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

**BAMC NURSES COMPLETE VALIDATION****PAGE 3****CFI DESIGNS ORNAMENT FOR CAPITOL TREE****PAGE 4****LOCAL ARMY DENTIST WINS MARATHON****PAGE 10**

'Buddy Bench' helps school children overcome loneliness, connect, encourage friendship

By Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos
Army North Public Affairs

A child sits alone on a bench at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School. She is shy, once again at a new school and not knowing anyone. She wants to play with the other kids but is afraid to approach them.

Fortunately she is not sitting on an "ordinary" bench; she is sitting on a special bench – a "buddy bench." When a child sits on it, friends "appear."

"If a kid is lonely or wants someone to talk to or play with, they can sit here (on the bench) and other kids will come up to them and ask them to play," said Elliana Bay, a fourth grader at Fort Sam Houston Elementary.

Bay has been that child – she has sat on the bench herself when she was lonely and has also offered to play with children who sat there.

The buddy bench came into being because one class became inspired by something they read earlier last spring.

"The students read an article (in Scholastic News) about a school in New York that installed a buddy bench on their playground, and they asked if we could have one here," said Brandon Jones, a fourth-grade teacher at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School. Jones' students read the periodical every week to keep up on current events.

Jones said he thought it was a great idea, so after getting approval from the principal, a couple of benches were ordered and, with the help of the art teacher, painted by his students and installed near the playground.

Buddy benches have been used by schools across the country as a way to eliminate loneliness and encourage friendship.

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School officials said they like the bench because it helps students



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Echo Hinton and Elliana Bay practice their secret handshake on the Fort Sam Houston Elementary School "Buddy Bench" while Matthew Garcia (far left) and Jyrine Campbell (far right) watch. The "Buddy Bench" was installed last year by students in Brandon Jones' fourth grade class as a way to help shy, new or lonely students let their classmates know they're looking for a friend to play with or talk to.

See BUDDY, P8

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'The holiday season is a great time to reflect on the past year and savor the successes'

By **Maj. Gen. Joseph P. DiSalvo**
Commanding general, U.S. Army South

If you're reading this and still have not bought that gift for your significant other, you're in dangerous territory. And by the way; the Shopettes are not open 24 hours on Christmas Eve! (I already checked.)

Now that that's out of the way -- isn't it great this time of the year? We got the holiday spirit jump-started at Thanksgiving, and now we can enjoy the next two weeks.

I think it's safe to say, that for the most part, the best part of the holiday season is that everyone is generally in a good mood for not just an hour or a day, but for a week or two, or maybe more.

This good mood is fueled by a number of things. The holiday



Maj. Gen. Joseph P. DiSalvo

Commanding general, U.S. Army South

season is a great time to reflect on the past year and savor the successes. The holiday season is a great time to be generous and

give. And the holiday season is a great time to commit to the New Year and be more successful.

We see this in spades here on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Look at all the varied missions we executed in 2014 by all the different commands here – be it successful support of unaccompanied children to the Department of Homeland Security; to successful reintegration of U.S. citizens; to successful training future medics who will save lives on the battlefield; or to successful quality-of-life programs on our installation.

All this shows the superb dedication our military and civilian teammates have to successful mission execution.

All the commands at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston have always

been famous for their generosity, and our 2014 Combined Federal Campaign and Army Emergency Relief efforts reflect this sense of giving. So do all the thousands of hours of volunteering on and off base. And as far as next year, let's face it, it's in our fiber to raise the bar and build upon the successes we enjoyed this year.

As always, we must pause and remember all the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and civilians who are deployed, and their families. We must pray for their safe and successful mission execution and redeployment. So here's to a safe and joyous Holiday Season and great New Year.

P.S. – Remember, the Shopette is not open 24 hours on Christmas Eve.

TxDOT, 502nd ABW partner on travel options study

The Texas Department of Transportation and the 502nd Air Base Wing have partnered on a study of employee commute preferences to better understand regional congestion patterns.

The Active Travel Demand Management Travel Options Study is sponsored by TxDOT to promote travel option programs to employers, employees and other stakeholders along the most congested corridors in the San Antonio area.

The goal is to describe the benefits, both for employers and employees, of alternative scheduling such as telecommuting, flex-time, compressed work weeks and ridesharing options such as carpooling, vanpooling and using public transportation. The project team will document



Courtesy photo by TxDOT

strategies already in place, and provide recommendations and a framework for the travel options that will work best for employees.

The commuter survey portion of this study is a means of understanding individual commute patterns, such as how long it takes and how individuals go about meeting their travel needs

on a daily basis. As congestion increases in the San Antonio metro area, the TxDOT and the 502nd ABW are interested in learning about what other options you might be interested in.

Input from customers is the foundation of the study and will also let us know how we can better support our employees. The survey is anonymous and

only takes a few minutes to provide valuable feedback.

The survey link is <http://ti-nyurl.com/JBSAcommute>. The data collection phase will extend from through mid-January. For more information, call 652-3477 or 652-5307.

(Source: 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron)



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News Briefs

New Years' Eve Midnight 5K Run/Walk

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center staff are ringing in 2015 with a midnight 5K run/walk. Doors open at 11 p.m. Dec. 31 and the run will start exactly at midnight. Coffee and hot chocolate will be available before the run starts and there will also be snacks and refreshments after the run. T-shirts will be available for purchase, as long as supplies last. There will be a New Year's toast with sparkling cider and party favors provided, as long as supplies last. This event is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 221-1234.

New Year's Day Run/Walk

Two events are planned for those who want to bring in 2015 with a run or a walk. A 4-mile race will start at 10 a.m. and a 1.5-mile walk starts at 10:10 a.m. at Pershing Sports Complex by the RV Park on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Registration is free and on the day of the event. Both events are open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 221-3593 or 221-4887.

News Leader Holiday Schedule

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston News Leader will not publish Dec. 26 or Jan. 2. The first issue for 2015 will come out Jan. 9. Call 221-1031 for more information.

BAMC Behavioral Medicine Seeks Qualified Dog Teams

The Department of Behavioral Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center is looking for dog teams to assist in the department's health care mission. Interested owners must present necessary certification documents from a nationally recognized curriculum program at the time of interview. During the interview, teams must demonstrate the animal's ability to respond to the owner's commands. For more information or to set up an interview, call 916-2069 or 916-2096. Please bring the animal and all necessary documentation to the interview.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Legal Office Hours Change

The office hours of the 502nd Force

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

Brooke Army Medical Center nurses complete annual training, sharpen skills

By Lori Newman
BAMC Public Affairs

More than 600 nurses participated in Brooke Army Medical Center's Nursing Skills Validation Nov. 17-21.

NSV training provides nurses a refresher in various skills specific to their work area, such as infection prevention and control, proper patient restraint and blood administration.

This semi-annual event to assess competency helps meet Joint Commission requirements and takes about four hours to complete. Once the nurses check in, they receive a list of skills applicable to their specific unit. Upon completion, they receive credit in the Army Medical Department Personnel Education and Quality System, or APEQS. "There are core skills that are universal and applicable to everyone, and then there are skills that are special-



Brooke Army Medical Center nurses complete annual training on patient restraint techniques during Nursing Skills Validation Nov. 19 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

ized, or specific to their department," said Scott Strater, nurse educator.

All the nurses must complete 14 core skills along with additional skills specific to their particular work areas.

"One of the featured skills this time was when to alert the Rapid Response Team," Strater

said. "The BAMC policy recently changed, so we wanted to include up-to-date information on the RRT."

The RRT is a patient safety initiative to speed the identification and care of patients with clinical factors suggesting impending deterioration. The RRT is comprised of staff members from critical

care nursing services, the respiratory therapy section and the patient's primary care team.

Previously, NSV was only a requirement for registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses. This year, it's evolved to the entire nursing staff, Strater explained.

The NSV is held twice a year – in May and No-

vember – and involves almost every department within the hospital.

"It takes about four months to prepare for this event," Strater said. "We review the training each time to make sure it is current with BAMC policy changes and we are the only one's doing live skills validation like this within the Army Medical Command."



Brooke Army Medical Center registered nurse Yvette Myers assesses simulated patient Seaman Recruit Josue Alvarado during Nursing Skills Validation training Nov. 19.



Members of Brooke Army Medical Center's Infection Control Services validate basic knowledge of infection control and practices with participants during Nursing Skills Validation training Nov. 19.

Photos by Robert Shields

Center for the Intrepid ornament adorns Texas Capitol Christmas tree

By Lori Newman
BAMC Public Affairs

This year the Christmas tree in the Texas State Capitol's House Chamber will be adorned with an ornament created by a staff member from the Center for the Intrepid.

Texas House of Representatives House Speaker Joe Straus' office contacted Kathie Rasmussen, CFI health systems specialist, to see if someone would be willing to design an ornament that would represent the unique mission of the CFI.

Each year, House members select a constituent to create a visual representation of what makes their Texas House District special. For the past five years the ornaments have been displayed on the Christmas tree in the House chamber in the heart of Austin.

"As neighbors of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam

Houston, Joe and I are reminded daily of the bravery and sacrifice required by the dedicated men and women who serve there and recognize that our service is only made possible through theirs," said the speaker's wife, Julie, when asked why they chose the CFI to design an ornament.

