



MILITARY WORKING DOGS IN COLUMBIA

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GETTYSBURG RE-ENACTMENT

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Preparation key to success for Army North's Task Force 51

By Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos
 Army North Public Affairs

In the morning hours of July 30, notional terrorists “detonated” two five-kiloton improvised nuclear devices in a major Midwestern city.

The simulated attack marked the kickoff of a large-scale catastrophic incident exercise, planned by military exercise specialists from U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), testing more than 5,500 service members and civilians in multiple training locations spread across central and southern Indiana.

Army North personnel made

final preparations for the U.S. Northern Command-directed Vibrant Response 13-2 exercise as military members and civilians from various federal agencies descended upon various training areas in Indiana to respond in the event of a catastrophic domestic incident.

As Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command, one of the key missions for Army North is to coordinate the timely federal military response to disasters in the homeland to help the American people in a time of need.

One of the challenges in setting up this type of training event is

the massive amount of coordination involved.

“We started planning this exercise as soon as last year's event was over,” said Kevin Kirmse, a senior Army North exercise planner. “We have to coordinate equipment, contracts for role players, troop movements and training venues. We pretty much use all of southern Indiana to train in.”

Army North has been coordinating Vibrant Response since 2008. Initially, it was much smaller in scale. Fortunately, Camp Atterbury and the Muscatatuck Urban

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Liaison officers representing the various task forces in support of Task Force 51, U.S. Army North's rapidly deployable task force, set up a joint operations center Aug. 1 in preparation of exercising their real-world mission capabilities during Vibrant Response 13-2 exercise. VR 13-2 is a major incident exercise conducted by U.S. Northern Command and led by Army North.

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Army South Soldiers, veterinarians help Colombia, Honduras build military working dog programs

 By Eric Lucero
Army South Public Affairs

A handful of U.S. Army South Soldiers traveled to Colombia and Honduras in July to conduct subject matter expert exchanges with partner nation soldiers and civilians.

And while SMEEs are not an uncommon form of engagement within Army South's area of responsibility, it was the topic covered that was unique.

The focus for each engagement centered on military working dogs.

During the two engagements, the focus of each SMEE shifted slightly. While Colombia possesses a more robust MWD program, the Honduran army is in its early stages of development.

"Because the two countries are in different stages of their programs, we chose to center our exchanges based on what was important to each of them," said Master Sgt. Kirby West, Army South military working dog program manager.

The veterinary working group focused on exchanging classes to create better understanding of each nation's veterinary corps and MWD programs. The classes led to discussions on the challenges each program face and points of collaboration.

During the trip to Colombia, the Army South contingent highlighted the proper care of the working dogs, to include the

detection and treatment of common diseases among the dogs, specifically Leishmaniasis, a disease caused by protozoan parasites transmitted by the bite of certain fly species.

During the SMEE, West and Lt. Col. Jerrod W. Killian, Army South chief of clinical operations and command veterinarian, worked with 15 veterinarians and two dog handlers from the Colombian army. This exchange marked the first time all 15 Colombian veterinarians were gathered in one area for a class.

"The discussions centered on the prevention and treatment of MWDs diagnosed with diseases, specifically Leishmaniasis," West said. "We also discussed the proper care and treatment of the working dogs while they are deployed."

Both groups presented veterinary classes and discussions geared toward mitigating the impact of Leishmaniasis. In addition, the Colombians learned how to collect tissue samples of a working dog with active Leishmaniasis, which was the first time most of the Colombian veterinarians were shown how to collect samples.

Currently, the working life of a Colombian MWD is about five years. In the United States, a working dog can be expected to work up to 10 years. With the proper detection and care of their MWDs, the Colombian army is hoping to extend the working life of their approximately



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Jerrod W. Killian (left), chief of clinical operations and command veterinarian for U.S. Army South, performs a physical exam on a Colombian military working dog with Colombian army veterinarians. Killian was part of an Army South delegation of Soldiers and civilians that traveled to Bogota, Colombia, to discuss the care, prevention and treatment of diseases military working dogs may incur.

3,500 working dogs.

"The Colombian military fully understands the value of their working dogs in detecting improvised explosive devices and narcotics," said Killian, who led the veterinarian SMEE. "There is no piece of equipment that can replace these dogs. So, keeping them healthy is critical and requires a deliberate and robust veterinary team."

"The Colombian Army has increased the number of veterinarians in uniform from three to 15 over the last year," he added. "This investment in veterinarians will certainly extend the working lifespan of Colombian MWDs."

Prior to leaving Colombia, the Army South

fully bred more than 140 dogs with a 100 percent success rate."

After leaving Colombia, the Army South team shifted its focus to assist the Honduran army in its implementation of a brand new MWD program.

Honduras began the construction of their first kennel and purchased their first MWDs in May. While they currently only have seven dogs, the Honduran army hopes to have that number swell to 30 dogs by the end of the year.

"It's a new program and they are reaching out throughout the region for assistance," West said.

Dominican soldiers are working with Honduran MWD handlers to train them on the proper use of the MWDs. In September, there is a plan to send 20 Honduran handlers to Colombia for training. The Honduran army commanders see the importance of a strong MWD program in countering transnational organized crime, West said.

"These dogs are a force multiplier," West said. "They can detect and locate substances that we can't see."

Like in Colombia, the care of the dogs was stressed to the Honduran soldiers in attendance. The Army South contingent gave classes on where and how to use the MWDs, the cost of maintenance for the dogs, equipment requirements,

contingent toured one of Colombia's largest military kennels and received information on Colombia's MWD breeding program. With the cost and time commitment invested in selecting and training a working dog, the importance of an effective breeding program becomes vital.

In the United States, a dog selected to become a military working dog does not start training until approximately 15 months of age, while in Colombia, dogs as young as four months begin their training to become MWDs.

"The Colombian army's breeding program appears to have found the right way to breed dogs to become MWDs," West said. "They have success-

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News Briefs

Environmental and Occupational Health Fair at AMEDDC&S

The 6A-F5 Principles of Military Preventive Medicine Class from the Army Medical Department Center and School hosts an environmental and occupational health fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday on the ground floor of Willis Hall, Building 2841, in the food court atrium at the Army Medical Department Center and School. Learn about ways that lead to a "Healthy You, Healthy Family". Presentations include tobacco cessation, Lyme disease, swimming safety, food-borne illnesses, radiation health awareness, HIV and sexually transmitted diseases and more. Local vendors will also showcase products and services available in the area.

DOD Guidance on Federal Benefits for Same-Sex Spouses

The Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service has issued guidance, to include an employee handout which addresses changes in Federal benefits coverage of same-sex spouses due to the recent ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act. Legally married same-sex employees will have until Aug. 26 to enroll their newly eligible family members. Currently the Employee Benefits Information System is not capable of processing same-sex FEHB enrollments. Army employees must call the Army Benefits Center-Civilian at 877-276-9287 and speak with a counselor. To view the DCPAS guidance, visit the Fort Sam Houston CPAC Online "News" section at <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/cpac/>.

