitted.

The FSH AFAP Community Forum is scheduled for March 25-26. This is your opportunity to let the Army leadership know what you think is working and what is not working for the "Army Family." Representatives from Active and Reserve components, retirees, surviving spouses, DA civilians, family members and tenant organizations, will evaluate and prioritize the issues submitted.

Issues are researched with the help of subject matter experts and classified for work at the installation, MACOM, or DA level. Installation level issues are entered into the FSH AFAP process and tracked until resolved. Issue resolution is reported back to the FSH community through the AFP Steering Community. Issues needing resolution at the MACOM or DA level are forwarded to those agencies. Many AFAP actions impact quality of life for all services.

The Army is the only branch of the DoD that has such a program. Key to the success of this process is your input into the forum. You have an opportunity to have your voice heard by Army leadership.

Submit your issue(s) to the 2004 Fort Sam Houston Army Family Action Plan Forum by using the format accompanying this article. The format may be duplicated and you may submit as many issues as you like. Each issue should be on a separate form and returned to: Army Family Action Plan, Army Community Service, Bldg. 2797, 2010 Stanley Road #95, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 78234. Issue forms may also be dropped off at the Roadrunner Community Center information desk. You may also e-mail your issue, using the format provided to, Suella.York @samhouston.army.mil. Deadline for submitting issues is March 5.

Community Forum Issue Submission Format

Use the following format to submit you issue (s) by e-mail to Suella.York@samhouston.army.mil. or mail to ACS/AFAP, Bldg. 2797, 2010 Stanley Road #95, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234.

You may also hand-carry packet to the Roadrunner Community Center information desk. Deadline for submission of issues is March 5.

Subject: Community Forum Issue Submission

Issue: (Summarize the problem/concern in a few words.)

Scope: (Define the issue/problem/concern in paragraph form. State the impact and validate with facts. Include any regulations, laws, or policies you are aware of that may impact the issue. Give enough information that the delegates will clearly understand the issue.)

Recommendation(s): (Tell us what you want to happen. Do not tell why, that has already been defined in the scope. Prioritize and number recommendations. Use strong descriptive verbs and end with a measurable outcome.)

Provide as much of the requested information as you can on your issue. We understand you may not be familiar with the format. We need enough clear and concise information in each section to understand the problem, its impact, and what you want done about it.

Use a separate page for each issue. You may duplicate this format.

Issue Submitter's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

E-mail: _____

Note: Personal information is optional and will be used for administrative purposes only. It will allow us to contact you for clarification of the issue if necessary and to provide feedback. Commanders and forum participants will not see it.

Youth Happenings

Exploring Life for Middle School Students - Youth Services offers an after school program for middle school youth grades 6-9 on Monday through Friday after school until 6 p.m. YS will pick up your child from the school (either the elementary or the Jr./Sr. high school and take students to the Youth Center. Students will have a snack, work on homework, participate in clubs and do participate in fun innovative projects such as 4-H Club, a Photography Club, a Computer Tech Club and others. The best feature of this program is that this is a free program. Youth must be registered with Child and Youth Services at an $18 annual fee. For information, call 221-3502.

Youth Services Volunteers needed - YS is looking for volunteers to assist with youth programs. Sports coaches, computer skilled people, crafty people and those who just care about kids are welcome. If you have a special interest or hobby that you would like to share with kids, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Baseball Registration, Feb. 9-27 - Youth Services baseball registration begins Monday, Feb. 9-27. Cost is $45 for 5-18 year olds and $25 for 3-4 year olds. The season runs from mid March to the beginning of June. Birth certificate, and physical are required. All participants must be registered with the Child and Youth Services. For information, call 221-3502.

Dance Class Registration - Registration is ongoing through Feb. 27, for Spring Dance Classes with the recital in May. Classes will be held on Friday at the School Age Services Center, Bldg. 1705. Cost is $26 for 40 minutes, $28 for 50 minutes and $30 for 60 minutes.

The following is the schedule: 3-4 year-olds, 5:30-6:10 p.m.; 5-6 year-olds, 6:10-7 p.m.; and 7 and up, 7-7:50 p.m. For information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502

Saturday Open Recreation - Open recreation for youth in grades 1-12 is held at the Youth Center on Saturdays. Activities include computer lab, arts and crafts, basketball, pool, ping-pong, movies, and more. If you are registered with Child and Youth Services then you are eligible. Bring your child to the Youth Center for an afternoon of fun!! For information, call 221-3502. The following are the hours: 1-5th grades, 3-8 p.m.; 6-8th grades, 3-10 p.m.; and 9-12th grades 3-11 p.m.

Saturday Shuttle - Youth Services offers a Saturday afternoon shuttle to and from the Youth Center. There is no cost for this service, but parents of children 9 and under must wait for the van and sign them into and out of the van with the YS staff member. The Shuttle Schedule is as follows:

3 p.m. - Van leaves the Youth Center

3:07 p.m. - Gorgas Circle (Picnic Tables)

3:10 p.m. - Schofield/Dickman on Schofield

3:15 p.m. - Reynolds and Dickman on Reynolds

3:20 p.m. - Officer's Club tennis Courts

3:25 p.m. - Artillery Post Road at Bus Stop

3:30 p.m. - Easley/Infantry Post Bus Stop 660

3:42 p.m. - Patch Road (Playground)

3:46 p.m. - Patch Road Shoppette Parking lot

3:50 p.m. - Foulois/Scott Road Harris Heights

3:54 p.m. - Forage/Foulois

The return shuttle leaves the Youth Center at 7:30 p.m. for those in 5th grade and below. There is also a shuttle that leaves at 9:30 p.m. for those in Middle School and at 10:30 for those in 9th grade and up. Shuttles service is only for youth who live on post.

Child and Youth Services offer program opportunities for military families

Certified FCC providers available - Family Child Care offers home-based childcare for ages 4 weeks to 12 years on and off post with certified providers. Types of care are full day, part day, before and after school care, hourly care, extended hours care and long term care. Referral information and child registration are available at Child and Youth Services Central Registration, 221-4871. FCC is looking for family members interested in becoming certified FCC providers to offer home based childcare. There is a no-cost start up plan. For information, call 221-3820 or 221-3828.

3-Day Part Day Preschool enrollments - The 3-Day Part Day Preschool has been placed on hold due to lack of enrollment numbers. If you are interested and have questions concerning the 3-Day Part Day Preschool Program, notify Central Registration to place your name on a list. Fees will range from $151 - $200 per month and will be assessed by calculating total family income.