"Whether it is hearing morning reveille, evening taps or the cadence of drills, our thoughts turn daily to the sacrifice made by the brave soldiers who continue their fight at the Center for the Intrepid to reach their full potential or for some, to return to duty."

Troy Hopkins, a physical therapy technician who has worked at Brooke Army Medical Center for the past 18 years, took the challenge to heart, hand-painting the ornament in his spare time.

"The ornament depicts several elements that represent our mission here," explained Hopkins. "The Purple Heart

and its ribbon flowing through represent the men and women who have given so much of their lives for Texans and Americans. The Intrepid Dynamic Exoskeletal Device, arm and leg prosthetics honor the pride and respect we have for our warriors. The CFI is a place warriors can call home."

Hopkins, Rasmussen and Staff Sgt. Michael Collins, a wounded service member recovering at the CFI, took a trip to the capitol Dec. 4 to present the ornament to Straus and his wife and place the ornament on the tree.

"We are grateful for the CFI ornament that now hangs on the house Christmas tree and allows us and others to honor these heroes," Julie Straus said.

After meeting the Speaker and his wife, the group received a private tour of the historic building, which included a 263-stair climb to



Photo by Lori Newman

Troy Hopkins places the ornament he designed to represent the Center for the Intrepid on the House of Representatives Christmas tree Dec. 4 at the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Texas.

the top of the capitol dome.

"Seeing the view from the very top of the dome was amazing," Collins said. "This was my first visit to the capi-

tol. I would like to go back again with my family."

The 22-foot, Texas-grown tree will be on display through Jan. 2.

264th Medical Battalion continues partnership with local school's Adopt-A-School program

By Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Hale
264th Medical Battalion

The mentoring partnership between East Terrell Hills Elementary School and the 264th Medical Battalion, 32nd Medical Brigade, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, was formed approximately three years ago as an extension of the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Adopt-A-School Program, which was established with the intent of building community relations and esprit de corps.

“The mentorship program has made a tremendously positive impact on the students with mentors, as these students look forward to interacting with his or her adviser,” said Gabriela Mendoza, East Terrell Hills Elementary School family specialist.

Mendoza also believes this program provides the students



Courtesy photo

An instructor from East Terrell Hills Elementary School briefs mentors from the 264th Medical Battalion recently. The partnership was formed approximately three years ago as an extension of the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Adopt-A-School Program.

and faculty members with a greater appreciation for the military service community.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Adopt-a-School Program was developed in 2011 to increase public awareness of the Army's mission and foster good relations. Nine local schools are

enrolled in the program and are sponsored by various commands or organizations from Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The 264th Medical Battalion continues to be involved with the school, supporting activities throughout the year.

Have health concerns while traveling? Call Nurse Advice Line on the road

With the holiday season here, that means weekend trips and holidays for the military family. If you and your family have a medical problem while traveling this fall you can call the Nurse Advice Line while on the road for all of your health concerns and needs.

The NAL is the Military Health System's new initiative to improve ready access to safe, high quality care. Calling the NAL gives you access to the advice you need at the right time. Call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), Option 1 to talk to a registered nurse who can answer your urgent care questions, give you health care advice, help you find a doctor or schedule a next-day appointment at a military hospital or clinic.

If you or a member of your family gets ill while you are traveling, calling the NAL can help you figure out what

steps to take. The nurse will ask you questions about the symptoms that you or your family member are experiencing and provide advice on whether you need to seek care and when.

When you are traveling, the NAL nurse will help you find a safe, high-quality health care facility in the TRICARE network. If you are a military hospital or clinic enrollee, the NAL will send a follow-up note to your primary care manager and medical team back home so they know how you are doing.

You can safely travel with TRICARE and the NAL. The NAL is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information on accessing the NAL while on the go, visit <http://www.TRICARE.mil/NAL>.

(Source: Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center)

News Briefs

Continued from P3

Support Group Judge Advocate Legal Assistance Office have been extended to 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Thursdays, office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Fridays, office hours are 7:30 a.m. to noon. Powers of Attorney and notaries are available during regular office hours. Legal assistance appointment times have not changed and are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Walk-in legal assistance times also remain the same from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays for all military I.D. card holders and from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Thursdays for active duty only. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 808-0169.

ID Cards/DEERS Office Move

The ID Cards main office formerly at building 367 has relocated to building 2263, on the first floor of 2484 Stanley Road. Customers are serviced by appointments only, which can be made by visiting <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/hra/idcard.aspx>. Emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. For more information, call 221-0415/2278.

Army In/Out Processing

All Soldiers and their families arriving and departing Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston must report to building 2263, room 100A at 2484 Stanley Road. The office recently relocated from building 367. For info call 221-2076/0146.

Air Force Comptroller Office Relocation

Finance personnel services for Air Force military and civilian personnel relocated from building 4196 to building 2263, room 300. For more information, call 221-1415.

Lost and Unclaimed Property

Numerous items of personal property have been turned into the 502nd Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston this year. Items will be retained for 45 days after turn-in and disposed of if the owner is not identified. In order to claim any of the items, bring in a form of photo identification and be able to identify the property. For more information, call 221-2340.

MICC advertising industry day draws large, small business competitors

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs Office

Advertising and marketing professionals representing six large and 10 small businesses participated in a Mission and Installation Contracting Command industry day at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 3 to learn more about one of the Army's largest acquisitions for services.

The industry day was part of the ongoing market research phase by MICC contracting officials for the award of a contract to execute a full range of advertising and marketing services in partnership with the Army Marketing and Research Group in Washington, D.C.

"Army advertising is one of the Army's most important missions," said April Miller, deputy to the 412th Contracting Support Brigade commander at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. "The success of the Army Marketing and Advertising Program is directed at the recruitment of personnel to fill vacancies both in the enlisted and officer programs, as well as create a strong Army brand and recognition."

Advertising and marketing experts at the event represented a variety of capabilities and agencies from throughout the country, including California, New York, Nashville, Dallas and Atlanta. Also represented at the event were veteran- and woman-owned small business entities.

Doug Kiser, deputy director for the MICC-Fort Sam Houston contracting office, said the procurement is one of the largest services contracts for the Army and that the goal of the industry day was to ensure two-way communication between the government and advertising industry.

Kiser explained that it is during this market research



April Miller addresses the importance of Army advertising and marketing efforts to small- and large-business representatives in San Antonio Dec. 3 during the Mission and Installation Contracting Command industry day for Army advertising services acquisition. Miller is the deputy director for the 412th Contracting Support Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

phase that the government is gathering information by encouraging open communication with industry and responses to a sources sought synopsis in order to develop and acquisition strategy.

MICC officials continued to seek responses through today to the sources sought synopsis for Solicitation W9124J-15-R-0001 posted on the Federal Business Opportunities website <http://www.fbo.gov>.

Following the market research phase is the presolicitation phase, which Kiser expects to occur in the spring of 2015. The government will next seek solicitations for the advertising and marketing contract, evaluate proposals and plan to award the contract to a full-service advertising agency by March 2016.

The industry day forum allowed advertising and marketing professionals a chance to network as well as meet one-on-one with MICC contracting professionals to learn more about the technical aspects of the government acquisition process. George Cabaniss, the deputy to the MICC commanding general, said the event is part of the government's efforts to ensure transparency in the

full and open competition for Army acquisitions.

Mike Sullivan, who is responsible for Army branding at the Army Marketing and Research Group, provided an overview of requirements making up the contract so that participants could develop a better understanding of needed services.

AMRG is responsible for conducting national marketing, market analysis and accessions analysis to develop best-value strategies and tactics that inform the American people and motivate the most qualified candidates to consider Army service. Its accessions support brigade supports the Army's Recruiting Command, Cadet Command and Reserve recruiting missions.

All inquiries regarding the market research for this contract should be directed to the MICC via email at usarmy.jbsa.acc-micc.mbx.micc-fsh-amp@mail.mil or by calling 466-2147.



Photos by Daniel P. Elkins

Doug Kiser speaks to small- and large-business advertising and marketing agency representatives in San Antonio Dec. 3 during the Mission and Installation Contracting Command industry day for Army advertising services acquisition. Kiser is the deputy director for the MICC-Fort Sam Houston contracting office at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Memorial Services Detachment seeks volunteers for Honor Guard

By Esther Garcia
AMEDDC&S Public Affairs

The Memorial Services Detachment at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is looking for volunteers to serve as Honor Guard members.

These volunteers provide the traditional three-volley rifle salute and the sound of "Taps" at interment ceremonies for veterans of all branches of the military services at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Military veterans with an honorable discharge and one day each week to serve can become an Honor Guard member, providing that final act of

respect to those who have served the nation.

The MSD was formed with the assistance of local veteran's organizations, the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, the Department of Defense and the Department of Veteran's Affairs. It was chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Texas in mid-1990 and began rendering honors Dec. 7, 1991.

To date, the MSD has rendered honors close to 30,000 funeral services at the cemetery.

For more information, visit <http://www.msd-honorguard.org> or send an email to msdhonorguard@yahoo.com.



Photo by Esther Garcia

Members of the Memorial Services Detachment at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston prepare to fire off a three-volley rifle salute at a recent memorial service at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research hosts Army Medical Research and Materiel Command CG

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs

The staff of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston hosted Maj. Gen. Brian C. Lein, commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Md., and Deputy for Medical Systems to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Nov. 13.

This was the first visit for Lein to the USAISR since assuming command in September.