Three-Week Delay on CAC/ID Cards Appointments

Appointment times at the main DEERS ID Card/Common Access Card issuance facilities at Joint Base San Antonio are about three weeks out due to a high volume of customers during the summer months. Emergency walk-in wait times can range between one to three hours. All military members, retirees, dependents, civil service employees and contractor customers needing new or updated CAC/ID cards are encouraged to schedule their appointments accordingly. If you are a CAC cardholder and receive an email notification that your card is within 60 days of expiration please

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JBSA welcomes new 502nd Mission Support Group commander

By Lori Newman
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
Public Affairs

A large crowd braved the early morning Texas heat Aug. 2 to bid farewell to Col. John P. Lamoureux and welcome Col. Steven A. Toft as the new 502nd Mission Support Group commander.

The change of command ceremony combined both Air Force and Army traditions with the playing of "Ruffles and Flourishes," the firing of cannons and the passing of the unit colors.

"That is the great thing about being a joint base," said presiding officer Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, commander of the Joint Base San Antonio and 502nd Air Base Wing. "Understanding the culture and tradition of each of our service components and embracing it and making the most of it, so we can take care of the mission of our nation. That's what it's all about."

The general praised Lamoureux and his family for being a wonderful command team and for their many contributions to the joint base community.

"We selected the right guy at the right time for Fort Sam Houston," LaBrutta said of Lamoureux. "You are leaving Fort Sam Houston with a great reputation."

LaBrutta thanked Lamoureux for his dedication to the mis-



Photo by Mike O'Rear

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta (left), commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, passes the 502nd Mission Support Group colors to incoming 502nd MSG commander Col. Steven A. Toft, as outgoing commander Col. John P. Lamoureux (right) looks on. Lamoureux is leaving the 502nd MSG to become commander of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Ga.

sion and his help with the continuing transformation of the 502nd Mission Support Group to the 502nd Force Support Group.

The general also welcomed Toft and his wife, Col. Carla Toft, to the team and the family.

"In today's environment where we have resource constraints that I have never seen before, we are going to have to think innovatively," LaBrutta said.

"We are going to have to be creative in the way we provide installation support to not only Fort Sam, but Randolph, Lackland and Camp Bullis in the future."

LaBrutta addressed

the new commander, saying, "Steve, if there is anybody who could have come into Joint Base San Antonio here at Fort Sam Houston to take the mighty 502nd Force Support Group to the next level ... it's you.

"Our responsibility to the mission partners - to our mission leaders - is to make sure we provide the best installation support there is. We are going to be the Department of Defense's premier joint base."

Following the general's remarks, Lamoureux said his farewells to the 502nd Mission Support Group team.

"As I leave here today, no words can adequately express what an honor and privilege

it's been to lead and serve this command," he said.

"Over the past two years, I have watched in awe as members of this great organization made excellence routine, the difficult easy and the complex, simple. They are truly the unsung heroes and undoubtedly, among the finest workforce I have had the privilege to work with."

Lamoureux said he couldn't think of a better replacement to take the organization into the future.

"Steve, you have the controls. I guarantee it can be a wild ride," Lamoureux said. "This train moves fast, but the professionals who

make up this great organization will make sure you are prepared to accept and solve any of the difficult challenges that await you."

Lamoureux will take command of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Ga., but promised to return to San Antonio and eventually retire here. That brought a cheer from his wife, Laura.

Toft thanked everyone for attending the ceremony, saying it's been quite a few years since he has been to San Antonio, but despite all the changes to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, "this truly does feel like coming home."

"At Joint Base San Antonio, we train the best Airmen in the world and we train the world's best medics. In fact, our battlefield wounded warfighters have the best chance of survival in the history of warfare," Toft said. "This is because of the cutting-edge work done at this base. These are just a couple of the myriad critical missions here at Joint Base San Antonio."

"I look forward to providing support to all the outstanding units and organizations at Joint Base San Antonio, as well as this outstanding military community," he said.

"I'm humbled and privileged to join the San Antonio community and I'm proud to serve alongside all of you," Toft added. "Thank you for the opportunity."

Hagel announces reduction in civilian furlough days

Hundreds of thousands of Defense Department civilian employees who have had to take a weekly unpaid day off from work since July 8 are getting some relief, as the total number of furlough days has been reduced from 11 to six, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Tuesday.



Here is the complete text of the secretary's announcement:

When I announced my decision on May 14 to impose furloughs of up to 11 days on civilian employees to help close the budget gap caused by sequestration, I also said we would do everything possible to find the money to reduce furlough days for our people. With the end of the fiscal year next month, managers across the DoD are making final decisions necessary to ensure we make the \$37 billion spending cuts mandated by sequestration, while also doing everything possible to limit damage to military readiness and our

workforce. We are joined in this regard by managers in non-defense agencies who are also working to accommodate sequestration cuts while minimizing mission damage. As part of that effort at the Department of Defense, I am announcing today that, thanks to the DoD's efforts to identify savings and help from Congress, we will reduce the total numbers of furlough days for DoD civilian employees from 11 to six.

When sequestration took effect on March 1, DoD faced shortfalls of more than \$30 billion in its budget for day-to-day operating costs because of

sequestration and problems with wartime funding. At that point we faced the very real possibility of unpaid furloughs for civilian employees of up to 22 days.

As early as January, DoD leaders began making painful and far reaching changes to close this shortfall: civilian hiring freezes, layoffs of temporary workers, significant cuts in facilities maintenance, and more. We also sharply cut training and maintenance. The Air Force stopped flying in many squadrons, the Navy kept ships in port, and the Army cancelled training events. These actions have seriously reduced military readiness.

By early May, even after taking these steps, we still faced day-to-day budgetary shortfalls of \$11 billion. At that point I decided that cutting any deeper into training and maintenance would jeopardize our core readiness mission and national security, which is why I

announced furloughs of 11 days.

Hoping to be able to reduce furloughs, we submitted a large reprogramming proposal to Congress in May, asking them to let us move funds from acquisition accounts into day-to-day operating accounts. Congress approved most of this request in late July, and we are working with them to meet remaining needs. We are also experiencing less than expected costs in some areas, such as transportation of equipment out of Afghanistan. Where necessary, we have taken aggressive action to transfer funds among services and agencies. And the furloughs have saved us money.

As a result of these management initiatives, reduced costs, and reprogramming from Congress, we have determined that we can make some improvements in training and readiness and still meet the sequestration cuts. The Air Force

has begun flying again in key squadrons, the Army has increased funding for organizational training at selected units, and the Navy has restarted some maintenance and ordered deployments that otherwise would not have happened. While we are still depending on furlough savings, we will be able to make up our budgetary shortfall in this fiscal year with fewer furlough days than initially announced.