Wait List for full day care - If your child's name is on the Wait List for full day care, check the status of the list every 90 days from the day you complete the form; otherwise your child's name will be purged from the list. To check your status, call Central Registration 221-4871 or 221-1723.

After school and weekend open recreation available at SAS - School Age Services (Kindergarten - 5th grade) offers after school and weekend open recreation opportunities and after school hourly care options. Hourly care and open recreation must be reserved in advance by calling School Age Services at 221-4466. Children must be registered through Central Registration prior to utilizing the School Age program. To register, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Instructional classes available - If you are interested in instructional classes such as Tae Kwon Do, piano or gymnastics, call 221-4882 or 221-4871. For Babysitter Training, call 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Health Promotion Center February Class Schedule

Class	Date	Time
Introduction to Weight Reduction	6	Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	6	1-2:30 p.m.
Cholesterol & Lipids	9	8:30-11:30 a.m.
Diabetes Education	9	12:45-4:30 p m.
Diabetes Education	10	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Stress Management	10	1-2 p.m.
Breast & GYN Cancer Support Grp.	11	9:30-11 a.m.
Office Yoga	11	Noon to 1 p.m.
Self Care & Health	12	9-11 a.m.
Breast & GYN Cancer Support Grp.	17	6-7:30 p.m.
High Blood Pressure	18	9 a.m. to Noon
Office Yoga	18	Noon to 1 p.m.

Note: Appointments for Diabetes Education are scheduled through the Internal Medicine Clinic at 916-0794. Appointments for the Fibromyalgia Treatment Group require a consult to Behavioral Medicine Clinic. To schedule Winning Combination and Introduction to Weight Reduction, call the Nutrition Care Division at 916-5525. To schedule Back Pain, call Physical Therapy at 916-3247.

Photo by Spc. Roman Kubyshkovshy

232nd Medical Battalion takes brigade men's championship, 37-28

F Company, 232d Medical Battalion defeated B Company, 187th Medical Battalion to become the 32nd Medical Brigade intramural basketball champions. From left: Command Sgt. Maj. Sampson Rush, 32d Medical Brigade, Sgt. 1st Class (Drill Sgt.) Dennis Lott, team coach, (kneeling) and team members Privates William Miller, Rodolpho Ortiz, Tyrone Reid, (standing) Jason Ramirez, Casey McEntegart, Cody Longfellow, Justin Rogowski, Jeremy Hill, Casey Spear, Jarius Sykes, Thedore Nottage, Justin Mason, Joseph Bias, Avery Henrichson, and Col. Maureen Coleman, commander, 32d Medical Brigade.

Running safely on post reduces risk of accidents

If walking or running during hours of darkness carry a flashlight to shine on the sidewalk in front of you. One should also be wearing light (or reflective) clothing, stay out of the roadway, and be alert to traffic. Carry your own identification: name, address, a friend or relative's telephone number. Make sure your friends or relatives know your favorite running routes. Run in familiar areas and avoid unpopulated areas, deserted streets, and overgrown trails. Don't wear headphones. Run against traffic and keep the approaching automobiles in view. Wear reflective material if you must run during the hours of darkness. Runners may run on sidewalks or on the grass along the roads mentioned below.

Prohibited running/jogging roads on Fort Sam Houston: Stanley, Dickman, Artillery Post, Wilson, Scott, New Braunfels, Harry Wurzbach, Schofield, Roger Brooke and Binz-Engleman.

Fort Sam Houston ISD Weekly Campus Activities Feb. 9-13

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Wednesday, Feb. 11
- Western Day
  - Kindergarten, 8-8:45 a.m.
  - Second Grade, 8:50-9:35 a.m.
  - First Grade, 9:40-10:25 a.m.
  - Third Grade, 10:30-11:15 a.m.
  - Fourth Grade, 12:45-1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12
- Mentor Dinner, 5-7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13
- Spirit Day

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

Tuesday, Feb. 10
- Six Weeks Tests: Math and Electives
- Girls Basketball vs Poth at Cole, 5 and 6:30 p.m.
- Boys Basketball vs Poth at Central Post Gym, 5 and 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 11
- Six Weeks Tests: Science and Social Studies

Thursday, Feb. 12
- Six Weeks Tests: English

Friday, Feb. 13
- End of Fourth Six Weeks
- Six Weeks Tests: All Make Up Tests
- Boys Basketball Nixon-Smiley at Cole, 6 and 8 p.m.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jose Raymundo
Soldiers assigned to the 418th Medical Logistics Company compete in the balance beam competition, part of the NATO obstacle course. The company was divided into several teams and competed in various events held during three days of competition Jan. 28-30.

Competition

Continued from Page 1

decide which team wins. "The motivation of my team mates helped me and kept me going, and it was very exhausting. I could have done better with my sit-ups," said Sgt. Karla Sanchez.

The afternoon of the second day featured Common Task Training Nuclear Biological Chemical reaction drill. The Soldiers assembled and disassembled an M16 in Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear. The competition began when the "gas" alert was given. Each team member rushed to quickly put on his MOPP gear, then ran back and forth to a table to assemble and disassemble an M16 rifle.

On the last day, a volleyball competition between the teams was held at Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.

Capt. Corey Daughtrey, commander, 418th Medical Logistics Company, said, "The challenge is finding ways to think outside the box when it comes to training. Although these types of events are nothing new, they are not always used in a competitive format. The Soldiers had a great time with this training event and are looking forward to the next. 'Any Mission, Any Day, MEDLOG Warriors Lead the Way!'"

The 418th Medical Logistics Company was deployed to Germany for 10 months in support of Operations Enduring/Iraqi Freedom from December 2002 to October 2003. For the past several months, the unit has been in the reconstitution phase, getting equipment and training back to standard. The "Squad Stakes" competition allowed the Soldiers to reinforce the training they had learned as well as have fun doing it. The unit's NCOs did a great job putting the 3-day event together, according to the commander.