“It was an honor to host our commanding general and show him the work that we do for the combat wounded,” said Col. (Dr.) Michael D. Wirt, USAISR commander. “The work that

every staff member does at the USAISR is remarkable and I believe the general was impressed at how we strive every day to live up to our motto of ‘optimizing combat casualty care.’”

During his visit, Lein received briefs from the directors of research, the Burn Center, the Joint Trauma System, and the commander of the Dental and Trauma Research Detachment.

The general was also given a brief tour of the institute, where he was provided firsthand insight in ocular trauma and tactical combat casualty care research task areas. Lein ended his visit with a town hall meeting where he thanked the USAISR staff members for their hard work and dedication to benefit the battlefield casualties.



Photo by Steven Galvan

Maj. Gen. Brian C. Lein (left), commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Md., and Deputy for Medical Systems to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology visited the staff at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Nov. 13. Col. (Dr.) Michael Wirt (center), USAISR commander and Sgt. Maj. Quinton Rice Jr., USAISR senior enlisted advisor, greeted the general.

“The research that you are conducting in combat casualty care is phenomenal,” Lein said. “You have helped

save thousands of lives on the battlefield and I ask that you continue pushing your research ahead.”

BUDDY from P1

feel connected to the school.

“Kids need to feel connected to their school and their community,” said Jayne Hatton, associate superintendent, Fort Sam Houston Independent School District.

Hatton said this need to connect is especially important with military kids.

“Military kids don’t have years to build a community around them,” Hatton said. “They usually stay in one place for a few years before moving to the next duty station, so we have to quickly assimilate them into our community.”

The buddy bench helps the kids fit in because it lets their fellow classmates know they want to be included instead of excluded, which also lowers the risk of bullying.

However, just having the bench near the playground isn’t enough to make sure that each child feels included in their school community. Jones’ students are also writing blogs and make announcements on the school’s public address system to remind children to look over at the bench when they are playing and see if there is a classmate that needs assistance.

AIR FORCE STUDENT GRADUATES METC WITH 100 PERCENT GPA

Tech. Sgt. Assale Pawi listens during one of his courses at the Medical Education and Training Campus on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston recently. Pawi, who graduated Nov. 10, did not miss a single test question throughout the entire medical material apprentice course with a grade point average of 100 percent and earned the title of honor graduate. Pawi now heads to his first assignment at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

**Photo courtesy
METC Medical
Logistics Program**



JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Army dentist wins 2014 San Antonio Rock 'n' Roll Marathon

By Steve Elliott
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

An Army dentist at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston blazed past the rest of an estimated 24,000 runners at the 2014 San Antonio Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Dec. 7, notching a time of 2 hours, 29 minutes and 4 seconds over the 26.2-mile course that wound through various San Antonio neighborhoods and past more than two dozen local musical acts.

Capt. Jacob Buhler, a general dentist at the Budge Dental Clinic, has been running marathons since June 2010, with San Antonio counting as his 10th overall competition.

"I ran in college at a school called Utah Valley University and I also ran in high school," Buhler said. "I have always been a competitive runner and marathons are fun events that test me both mentally and physically. My first marathon was June 2010 at the Utah Valley marathon. I ended up placing third overall in that marathon with a time of 2:24.0."

This year, the San Antonio Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, which has been in existence since 2008, was run in December for the first time to alleviate concerns about warm fall temperatures, according to race officials. It was about 20 to 30 degrees cooler than the record high of 89 on race day last year. Going along with the theme of the marathon, runners, walkers and bikers were treated to a variety of musical and performance acts along various stages of the course.

"The weather turned out to be pretty ideal for early December," Buhler said. "I was very glad they pushed back the marathon to the first week of December. Traditionally, it had been the second week of November, which would occasionally bring out warmer weather.

"Overall, It was a good course with lots of crowd support, especially towards the end of the race," he added. "It was a lot of fun coming down the homestretch to the finish line."

Buhler said he realized he was in the lead at about the halfway point of the marathon.

"I could recognize the color on the bibs as I ran with runners. Orange was marathon, blue was half marathon. I only saw blue-colored bibs. Also, the pace truck with the words "Marathon Lead" was right in front of me throughout the whole race," the 28-year-old dentist said. "So around mile 11 or 12 where we split off from the half-marathon runners, I was out on my own.

"I felt surprisingly well after it was over. With the lead I

had built up by half way, I was able to cut back on my pace," Buhler said. "I was still tired towards the end of the race, which is expected in a 26.2-mile race. I was very elated to have finished first."

While the San Antonio marathon has traditionally drawn a large number of participants, Buhler said the 2011 California International Marathon in Sacramento and the 2012 Grandmas Marathon in Duluth, Minn., are two other marathons he has participated in with a large pool of participants.

"They bring out a lot of competition and have a history of being fast marathon courses," Buhler said. "I don't know the exact number of people that competed those two years,



2014 San Antonio Rock 'n' Roll Marathon winner Army Capt. Jacob Buhler (center) celebrates Dec. 7 with second-place finisher Jason Butler (left) and third-place finisher Ashish Patel (right) after the event. Buhler is a general dentist at the Budge Dental Clinic on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

but I know they have a large turnout due to the popularity of event."

In regards to his training regimen, Buhler said, "I am a high-mileage runner. I capitalize off my strength and stamina. In order for me to get to my appropriate marathon conditioning, I usually run close to 100 to 110 miles per week, consisting of double runs in a day.

"With the nature of my job, I will usually get out for a quick 4 to 6 miles at lunch and then I will come back with a longer afternoon run averaging about 10 to 12 miles. I double around 3 to 4 times a week, with a long run of 20 to 24 miles on either a Saturday or Sunday."

Buhler also related what drives him to keep going during the 26.2 miles of a marathon.

"The finish line! That, and also realizing the amount of time and hard work I have put into my training," he said. "I get that drive from knowing I have worked hard in preparation before a big race and that gives me the motivation to continue forward."

Buhler is a recent arrival to San Antonio with his wife, Katie, and 2-year-old son, Matthew, and will be starting a four-year oral surgery residency in July 2015.



Photos by Robin Jerstad, used by permission of the San Antonio Express-News

2014 San Antonio Rock 'n' Roll Marathon winner Army Capt. Jacob Buhler from Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston celebrates his win Dec. 7. More than 24,000 people participated in the event. The 26.2-mile course wound through various San Antonio neighborhoods and past more than two dozen local musical acts.



Joint Base San Antonio

FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

January

Arts and Crafts

Professional framing available

Need artwork, memorabilia or photographs framed? The JBSA-Lackland Frame Shop professionals are available to assist patrons in making the best selection to frame personal items. For more information, call 671-5009.

The JBSA-Randolph Frame Shop has experts ready to help select a custom frame for any special occasion such as sports awards, special achievements, graduations, artwork or memorable photographs to ensure they last forever. In addition, the shop matches off-base prices on comparable custom framing jobs and there is no sales tax. For more information, call 652-5142.

Bowling

Start the year off with a roll

Spend New Year's Day at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Jan. 1, 1-8 p.m., and enjoy the special rate of \$2.50 per game, per person with \$2.50 shoe rental. For more information, call 652-6271.

Everything is better with strawberry ice cream

In celebration of National Strawberry Ice Cream Day, the first 50 customers at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Snack Bar Jan. 15, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. receive one free cup of strawberry ice cream with a purchase. For more information, call 221-3683.

Bowl for less over the holiday weekend

Celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Jan. 17-19 and bowl for \$2.50 per game, per person with \$2.50 shoe rental. Offer excludes Cosmic Bowling. For more information, call 652-6271.

Save on bowling while leagues go west

Bowlers are invited to the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Jan. 20-22, 5-8 p.m., for penny-a-pin bowling while leagues are in Las Vegas. For more information, call 652-6271.

Patrons enjoy \$1 bowling games

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center offers \$1 games and shoe rentals Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 221-3683.

The gang's all here

Families and military student groups of two to six people can bowl for one hour, get a large one-topping pizza, sodas and bowling shoes for \$50 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center. For more information, call 221-3683.

Savings continue at bowling center

Saving on entertainment budgets at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center continues through February. Bowlers that purchase \$7 or more at the snack bar can show the receipt at the front counter to receive two free games and shoe rentals Wednesdays and Thursdays, 4 p.m. until closing. For more information, call 221-3683.

Rock-n-roll into the New Year

During January patrons are invited to sing favorite karaoke songs along with OMG Sounds every Thursday, 6-10 p.m., in JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center's Primo's Lounge while enjoying bowling and beverages. For more information, call 671-1234.

Saturday nights rock at Skylark

Bowlers are encouraged to make the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center their destination on Saturdays during January from 7-11 p.m. Rent a lane for \$20 for up to seven people per lane. Enjoy the state-of-the-art cosmic light show and music favorites throughout the night. For more information, call 671-1234.

Community Programs

Tops in Blue looks for top talent

Tops in Blue hosts a talent contest at the Bob Hope Performing Arts Theater at JBSA-Lackland Jan. 9 and 10, 7 p.m., and Jan. 11, 6 p.m. Contestants compete for a place on the 2015 Tops in Blue team in this search for the best talent in the Air Force. No tickets are required to cheer on the contestants at this free show. For more information, call 671-2619.