This has been one of the most volatile and uncertain budget cycles the Department of Defense has ever experienced. Our fiscal planning has been conducted under a cloud of uncertainty with the imposition of sequestration and changing rules as Congress made adjustments to our spending authorities.

As we look ahead to fiscal year 2014, less than two months away, the Department of Defense still faces major fiscal challenges. If Congress does not change the

Budget Control Act, DoD will be forced to cut an additional \$52 billion in FY 2014, starting on October 1. This represents 40 percent more than this year's sequester-mandated cuts of \$37 billion. Facing this uncertainty, I cannot be sure what will happen next year, but I want to assure our civilian employees that we will do everything possible to avoid more furloughs.

I want to thank our civilian workers for their patience and dedication during these extraordinarily tough times, and for their continued service and devotion to our department and our country. I know how difficult this has been for all of you and your families. Your contribution to national security is invaluable, and I look forward to one day putting this difficult period behind us. Thank you and God Bless you and your families.

(Source: American Forces Press Service)

News Briefs

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make an appointment immediately. Appointment times are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday and scheduled in 20-minute intervals. Schedule an appointment at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>. For information, call 502nd Force Support Squadron, Building 367, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 221-0415; 802nd Force Support Squadron, Building 5616, JBSA-Lackland, 671-4178; and 902nd Force Support Squadron, Building 399, JBSA-Randolph, 652-1845.

Immediate Housing Openings

Lincoln Military Housing has immediate openings for company grade four-bedroom and junior enlisted two-bedroom homes. For more information, call 270-7638.

Back-to-School youth health fair spotlights healthy choices

By Elaine Sanchez
BAMC Public Affairs

From eating to exercise, military families learned about making healthy choices during BAMC's first Back to School Youth Health Fair at San Antonio Military Medical Center July 26.

The pediatric fair featured an on-site immunization clinic, Wii dance station, healthy snacks and fresh fruit smoothies, information booths, face painting and a physical fitness test titled "How do you measure up to a Solder?"

"Pediatric staff members administered more than 100 immunizations to youth beneficiaries during the fair," said Col. (Dr.) Mary Pelszynski, BAMC Department of Pediatrics chief. "We were pleased at the turnout and the opportunity to ensure children are protected from disease and prepared for the school year."

Children lined up outside to toss a ball to San Antonio Missions baseball player Donn Roach, while the San Antonio Talons football team dancers enter-

tained the crowd with a few routines.

Kids of all ages flocked to the fitness test station to see how their push-ups and sit-ups measured up to a Soldier's, while parents and bystanders cheered them on.

"The children had fun while learning about the importance of healthy eating and exercise," Pelszynski said. "That's a win-win for us and for our military families."

Beneficiaries still seeking back to school physicals for their children can call 916-9900.



Photo by Maria Gallegos

Maj. Gen. Jimmie Keenan (right), commander, Southern Regional Medical Command, takes part in a Wii dance session alongside dancers from the San Antonio Talons football team during the health fair.

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Training Center contain abundant venues, space and assets to provide large, full-scale field training.

Along with the hospitality of the State of Indiana, the sites have proven to be ideal locations for con-

ducting the national-level exercise.

“The State of Indiana has helped tremendously by providing us with the resources and personnel we need,” said Kirmse. “The partnership between Army North and the Indiana National Guard

shows how the state and federal governments can work together in a time of need. There is no other place in the country where you can run an exercise of this scale and level.”

The importance of the exercise is to prepare the units and Soldiers identified to assume the nation’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Enterprise mission.

“This exercise is important because the mission we are training for is different from every other mission we do as Soldiers,” said

Sgt. Maj. Christopher Frediani, the senior enlisted leader for Task Force 51, which serves as Army North’s rapidly deployable contingency command post.

“We’re training to assist local first responders help the American people in the event of a (chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear) incident here.”

TF-51 is at VR13-2 as part of its annual certification requirements. Successful completion of the exercise is mandatory for units on, or about to assume, the CRE mission.



Photo by Sgt. Will Hill

Sgt. Curtis Brown (kneeling) calls for help for Sgt. William Pedigo, who simulates being injured during the Vibrant Response 13-2 exercise at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex near Butlerville, Ind., July 31. Brown and Pedigo serve with the Maintenance Technician Company, Missouri National Guard.



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Kirby West, Army South military working dog program manager, works with a Colombian military working dog during a demonstration in Bogota, Colombia. West was part of an Army South delegation of Soldiers and civilians who traveled to Bogota, Colombia to discuss the care, prevention and treatment of diseases military working dogs are diagnosed with while conducting operations.

ARSOUTH from P2

certification and training standards and a veterinarian brief on the initial and continuing care for the MWDs.

“Our SMEE with the Hondurans focused on the operational planning and utilization, the organizational structure and certification and training of an MWD program,” West said. “This is important in the implementation of a successful MWD program.”

Even though the MWD programs in Colombia and Honduras are in vastly different stages of their development,

the importance of the programs to the security of the region remains the same. While security and stability in the Central American region remains crucial, West and Killian believe lessons learned from both SMEEs can have a lasting impact on MWD programs in the United States as well.

“The ability to exchange information and dialogue with both armies will have a lasting effect on both countries’ dog programs,” West said. “We can certainly learn just as much from our partners as they can learn from us.”

470th MI Brigade Soldier relives historic Civil War battle

By Gregory Rippes

470th Military Intelligence Brigade
Public Affairs

After Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jonathan Kantor reported for duty in Pennsylvania June 27, he was assigned to a tent in which he was to sleep for the night. When he awoke the next morning, he stepped out of the tent ... and into 1863.

Or at least it was as close to it as he and his fellow history enthusiasts could make it. Kantor had become part of a major historical recreation of arguably the most famous battle of that bloody conflict known as the Civil War.

For three days in June, he and about 10,000 other kindred spirits submerged themselves into the history of the Battle of Gettysburg and related military actions fought 150 years ago.

Everything was to be as authentic as possible for the re-enactors, including uniforms, weapons, equipment and rations.

“Even the conversation was period,” said Kantor, who explained they could talk about the weather, or their food or their muskets or even the constitutionality of secession, but nothing out of that time period.

While many participants obviously ate well before transporting themselves back in time, some actually fasted to more accurately reflect the undernourished condition of the soldiers two years into the war.

“Just about everyone grew a beard and let it get all scraggly,” said Kantor, who nevertheless kept his face clean shaven and his hair short in accordance to modern military standards.

Kantor, after all, serves in the 401st Military Intelligence Company, a subordinate unit of the 470th MI Brigade, Joint

Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

While deployed to Afghanistan, the young warrant officer met a contractor who shared his interest in the Civil War.