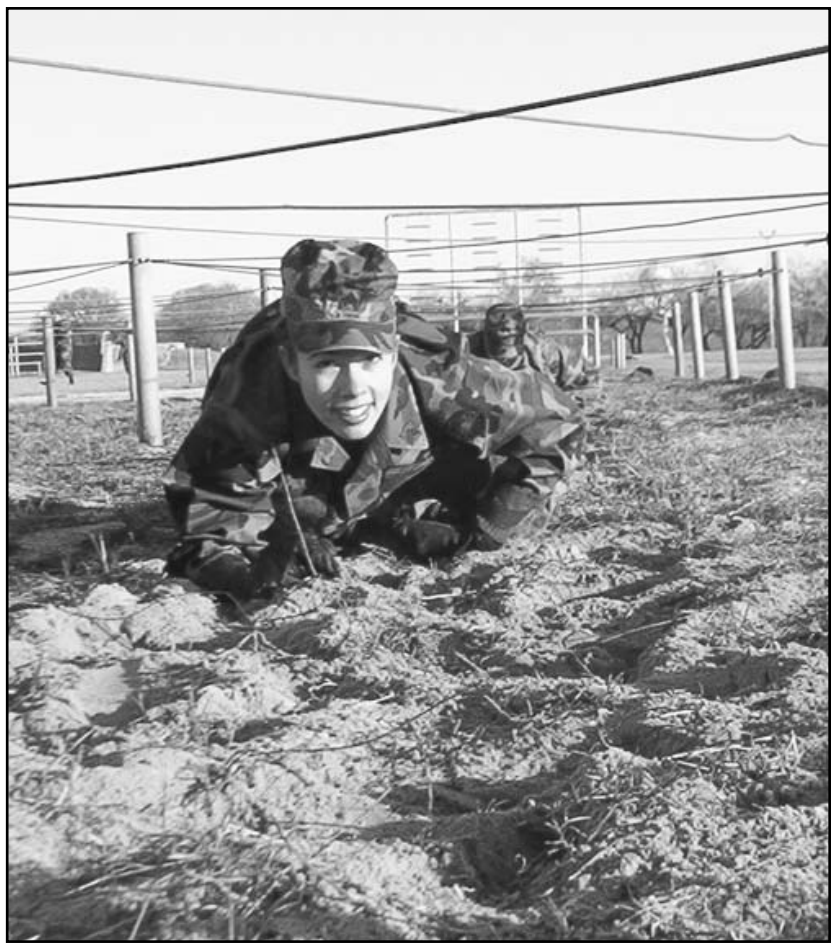


Photo by Staff Sgt. Jose Raymundo
Sgt. Erika Street competes in the low crawl at the NATO obstacle course.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jose Raymundo
Spc. Ricardo Gosier, right, tries to pass Sgt. Jose Lara, during the 3-mile road march, part of the "Squad Stakes" competition.

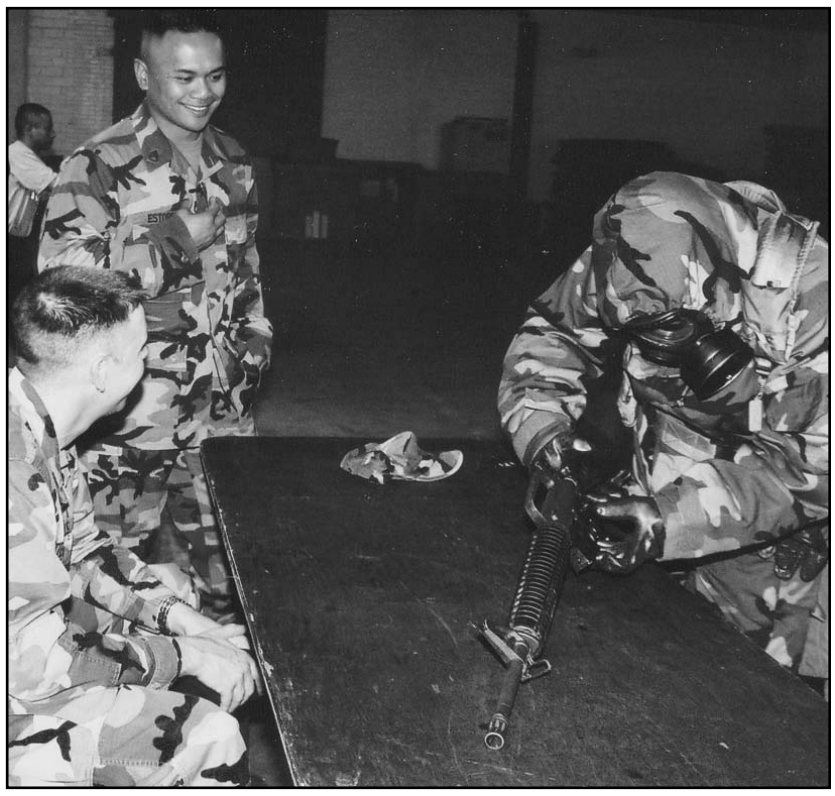


Photo by Esther Garcia
Sgt. Brandon Satterwhite and Staff Sgt. Christian Estores watch as a competitor assembles an M16 while in MOPP equipment.

Photo by Esther Garcia
Sgt. William Hamilton motivates his teammate, Sgt. Simon Ofosu, to complete 50 push-ups during the physical fitness part of the competition.

Photo by Esther Garcia
Pvt. Roberto Hernandez concentrates as he finishes 50 sit-ups during the physical fitness part of the competition.

Photo by Esther Garcia
"I got it," said Capt. Corey Daughtrey, commander, 418th Medical Logistics Company, to teammates Staff Sgt. Christian Estores and Staff Sgt. Jose Raymundo, as he jumps to meet the ball during the Volleyball competition, the last phase of the "Squad Stakes" competition.

Photo by Esther Garcia
Staff Sgt. Mary Reese counts as Sgt. Tania Pereyda does jumping jacks.

Photo by Esther Garcia
Spc. Ricardo Gosier encourages his teammate as he tries to achieve the fastest time in MOPP gear.

Recreation and Fitness

MWR is on the Web - Find all the latest news on MWR's programs, facilities and activities at www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com.

Post Garage Sale - Come to buy or to sell at the next post garage sale Saturday, Feb. 7, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Macarthur Pavilion parking lot located on the corner of Harry Wurzbach and Stanley Road. To participate in the garage sale you must have a valid Department of Defense (DoD) ID card. Call 221-2307 or 221-2926 to sign up. Those vehicles without a DoD sticker will enter at the Walters Gate off Interstate 35 to obtain a pass. Sale is open to the public.

FSH M*A*S*H Run - Sign up now for the Fort Sam Houston M*A*S*H Half Marathon and two-person relay Feb. 8, 8 a.m. starting from the Brigade Gym. There will be a best look-a-like contest dressed as M*A*S*H stars and free M*A*S*H long sleeve T-Shirts for participants. To register, visit www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com or pick up a form at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Registration fees are: teams $30 through Feb. 8, late fee $40 and individual $25 through Feb. 8, late fee $35.