Bargain hunters find good buys at warehouse sale

The JBSA-Randolph Community Services Mall hosts a Bargain Warehouse Jan. 14 at building 1139. E1 through E6 Airmen only may shop from 8-9 a.m. and all other patrons may shop 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Only checks and cash are accepted as payment and a limited number of people are allowed in the building at one time, so come prepared to stand in line. Shoppers may want to bring an umbrella, a coat and water to ensure comfort. Call 652-5142, option 2 for more information.

"The Murder Room" takes place at Harlequin Theater

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Harlequin Dinner Theatre presents "The Murder Room" Jan. 15 to Feb. 28. The fast-paced comic delight has a kooky plot that's full of ups and downs, mistaken identities, hysterical characters, fast paced action and witty, clever dialogue. Sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 222-9694.

Patrons learn the who, what, when and where

Department of Defense ID cardholders are welcome to visit with representatives from post agencies and local businesses to learn more about Joint Base San Antonio and the San Antonio area at the Community Extravaganza Fair at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Club Jan. 27, 9-11 a.m. For more information, call 221-2606.

Gamblers invited to play at Monte Carlo Night

Roll the dice at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Club Jan. 30, 6:30-11 p.m., for a night of gaming, food and the chance to win lots of great prizes. The prizes include a large flat-screen television, iPad or tablet, spa gift certificate, Kindle Fire and much more. The cost is \$20. There is limited space, so reservations are required. Reservations are accepted starting Jan. 5. This event is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. To make reservations, call 222-9386.

2015 brings opportunities for more casino adventure

Travel to the Grand Casino Coushatta in Kinder, La., with JBSA-Randolph Information, Tickets and Travel. Trips include round-trip motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, a \$23 voucher from the casino and friendly service from the bus driver and tour guide. The bus departs at 7:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 9 p.m. the next day. Cost is \$65 for double occupancy or \$130 for single occupancy. The 2015 trips are Jan. 13-14, March 17-18, May 12-13, July 14-15, Sept. 15-16 and Nov. 17-18. Choose one or choose them all. For more information, call 652-5142.

Clubs

Playoff games are best viewed at the club

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club is the best place to view the NFC/AFC playoff games Jan. 3-18. Enjoy a jumbo pretzel with cheese sauce for \$4.95, a 16-inch two-topping pizza for \$11.95 or a quarter-pound cheeseburger and fries for \$4.95. Drink specials include a bucket of Bud or Bud Light for \$10 or a Bud Light pitcher for \$5. Club members can also use their coupons. For more information, call 652-3056.

Take a chance to be extravagant

Take a chance to win up to \$15,000 Jan. 5 and 19 at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club during Bingo Extravaganza. A complimentary buffet is served at 5:30 p.m. and early bird bingo starts at 6 p.m. For more information, call 652-3056.

JBSA FSS

Celebrate birthdays at bingo

JBSA-Randolph club members celebrating January birthdays get one free bingo machine, cake and champagne Jan. 13, 7-9:30 p.m. For more information, call 652-3056.

The taste of the islands comes to town

Attend a beach party with some of your favorite island foods in the middle of winter and never leave San Antonio Jan. 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Beach Party Bash Buffet at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club's food court serves up grilled teriyaki pork chops, fried catfish, pepper steak, sides, desserts and more. Feast at this all-you-can-eat buffet for \$9.95 per person. For more information, call 645-7034.

Club members honored at appreciation night

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club honors club members with a special buffet dinner in the Fiesta Ballroom Jan. 27, 5-8 p.m. Entertainment is provided by Doggin' Dave Productions. The menu features chicken mole, a fajita station, salad bar, baked tilapia with mango salsa, cheese enchiladas, Spanish rice, borracho beans, fresh fruit, flan topped with mixed berries and chocolate chip cheesecake. The cost is \$10.50 for members and \$12.50 for nonmembers. For more information, call 645-7034.

Gateway Club offers entertainment throughout month

Enjoy music by DJ Doggin' Dave Productions in the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club's Lone Star Lounge every Friday, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Listen to music featuring LJU at JBSA-Lackland's Gateway Club's Maverick Lounge Jan. 16, 5-8 p.m.

Sing karaoke, listen and dance to music featuring DJ Dee Dee in the Lone Star Lounge Jan. 17, 8 p.m. to midnight.

Finish up the month Jan. 30, 5-8 p.m., listening or dancing to great music in the Maverick Lounge featuring LJU.

For more information, call 645-7034.

Fitness

Resolve to run 5K to start the new year

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center invites everyone to celebrate the first day of the new year at Eberle Park for the Resolution Run 5K Jan. 1, 8 a.m. This is a super way to start the New Year while also getting some fun physical activity outside in the fresh air. For more information, call 652-7263.

Department of Defense ID cardholders bring in the new year the right way with the New Year's Day Run Jan. 1, 10 a.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Pershing Sports Complex. There will be two free events: a 4-mile race starting at 10 a.m. and a 1.5-mile walk starting at 10:10 a.m. Register on the day of the event. For more information, call 221-3593 or 221-4887.

A new year, a new you

The new year is the time for a new program and a new you. Pick up a "New Year, New Program" card at the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center and start running/walking the 70 miles, attending the 24 group aerobic classes and biking the 36 miles it takes to complete the program. Participants have the entire year to complete the program. For more information, call 652-7263.



MONTE CARLO NIGHT
JANUARY 30 • 6:30 - 11 P.M.
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Club

There is limited space so reservations are required.
Reservations accepted starting Jan. 5.
Call 222-9386 to make your reservations.

Tell trainers thank you

One of the most common New Year's resolutions is to "get into shape;" which makes this one of the busiest times of the year for personal trainers who play a crucial role in helping people achieve their health and fitness goals. To say thank you, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Fitness Center on the Medical Education and Training Campus hosts a Personal Trainer Awareness Day Jan. 2, 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Stop in to say thank you and request a personal trainer to assist with personal health and fitness needs. No registration required. For more information, call 808-5713 or 808-5708.

Patrons lose big in 2015

Patrons are encouraged to sign up to compete against others to see who can lose the most weight in three months at the JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center Jan. 7-April 1. There is no entry fee and prizes will be awarded for the top male and female winners of the biggest loser contest in JBSA. In order to stay on track participants can weigh in every Wednesday (optional). All Department of Defense ID cardholders 18 and older are eligible to participate. For more information, call 977-2353.

Patrons learn proper lifting techniques

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center hosts a beginner strength training class Jan. 16, 11:30 a.m. This class is perfect for individuals who would like to start a strength training routine or just want to know more about strength training. Learn proper lifting techniques, how to improve workouts and the benefits of weight training for overall fitness and health. This free class is held in exercise room 128. For more information, call 652-7263.

Coed teams compete in wallyball tournament

Coed wallyball teams of six people (at least one female per team) are invited to sign up for a free tournament Jan. 23, 7 a.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center. The tournament is open to Department of Defense card holders 18 and older. Sign up by noon Jan. 22. For more information, call 977-2353.

Achieve a new healthy lifestyle

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center offers a 16-week program beginning Jan. 26 to help patrons achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle by improving food choices and diet, increasing physical activity and establishing skills for dealing with everyday stress. For more information, call 221-1234.

Patrons invited to lift

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center hosts an "Iron Bench Press Classic" Jan. 31, 9 a.m. This is a great opportunity for patrons to show off their lifting abilities. To register, call 221-1234 by Jan. 26.

Patrons run and have fun

Knock off the icicles with a blood-pumping Frosty 5K run/walk Jan. 31, 9 a.m. The event is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and begins at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center parking lot. No registration is required. The sign-in time is 8:30 a.m. For more information, call 808-5708.



www.myjbsa-fort-sam.com
671-1234

Susie's Kitchen
Pizza Mania Monday
Gillum Bowling Center - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

New for 2015
\$5 per person!

Includes:

- All-you-can-eat pizza
- 4 varieties to choose from
- Beverage

BOWLING

Golf

Start the new year with golf

The New Year's Day Golf Tournament at JBSA-Randolph Jan. 1, with 7-9 a.m. tee times, is a two-person modified alternate shot. Both players tee off on each hole then select the best tee shot. Whoever did not hit the tee shot selected plays the next shot and so on until the hole is completed. Gift certificates for pro shop merchandise are awarded to the top teams; low net and low gross. The entry fee is \$10 per person plus green fees and cart rental. To sign up, call 652-4653.

Warriors scramble to win

Golfers are invited to play in the monthly Warrior Four-Person Scramble at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Jan. 2, 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers and includes 18 holes of golf, green fees, golf cart and dinner. Winners of the longest drive and the closest to the pin, and the first-second- and third-place winners will receive gift certificates. For more information, call 222-9386.

Tee off to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

The JBSA-Randolph Golf Course hosts a Martin Luther King Jr. Day golf tournament Jan. 19. Tee times are 7-9 a.m. and the entry fee is \$10 plus green fee and cart rental. To sign up, stop by the Pro Shop or call 652-4653.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Discover natural beauty close to home

The beautiful and historical cavern system at Natural Bridge Caverns offers an experience that is high energy, educational, fun and family oriented. Take the kids and pan for precious stones, take the ultimate leap of faith from the Canopy Challenge, go caving on one of the adventure tours or simply experience nature on the original Discovery Tour. Active-duty military members are eligible for a free tour. Purchase tickets for family and friends for \$16.75 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3-11 years. For more information, call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ticket Office at 808-6262.