While Kantor was primarily interested in drawing Confederate and Union soldiers for a card game he was designing, his new friend was interested in re-enactments and said he would invite Kantor to an event some time.

Kantor recently received an invitation to a re-enactment organized by the Blue Grey Alliance at Gettysburg. If he could get away and get up there for a few days, he would have his uniform and all the other necessities ready for him, to include a fully functional musket, which Kantor had to rent for \$50.

Kantor was assigned to the 2nd Florida Infantry Volunteers, a historical Confederate unit.

“Of course, we ultimately lost the battles,” said Kantor, whose unit was among those involved in the Battle of Little Round Top, part of the greater Battle of Gettysburg.

The Confederate soldiers unsuccessfully charged the hill three times before Union soldiers finally drove them away

from the strategic position by bayonet.

During the Battle of Wheatfield re-enactment, Kantor was among players directed to “die” under a volley of cannon fire. They were later congratulated by the artillerymen for their realism and, like other “dead” re-enactors, returned to life in time for the next activity.

Although the big battle re-enactments took place on Bushey Farm to the west of the historic battle site, Kantor and his unit were privileged to march – with weapons but without ammunition – the actual route of Pickett’s Charge, an attack that almost carried the day for the Confederacy.

Another highlight for the unit involved an exhausting march through a forest and a four-foot stream, over cow fields and up a hill to a period medical station. There they joined non-re-enactors to observe a shockingly realistic demonstration of period surgery, along with other medical care.

While Kantor admired the realism, he also marveled at the fact that real-world injuries were few.

“Everyone worked together – to include Union and Confederate re-enactors – to ensure everyone was safe,” he observed.



Courtesy photo

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jonathan Kantor (in light shirt) takes his position with other role players prior to re-enactment of the Battle of Little Round Top near Gettysburg, Pa., June 29. The event was part of the sesquicentennial commemoration of the Battle of Gettysburg.

“That’s risk management.”

Looking at the re-enactment as a whole, Kantor said it reinforced in his mind the value of leadership and teamwork.

“That’s a clear takeaway from any sort of exercise, and this was no exception,” Kantor said. “Frankly, it would make an excellent team-building exercise.”

Kantor, who is working on a master’s degree in history, explained that he enjoys learning how people got to where they are from previous generations.

“From a historical perspective, the re-enactment provided me with an in-depth look at how Union and Confederate soldiers fought ‘the first modern war’ – as it is sometimes called – using Napoleonic era tactics,” he said. “The Civil War

is an excellent study on changes to more modern tactics.

“If you consider how we have completely modified our combat style from the Soviet era – from a military doctrine of tanks on the battlefield to the modified counter-insurgency operations to fight the War on Terror – you can find parallels in combat modifications from an earlier era to a newer one in the Civil War.”

Kantor also said he found the re-enactment “a lot of fun” and would like to participate in another one.

“I have been invited to come back and participate in the next big national event, the Battle of Appomattox Court House [in Virginia],” said Kantor. “Of course, that isn’t until April 9, 1865 ... I mean, 2015.”



“Federals” prepare to repel “Confederates” from Little Round Top during the 150th commemoration and re-enactment of the Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.

Photo by Chief Warrant
Officer 2
Jonathan Kantor

AETC vice commander retires after 33 years of service

By **Dona Fair**
Air Education and Training
Command Public Affairs

A desire to fly fueled a military career for Lt. Gen. Douglas H. Owens. Now, the vice commander of Air Education and Training Command hung up his uniform Aug. 2 after more than 33 years of service.

Owens has proudly continued a family legacy that began during World War II with his father, Billy H. Owens, an Army noncommissioned officer, who also served in Korea and Vietnam.

His family was stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., when the U.S. Air Force Academy came into being in the 1950s, which in turn helped inspire him to join the Air Force.

The general is a 1975 graduate of Northwest High School and 1980 graduate of the USAF Academy. He is also a graduate of the National

War College and holds two masters degrees.

After achieving his dream as a 1980 graduate of the academy, Owens looked forward to pilot training and career as an Air Force officer.

"I can honestly say that I have enjoyed all of my more than 33 years in the Air Force," the Clarksville, Tenn., native said.

"Along with my wife, Teresa, whom I married a week after graduating from the academy, we have had the great opportunity of serving all around the world and we enjoyed it all."

Owens is a command pilot with more than 3,100 flying hours. He flew combat missions in the first A-10 squadron deployed to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels and served in many senior leadership positions. His tours of duty included five

assignments in the Pacific theater, where he also served as vice commander of Pacific Air Forces.

During his career, the general said he has been fortunate to work with some great Airmen, both active duty and civilian, and has had the privilege of serving under remarkable leaders.

Those leaders helped prepare him for his greatest challenge as the 36th Wing commander at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. There, Owens was faced with several tests and challenges, but he said his wing was able to rise to the occasion in every instance and accomplish great things.

"Through all those things, my wing just came



Lt. Gen. Douglas H. Owens

Vice commander of Air Education and Training Command

together in such a way that made me extra ordinarily proud to be part of such a great organization," Owens said.

"To know that I helped create the environment where their response was so professional in every respect was great."

During his tenure as AETC vice commander, Owens oversaw many

projects, including the military's first operational F-35 flights at Eglin AFB, Fla., and the decision to base F-35s at Luke AFB, Ariz; the challenge of meeting mission requirements during sequestration and the merger of three San Antonio military installations into one joint base.

"The leadership team here has worked diligently on tough issues," Owens said. "I feel we have set AETC on a good, prudent course that will lead us into the future."

There are no regrets for Owens as he heads into retirement.

"I've had the privilege of watching my family grow. I've had the privilege over the last nine years of serving alongside my sons, and I have had the greater privilege since being a general officer of being in a position of influence that has helped shaped in some small fashion the Air Force that

my boys will grow to be senior leaders in themselves."

Owens' advice to Airmen is simple.

"Always reflect and serve in a way that makes you proud of everything you do. If our individual Airmen take pride in what they do, then that will show in the results of their actions, and that's what we need in today's Air Force."

The family legacy that began in WWII now passes to his two sons, John and Mike, who are both Air Force officers and fly B-52s.

"I'm extremely proud of my two sons who survived the ups and downs of military life," said Owens. "Our family legacy is entrusted to them."

The Owens family will settle in the San Antonio area and they look forward to spending more time with their four grandchildren and other opportunities to serve.

Maj. Gen. Poore accepts command of Air Force Personnel Center

By **Staff Sgt. Ian Hoachlander**
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Peggy Poore accepted command of the Air Force Personnel Center from presiding officer Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Aug. 1.

Relinquishing command was Maj. Gen. A.J. Stewart, who commanded AFPC since Aug. 6, 2010. Stewart retired from the Air Force during an Aug.