Tinker With Your Car - Make a necessary repair, or just tinker with your car at the Fort Sam Houston Auto Craft Shop. The shop, located at Bldg. 2410, Funston Road, offers the experienced mechanic and novice alike a place to work on their vehicles at a reasonable cost.

Attention Hunters - If you are interested in Texas Hill Country Hunting contact the Outdoor Equipment Center at 221-5224. Hunts are available for bow, rifle and handguns. Lodging is also available with a max group of 10 individuals. Special prices available for father/child hunts.

Archery Shooters of All Ages - Archery classes are available by contacting the Outdoor Equipment Center at 221-5225. The fee for a one-hour class is $15. Instruction is given by Skip Dawson award winning archer, at your level of experience. Military family members under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent.

Fishermen - The white bass run is on across South Texas. Stop by the Outdoor Equipment Center and reserve a boat now.

Sweetheart Dance - Dance the night away at the Sweetheart Dance Feb. 12, 7-11 p.m. at the NCO Club. Cost is $3 individual/$5 couple. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served until 8:30 p.m. Dress casual/semi formal. Sponsored by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers.

Valentine Balloon Bouquets - Show that special someone you care! Order a Valentine Balloon Bouquet delivered on post for only $8 (includes myler balloon, candy and carnations). To place your order, call your BOSS representative or Spc. Phyall at 295-4054.

FSH Intramural Sports

Participants are needed for the following intramural sports:

Volleyball (Men's & Women's and Coed) - Coaches meeting will be held Feb. 9 and the season starts Feb. 18.

Soccer - Coaches meeting will be held Feb. 9 and the season starts Feb. 16.

Racquetball - Letters of intent are due Feb. 9, coaches meeting will be held Feb. 16 and the season starts Feb. 23.

Flag Football - Letters of intent are due Feb. 9, coaches meeting will be held Feb. 13 and the season starts Feb. 23.

Golf - Letters of intent are due Feb. 20, coaches meeting will be held March 3. First team captains meeting will be held Feb. 24, 11:30 p.m., followed by meetings on March 9, noon, and March 22, noon. Entry deadline is March 29, noon. Send entries to Billy.Davis@cen.amedd.army.mil. Season starts April 6, 5:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Golf Club House.

Join the fun and register for your favorite intramural sport today. Call Earl Young at 221-1180.

Fitness and Health Fair - Stop by the Fitness and Health Fair Feb. 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Event highlights include cholesterol screening, diabetes screening, proper weight training, raffles, nutrition info and many more. The event will promote health and fitness.

60 Days of Fitness - A motivating fitness and weight loss program to help you safely lose 15 pounds in 60 days using a point system. This self-paced program requires you workout 45 out of 60 days and includes a seven-page fitness assessment, body fat analysis and body measurements. You will also attend two 30-minute weight loss classes. Cost for the program is $20, which includes a T-shirt. For information, call Lucian Kimble at 221-2020.

Weight Loss Classes - Every Tuesday, 10-10:30 a.m. and 5-5:30 p.m. For information, call Lucian Kimble at 221-2020.

Intramural Basketball League Standings

Jan. 30

Team	W	L
DFAS	9	1
BAMC	7	1
STB	6	4
NCO Academy	5	5
5th Recruiting	5	5
Acad Bn	4	5
Navy/Marines	3	5
418th Med Log	2	8
LEC	1	8

Jan. 27			
NCO Acad	52	LEC	27
STB	50	Acad Bn	48
5th Recruiting	49	418th Med	41
DFAS	51	Navy/Marines	46
Jan. 29			
BAMC	72	Acad Bn	43
418th Med Log	36	NCO Acad Bn	24
STB	66	Navy/Marines	58
5th Recruiting	78	DFAS	49

Career Clips

The Army Career and Alumni Program office provides numerous services to eligible people in transition including job assistance. Information on these and other positions is available to ACAP customers in the ACAP office, Bldg. 2264 or call 221-1213.

Senior Marketing Manager-Managed Care - San Antonio. Responsible for developing and implementing strategic marketing programs. Assists in the development of strategies, develop marketing and sales programs, analyze data and information, and track results of programs.

Administrator - San Antonio. Responsible for all agency services including supervising professional and support staff, training, and management of financial statements and budgets. RN with 3 years experience in home health service administration.

Managed Care Claims Analyst - New Braunfels. Communication skills, medical terminology, type 40+ wpm, ability to research, resolve and reconcile issues concerning claims submissions and collection of payments. Know HCPCS, HDFA 1500, and ICD-9 codes.

Paramedic - San Antonio. Current state/national registry Paramedic Certification. Current BCLS, ACLS, PALS, BTLS, or PHTLS Provider Certification.

Accessing Resumix workshops offered Feb. 10 and 24

Accessing Resumix workshops are scheduled for Feb. 10 and 24, 8-9:15 a.m. for Garrison employees. All classes are by reservation only and limited to eight students per class. For more information and reservations, call 221-2276.

Civilian Workshops scheduled

The Army Career and Alumni Program staff will conduct Resume, Writing, and Interviewing Workshops for DoD civilian employees who are contemplating leaving federal service workforce. Workshops are being offered on the following dates: Feb. 11 and March 10.

To register as an ACAP client and to reserve a seat in one of the workshops, call 221-1213. Workshops will be cancelled and clients rescheduled, if there are less than 10 confirmed attendees one week prior to the workshop. Register now and get your friends and family members to do the same.

Golf intramural event coordinator needed

The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club is seeking an Active Duty Golf Intramural Coordinator to assist in running this year's Intramural Program. The person selected should have a good knowledge of golf and keen desires to assist the troops enjoy a successful Intramural Golf Program. The Program will run from April to June. If interested in this worthy program, call Gordon Zambrano at 221-4388.

Fort Freebies

Freebies are published on a first come, first serve basis. Commercial advertisements are prohibited. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods and privately owned property, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve component military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. To submit paid classified ads or commercial advertising, contact Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail to: news.leader@samhouston.army.mil or fax to 221-1198. Ensure your military/Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appears on request. Limit of five items per entry.

For Sale: 2002 Mustang convertible, bright red with tan top, rear spoiler, leather, AT, 6-CD, 21K miles, $14,500. Call 216-1100.

For Sale: 1999 Harley Davidson 883 Sportster, under 2K miles, with lots of custom, chrome, $5,000 firm. Call Ron at 657-9091 and leave a message.