Heroes and villains fill up the Alamodome

Marvel's superheroes travel the world to retrieve the most feared and coveted treasures in the Marvel Universe. Heroes include Iron Man, Captain America, Hulk, Thor, Spider-Man and Wolverine. As the superheroes travel to collect the treasures, they encounter some of their biggest adversaries including Green Goblin, Doctor Octopus, Red Skull, Madame Hydra, Aldrich Killian, Electro and more villains who have no problem teaming up if it gets them closer to their ultimate goal of world domination.

Suit up with the best of the best, as Marvel's superheroes perform live in the Alamodome. Tickets for the Jan. 23-25 shows are available at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ticket Office with prices ranging from \$35 to \$95. For more information, call 808-1378.

There is something fishy around here

The San Antonio Aquarium is now open and JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel has discount tickets. Experience this unique hands-on attraction with

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PARTY Parr Club

Jan. 16 • 5-9 p.m.

We scheduled our membership appreciation party after the holidays since so many of our wonderful members were on vacation during the holidays. Let us spoil you at the Parr Club with a great appreciation party! All JBSA-Randolph Clubs members will enjoy a complimentary and scrumptious buffet, discounted beverages at the cash bar and entertainment provided by DJ Stevie Mac. Door prizes include Air City Bar & Grill gift certificates, Sunday Brunch gift certificates, movie gift cards and much more! This is usually a packed event so don't miss out! Sorry no children allowed.



exhibits low enough for children of all ages to reach out and touch stingrays, a variety of sharks, starfish, reptiles and more. This is a very interactive, educational experience for everyone. The ticket price is \$14.75 for adults and \$9.75 for children ages 2-11. For more information, call 671-3059.

Get Valero Alamo Bowl tickets before they are gone

The Valero Alamo Bowl kicks off Jan. 2, 5:30 p.m. The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ticket Office has end zone seating tickets in sections 320 and 321 for \$28.50. JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets & Travel has a limited quantity of discounted Valero Alamo Bowl tickets for \$28.50, regularly \$51 and higher. Fans are encouraged to purchase tickets early as tickets always sell out.

For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 808-1378 or JBSA-Lackland at 671-3059.

See the Spurs work their magic

Spurs 2015 game tickets are now on sale at JBSA Information, Tickets and Travel offices. Save on tickets plus pay no TicketMaster fees. Come by the offices to get the tickets without the fees or go to <http://www.spurs.com/lacklanditt> and use the promo code LACKLAND, <http://www.spurs.com/fortsamhoustitt> and use the promo code FORTSAM or <http://www.spurs.com/randolphitt> and use the promo code RANDOLPH. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 671-3059 and JBSA-Randolph at 652-5142.

Patrons enjoy fun at discounted rates

JBSA Information, Tickets and Travel offices have discounted tickets to popular shows and attractions at lower than box office prices. The shows and attractions include

Marvel Universe Live!, Disney on Ice "Frozen," the Alamo Bowl, San Antonio Zoo, San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, Disneyland and Disneyworld. For more information on pricing and availability, call 808-1378 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 671-3059 for JBSA-Lackland and call 652-5142 for JBSA-Randolph.

Library

Story time is a hit with preschoolers

Stories, crafts and songs are all part of the weekly story time at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29, 10 a.m. For more information, call 221-4702.

Learning a new language is easy

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library has an innovative way to learn a different language called "Mango Languages," with more than 60 foreign languages and 17 English courses available. These online courses offer flexibility and mobility along with free mobile applications. Come by the library for assistance or log on to <http://www.jbsalibraries.com> and click on the eResources/research tab to begin. For more information, call 221-4702.

Outdoor Recreation

Save money while having fun at lake

Check out the JBSA-Recreation Park at Canyon Lake during non-peak times and enjoy the tranquility of the lake, the soothing sounds of birds singing throughout the park, fish and tour the lake. Patrons can rent any lodging unit and stay three nights for the price of two during January.

While relaxing take advantage of the less crowded lake and save more money with the half-price boat special that includes all required safety equipment. Boat operators must have taken the Boater's Safety Course through the state of Texas at any JBSA location or at the JBSA Recreation Park.

Purchasing a JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake annual pass for \$65 allows entry into the Sunny Side and Hancock sides of the park for one year, including boats and trailers. Without the pass, the daily entry fee is \$7 per visit, per vehicle.

For more information, call 1-830-226-5357.

Winter boating is more fun with a discount

Fishing, pontoon and ski boats in various sizes are available at JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation with discounts up to 50 percent through February. For more information, call 925-5532.

Sportsman's Range open for shooting

The Sportsman's Range at JBSA-Camp Bullis is available for shooting and target practice on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting. Call to ensure the range is open before coming out. The cost is \$10 per Department of Defense ID cardholder and \$15 per non-DOD ID cardholder. Cardholders may purchase an annual pass for \$60. Cardholders are allowed to sponsor two non-DOD ID cardholder guests. Guests must be in the same vehicle as the sponsor. For more information, call 295-7577 or 295-7529.

The content and layout in the Force Support Squadron section of this newspaper was provided by the Joint Base San Antonio FSS Marketing Team. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

JBSA FSS

Patrons shoot at indoor archery range

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Indoor Archery Range gives patrons the opportunity to spend a fun-filled day shooting at archery targets. The cost to shoot is \$2 per hour and targets are 50 cents each. The range is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 295-7529.

Boater's receive discount with off season discounts

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Equipment Center offers 50 percent off the daily or weekly price for boat rentals during January. Stop by or call the Outdoor Equipment Center to make reservations. A boater's safety card and Department of Defense ID card are required for boat rentals. For more information, call 221-5225 or 221-5224.

Archers aim for competition fun

The Archery Range at JBSA-Camp Bullis hosts a 3-D competition Jan. 24-25, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register from 8-10 a.m. and complete the course by 1 p.m. The cost is \$15 for the fun shoot, \$5 for kids ages 12 and younger or \$20 fee for the competition shoot. For more information, call 295-7529 or 295-7577.

Sportsmen plan hunts with internet help

Hunters interested in seasonal hunting on JBSA-Camp Bullis are invited to register for an account at <https://jbsa.isportsman.net>. This website provides information on different hunting seasons, hunting areas and allows patrons to buy hunting permits. For more information, call 295-7529.

Student Activity Center

Gamers test football skills in Madden tournament

All Medical Education and Training Campus students are invited to test their video football skills at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Student Activity Center in the Madden Tournament Jan. 24-31. Interested students register Jan. 3-14 at the Student Activity Center and the Fitness Center on the METC. Draft and first rounds will begin Jan. 17, 1 p.m. Participants must be present to play. First place winner receives a new XBOX One. This event is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 466-5049.

Football fans party and cheer for favorite teams

A "Big Game Party" for all Medical Education and Training Campus students takes place Feb. 1, 4 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Student Activity Center. Enjoy games, door prizes, popcorn, cotton candy and food specials at the snack bar while rooting for competing teams. This event is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 466-5049.

Disc jockey entertains students with today's new music

Medical Education and Training Campus students are invited to enjoy the latest and greatest sounds of today's music, featuring a disc jockey Jan. 9 and 23, 6:30-10 p.m. The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Student Activity Center Club Zero has a large dance floor and comfortable seating areas for students to get together and enjoy music with

fellow comrades. This event is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 466-5049.

Students practice singing skills with karaoke

Medical Education and Training Campus students that think they have the pipes to make it big are invited to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Student Activity Center's Club Zero every Tuesday, 6-8:30 p.m., to sing karaoke and show the world what they have to offer. Club Zero has a state of the art sound system and plenty of tunes to match any singing style, so don't be afraid to take the stage. For more information, call 466-5049.

Youth and Children

Youth display art at annual exhibit

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs holds the annual Boys and Girls Club Fine Arts Exhibit Jan. 8-9. For more information, call 652-3298 or 652-2088.

Parents get a well deserved night off

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs and Child Development Program holds "Give Parents a Break/Parents' Night Out" offering childcare Jan. 23, 7-11 p.m. Children are provided with activities, games and snacks. The fee is \$15 per child or free with a GPAB referral. For more information, call 671-2388 for Youth Programs or call 671-1072 for Lackland Child Development Program.

JBSA-Randolph hosts "Give Parents a Break" and "Kids Adventure Night" Jan. 24, 1-5 p.m. Register by Dec. 31. The afternoon event takes place at the CDP Annex for children younger than 2 years old and at Youth Programs for children over 3 years old. It is free for GPAB waiver holders and \$20 per child for all others. To register, call 652-4946.

Youth stay up late for basketball

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to a round-robin format basketball tournament at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs during Midnight Basketball at building 1630 Jan. 17, 7 p.m. to midnight. For more information, call 221-3502.

Day camp provides safe entertainment for kids

Children do not have to sit in front of the TV or play video games all day during the Martin Luther King Jr. school holiday. Enroll in the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs day camps where children participate in lots of different activities and games in a safe, supervised environment while socializing with other children. The camp is for ages 5 (in kindergarten) to 12. The cost is based on household income. Pre-registration is required and late fees are applicable after registration deadlines. Registration for the Jan. 20 camp is due Jan. 12. Registrations after the due date are subjected to a \$15 late fee. For more information, call 671-2388.