Courtesy Photo

Maj. Gen. Peggy Poore (right) accepts the Air Force Personnel Center colors from Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, during the AFPC change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Aug. 1.

2 ceremony, following 32 years of service.

"We picked the right person, at the right place,

at the right time," Jones told Poore.

"An organization like this is something a lot of officers grow up wanting to command. We know you are going to do great things, because you lead a great organization."

As AFPC's 25th commander, Poore leads more than 3,600 Air Force military, civilian and contractor personnel responsible for worldwide operations serving 1.77 million Airmen and family members.

Reflecting on the 26 years since graduating from officer training school, the commander said, "It's a distinct honor

and privilege to join the AFPC community. I am eager to work by your side as we build upon the foundation laid by the great men and women who came before us, and am honored to continue the legacy of AFPC."

Poore previously served as the senior military assistant to the secretary of the Air Force. She has master's degrees in public administration and national resource strategy and a bachelor's degree in business management.

She served as an executive officer, protocol officer and squadron section commander, and com-

manded at the squadron, group, and wing levels. Additionally Poore served as a congressional liaison officer in the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Legislative Liaison, held several positions in the Air Force General Officer Matters Office, served as an executive officer to the deputy chief of staff of personnel and served as the director of manpower and personnel at Air Combat Command.

"You are a collection of America's best Airmen. I understand everything we do touches everyone in a personal way. I will never forget that and neither should you," Poore said.

Fort Sam Houston schools offer free and reduced-price meals for qualified families

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for students served under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

The national School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

The household size and income criteria identified in this article will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits. Students from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Foster children who are the legal responsibility of the state agency or court are eligible for free meal benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside.

Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children. Applications also are available at the food service or administration office of each school.

To apply for free and reduced-price meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school. Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data.

Applications may be verified by the school's officials at any time during the school year. A new application must be submit-

ted each school year.

For school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-priced benefits, households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families only have to list their child's name and SNAP or TANF case number. An adult household member must sign the application.

Households that do not list a SNAP or TANF case number must list the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the last four digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application.

If the adult who signs the application does not have a Social Security number, the household member must indicate that a Social Security number is not available by writing the word "NONE", "No Number" or some indication that the person does not have a Social Security number. The application must be signed by an adult household member.

The housing allowance for military personnel living in privatized housing will be permanently excluded from income when determining household eligibility for free and reduced-price meals. Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the food service director will review applications and determine eligibility.

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either by calling at 368-8700 or write to: Superintendent, 4005 Winans Road, San Antonio,

TX 78234.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown below.

For additional information, district residents can write the Food Service Department at 4005 Winans Road San Antonio, TX 78234 or call 368-8745.

Meals are served every school day. Students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade can prepay or purchase their meal at the cost of \$1.90 per lunch and 80 cents per breakfast. Students in grades 6-12 can prepay or purchase their meal at the cost of \$2.15 per lunch and 90 cents for breakfast.

An online payment system is now available for both schools. Reduced-price school meals are 30 cents for breakfast and 40 cents for lunch.

The following is the chart of federal annual income qualifying guidelines for the free and reduced-price meal program:

Family Eligibility Income Chart

| Household Size | Annual Free | Annual Reduced |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$14,937 | \$21,257 |
| 2 | \$20,163 | \$28,694 |
| 3 | \$25,389 | \$36,131 |
| 4 | \$30,615 | \$43,568 |
| 5 | \$35,841 | \$51,005 |
| 6 | \$41,067 | \$58,442 |
| 7 | \$46,293 | \$65,879 |
| 8 | \$51,519 | \$73,316 |
| 9 | \$56,745 | \$80,753 |
| 10 | \$61,971 | \$88,190 |
| 11 | \$67,197 | \$95,627 |
| 12 | \$72,423 | \$103,064 |

For each additional family member add: +\$5,226 +\$7,437

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)

FSHISD website a resource for families

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District website (<http://www.fshisd.net>) creates avenues for parents and teachers to share information about school programs and events as well as progress that results in better outcomes for students.

"The district's website has several unique features," said Dr. Roland Rios, director of technology. "In addition to the latest news about the district, there are links to the district's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FSHISD>) and Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/fshisd>) feeds.

"There is also a link to teacher webpages and our Gradebook Parent Portal that allows parents to monitor their children's grades,

attendance and discipline records," Rios added.

The calendar on the district site gives parents access to information on current and future events, 24/7, to better balance the needs of home and school.

Of benefit to the diverse FSHISD community is the ability to access information in multiple languages with a click of a button at the bottom left corner of the district home page.

The district website is a tool designed to engage and support our community. Parents are encouraged to contact the webmaster at <http://www.fshisd.net> contact with comments and suggestions.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)

Substitute teachers needed for all district schools

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District is looking for a few good substitutes.

If you are looking for a challenging experience, excellent work environment and a gratifying opportunity to work with the young people of our community, this could be the job for you.

The job of a substitute teacher or instructional para-educator requires a minimum of 60 college semester hours and a willingness to teach in the elementary, middle or high school located on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Applicants have the opportunity to specify their campus or content preference. Substitutes are also needed for nurses, office

support staff, bus drivers, bus and lunch monitors, and food service workers.

A criminal background check is required and conducted for every applicant.

Those interested should go to the Human Resources tab at <http://www.fshisd.net> and then click on the AppliTrack link to begin the electronic application process. All applicants will be notified of required training once the application has been approved.

If you are interested in becoming a substitute for the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District and need more information, call 368-8713.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)

TRICARE expands autism care, treatment for retired beneficiaries and their families

By **Lindan A. Moya**
Southern Regional Medical
Command Public Affairs

The Department of Defense is not making changes for active duty family members seeking autism services, but an expansion of services through the Applied Behavior Analysis Pilot Program will allow retirees and their families to receive Autism Service Demonstration benefits.

TRICARE has long covered ABA for active duty family members as a benefit of the Extended Care Health Option.

To increase access to ABA services, the DOD implemented the ECHO Autism Demonstration

for active duty family members in March 2008.

The demonstration expanded the opportunity for access to ABA services through a variety of provider types, to include ABA “reinforcement” by tutors, according to the TRICARE website ABA reinforcement by tutors has not been available for non-active duty family members.

Beginning July 25, autism services available to non-active duty family members were greatly expanded with the introduction of the ABA Pilot Program.

The pilot program provides retirees and their families with access to additional areas

of ABA reinforcement.

Autism care and treatment is evolving, and the pilot program is expected to provide insight into evaluation protocols.

It was developed by crafting requirements through consultation with experts in the field and with advocacy groups in an attempt to discover validated tests, and the best approach for focusing on what would be the most appropriate care in order to provide the best possible outcomes for children with autism.

Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs and director of the TRICARE Management Activity, said in a

recent American Forces Press Service article that it is “paramount” for children with autism to obtain professional reassessments to ensure they get the right care, at the right time, with updated care plans.