For Sale: 1986 LTDII, view at on post RV storage (#177), automatic V6, has not run in a few months, $300 obo; also a car tow dolly, $450. Call Jack at 365-2746.

For Sale: Solid trailer, 50's era, 8ft. by 32 ft., 1 bedroom, 1 bath, window AC, good for hunting lease, $2,000. Call (830) 303-9903.

For Sale: Queen sleigh bed, 2 large night tables, cherry wood color, $350. Call 545-5100.

For Sale: MSN WebTV Internet receiver with wireless keyboard, $50. Call 648-4172 after 5 p.m.

For Sale: Four-poster bed with canopy, black, metal queen size, $100; red metal toddler bed with crib mattress and sheets, $40, double size dresser with mirror, end table with 2 drawers, walnut, $100. Call 223-8419 (home) or 260-2976 (cell).

For Sale: JVC 29" and 27" TV, both with black stands in mint condition, $150 each. Call 860-3294.

For Sale: GE large capacity washer in good condition, $50; VCR in excellent condition, $20; GE Touchtone phone, $3; Uniden 900 MHX cordless phone, $5. Call 824-8986.

Free: Two-year old male cat, neutered, declawed, with current shots, very loving. Call 822-7559.

Pre-Job Fair 'Tune-up,' March 12

- How to work a Job Fair
- Who will be there, times
- What to bring, how to dress
- Fine tune your Job Fair skills
- March 12, 9-11 a.m.
- Sign-up at ACAP Center, 221-1213
- Bring your resume to class

Military community Job Fair, March 24

San Antonio area employers have a unique opportunity to access the most highly qualified group of employment candidates in the world – United States military personnel preparing to leave active duty and veterans. Since 1994, local military bases have worked together to conduct the San Antonio Military Community Job Fairs in March and September of each year.

The next job fair is scheduled for March 24. Historically, the job fair attracts 85-150 employers and averages 1,200 job seekers. All employers are invited to participate in the upcoming job fair to take advantage of the opportunity to attract potential employees from this well-educated, highly trained and strongly motivated group with a wide range of technical and professional skills.

For more information, call the Transition Assistance Program manager at the following installations:

Fort Sam Houston, Russ Lane at 221-1213.

Lackland Air Force Base, Margaret Ozuna at 671-3722.

Randolph Air Force Base, Fae Simmons at 652-5321.

Six Soldiers retire following more than 100 years of service to the nation

In a combined retirement ceremony held Jan. 29 the following Soldierss retired:

Col. James A. Halvorson, U.S. Army Medical Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, retired following 27 years of military service on Feb. 1.

Halvorson was commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1977. He commanded Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Health Services Command, and served as brigade medical operations officer and field medical assistant, 6th Air Cavalry Combat Brigade in Fort Hood, Texas. Highlight of previous assignments include: director, PASBA; chief, PAD Branch, AMEDDC&S; director, Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), Washington, D.C.; Uniformed Services Medical Program manager; chief, PAD, VII Corps Surgeon, Saudi Arabia; chief, PAD, 196th Station Hospital, SHAPE, Belgium; PAD officer, Health Services Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; assistant chief of PAD, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Ga., and Darnall Army Community Hospital, Fort Hood, Texas. Halvorson's final assignment was as chief, Patient Administration Division, U.S. Army Medical Command.

Halvorson graduated from the University of North Dakota and has a master's degree in human resources development. His military education includes the Army Medical Department Basic and Advanced Course, Patient Administration Course, and Army Command and General Staff College.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge. He is a Diplomat in Healthcare Administration, a Fellow in the American Academy of Medical Administrators, and a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit.

Halvorson is married to the former Mary Dale and they have two children.

Photo by Rudy Flowers

From left, Deputy Commander, U.S. Army South Brig. Gen. Stephen Collins, who served as Reviewing Officer, retirees Col. James A. Halvorson, Sgt. 1st Class Roland Pena, Maj. David Cunningham, Sgt. 1st Class Oscar A. Agueda, Sgt. Maj. Ketly D. Ray and Maj. Danny B. Cole. The combined retirement ceremony was held at Blesse Auditorium, Jan. 29.

Maj. David Cunningham, U.S. Army Medical Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, retired following 25 years of military service on Feb.1.

Cunningham completed Marine Corps Basic Training at Paris Island, S.C., in the late 1970s. His follow-on Marine Corps infantry training was spent with the 5th Infantry Division in Calif. His first duty station was the Republic of the Philippines. He was later assigned to Okinawa, Japan. In the early 1980s, he was assigned to sea duty aboard a ship.

In 1982, following sea duty, he joined the Marine Corps Reserves and returned to college where he joined the U.S. Army and was commissioned a second lieutenant. Following an educational delay to complete his master's degree, he entered the U.S. Army. His first duty assignment in the Army was the Forward Support Medical Company, Fort Polk, La., where he worked as a medical and treatment platoon leader, as well as executive officer. In 1988, he was assigned to the 3rd of the 6th Infantry Battalion at Fort Polk, La., as a medical platoon leader, and later promoted to work as the division medical operation officer. In early 1990, Cunningham attended the AMEDD Officer Advance Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and CAS3 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. He served as company commander at the 34th General Hospital in Augsburg, Germany in August of 1990. In 1993, he was assigned as executive officer at the Heidelberg Medical Detachment in Germany. In 1994, he was transferred to the U.S. Army Medical Activity at Fort Meade, Md., as chief of personnel. In 1997, Cunningham was assigned as Hospital Adjutant as an Army Guard and Reserve on active duty in Saint Louis, Mo. In 2000, he was assigned as an Army Medical Department recruiter at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In 2003, Cunningham was assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Command and the chief of Reserve Personnel Management and IMA.

Cunningham's military education includes the Primary Leadership and Primary Technical Course, the Noncommissioned Officer Course, the Officer Basic and Advance as well as Staff College. He has earned his bachelor's and master's of science and arts degree.

His military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Sea Service Ribbon.

Maj. Danny B. Cole, Headquarters 5th U.S. Army (G2 Training Warfighter Division) Fort Sam Houston, Texas, retired following almost 17 years of military service on Jan. 21.

Cole completed Infantry Officers' Basic Course training at Fort Benning, Ga. In 1987, his first duty assignment was along the Demilitarize Zone with the 1/506th Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division, and Camp Greaves, Korea, where he worked as a platoon leader. In 1988, Cole was assigned to the Long Range Surveillance Training unit, Company D, 5th Battalion, Ranger Training Brigade, Fort Benning, Ga., as a platoon instructor. Following his Long Range Surveillance assignment, he was assigned to Company C as an executive officer and ranger instructor.