Programs offer youth opportunities to get involved

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs encourages youth, ages 9 and older, to renew Youth Programs membership cards for 2015. The cards are used to participate in clubs, activities or open recreation during the year. Check out the preteen game room or Teen Zone, attend club meetings or join in activities.

The membership card does not include instructional classes, league sports or School Age Care Programs. Stop by for a monthly calendar of Youth Programs or check out <http://www.myjbsa-fss-mwr.com> to see what is offered. For those interested in joining, membership is \$36 per year. For more information, call 652-3298.

Babies and toddlers enjoy music and movement

Kinderjam combines music movement, learning and fun for parents, infants and preschoolers ages 1 to 5 years old. JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs offers Kinderjam Wednesdays, 10 a.m., for \$45 per month, per child. For more information, call 671-2388.

The SKIES Instructional Programs at JBSA Fort Sam Houston offers the class on Tuesdays, 10 a.m., for \$35 per month. For more information, call 221-3380.

Youth learn new skills in special classes

Get youth involved in instructional classes at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs.

Guitar classes for youth, ages 8-18, teach the fundamentals of scales while fostering an interest and appreciation for different musical styles. These classes take place Tuesdays, 4:45-5:30 p.m. The fee is \$33 per class.

Youth ages 5-18 learn basic tumbling skills with an emphasis on flexibility, strength building and acrobatics that can be applied to gymnastics and cheerleading. Gym attire is required. Classes are held Thursdays, 4:15-5 p.m. The fee is \$45 per class.

Register for classes at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Parent Central. For more information, call 221-3381.

Youth and young adults go for the gold

Attention 14-23 year olds; sign up for the Congressional Award Program and set goals in personal development, voluntary public service, physical fitness, and expeditions/ explorations. Once the bronze, silver or gold medal level has been achieved, participants receive an award presented by a member of Congress. This is great information for college applications. For more information, call 652-3298.

Creative outlets are provided during drop-in care

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs has drop-in care featuring after school clubs to entertain and provide a rewarding learning experience for youth. After school clubs include drama, art, photography, Power Hour, gardening, cooking, sewing, robotics and Lego Club. The cost is \$16 per day, per child for ages 5 (in kindergarten) to 12. All required paperwork must be on file in order to participate in drop-in care activities. For more information, call 671-2388.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay current on Joint Base San Antonio 502d Force Support Squadron events, specials and daily activities.

<http://www.myjbsa-fss-mwr.com>



Army Cyber branch offers Soldiers new challenges, opportunities

Soldiers who want to defend the nation in cyberspace, as part of the Army's newest and most technologically advanced career field, now have an Army branch to join that will take its place alongside infantry, artillery and the other Army combat arms branches.

Army Secretary John McHugh and Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno approved the creation of the Cyber branch in September, as one of the first official steps in establishing a 17-series career field specifically dedicated to managing the careers and professional development of officers. The remainder of the 17-series career field management program is expected to be implemented by October 2015, with both enlisted and warrant officer career paths.

"This is a historic development for our Army, for the Soldiers who are already defending the nation in cyberspace, and for those who will do so in years to come," said Maj. Gen. Stephen G. Fogarty, commanding general of the Cyber Center of Excellence.

"Creation of the Cyber branch acknowledges the critical role that our cyber warriors play in the armed forces of today and tomorrow, and it will provide us with the structure to make certain that the highly skilled Soldiers who are selected for these positions are well-trained, professionally developed and appropriately assigned."

To support these goals, both the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence, or CoE, at Fort Gordon, Ga., and the Human Resources Command created personnel career management and proponent offices to lead and shape the future development of this new Army career field.

"The establishment of a Cyber Branch shows how important and critical the cyber mission is to our Army, and allows us to focus innovative

recruiting, retention, leader development, and talent management needed to produce world-class cyberspace professionals," said Lt. Gen. Edward Cardon, the commanding general of Army Cyber Command.

Cyber CoE officials say the United States' military networks evolved from providing communication systems and services to a warfighting weapons system. All of cyberspace is now considered a warfighting domain and an operational environment in which the Defense Department will conduct cyberspace operations.

This new warfighting domain brings the need for a new type of Soldier capable of understanding cyberspace as an operational environment, just as an infantryman understands the land domain and a pilot the air domain.

"Every day, newspaper headlines underscore the importance of cyber defense to national security," said Col. Gregory Conti, director of the Army Cyber Institute at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. "The creation of the branch lays the foundation for a professional cyber force to best protect the Nation."

The Cyber branch already reached a milestone accepting the first six officers for duty as cyber operations officers, in the 17A area of concentration. Five of the six will be assigned to the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), at Fort Meade, Md., with the sixth assigned to the Cyber Protection Brigade at Fort Gordon.

By October 2015, enlisted Soldiers joining the career field will be designated as military occupational specialty 17C, cyber operations special-



Illustration courtesy Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office

Army Secretary John McHugh and Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno approved the creation of the Cyber branch in September, as one of the first official steps in establishing a 17-series career field specifically dedicated to managing the careers and professional development of officers. The remainder of the 17-series career field management program is expected to be implemented by October 2015, with both enlisted and warrant officer career paths.

ist, while warrant officers will become 170A cyber operations technicians. The process for Warrant Officers and NCOs to transfer to career field 17 is under development.

According to Col. Jennifer Buckner, commandant of the U.S. Army Cyber School, within the Cyber CoE, the branch will form in two phases, with a target of bringing almost 1,200 officers, warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers into the branch during the first phase, through 2016. In the second phase, the cyber branch will incorporate electronic warfare Soldiers in the 29-series Military Occupational Specialty.

"Much of the infrastructure of the branch is still under development," Buckner said. "For example, for the time being, officers selected for the branch will attend either signal or military intelligence officer education courses.

However, the Army needs outstanding young men and women with these qualifications now, so we will start to build the branch with the

available institutional training and plan to evolve to cyber-specific courses in fiscal year 2016."

As the proponent for the Army's newest career field, the Cyber CoE is developing the accession standards and strategies for filling positions in the branch. Although the Army is currently accepting applications from second lieutenants through colonels, the Cyber CoE is still working on firm standards for entry into the branch, Buckner said.

In order to be eligible, applicants must be able to obtain a top secret clearance and be able to pass and maintain a counter-intelligence polygraph and National Security Agency access. She added that a bachelor's degree in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics discipline would be a plus.

"Beyond that, we're still developing standards," Buckner said. "So my advice is, if you can meet the basic requirements, feel you have something to offer to our Cyber branch and are moti-

vated to join what will truly be an elite corps of professionals in our Army, then go ahead and apply."

Once accepted into the career field, officers, warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers will fill a wide variety of positions with cyber mission force units and traditional Army formations, including: cyber operator, analyst and planner positions. The branch will also include traditional leadership, command and staff positions.

Although a significant number of cyber positions will be located at Forts Gordon and Meade as the majority of cyber elements are assigned there, cyber Soldiers will have assignment opportunities across the force. The Army's total force approach to cyber includes significant growth in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve's cyberspace capabilities and capacities.

"We believe the branch will attract high quality talent to the Army and many of those people, once they experience the opportunities available in the cyber branch will choose to stay," Conti said.

"I think membership in the cyber branch presents an exciting, cutting-edge opportunity for the right Soldiers," Buckner said. "It will be a unique gathering of professionals, using skills that have become associated with the bad guys in our popular culture. But we'll be wearing the white hats – good Soldiers, doing good work in cyberspace for a great nation. I can't think of a more interesting and rewarding opportunity to serve than that."

For information on joining the Cyber branch as an officer, contact the Human Resources Command Cyber branch at (502) 613-5398/6614. Enlisted and warrant officer branch contact information will be released as it is established.

(Source: Fort Gordon, Ga., Public Affairs Office)

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

A tri-service "Celebration of Life" event, sponsored by the Navy Medicine Training Support Center chapter of the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions took place Dec. 10 at the Jaenke track on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Students and staff from the Medical Education and Training Campus and elsewhere came together to support and encourage one another and share in the celebration of life.

**Photo by
Chief Petty Officer J. N. Hall**



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SING CAROLS AT JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON



Photo by Barry Napp

The Fort Sam Houston Elementary School Exemplary Choir Students group traveled to the U.S. Army Environmental Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 12 to sing holiday carols and perform dance moves. The school has visited USAEC every holiday season to sing and perform for the organization since USAEC moved to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in 2011 and the partnership between the school and organization formed. The group enjoyed refreshments with USAEC employees after the concert.

Commentary: 'Tis the season to drink responsibly

By Col. Maureen Harback

Commander, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron
Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

It's that time of year when holiday parties and late night celebrations begin to fill our calendars and we look forward to spending time with family and friends to celebrate our own special reasons for the season.

Every Christmas Eve, I celebrate my life and I give thanks for being able to share the holiday with my family. Nearly 30 years ago on Christmas Eve, my father, brother and I were hit by a drunk driver.

After a busy day of last-minute shoppers, my

family and I closed our business at the mall for the evening. We were one of the last cars to leave the parking lot and I remember being the only one on the road. We sat patiently at a red light waiting to cross an intersection legally, even though there was no cross traffic for as far as the eye could see. Most travelers and shoppers had returned home in preparation for the holiday.

Meanwhile earlier that evening, a 19-year-old male left a Christmas Eve party after drinking. He was traveling on the divided highway that ran perpendicular to the access road we were exiting. The highway patrol

later estimated his speed at more than 80 mph in a 45 mph zone.