Autism care benefits for qualifying children of active-duty service members’ enrolled in TRICARE will not change, according to the DOD.

There is also no change in benefits for anyone enrolled in the basic medical program that began July 2012.

For more information about autism benefits under TRICARE, visit <http://www.TRICARE.mil>.

Online school district policies answer parents’ questions

Strong family and community involvement begins with an understanding of the laws and rules that govern public school districts and are defined in policies. The policies governing the operation of Fort Sam Houston Independent School District are available online at <http://www.fshisd.net>.

“We encourage our parents to visit our district home page as often as they can for the policies governing our school district, as well as for other pertinent information,” said Dr. Gail Siller, superintendent.

Fort Sam Houston ISD’s online policy manual is divided into seven sections, each devoted to a separate area of school governance and labeled either LEGAL or LOCAL.

The “LEGAL” policies track the language of the

U.S. and Texas Constitutions, federal and state statutes, State Board of Education rules, the Texas Administrative Code and other regulations.

Policies designated “LOCAL” are those that have been approved by the local Fort Sam Houston Board of Trustees and are deemed essential to effective district governance and management and particular to this district.

“When reviewing the policies, parents will obtain a complete understanding if they review both legal and local sections,” Siller added. “If they have questions, they can contact the campuses or district administration office.”

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)

JBSA health care providers stress importance of vaccines

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Public Affairs

National Immunization Awareness Month is observed each August to “highlight the need for improving national immunization coverage levels,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Improving immunization coverage is an emphasis at the Joint Base San Antonio medical clinics, where health care professionals promote immunization awareness throughout the year – stressing the importance of vaccines during regular wellness visits with their patients.

Vaccines play a key role in health care, said Senior Airman Kelly Boos, 359th Aerospace-Medicine Squadron medical technician at JBSA-Randolph.

“Because of vaccines, there has been a dramatic decline in the number of children who suffer from diseases such as polio, chickenpox, hepatitis B and whooping cough,” she said. “Vaccinating children

with all recommended vaccines is one of the safest and most advanced means of preventing infection.”

Other diseases that childhood vaccines prevent include diphtheria, human papillomavirus, measles, German measles, mumps and tetanus, according to the CDC.

In addition to being effective, vaccines have also proven to be safe, said Tech. Sgt. Brandon Smyer, 359th Medical Operations Squadron Family Health Clinic NCO in charge.

“All vaccines undergo years of testing before they are licensed for public use,” he said. “Vaccines that are in public use are closely monitored. The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System is used to report and track any adverse reactions caused by vaccines.

“This data is used to report any adverse reaction trends and to provide information to patients, health care providers and vaccine manufacturers,” Smyer added.

Smyer also said all

patients are carefully screened before receiving any immunizations to ensure that the risk of an adverse reaction is minimized.

“The most common side effects from vaccines include soreness and redness at the injection site,” he said. “Serious reactions are rare.”

Recommended immunizations for children in the first 18 months of their lives are the initial doses of the vaccines for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis; polio; mumps, measles and rubella; and chickenpox; booster doses of these vaccines should be given between 4 and 6 years old. Recommended vaccines for 11- and 12-year-olds are for Tdap and meningococcal disease.

Adults should also remain current with their immunizations, including vaccines for influenza; Tdap; zoster, or shingles; and pneumonia.

Vaccines for HPV, the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States, are recommended for members of



Courtesy illustration

both sexes between the ages of 11 and 26 years old, Boos said. Typically administered to girls, the vaccines are also approved for boys.

“Almost every sexually active person will acquire HPV at some point in their lives,” she said. “The HPV vaccine helps protect against genital warts and cancers of the anus, vagina and vulva.”

HPV vaccines offer the best protection to girls and boys who receive all three doses, which are administered over six months, and have time to develop an immune response prior to becoming sexually active, Boos said.

Although many parents wait until late July and August to have their school-age children immunized – when the immunization clinic is busiest – it’s best to follow health care providers’ recommended schedule, she said.

“The schedule recommends vaccinations at age 4 and 11 for these children,” Boos said. “Once children have had their birthday at these ages, it is a good idea to bring them in to receive them. If children are on a catch-up schedule, it is highly recommended not to wait until the last minute prior to school registration.”

Smyer said following the recommended schedules allow patients to avoid long waits during late July and August.

JBSA immunization clinic hours at the three installations are as follows:

- JBSA-Fort Sam Houston immunization clinic’s morning hours are 7:30-11:15 a.m. Monday-Thursday, afternoon hours are 1:15-3:45 p.m. only on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. No immunizations will be given on Fridays. Children and adults ages 6 and up only. Call 916-3011, option 2.

- JBSA-Lackland immunization clinic is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays. It is walk-in service only. Call 292-2345.

- JBSA-Randolph immunization clinic’s morning hours are 7:30-11:45 a.m. Monday-Friday; afternoon hours are 1-4:15 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and 1-3 p.m. Tuesday and Friday. Call 652-6403, option 1, option 4.

Soldier Show auditions link with Operation Rising Star

By Tim Hipps

U.S. Army Installation Management
Command Public Affairs

In an effort to streamline efficiencies, Army Entertainment has integrated live auditions for the 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show with selections of the 2013 Operation Rising Star finalists.

Nov. 1 is the new deadline for Soldiers submitting packets to be considered as a performer or technician for the 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

Details are available at <http://www.armyentertainment.net>,

where candidates can download registration forms and upload their video auditions and resumes.

“That process hasn’t changed, it’s just the timeline has changed,” said Tim Higdon, with Army Entertainment. “We’re going to do the video auditions for the Soldier Show with the same team judging the videos for the Operation Rising garrison winners.”

Local winners of garrison Operation Rising Star events, if eligible, receive an automatic pass into

live auditions for the 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show, so they could be “double dipping” come December at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The Soldier Show live auditions will be conducted during the second week of the Operation Rising Star finals.

“That allows us to be more efficient with the artistic and production team in place for Operation Rising Star, to work with the Soldier Show candidates,” Higdon said.

The new timeline:

- Nov. 1: Soldier Show

video submission packets due to Army Entertainment.

- Nov. 8: Army Entertainment judges Soldier Show video submissions.

- Nov. 13: Army Entertainment announces roughly 20-30 selectees for Soldier Show live auditions.

- Dec. 7: Performers/technicians report to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston for live auditions for 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

- Dec. 15: Soldiers return to their units.

- Dec. 18: Army Entertainment announces cast



Photo by Tim Hipps

Videos of local installation winners in the 2012 Operation Rising Star military singing contest are judged to select 12 finalists who appeared during live finals week at Fort Sam Houston Theatre on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

and crew for 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

The goal is, before Christmas, Army Enter-

tainment will announce the cast and crew for the 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

Critical Days of Summer puts the pedal to bicycle safety

By Airman 1st Class
Alexandria Slade
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Warm weather and clear skies are conditions that encourage many people to begin biking to and from work or simply for fun. It is an activity that, because it involves risk of injury or worse, merits being addressed in this year's Air Force Critical Days of Summer campaign.