In 1992, after completing the Infantry

*See **Retirees** on Page 21*

Retirees

Continued from Page 20

Officer Advance Course and the Field Artillery Officers Advance Course, he was assigned to 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Erlangen, Germany, where he served as an assistant S-4. In 1993, he was assigned as commander, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1/30th Infantry and later commanded in 1/6th Infantry, 3 Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Vilseck Germany and completed his overseas tour as assistant S-3.

In 1995, Cole was transferred to Readiness Group Atlanta, 1st U.S. Army, Atlanta, Ga., where he served as infantry branch chief. In 1997, he was assigned as a comptroller with the 10th Mountain Division and completed a tour in Haiti with the U.S. Support Group Haiti. In 1999, he transferred to 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry 10th Mountain Division, where he served as the battalion S-3. In 2000 he was assigned to 5th U.S. Army Headquarters G-3 Training and served as a training operations and plans officer.

Cole's military education includes the Infantry Officers Basic Course, Infantry Officers Advance Course, Field Artillery Officers Advance Course, Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle Commander Course, Combined Arms Service Staff School, Planning Programming Budgeting System Course, Air Assault Course, Pathfinder Course, Jumpmaster Course, Longer Range Surveillance Leadership Course, Ranger and Airborne schools.

Military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense service medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Expert Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Ranger TAB.

Cole has three children.

Sgt. Maj. Ketly D. Ray, U.S. Army Medical Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, will retire following 25 years of military service, effective April 1.

Ray enlisted in the U.S. Army from Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, N.Y., on February 16, 1979. She completed Basic Combat Training and Advanced Initial Training at Fort Jackson, S.C., as a records specialist and proceeded to perform duties as a Home Town recruiter at Long Island, N.Y. Recruiting District.

Highlights of her duty assignments include: 24th Personnel Service Center, Fort Stewart, Ga., 187th Personnel Service Center, Mannheim Germany, 502d Personnel Service Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas; 378th Personnel Service Center, Frankfurt, Germany; Department of the Army Human Resource Command, Alexandria, Va., Center Brigade S-1, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; 5th Signal Command Assistant IG, Mannheim, Germany; Headquarters, 1st PERSCOM first sergeant, Schwetzengen, Germany; and currently serving as the sergeant major for the assistant chief of staff for personnel, Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Ray earned her Bachelor of Science degree from University of Maryland in 2000, and is presently pursuing her master's in education with St. Mary's University. She is a graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, the U.S. Army First Sergeant Course, the Adjutant General Advanced and Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, and the Primary Leadership Course.

Her awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal (8th award), the National Defense Service Medal (bronze star), and the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon.

Ray is married to Sgt. Maj. Michael Bernard Ray and they have two children.

Sgt. 1st Class Oscar A. Agueda, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, retired following 23 years of military service on Feb. 1.

Agueda completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Bliss, Texas. His Advanced Individual Training as a medical specialist was completed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In 1984, his first duty assignment was with 3/6th Infantry Battalion, 5th Infantry Division, Fort Polk, La., where he worked as an infantry medic. In 1987, he was assigned to Fitzsimons Army Medical Center emergency room as a medical specialist. In 1989, Agueda was assigned to the 245th Medical Company (AA), Stuttgart, Germany, where he served as a flight medic, deploying with the unit to Saudi Arabia.

In 1992, following completion of his overseas tour, Agueda was assigned to 229th Medical Detachment (AA), Fort Drum, N.Y., as a flight medic with subsequent assignment to the NCO Academy as a PLDC instructor. In 1995, he was assigned to 193rd Infantry Division, Fort Clayton, Republic of Panama with subsequent assignment as assistant platoon sergeant, operations sergeant for Field Medical Training Site, and Command Surgeons Office as the chief medical NCO. Upon completion of his overseas tour, Agueda was assigned to B Company, 232d Medical Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he served as senior instructor.

Agueda's military education includes the Primary Leadership Course, the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Course, the Advance Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Course, the Flight Medic Course, the Antiterrorism/Force Protection Level II Instructor Course, the Chemical Biological Nuclear Radiological and Explosive

Comptroller/Trainer Course, the Field Sanitation Course, the Supervisor Development Course, the Safety Officer Course, the Alcohol & Drug Coordinator Course, the Global Command & Control System Army Training Site Course, the Tri-Care Management Course, the Emergency Medical Technician Course, the Mortuary Affairs Procedure Course, and the Resources Management Course. He has earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas.

His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Agueda is married to the former Cassandra Graciela Ramos and they have four children and two grandchildren.

Sgt. 1st Class Roland Pena, Booke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, will retire following 23 of military service effective April 1.

Pena completed Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga. His first duty assignment, from 1984 through 1988, was with Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. In June of 1988, Pena was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry, Fort Benning, Ga., as an infantry instructor at the Officer Candidate School. Pena was soon selected to perform duties as a Bradley infantry gunner with the Electronic Warfare Division, Fort Benning, Ga.

In January 1990, Pena deployed to Southwest Asia as a Bradley infantry gunner in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm with the Electronic Warfare Division, Fort Benning, Ga., to support the 1st Calvary Division, Fort Hood, Texas. In 1991, upon completion of his combat rotation from Southwest Asia, he was transferred to 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of South Korea, as a Bradley master gunner instructor. In July 1992, Pena was transferred to the 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry, 2nd Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas. In 1995, he was assigned as the NCOIC of the S-3 Shop for 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. In June 1997, he was transferred to 1st Battalion, 307th Infantry Regiment, Fort Jackson, S.C. In December 1999, Pena was transferred to 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Mechanized, 1st Calvary Division as platoon sergeant.

In September 2001, while serving as an observer controller at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., he was recalled to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry 1st Calvary Division to perform duties as a platoon sergeant in preparation of Operation Enduring Freedom in support of 9/11. In March 2002, upon his return from OEF, he was selected to serve as NCOIC of the S-3 Shop of 2nd Brigade 1st Calvary Division. In October 2003, he was reassigned to the Medical Holding Company at Brooke Army Medical Center as a platoon sergeant for Soldierss returning from Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle. As a patient himself, Pena has been able to perform duties as a platoon sergeant and patient advisor to other senior NCOs and officers.