He never remembered what happened that night so the sequence of events from his point of view is speculation. I expect he was too impaired to realize that the traffic light turned red as he couldn't have slowed much to approach us so quickly.

As we proceeded through the intersection, turning left on the green signal, his vehicle suddenly appeared on the right traveling toward us. Fortunately, his driver's side front bumper only clipped the right front panel of our car, spinning us 180 degrees and into the grassy median.

Our seat belts, fortunate timing, and the solid steel framework of our 1978 Chevrolet station wagon saved us from tragedy.

Unfortunately, more than 30 years later, this is still a fairly predictable scenario.

Holiday drinking often leads to buzzed and drunk driving. Mothers Against Drunk Driving reports that approximately 1,000 people die between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day each year in drunk driving crashes. Hundreds more are injured or impacted, as we were that night.

As an Airman, I have the responsibility to lead by example; to drink responsibly, designate

a driver and be a good wingman; however, regardless of my actions, it is not enough to ensure my fellow citizens are following suit. As a result, I've adopted some defensive driving principles, and I am especially mindful of them at this time of year.

First, all riders wear a seat belt. Seat belts are the best defense against drunk drivers. The safest place to be in an accident is in your vehicle and safety belts assure you stay there.

Second, avoid roadways late in the evening and very early mornings, especially on holidays and weekends. More crashes occur at these times.

Finally, when I have to travel, I pay attention. Impaired drivers often show clear signs of danger. Swerving, traveling too fast or slow for the flow of traffic, and excessive braking, put me on alert.

Thirty years ago, timing was on my side. If the drunk driver had met us in the intersection a second later, the outcome may have been grim. So, I pay it forward and ask that everyone to think before they drink, designate a driver, have a plan and drive defensively.

With a concerted effort, we can all enjoy a happy and healthy holiday and return safely in 2015.

Air Force Fitness Management System slated for upgrade Dec. 31 through Jan. 11

By Debbie Gildea

Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

Active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard officers and enlisted members who want to maintain copies of their pre-July 2010 fitness records need to access the Air Force Fitness Management System and save or print their records by Dec. 30, Air Force Personnel Center officials at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph said Dec. 9.

AFFMS will be offline from Dec. 31 to Jan. 11 to enable AFPC teams to transition content to the improved Air Force Fitness Management

System II, said 1st Lt. Nathan Strickland, the AFPC Special Programs branch chief. When the new system comes back online, it will not include fitness information older than July 2010.

The new system – AFFMS II – will improve accessibility and fitness program managers' ability to manage fitness program records. In addition, it will feature more stringent security controls to protect members' information from unauthorized changes or updates.

"This system will provide Total Force Airmen with a more up-to-date, user-friendly fitness management system that

will better support the overall Air Force Fitness program," Strickland said. "Before the system goes down, we want to make sure that Airmen are aware of the pending change and have time to go into the system to save their older records."

While there is no requirement for Airmen to maintain fitness records, Strickland advises Airmen who would like to maintain a copy of their fitness history prior to July 2010 to go to the current AFFMS site by Dec. 30 and download or print their pre-July 2010 information. Records can be printed or saved as PDFs, he said.

"In the interim, base

fitness assessment centers and unit fitness program managers will maintain hard copies of fitness score sheets for Airmen who test while the system is down and will update those records once AFFMS II is up and running," Strickland said.

To save copies of pre-July 2010 records, go to the Air Force Portal, hover the cursor over the "Life & Fitness" menu and select "AF Fitness Management System" from the drop down menu. For more information about the fitness management system and other personnel issues, go to <https://myPers.af.mil>.

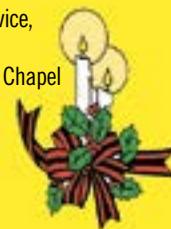
HOLIDAY CHAPEL SERVICES

Friday

7-8:30 p.m. – Candlelight Protestant Gospel Service, Dodd Field Chapel

8 p.m. – Jewish Hanukah celebration, Main Post Chapel

8:30 p.m. – Jewish Oneg Shabbat, Main Post Chapel



Sunday

11 a.m. – Protestant Choir Christmas Cantata, Main Post Chapel

Wednesday (Christmas Eve)

5 p.m. – Catholic Mass, Dodd Field Chapel

6 p.m. – Protestant Candlelight Service, Main Post Chapel

7 p.m. – Protestant Service, BAMC Chapel

7 p.m. – Samoan Christmas Eve Service, Dodd Field Chapel

10 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service Mass, Main Post Chapel

11:30 p.m. – Catholic Mass, BAMC Chapel

Thursday (Christmas)

9:30 a.m. – Christmas Mass, Main Post Chapel

11 a.m. – Catholic Mass, BAMC Chapel

Dec. 31

5:30 p.m. – Solemnity of Mary, Main Post Chapel

7 p.m. – Samoan New Years Eve Service, Dodd Field Chapel

Jan. 1

9:30 a.m. – Solemnity of Mary Mass, Main Post Chapel

Noon – Catholic Mass, BAMC Chapel

Brothers in arms at Army North retire from Army on same day

By Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos
Army North Public Affairs

Growing up in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, Jose Cruz wanted to be like his big brother, Luis. So when 17-year old Luis joined the Army in 1985, his 13-year old brother followed suit – albeit eight years later.

For most of their careers, fate kept them apart, but three years ago they were brought together for their last assignments. They stood together one last time as Soldiers Dec. 19 at their joint retirement ceremony held at the Fort Sam Houston Theater. They will both formally retire from the Army March 1, 2015.

Sgt. Maj. Luis Cruz was the communications sergeant major for Army North and is retiring after nearly 30 years of service. His brother, Sgt. 1st Class Jose Cruz, was the training noncommissioned officer in charge for Operations Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, Army North. He has served the nation for more than 21 years.

Their assignment to Army North wasn't by accident.

"We had never been in the same unit at the same time," Jose said. "My brother was at Army North and I knew

he was planning on retiring there, so I requested to transfer there as well so we could retire together."

In some ways, Jose's career in the Army started with his brother.

"Jose was living with me while I was stationed in Hawaii and I would take him to physical training with me and then work," Luis said. "I wanted to show him that for the most part, the Army is a normal job. You get up, do PT, go to work and come home in the evening."

Jose said the time in Hawaii solidified his desire to join the Army, so he flew back to Puerto Rico and enlisted as a basic infantryman. "I could have enlisted in Hawaii, but I wanted to go home to Puerto Rico and join there, like my brother did."

Luis said that even as a child he wanted to be a Soldier, however he was concerned that his inability to speak English might prevent him from his dream. It didn't, and in March 1985, he joined the Army as a tactical communications maintainer and operator. He went to basic training four months later.

Luis said that his lack of English made certain aspects of basic training easier to handle. "When someone is yelling at you

in a language you don't understand, it doesn't bother you," he said referencing the raised voices drill sergeants frequently use.

However it did pose a problem during chow time.

"At first I just pushed my tray forward and said, 'same', so I got whatever the guy in front of me had," Luis said. "A lot of time, I ended up with biscuits and gravy on my plate. I am Puerto Rican – we don't eat biscuits and gravy – so I was hungry a lot."

Luis said he started to listen to the words the other recruits said in the mess line and mimic them. "I didn't know what 'scrambled' meant, but I learned if I said that, I got *revoltillo de huevos*."

Luis said that teaching himself English is one of his proudest accomplishments in the Army. "Here I am, a communications guy and I couldn't speak English." He learned to communicate and passed every military school with distinction, as well as earning a bachelor of science degree.

Jose said that he had an easier time when he first joined the Army than his brother because he could speak some English and he was sent to the Defense Language Institute English Language Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland to brush up on his language skills prior to attending basic training at Fort Benning, Ga.

See BROTHERS, P21



Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Jose Cruz (left) and his brother, Sgt. Maj. Luis Cruz, will be retiring from the Army March 1, 2015. The brothers, both stationed at U.S. Army North at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, participated in a joint retirement ceremony Dec. 19 at the Fort Sam Houston Theater. Sgt. Maj. Cruz was the communications sergeant major for Army North and his brother was the training non-commissioned officer in charge for Operations Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, Army North.

Army completes environmental study for possible force reductions

By **Cathy Kropp**
U.S. Army Environmental Command
Public Affairs

The Department of the Army announces the availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact for the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment.

The Army evaluated the environmental impacts of potential reductions of active-component Soldiers and Army civilians at 30 installations. The Army determined that there are no significant impacts, other than socioeconomic impacts, and that preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

As a result of current budgetary projections, the Army must reduce its active component end

strength to a level below that analyzed in the January 2013 Programmatic Environmental Assessment.

The supplemental environmental assessment built on the 2013 assessment and analyzed the impacts of a potential reduction of an additional 70,000 Soldiers and associated Army civilians, down to an active component end-strength of 420,000. These reductions are necessary to meet the spending levels required by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Nearly all Army installations will be affected in some way by the reductions. The 2013 assessment evaluated 21 Army installations and joint bases where Army stationing changes could result in the inactivation and restructuring of

brigade combat teams, or a combined loss of 1,000 or more Army employees during the fiscal year 2013-2020 timeframe.

With the deeper reductions now anticipated, the supplemental assessment evaluated the original 21 installations for greater cuts as well as nine additional installations.