"Biking is a good fitness activity to participate in, something fun for you and the family to do during the warm summer months," said Staff Sgt. Gary Lund, 502nd Air Base Wing ground safety technician.

Yet despite the ways in which biking activities are beneficial to a person's health, sharing the roads with other vehicles can entail significant dangers such as bicyclists and motorists colliding.

The best way to avoid such mishaps, Lund said, is to "ride to be seen."

Collisions are usually caused by bikers and motorists not yielding to each other, inattention and not following traffic rules and signs, he added.

Darkness and reduced visibility conditions from things like fog and rain increase the chance of motorists colliding with bikers, he explained.

Wearing reflective gear – on both the rider and

the bike – reduces these chances, and wearing a helmet can prevent serious injury or death in the event of an accident.

Accidents from any form of transportation usually result from inattention, said Tech. Sgt. Cathy Zimmerman, 502nd ABW ground safety technician. It is essential to be aware of surroundings and stay focused.

One distraction is trying to use a cell phone while riding, a practice Joint Base San Antonio does not tolerate, Lund said.

Other distractions include fatigue, interesting objects, buildings or sights and neighboring vehicles.

Another potential threat to bikers is exposure to



Photo illustration by Airman 1st Class Kenna Jackson and Maggie Armstrong

the elements.

"Dress for the weather, but also dress for the activity," Zimmerman said. "Ensure that if it is going to be 100 degrees outside

and you are going on a long bike ride, you are not wearing just a tank top and shorts and leaving yourself in danger of getting a severe sunburn."

While military members are free to enjoy riding the open road at will, those who prefer trails over pavement shouldn't do so until they're properly cleared by their leadership.

Mountain biking, Zimmerman said, falls into the high-risk activity category. Airmen wanting to go mountain biking will need to fill out an Air and Education Training Command Form 410, sign it, and have both their supervisor and unit commander sign off on it, then receive a high-risk activity briefing.

For information about places to bike around the local areas, visit <http://sabikerides.com>.

Army to require NCOs to complete online training for promotions

By Lisa Ferdinando
Army News Service

The Army will soon require noncommissioned officers to complete online training prior to promotion eligibility. Additionally, NCO schools will no longer be waived.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, the Army will formally link completion of Structured Self Development, or SSD training, with professional military education courses for promotion eligibility. The changes are outlined in Army Directive 2013-15.

Gerald Purcell, Army personnel policy integrator for NCO Professional Development, G-1, said the goal is to shape a new career timeline for NCOs that includes all the tenets of leader development, including education, training and experiences.

"Over the last 10 years, we were really

an Army out of balance in terms of those three tenets of developing leaders," Purcell said. "The accumulation of experiences alone does not equate to a fully-developed leader."

The change is part of an initiative to select, train and promote Soldiers who are best qualified in their current grade, and who show the greatest potential to serve in positions of increased responsibility, Purcell said.

"Our NCOs are charged with the training and care of our Soldiers while enforcing standards, so it is imperative we equip them with the best tools we can to help them do their job," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III.

"Connecting the NCO Education System and promotions in a deliberate, continuous, sequential and progressive

manner produces the best NCO Corps possible. It gives us the competent and committed leaders of character our Army needs and deserves."

The effort, according to Purcell, will foster a balance of training, education and experience, while encouraging life-long learning and development of broadly-skilled NCOs.

Another important aspect is to sustain an all-volunteer force by providing viable career paths.

He said that while the Army is an efficient organization that is effective operationally, the other aspects of leader development must not be overlooked.

"We've really paid the price because while operational experience is great, it in and of itself doesn't make great leaders because you still need the education and the

training to round it all out," said Purcell.

NCOs had been allowed to serve 30 years, and then would have to retire. Purcell said the NCO timeline was extended to 32 years to allow for the completion of those three tenets and to foster the development of the world's most professional NCO Corps.

This timeline facilitates an environment where Army professionals can meet the Army's certification criteria of competence, character, and commitment.

The Army is an "up or out" organization, Purcell said. The policies support a fundamental baseline by which professionals remain technically and tactically proficient with continued opportunities for development and advancement.

The directive says Soldiers should be considered for promotion when

they achieve competency in their current rank and exhibit the potential to serve successfully at the next higher rank, which entails an increased level of responsibility.

The areas Soldiers must excel in to advance include professional competence, team building, adaptability, lifelong learning, and comprehensive fitness.

Some of the requirements for advancement include:

- Specialists and corporals must complete SSD-1 before they can be recommended (boarded) to sergeant.
- Sergeants must complete the Warrior Leader Course before they can be recommended (boarded) to staff sergeant.
- Staff sergeants must complete SSD-3 before they are eligible for consideration for sergeant first class.
- Sergeants first class

must complete SSD-4 before they are eligible for consideration for master sergeant.

The directive states waivers for the Warrior Leader Course, known as WLC, will no longer allow sergeants to be considered for promotion.

Soldiers who had been previously granted WLC waivers must graduate from the course no later than Sept. 30, 2014.

Soldiers who are deployed when the changes go into effect, Jan. 1, will have up to 270 days after redeployment to complete the course.

Reserve-component Soldiers will have up to 270 days after release from active duty to complete the WLC.

The directive says Soldiers who do not complete the required WLC training will be removed from the promotion list for staff sergeant or reduced to sergeant.



Back To School Bash

Saturday, 9-11a.m., Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, Building 1222. Open to all DOD cardholders, child must be present to receive supplies. Patrons are advised to bring backpacks or tote bags. Free school supplies will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis, while supplies last. Call 221-1718.

Infant Massage

Monday, Aug. 19 and 26, 10-11:30 a.m., Dodd Field Chapel. Call 221-0349 or 221-2705.

H.U.G.S. Playgroup

Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., Middle School Teen Center. Call 221-0349 or 221-2705.

Savings and Investing

Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-2380 or 221-2418

CARE Team Training

Tuesday, 9-11:30 a.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-0946 or 221-2418.

Immigration Services

Tuesday, noon-2 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-1372, 221-1681 or 221-2418.

Budgeting

Tuesday, 2-4 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-2380 or 221-2418.

Hearts Apart

Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-0946 or 221-2418

Bring Baby Home

Wednesday and Aug. 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-0349 or 221-2705.

Overseas Orientation

Wednesday, 10-11 a.m. and 5-6 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-1372, 221-1681 or 221-2418.

Pre-Deployment Training

Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-0946 or 221-2418.

Web-Based First Termer Financial Readiness

Wednesday, noon-4 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-2380 or 221-2418.

Army Family Advocacy Program Unit Training

Wednesday, 2-4 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-0349 or 221-2705.

Army Family Advocacy Program Unit Training

Thursday, 8-11 a.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-0349 or 221-2705.

Child Safety Seat Clinic

Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Fire Station on Schofield Road. Call 221-0349 or 221-2705.

Women Encouraging Women Mother/Daughter Yoga Brunch

Thursday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Youth ages 10 to 18 are welcome. Bring your own mats. Call 221-0349 or 221-2705.

Pre-Deployment Training

Thursday, 1-2 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-0946 or 221-2418.

Sponsorship Training

Thursday, 2-3 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-1372, 221-1681 or 221-2418.

Blacklight Zumba Fest

Aug. 17, 10 a.m., Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Register at Jimmy Brought Fitness Center or Fitness Center on the METC. Registration Fee is \$12. First 100 who register will receive a backpack. Call 221-1234.

Submit AFAP Issues

Submit your issues by Aug. 30 for the upcoming Armed Forces Action Plan conference in November. For more information or to volunteer as a delegate, facilitator, recorder, transcriber or issue support, call 221-9196 or 221-0918, or stop by the Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797 at JBSA-Fort Sam

Houston or email jbsa.afap@gmail.com.

Computer Lab

The computer lab is available 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday at Military and Family Readiness, Building 2797. Call 221-2705 or 221-2418.

Summer Camp

Child, Youth & School Services will offer summer camp for grades Kindergarten through 12. For registration details, call 221-4871.

Youth Horsemanship Camp

Registration is open at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center. This camp is open to youth ages 7-17, and runs Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sessions are in one-week intervals throughout the summer, \$25 deposit, cost is \$225. Call 224-7207.

How We Roll

Monday through Friday, 9-11 a.m., Fitness Center on the Medical Education and Training Campus, the "How We Roll" program provides parents and strollers use of the indoor track. Mondays from 9-10 a.m., a fitness trainer is available for assistance and instruction. Call 808-5709.

Fitness on Request Kiosk

The Fitness Center on the METC hosts an innovative group fitness system including free virtual classes ranging from 20-60 minutes. Call 808-5709.

SKIESUnlimited Classes

SKIESUnlimited classes for children ages 18 months to 18 years include Tae Kwon Do, private piano lessons, creative dance and ballet/tap. Call 221-3381 for dates and times.

Equipment Rentals

The Outdoor Equipment Center

has all the items needed for a backyard party, unit organizational day, or weekend getaway. Rental items include canoes, boats, campers, camping equipment, outdoor games, barbecue pits and more. Call 221-5225.

World Climb Tower Challenge

Sign up at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center for the World Climb Tower Challenge. Call 221-1234.

Bowl to Win Prizes

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center is offering the opportunity for bowlers to win prizes this summer. Receive "Bowling to Win" entry forms with your paid games through Aug. 26. Drawings for prizes will be held Aug. 23 during Bowler Appreciation Week. Call 221-4740.

\$1 Bowling

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center offers \$1 games per person and \$1 shoe rentals every Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Knock down a red pin on Wednesday or Friday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and win a free game. Call 221-4740.

Sportsman Range

The JBSA-Camp Bullis range is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. DOD card holders may shoot their personal pistols, rifles and shotguns. Firearms must be registered at JBSA-Camp Bullis. Range users should call before coming out for target practice. Call 295-7577.

Theater Arts Program

Children, ages 4 and up, can take the stage in the Theater Arts Program at School Age Services, Building 1705. The cost is \$80 for a month of biweekly classes. Classes are 4-5 p.m. for ages 4-6; 5-6 p.m. for ages 7-10; and 6-7 p.m. for

ages 11 and up. Call 221-3381.

Home Child Care Providers Needed

Family Child Care on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston is looking for family members interested in providing licensed child care in their homes. Providers can earn additional income at home, full or part time. Call 221-3828.

Parent Central Customer Service

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Parent Central assists walk-in patrons from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parent Central is located in Building 2797, on Fort Sam Houston. Call 221-4871.

School Liaison Office

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston School Liaison Office can assist patrons in registration, provide information about the local school system and community, educate parents on school policies, procedures, programs and schedules and home schooling. Visit <http://www.fortsammwr.com/youth/slo.html> or call 221-2214 or 221-2256.

Story Time at the Library

Preschool children are invited to the weekly story time at 10 a.m. Thursdays, at the Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, Building 1222 on Harney Path. Call 221-4702.

Thrift Shop Open

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Thrift Shop at 3100 Zinn Road, run by the Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area, is now open. Call 221-5794/4537 or click on <http://www.scfsh.com>.

Education and Training Office

The 502nd Force Support Squadron Education and Training Office offers a variety of military

testing, including Professional Military Education, Career Development Courses and Defense Language Proficiency testing. PME Testing is conducted on Tuesdays, CDC on Wednesdays, and DLPT on Thursdays. Education and Training also offers Armed Forces aptitude testing like the Armed Forces Classification Test and Armed Forces Officer Qualification Test. To schedule military testing at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-0852.

Basic Skills Education Program

Classes are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a period of 14 working days. Service members will receive instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills. The class is designed to teach basic college preparatory skills to service members with a GT score less than 110. Call 221-1738.

SAT, ACT Test Prep Programs

The SAT and ACT PowerPrep™ Programs are available online or DVD, and include more than 11 hours of video instruction and 3,000 files of supplemental test prep material, thousands of interactive diagnostic tools, sample questions, practice tests and graphic teaching illustrations. Eligible recipients included service members from all branches of the military who are active duty, retired, veterans, Guard, Reserve, DOD employees, contractors and civilians performing military support. The eKnowledge Sponsorship covers the complete \$200 purchase price for the standard SAT or ACT Test Preparation Program. There is a nominal charge of \$17.55 to \$19.99 per standard program for the cost of materials, support, streaming and shipping. To place an order, visit <http://www.eKnowledge.com/MAFB> or call 951-256-4076.


Edwards Aquifer Level
in feet above sea level as of Aug. 6

CURRENT LEVEL * = 637.4'

*determines JBSA water conservation stage

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Normal - above 660' | Stage III - 642' |
| Stage I - 660' | Stage IV - 640.5' |
| Stage II - 650' | Stage V - 637' |

For water restrictions, visit <http://www.502abw.af.mil>



Weekly Weather Watch

| | Aug 9 | Aug 10 | Aug 11 | Aug 12 | Aug 13 | Aug 14 |
|-------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| San Antonio Texas | 106° Sunny | 99° Partly Cloudy | 99° Sunny | 98° Sunny | 101° Sunny | 100° Sunny |
| Kabul Afghanistan | 97° Sunny | 96° Sunny | 95° Sunny | 95° Sunny | 91° Sunny | 89° Sunny |

(Source: The Weather Channel at www.weather.com)