Pena's military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, the Basic Noncommissioned Officer's Course, the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Battle Staff Course, the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, the Observer Controller Academy Course, the Equal Opportunity Representative Course, the Publications Clerk Course, the Sniper Course, the Dragon Gunner Course and Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle Master Gunner Course. He has earned a combined 61 semester hours in Business Management from the University of South Carolina and Central Texas College in Killeen, Texas.

His military awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with ten Oak Leaf Clusters, Mechanized Infantry Driver's Badge, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, the Southwest Asia Medal with Bronze Star, the Joint Meritorious Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Citation, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Expert Infantry Badge and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Pena is married to Sandra and they have two children.

Those attending the first Contemporary Protestant Worship Service held Sunday at Dodd Field Chapel enjoyed a fellowship breakfast.

Congregation studies God's word

Story and photo by Robb Wood
Special to the News Leader

It was Sunday morning and you could tell something was different. The sounds and smell of sizzling bacon flowed down the hallway. You could hear the pancake mix beaters banging up against the bowl. Contemporary Praise music was echoing down the hall. People were smiling, laughing, and preparing for the eight o'clock Contemporary Protestant Worship Service, a breakfast and worship event. This was the first fellowship breakfast for the newly formed congregation. When eight o'clock rolled around, families gathered around the tables for prayer. At the sound of "Amen," the children hurried to the serving table. After everyone had enough to eat, Chaplain Jim Duke and the Praise band led everyone in worship. Pastor Phil Conner inspired the congregation with a devotional from Acts 2:42-47. Afterwards, the congregation remembered the Lord's sacrifice on the cross by breaking bread together. The Fellowship's motto is "Living the Christian Faith in the midst of the military community." We believe that we ought to devote ourselves to studying God's word, to the breaking of bread and prayer, and to assisting one another. This breakfast was the second fellowship meal the congregation has celebrated together. For information on the service, visit www.cs.amedd.army.mil/chaplain/contemporary.

Spiritual growth, a never-ending journey

By Robb Wood
Special to the News Leader

Part II. The first key point about Spiritual Growth is that we will always be growing. This is a never-ending journey. II Peter 3:18 reads "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." The word grow is a present imperative. This means we are commanded to grow and that we "keep on growing." God commands us to grow all the time with no ending point in our growth. It can be discouraging knowing that we never reach full spiritual maturity on this side of heaven. However, the joy you experience, as you understand new truths, encourages you to dig deeper knowing that there is so much more to explore. As the Apostle Paul wrote "...So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness," Colossians 2:6-7. Until our next visit, may God watch over you!

Post worship schedule

Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 2200, phone numbers: (210) 221-2754.

Catholic Services:
4:45-5:15 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: phone numbers: (210) 379-8666 or 493-6660.
Fridays: 8 p.m. - Worship and 8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat

Dodd Field Chapel, Bldg. 1721, phone numbers: (210) 221-5010 or 221-5432.
Catholic Services - Sundays:
12:30 p.m. - Bilingual Mass
Protestant Services:
8 a.m. - Contemporary Protestant - Sundays
10:30 a.m. - Collective Gospel Protestant - Sundays
9:30-11:30 a.m. - Women's Bible Study (PWOC) - Wednesdays, childcare is provided

AMEDD Regimental Chapel, Bldg. 1398, phone number: (210) 221-4362.

Troop Catholic Mass: Sundays:
10 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers
Troop Protestant Gospel Services: Sundays:
11:30 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers
Troop Protestant Service:
9 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers

FSH Mosque, Bldg. 607A, phone numbers: (210) 221-5005 or 221-5007.
1:30 p.m. - Jumma - Fridays
10:30 a.m. - Children's Religious Education - Sundays
7:30 p.m. - Adult Religious Education - Thursdays

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel, Bldg. 3600, phone number: (210) 916-1105.

Catholic Services:
8:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays
11:15 a.m. - Mass - Sundays
11 a.m. - Mass - Weekdays
Protestant Services:
10 a.m. - Worship Service - Sundays
Noon - Worship - Wednesdays

232nd Medical Battalion Classroom, Bldg. 1380, phone numbers: (210) 221-5005 or 221-5007. **Mormon Services:** 10:30 a.m. - Sundays

Web site: www.cs.amedd.army.mil/chaplain

Join the Officer Christian Fellowship Bible study

Interested in a Bible study? Join us for an Officer Christian Fellowship study at the home of Lt. Col. Bob Griffith, 1008 Gorgas Circle, on Fridays. Come for supper at 6 p.m. or join us at 7 p.m. for a study of the Gospel of Luke. Group will meet on the following dates: Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12, 26, and April 2, 16, and 23. For information, call Lt. Col. Griffith at 226-1295 or e-mail at thegrifgang@cs.com or Chaplain Schlichter at 221-1968 or e-mail at david.schlichter@cen.amedd.army.mil.

¿Que Pasa?

Community events

'Murder at the Vicarage' at Harlequin

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre is featuring 'Murder at the Vicarage' a mystery by Agatha Christie, Wednesday through Saturday evenings now through Feb. 14. Prices are $25.95 on Fridays and Saturdays and $22.95 on Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are discounts for military and students. The theatre opens for salad bar and cocktails at 6:15 p.m., the buffet opens from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and curtain is at 8 p.m. For reservations, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694. The box office is open from noon to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. on Saturdays. Theatre is handicapped accessible.

Texas Volkssport Association Walk, Feb. 8.

The Texas Volkssport Association will host a 10-kilometer (6.2 miles) walk on Sunday, Feb. 8, 8-11 a.m. in Columbus, Texas. The walk will start at the Community Room of the Nesbitt Library at 529 Washington and finish by 2 p.m. For information, call Bob or Raz Creamer at (979) 732-9231 or e-mail at rcreamer@wcnet.net or check out the Web site at www.walktexas.org

General Twiggs' Surrender Re-enactment at the Alamo, Feb. 14

A living history encampment will be set up in Alamo Plaza directly in front of the Alamo Feb. 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. re-enactments will take place recreating the February 1861 surrender of all federal military posts and property in the state to Texas. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Texas Division, Alamo Camp #1325 sponsor this annual event. For information, call Rudy Krisch III at 736-0924 or e-mail Ian Straus at istraus@texas.net.

Auditions for 'Arsenic and Old Lace' set for Feb. 23-24

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will hold open auditions Feb. 23-24 for "Arsenic and Old Lace," a comedy by Joseph Kesselring. Auditions will be from 7-8:30 p.m. on both nights with William C. Champlin directing. There are roles for 11 men and three women. Other volunteers are needed as light and sound technicians, props and stage crew. Those who come to auditions should enter Fort Sam Houston through the Walters Street gate. Performances will be held Wednesday through Saturday evenings April 7 through May 8. For information, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694.

'Steel Magnolias'at the Harlequin starts Feb. 25

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre at Fort Sam Houston will feature "Steel Magnolias," a play by Robert Harling, Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Feb. 25 through March 27. Prices are $25.95 on Friday and Saturday and $22.95 on Wednesday and Thursday. There are discounts for military and students. The house opens for cocktails and salad bar at 6:15 p.m., dinner is served from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and show time is 8 p.m. For reservations, call 222-9694 or visit the theatre in advance. The box office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 1-5 p.m. Theatre is handicapped accessible.

'It's Not Easy Being Green' Conference, Feb. 27-28

Register for the "It's Not Easy Being Green" Conference scheduled for Feb. 27-28 at Dodd Field Chapel. The $5 registration fee covers classes, lunch, and snacks. Childcare will be provided at no additional cost on a first-come first-served basis. Participants may choose from classes in yoga, line dancing, cooking, public speaking, aromatheraphy, Texas travels, resume writing and more. More information and registration materials are available at ACS, FSH Library, NCO Club, O'Club, BAMC Medical Mall Information Desk, OCSC February Luncheon, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, and CYS Central Registration or from Judith Markelz at 655-0238 or Kim Taylor at 566-6526. Registration is due by Feb. 18.

7th Annual Komen San Antonio Race for the Cure, March 27

The 7th Annual Komen San Antonio Race for the Cure will be held March 27 at the Alamodome. Recruit your military team of 10 or more and enjoy easy advance registration and early team Race packet pick-up. There will be an award for the largest military team. Deadline for team registration is March 5. For information on team registration or to volunteer to help on Race day, log on to www.sakomen.org or call the Race Hotline at 822-8700.

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Tuition assistance available for active duty Soldiers

Tuition assistance for active duty Soldiers is $4,500 per fiscal year with a cap of $250 per semester hour to include fees. The current policy of $4,500 per year is still in effect for the U.S. Army in fiscal year 2004. Soldiers will need a degree plan from the university or college they are attending no later than completion of nine semester hours. This is a regulatory requirement that must be complied with prior to continuing in any college program. Visit the Army Continuing Education System, Bldg. 2248, to review educational goals with a professional guidance counselor. To schedule an appointment, call 221-1738.

Ten Star All-Star Basketball Camp

Applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All-Star Summer Basketball Camp. This camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, and Vince Carter. Players from 50 states and 11 foreign countries attend the camp. Basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to t he All-American team. For a free brochure, call (794) 373-0873 anytime.

Direct commissioning program available

The U.S. Army Health Care Recruiting Team is looking for qualified applicants for their direct commissioning program. Anyone working toward a bachelors' degree in any science, nursing, physics, nutrition or engineering may qualify to become an Army officer. Interested individuals can apply at anytime. The program is open to active duty, reserve, National Guard and civilians. For information, call Capt. Beverly S. Scott at 692-7376 or (877) 570-8053 or e-mail Beverly.Casiano@usarec.army.mil.

In the classroom

Installation Status Report Training, Feb. 10 and 12

Installation Status Report training will be held in Feb. 10, 1-3 p.m. and Feb. 12, 8-10 a.m. in Bldg. 4196, scheduling room for ISR points of contact for all installation activities. Each training session will provide the points of contact with their responsibilities with regard to Part I, and all documentation required to fulfill the activity's ISR reporting requirements for Part I (Infrastructure). Unit representatives may bring additional personnel as deemed necessary. For information, call Judy Barta at 295-4922.

Free workshop for prospective school board members, Feb. 23

A free two-hour workshop will be held for anyone wishing to become a local school board member will be held at Education Service Center Region 20 located at 1314 Hines Avenue, San Antonio on Monday Feb. 23, 7 p.m. For information, call the Texas Association of School Boards at (800) 580-8272 or the Fort Sam Houston School Liaison Services office at 221-9613.

NCO Risk Management and Safety Course rescheduled

The NCO Risk Management and Safety Training Course previously scheduled for Feb. 9-13 has been rescheduled for March 1-5. The course will be held in Willis Hall, Bldg. 2841, Room 3305, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Personnel selected to attend should be Collateral Duty Safety Officers. This course is open to E-5, E-6, E-7, officers, and civilians. To register, call Richard Edges at 221-3857.

AER Fund Campaign meeting March 9

Project Officers and key workers for the Army Emergency Relief Campaign "Kick-off" are invited to a meeting on March 9, 10 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797, Stanley Road. Details for conducting the campaign will be discussed and campaign materials will be distributed at that time. Names of designated project officers and key personnel should be provided to the AER office no later than March 8. For information, call the AER office at 221-1612 or 221-1474.

470th MI Groups seeks Army reservists for training in March

The 470th Military Intelligence Group seeks MI Army Reservists to train for 30 days, March 15 through April 15, in San Antonio. If you have left Active Duty, but was considering the U.S. Army Reserves, if you are in the Individual Ready Reserve or know someone who is, we are looking for personnel in the following Military Occupational Specialties: 96, 97, 98, 350, 351, and 352. We will also have Troop Program Unit positions opening up soon. For information, call 295-6061.

Meetings

Purple Heart veterans sought

Purple Heart Veterans are invited to join the meeting of Military Order of the Purple Heart on the first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center to learn more about combat related entitlements and claims benefits. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Bring your DD For 214 and a short biography.

USAWOA - Lone Star Chapter meetings

The Lone Star Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at VFW Post #8541, 2222 Austin Highway (between Eisenhauer and Walzem Road). All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard and family members of current or former Warrant Officers are invited to attend. For information, call WO1 Matthew Watterson at 295-8773 or e-mail matthew.watterson@us.army.mil.

FSH Sergeants Major Association seeks new members

The Fort Sam Houston Sergeants Major Association meets every third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m. in the FSH NCO Club. Retired Sgt. Maj. Howard T. Ray, president of the association, extends a cordial invitation to all Active Duty and retired command sergeants major, sergeants major and master sergeants on the promotion list from all service branches to attend the meetings and share in the relaxed atmosphere of our social activities. For information, call Sgt. Maj. Hector Viczaino at 221-7305.

Calling all single Soldiers to join BOSS

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month, 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldier input to the commander, who uses the committee's recommendations to improve single Soldiers' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. For information, call BOSS President Kimberly Vaughan at 916-1772 or BOSS Program Manager Ben Paniagua at 224-7250.