Both the 2013 assessment and 2014 supplemental analyzed potential reductions at Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Irwin, Calif.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richard-

son, Alaska; Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; and U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii-Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The supplemental also analyzed potential reductions at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Fort Meade, Md.; Fort Rucker, Ala.; Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and USAG Hawaii-Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

The Army received more than 110,000 comments on the supplemental programmatic environmental assessment from members of the public, members of Congress, state and local officials, Tribal governments, regulators, state and local agencies and officials, special interest groups

and non-profit organizations, civic groups, public service organizations, academia and private businesses.

Many of these comments emphasized the seriousness of potential economic impacts, which is consistent with the Army's conclusion that the impacts would be significant at most installations. Socioeconomic impacts are of particular concern to the Army because they affect communities around Army installations and joint bases.

Decisions on which units and organizations will be selected for reductions have not yet been made. The analysis of environmental and socioeconomic impacts will help force structure decision-makers as they identify the specific units and organizations that

will be reduced in the upcoming years.

As part of the force structure decision process, the Army will conduct local community listening sessions to receive public input that will be considered in the force structure decisions process. The schedule for community listening sessions will be announced locally.

The Army's decision and final supplemental assessment documents may be accessed at: <http://aec.army.mil/Services/Support/NEPA/Documents.aspx>.

For further information on the supplemental programmatic environmental assessment, contact the U.S. Army Environmental Command Public Affairs Office at 466-1590 or 855-846-3940, or email usarmy.jbsa.aec.nepa@mail.mil.

Looking for career progression? Join the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce

By **Rebecca Silvas**
IMCOM Human Resources

With critical installation management vacancies in deployed locations open now, U.S. Army Installation Management Command employees have additional career development opportunities at their fingertips.

"No one knows installation management better than IMCOM," said Maj. Gen. Lawarren Patterson, IMCOM deputy commanding general for Operations and chief of staff. "It's the willingness of our employees to provide and manage support to Soldiers in deployed locations that sets this command apart as an enabler of readiness and premier support organization."

According to IMCOM leaders, there's an im-

mediate need to fill about 23 vacancies that include positions in public works, administration, housing, construction, plumbing and operating forklifts. In the long term, the command hopes to develop a pool of applicants ready to serve at any location in "The Army's Home."

The deployment experience allows civilians to use their capabilities, experience and knowledge to support crucial Department of Defense missions abroad. Deployable civilians are needed to serve as qualified volunteers to fill critical functions in Afghanistan and other locations across the globe – everything from humanitarian aid and disaster relief to support infrastructure and contract management.

Volunteering to deploy

gives civilian employees an extraordinary opportunity to broaden skills and expertise while directly supporting operations of national interest.

As a deployee, you will live and serve on a variety of American bases and compounds with your military and government colleagues. Some of the locations will be quite austere and remote, and unlike any community back in the United States, contributing to the overall experience. You will receive training to help you prepare for living in-theater.

In addition to the experience you will gain from your deployment, you may be also eligible for a 35 percent post differential pay, 35 percent hazardous duty differential pay and significant

overtime compensation in addition to base salary.

Supporting Soldiers, communities and national interests is what IMCOM

is all about. Imagine being able to help the local community build hospitals and schools, bring electricity to a village and

disperse disaster relief. Consider taking the next step in career develop-

See IMCOM P21



Photo by Army Sgt. Jarred Woods

Department of the Army civilians inspect a base expeditionary targeting surveillance systems-combined tower April 12 before transferring it over to the Afghan National Army near Kabul, Afghanistan.



Roll Into Holiday Fun With Bowling Specials

Save on entertainment budgets at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center during December. Bowlers that purchase \$7 or more at the snack bar can show the receipt at the front counter to receive two free games and shoe rentals Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. until closing. Call 221-3683.

Musicals Highlights Holiday Season

Take a journey back to the '50s and '60s at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Harlequin Dinner Theatre. "Beach Blanket Christmas" plays through Saturday. The cast performs favorite Christmas classics and popular songs of the '50s and '60s. Additionally, there is a special Sunday matinee of "Just Us" which includes favorite holiday songs and a special salute to the military Sunday. Both shows are sponsored by The Gunn Automotive Group. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Call 222-9694.

Thrift Shop For Holiday Shopping

The Thrift Shop at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston,

located at 3100 Zinn Road, one block south of Outdoor Recreation, is operated by the Spouse's Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area. Usual hours of operation are Wednesdays, Thursdays and the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for consignments from all Department of Defense ID card holders and from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for shopping by all who have access to post. Donations also accepted. The shop will be closed through Jan. 5 and will reopen for business Jan. 7 and 8. The first Saturday opening after the new year will be Jan. 10. Call 221-5794/4537.

Helping Us Grow Securely Playgroup

The interactive playgroup for parents and children up to age 5 meets 9-11 a.m. each Tuesday at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Middle School Teen Center. No registration required. Call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

Youth Delight In Holiday Camps

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs offers holiday camps Monday through Dec. 30 for children ages 5-10. Activities include arts and crafts, computer lab, outside play, drama, techno games and other fun activities. All children enrolled in after school care can register at building 1703. Children not enrolled need to register at Parent Central, building

2797. Fees are based on total family income. Call 221-5151.

Take Aim at Sportsman's Range

Hours for the Sportsman's Range at JBSA-Camp Bullis are now 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting. Cost to shoot is \$10 per DOD ID cardholder and \$15 per non-DOD ID cardholder. A DOD ID cardholder can purchase an annual pass for \$60. DOD cardholders may sponsor two guests. Cardholders are allowed to sponsor two non-DOD ID cardholder guests. Guests must be in the same vehicle as the sponsor. Call 295-7577.

Military and Family Life Counselors

Military and Family Life Counselors address a variety of issues such as stress, anxiety and deployment. MFLCs are licensed mental health professionals who provide situational, problem-solving counseling anonymously and confidentially. No written records are kept, and it is free to military and family members. Contact a MFLC at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 517-6666 general number, 243-4143 for Army students, and 488-6804 for Air Force and Navy students; at JBSA-Lackland, call 540-5025 or 540-5030 for adults, 627-0054 or 540-5033 for children and youths; and at JBSA-Randolph, call 627-1223 or 426-1412 for adults, 627-0338 or 627-0525 for children and youths.

IMCOM from P20

ment, and apply today. The application process begins with filling out an Army Civilian Volunteer Request for Deployment form, found at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/mobil/webforms/index-Army.html>. Submit your completed form and resume to the HQ IMCOM deployment coordinator email address: usarmy.imcom-hq.mbx.g1-civper@mail.mil. Please note that incomplete forms will NOT be considered.

Application Instructions:
Section 1: Completed by the employee
Section 2: Supervisor signature
Section 3: Garrison Commander, Region Director (region employees), Director (HQ Employees)

For additional information, email usarmy.imcom-hq.mbx.g1-civper@mail.mil or visit <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/expeditionary/>.

BROTHERS from P19

He said that his proudest time serving in the Army was the seven years he spent on recruiting duty. "Being able to take a civilian and change his life by making him a Soldier, is the greatest feeling ever," Jose said.

Like many retired Soldiers the Cruz brothers are still keeping busy. Luis wants to finish his master's degree in business administration and Jose plans on starting a music production business.

They will also spend a lot of time with their individual families and with each other. This will be easy, as they live on the same street.

"I wanted to buy the house next to Luis but it didn't work out, so I built one across the street from him," Jose said.



Holiday facility hours, closures

Main Exchange/PXTRA

Wednesday: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday (Christmas): Closed
Dec. 31: 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 1, 2015: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

AAFES MiniMall

Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Commissary

Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Army Medical Department Bookstore

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

San Antonio Military Medical Center Retail

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

Military Clothing Sales Store

Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Schofield Shoppette

Wednesday: 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Walters Shoppette

Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Patch Shoppette

Wednesday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

JBSA-Camp Bullis Retail

Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Class VI

Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Ellington Retail

Wednesday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Base Exchange Food Court

Wednesday: 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Jan. 1: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Burger King

Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Jan. 1: 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Brooke Army Medical Center Burger King

Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Thursday: Closed

Dec. 31: 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Jan. 1: Closed
JBSA-Camp Bullis Burger King
Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: Closed

Dec. 31: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jan. 1: Closed
Popeye's Chicken/Godfather's Pizza
Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday: Closed

Dec. 31: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jan. 1: Closed

IMCOM Food Court

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed

Einstein Bagel-Clinic

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

AMEDD Food Court

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

MiniMall Burger King (Hardy Road)

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

MiniMall Wing Zone

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

MiniMall Taco Bell

Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

MiniMall Subway

Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

JBSA-Camp Bullis Outdoor Recreation

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

JBSA-Camp Bullis Fitness Center

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

Central Post Fitness Center

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

Child Development Center, buildings 1720 and 2530

Wednesday: 5:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 5:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center/Snack Bar

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center

Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Jan. 1: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FamCamp

Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fort Sam Houston Golf Course

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

Jimmy Brought Fitness Center

Wednesday: 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Harlequin Dinner Theater

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

Fitness Center at the METC

Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation

Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Sam Houston Event Center

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Student Activity Center

Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

MST Center, building 2515

Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 6th-7th grade camp
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 6th-7th grade camp

Youth Center Programs, building 1630

Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 8th grade and up; 1-4:30 p.m., open recreation
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 8th grade and up; 1-4:30 p.m., open recreation

School Ages Services

Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Parent Central

Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Dec. 31: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed