

News Leader

FORT SAM HOUSTON



NOVEMBER 15, 2013
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**JBSA
HOTLINES**



**DOD Safe Helpline
877-995-5247**
**JBSA Sexual Assault Hotline
808-SARC (7272)**
**JBSA Domestic Abuse Hotline
367-1213**
**JBSA Duty Chaplain
221-9363**

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



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502ND ABW PRIDE DAY PAGE 3



METC PHARMACY TECHNICIANS PAGES 12-13

SALUTING OUR VETERANS



Lt. Gen. Pery Wiggins makes his way through the throng to greet each veteran and family member in attendance Nov. 11 during the Veterans Day ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. An eclectic mix of veterans, service members and their families and friends came together under the common bond of service to their country, with music provided by the 323rd Army Band "Fort Sam's Own" and the Texas Children's Choir. Wiggins is the commanding general, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), and senior Army commander for Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart

U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School Commanding General Maj. Gen. Steve Jones (left) and AMEDDC&S Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Ecker, sitting in a World War I ambulance, wave to the crowd as they make their way through downtown San Antonio during the annual Veterans Day parade Saturday.

Photo by Esther Garcia



Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke provides the keynote address to approximately 200 people in attendance at the annual Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Commemorative Ceremony Monday at the San Antonio National Cemetery. The Veterans Day event was part of San Antonio's Celebrate America's Military events and honored the past heroes of the Buffalo Soldiers, who were comprised of former slaves, freed men and black Civil War veterans. Vollmecke is the commanding general of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Photo by Ben Gonzales

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U.S. Army South welcomes Chilean delegation for army-to-army staff talks

By Eric Lucero
Army South Public Affairs

U.S. Army South hosted a delegation of Chilean army leaders to its headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Nov. 5-6 to finalize a course of action that will see the two armies engage in more than 50 events scheduled to be conducted over the next two years.

Brig. Gen. Orlando Salinas, Army South deputy commanding general, joined Chilean Brig. Gen. Guido Montini, the director of logistics for the Chilean army and head of the Chilean delegation, and Chilean Brig. Gen. Luis Chamorro, the commander of the Chilean Army Aviation Brigade, during the closing ceremony of the army-to-army staff talks Nov. 6.

“The Chilean army is



Photo by Eric Lucero

Members of the Chilean army delegation look over downtown San Antonio during UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter ride Nov. 7. The Chilean delegation visited Texas to participate in the army-to-army staff talks between U.S. Army South and the Chilean army Nov. 5-7.

one of the U.S. Army’s most important and valued partners in the hemisphere,” Salinas said. “We share common core values and vital interests, which makes our cooperative efforts important and our relationship more

meaningful.”

The talks served as a forum for strategic-level discussion between the two armies and enhanced army-to-army contacts and mutual understanding, provided insights concerning specific U.S. Army

programs and areas of mutual interest and assisted partner nation armies in areas of modernization and reform.

The U.S. Army has engaged in annual bilateral staff talks with the Chilean army for the past eight years. Army South, on behalf of the U.S. Army, conducts the staff talks with the Chilean army.

“We seek opportunities to work together in order to improve our interoperability and capabilities as partners to address common challenges,” Salinas said. “The work we do during staff talks will serve to focus those efforts and make them much more productive.”

The staff talks have been instrumental in enhancing the interoperability and cooperation between the two armies with the intent is to increase

stability in the region.

As a result, U.S. forces’ capabilities have also improved by gaining lessons learned from the Chilean army in peacekeeping and disaster response operations.

“Chile has quickly emerged as a true regional leader in terms of economic, social, diplomatic and military power,” Salinas said. “We want to assist in strengthening Chile’s position as a regional leader and we will support its efforts to help the other nations of Latin America as they deal with these

See CHILE, P21

**COMBINED FEDERAL
CAMPAIGN
POINTS OF
CONTACT**



The 2013 Combined Federal Campaign has been extended and now runs through Jan. 15, 2014. The points of contact for Joint Base San Antonio are:

502nd Air Base Wing:
221-4321
671-6705

502nd Mission Support Group:
221-1844
221-2207

802nd MSG:
671-2528
671-5511

902nd MSG:
652-3797
652-6915
652-3088

Did you know? Animals in the Quadrangle

By Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos
Army North Public Affairs

Did you know that deer, peacocks and other animals have called the historic Quadrangle home for more than 100 years?

While no one knows for sure how or why the animals first came to the Quad, the most famous story is that their arrival coincided with Geronimo’s arrival in 1886. Geronimo was held at the Quadrangle for six weeks after surrendering

to the U.S. Army.

Some say the animals were brought in so the Apache chief would feel more at home; others say he did not want to eat the Soldier’s food because of the taste and/or fear of poisoning and therefore demanded fresh meat.

The first substantiated proof of deer living in the Quadrangle was in the Dec. 15, 1890 issue of the San Antonio Daily Light. Birds also joined the deer around this time as permanent residents.

Initially, the birds were ducks and chickens – peacocks were introduced around 1916.

In 1967, after living in the Quadrangle for more than 75 years, the animals were determined by U.S. Fifth Army to be historically significant and declared historical property. However, the Center of Military History decided the animals were not to be considered historical property in 2008.

“Currently, deer, geese, chickens, hawks and peacocks, including

rare white ones, call the Quadrangle home,” said Adam Quintero, who has worked as the Quadrangle animal caretaker since 1970. In years past, other animals, including wild turkeys, an alligator, swans and rabbits have called the Quadrangle home.

For more information on Fort Sam Houston history, visit the Fort Sam Houston Museum at the U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) Quadrangle when it reopens in the early spring.



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<http://www.jbsa.af.mil>
<http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao>

News Briefs

North New Braunfels Avenue South Gate Now Open Weekdays

The North New Braunfels Avenue South Gate (near Grayson Street) is open for inbound and outbound traffic from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Casualty Assistance Center Moving

The Casualty Assistance Center located at 2484 Stanley Rd., building 2263, room 200 will relocate to 2414 Stanley Rd., building 131, second floor, Tuesday. Phone numbers remain the same, 221-1702/1780/0051/0613/1137.

Flu Vaccination Clinic Update

Flu vaccinations are still available at Military and Family Readiness, building 2797, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today, Wednesday and Nov. 22, as well as Dec. 4, 11, 13 and 18. Starting Monday, shots will also be given at the San Antonio Military Medical Center on the first floor by the information desk from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Monday until Dec. 16. It will also be available Dec. 6 and Dec. 20. The shots are available for all active duty service members, retirees, civilians, family members, volunteers and children 6 months and above.

MICC Change of Command

Command of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command will change hands at 10 a.m. Dec. 2 at the Quadrangle. Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke relinquishes command to Col. Jeffrey Gabbert, who has been selected for promotion to brigadier general. Gabbert was the special assistant to the Army Contracting Command commanding general at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Vollmecke departs for an assignment as the deputy for acquisition and systems management at the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology in Washington, D.C.

JBSA-FSH Visual Information Changes Ordering Process

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Visual Information no longer uses the Visual Information Ordering Site as the primary method for ordering VI services. The Air Force Form 833 is required for all service requests and

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502nd Air Base Wing Pride Day promotes installation stewardship, teamwork, camaraderie

By Lori Newman
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
Public Affairs

Service members and civilian employees paused from their daily routines Nov. 8 and grabbed hoes, rakes and clippers to help clean up landscaping and beautify areas around 502nd Air Base Wing facilities throughout Joint Base San Antonio.

Because of the grounds and custodial service reductions that have been implemented as a result of sequestration's severe impacts on installation support resources, members of the 502nd Air Base Wing and the mission support groups throughout JBSA participated in the first-ever 502nd Air Base Wing Pride Day, cleaning areas both inside and outside their facilities.

"What a great day," said Brig. Gen. Robert LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA



Photo by Lori Newman

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, Joint Base San Antonio and 502nd Air Base Wing commander, prunes the bushes in front of building 247, the 502nd Air Base Wing headquarters, during Pride Day.

commander. "I am proud and honored to be part of this team who understands today's environment and works together in taking care of the grounds and facilities we're so fortunate to inhabit."

LaBrutta praised the members of the wing

for their work and dedication.

"No matter what it is, no matter the resource constraints we are under, we must continue to develop innovative ideas ... and return to 'old school' thinking on how we can continue to make installation stewardship an important part of our responsibili-

ties," the general said.

"This effort not only shows through actions the pride that we have in our installation, but it also reinforces the teamwork and camaraderie that is built into every member of our organization by participating in an event like this."

Reduced funding in the Department of

Defense has impacted many installation support services such as grass cutting and janitorial services that are provided to the JBSA community.

Pride Day is a way to promote cleanliness, enhance appearance and ensure good stewardship of all the 502nd ABW facilities.

Staff Sgt. Alfredo Miranda-Rosales, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 502nd Air Base Wing's Commanders Action Group, thought the event was a huge success.

"It was nice to take a break from our daily routines and come together as an organization to do something like this across JBSA," Miranda-Rosales said. "I love these types of events because they always promote camaraderie and unit cohesiveness. I'm looking forward to doing it again."

See PRIDE DAY, P16



Photo by Olivia Mendoza

A firefighter from the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Fire Department took part in Pride Day by trimming tree limbs and cleaning up the areas around the fire house.



Photo by Olivia Mendoza

Civilian workers from the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron pressure wash the loading dock at building 4189 during Pride Day.

Command post exercise tests Army North's response capability

By Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos
Army North Public Affairs

As the Army service component command and joint force land component command to U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) plays a key supporting role during catastrophic events in the homeland. ARNORTH practiced those response capabilities Oct. 28 through Nov. 5 during an annual command post exercise.

The purpose of the exercise was to plan and conduct operations that take into account less likely possibilities, but which still need to be prepared for due to their potential severity, said Lt. Col. Philip Halliburton, Army North exercise planner.

"We also incorporated

continuity of operations, defense support of civil authorities and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear planning," he added.

The exercise featured the combined efforts of most of Army North's staff sections working together in the Current Operations and Integration Center.

"The scenarios in the exercise have to be realistic," said Lt. Col. Michael Brough, operations center team leader. "We have to be prepared and have a plan to support relief efforts."

Sgt. Dustin Rdiall and other members of the Army North finance section tracked the notional "money" being spent to move troops and supplies. Meanwhile, the personnel

section tracked where and how many troops were moving around the homeland.

"Working together in one room, seeing each other every day, makes it easier to get answers during the exercise – and it will make everything (simpler) if we have to do this for real," Rdiall said.

While the tasks may seem difficult, working together in the current operations and integration center made the job easier for the teammates because help was always nearby.

"When we come together for these exercises, we get reintroduced to the people who work in the different sections and practice the skills needed in a real world event," Brough said.

"When we have to do

this for real, it's a whole lot easier when every-

one knows the people in the other sections, what

they do and how to accomplish the mission."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Daryl Kinman (left), poses a question as Roger Bass listens and writes notes during their preview of the commander's update brief slides Oct. 30 as they prepare for the actual briefing. The commander's update brief is intended to bring the commanding general, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), or his representative, up to speed on new developments taking place during the exercise. Kinman serves as the deputy, Army North training section; Bass serves as the chief of land operations, Army North.

Akeroyd to launch sickle cell blood donor program

By Mark Salcedo
ASBP Blood Donor Recruiter

To help provide a healthy blood supply for all the patients treated at the San Antonio Military Medical Center, the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center will be launching a new sickle cell blood donor program.

Aimed at raising awareness and increasing blood donations in the ethnically diverse military community, the program will target active duty service members, family members and federal civilians on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects an estimated 70,000 to

100,000 Americans. It affects people of many ethnic groups to include African-Americans, Hispanics, people of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern descent and Asians. However, it is most common in African-Americans and Hispanics.

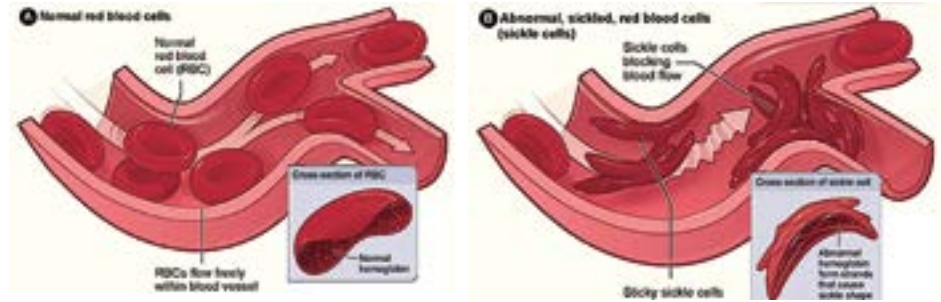
With sickle cell disease, the body's bone marrow creates abnormal hemoglobin, called Hemoglobin S. This abnormal hemoglobin causes the red blood cells to change shape forming a "sickle or crescent" shape and limiting the cell's survival to about 10 to 20 days.

Because the bone marrow cannot keep up with red cell and hemoglobin production, patients develop an anemia known as sickle cell anemia. Patients with sickle cell anemia can suffer life-

threatening complications as sickled cells block blood flow damaging tissue and organs leading to strokes, heart attacks and other medical complications.

In order to treat the disease, sickle cell patients often require multiple blood transfusions over their lifetime, which means that having blood donors with the same blood type and racial background can be critical during their treatment. Additionally, antigens – proteins and sugars attached to the red cells – forming other blood groups can cause additional complications for patients with sickle cell disease.

"We can transfuse 10 to 12 units of blood every four to eight weeks into each of our sickle cell pa-



Normal red blood cells flow freely in a blood vessel. The insert image shows a cross-section of a normal red blood cell with normal hemoglobin.

Graphics courtesy of National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
Abnormal, sickled red blood cells blocking blood flow in a blood vessel. The insert image shows a cross-section of a sickle cell with abnormal (sickle) hemoglobin forming abnormal strands.

tients," said Andrea Laws, a registered nurse with the SAMMC cellular and aphaeresis section. "This can equate to thousands of transfusions over a person's life time.

"In addition, patients might receive antigen positive units of blood which may cause antibodies to be formed to the donor's blood. It is best if

we can determine what blood group antigens are carried on a patient's red blood cells before their first transfusion," Laws added. "Then, we can match them specifically to the blood products."

Treatment for sickle cell patients also includes medications, but routine blood transfusions or a red blood cell exchange

procedure are often used to treat worsening anemia and life-threatening complications. Routine blood transfusions replenish the body's normal hemoglobin increasing oxygen levels, treat acute chest syndrome and help prevent strokes.

"As sickle cell patients

See AKEROYD, P20

News Briefs

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can be downloaded at <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120614.pdf>. Call 221-5453 for more information.

Self-Help Service Unavailable at JBSA-FSH Visual Information

Due to budget constraints, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Visual Information no longer offers self-help services. For a list of services provided, visit <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/library/multimedia.asp> or call 221-5453.

Hip and Knee Replacements

The San Antonio Military Medical Center Orthopedic Service has hip and knee replacements available for all TRICARE beneficiaries, including patients over the age of 65. Ask your primary care provider for a referral to the SAMMC orthopedic clinic. For more information, call 916-6386.

Security And Policy Review

Members of the 502nd Air Base Wing preparing a speech or document for public release on defense-related subjects must contact the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston public affairs office at 221-1099. The appropriate authorities must review material relating to the plans, policies, programs or operations of the Department of Defense or U.S. Government before presentation or publication. For JBSA-Lackland, call 671-2908 and for JBSA-Randolph, call 652-4410.

Straight Talk Line

For current, automated information during a natural disaster, crisis or emergency, call the local Straight Talk Line at 466-4630 for Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, 671-6397 at JBSA-Lackland or 652-7469 at JBSA-Randolph.

Commander's Action Line

The Commander's Action Line exists to address issues that have not been resolved through the chain of command or an appropriate agency. Leave a point of contact name and telephone number or email address. To submit, email the public affairs office at jbsa.502-abw.mbx.fsh-public-affairs-office@mail.mil; JBSA-Lackland at 502abw.paola.inbox@us.af.mil and at JBSA-Randolph at randolphpublicaffairs@us.af.mil.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston information technology community plans for infrastructure upgrade

By Lt. Col. Christopher Barry
106th Signal Brigade

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is about to undergo a first-of-its-kind information technology transformation.

The JBSA-FSH Network Enterprise Center, 106th Signal Brigade and Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program office presented a Rehearsal of Concept Drill at the Army Reserve Center Oct. 30 to demonstrate plans for a sweeping upgrade to the IT infrastructure.

JBSA-FSH will receive new IT network switches for all buildings, about 1,300 switches in total. These switches are the devices that bring the network services to the desktop for the majority of users on post.

The end result of this switch replacement will

be a tenfold increase in bandwidth and lay the ground work for a network which will allow for faster and more reliable video teleconferences and Voice Over Internet Protocol phone calls, among other high bandwidth-services.

JBSA-FSH is the first stop in this effort as the 106th Signal Brigade and the rest of 7th Signal Command (Theater) are about to install an information superhighway at all stateside Army installations which will be the largest effort of this type in more than a decade.

"It starts right here at Fort Sam and all eyes are on us," said. Col. Jay K. Chapman, 106th Signal Brigade commander, in explaining the importance of an integrated team between Brigade, NEC and JBSA-FSH mission partners. "The work we do here will inform



Photo by Lt. Col. Stephen E. Dawson

Lt. Col. Kevin Litwhiler, 106th Signal Brigade S-3, runs through scenarios to demonstrate response to specific challenges expected in the modernization.

all the other installations that follow."

The NEC invited chief information officer/G6 representatives from all major units on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston for the ROC Drill to show the IT customers the plan for the switch replacement, as well as give the representatives an opportunity to ask

questions.

"It was important to get the feedback from our customers," said Lt. Col. Kevin Litwhiler, brigade S-3. "They are the ones that are ultimately going to realize the impacts of our efforts. "We are intent on being sure that it is a positive experience for them."

Litwhiler said he

was appreciative of the participation of the IT community and its leadership as "they were able to make us better through their inquiries and suggestions."

"We have some of the most technically competent and flexible IT professionals in the industry involved in this project," said Dennis Garrison, NEC deputy director. "I am confident that – through our partnerships with the Army units on post, the 502nd Communications Squadron, I3MP and our brigade headquarters – we will be successful in laying the ground work for the future, to include making our networks more joint, faster and more secure."

Work began this month and should be completed by April 2014, Garrison said. For more information, call 466-2852.

Joint Base San Antonio water restrictions now at Stage II

By Aaron Farmer
502nd Civil Engineer Squadron

The Joint Base San Antonio Civil Engineer has declared Stage II water use restrictions in accordance with the current JBSA Critical Period Management Plan and Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Nov. 6.

The biological opinion limits JBSA's water draw from the Edwards Aquifer in order to protect eight endangered species that live in the aquifer and its associated springs. These species can only survive when

aquifer levels and spring flows are adequately maintained.

All JBSA personnel are asked to continue to comply with the water conservation measures from Stage I in addition to the following:

- Landscape watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed once every week from 7-11 a.m. and 7-11 p.m. on your designated watering day.

- Irrigation of athletic fields is permitted only as required to maintain the turf viability and safety between the hours

of 3-8 a.m. and 8-10 p.m. once per week.

- Watering with drip irrigation is allowed from 7-11 a.m. and 7-11 p.m. on any day.

- Watering with a hand-held hose is allowed any time on any day.

- Government vehicles are allowed to be washed twice per month.

JBSA personnel should not confuse the JBSA water restrictions with those of the surrounding communities. Currently, the JBSA Critical Period Management Plan trigger levels are the same as those of

the San Antonio Water System and the Edwards Aquifer Authority, but both outside organizations often delay changing stages due to specific rules and regulations they follow.

There is a possibility that JBSA could re-enter Stage III or further reduce its restrictions to Stage I this fall or winter, but it will likely maintain Stage II water restrictions until the spring.

Continue to check the JBSA website, newspapers and other media outlets for updates to JBSA water restrictions.

It is everyone's responsibility to conserve water on JBSA and in the surrounding communities.

Water waste and leaks on JBSA should be reported to the local civil engineering customer service desk for action.

When in surrounding communities, report waste and leaks to the local municipal water utility.

For more information, the Critical Period Management Plan is available online at <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130809-013.pdf>

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S MILITARY SLICES INTO GOLF TOURNEY

U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) Command Sgt. Maj. Hu Rhodes (center) checks his shot before putting during the Celebrate America's Military "Birdies for the Brave" Golf Tournament Nov. 4 at the TPC San Antonio golf course. Standing behind Rhodes are two of his teammates, Justin Woodhouse (left), Humana



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Insurance Company, and Col. Greg Maxton, deputy commander for operations, U.S. Army South. CAM 2013, an annual event sponsored by the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to recognize and thank the military community, ran through Wednesday and featured several events around San Antonio.

FORT SAM HOUSTON HONORS RETIRING SOLDIERS



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart

Fellow Soldiers and family members honored 10 Soldiers for their dedicated service to the nation during the monthly retirement ceremony Oct. 31 at the Quadrangle. Brig. Gen. Jason Evans, deputy commanding general and chief of staff for Installation Management Command presided. The retirees are (from left): Col. John Cook, 32nd Medical Brigade; Lt. Col. Jennie Irizarry, U.S. Army Medical Command; Lt. Col. Andrea Jackson, Brooke Army Medical Center; Maj. Ivan Rocourt, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army); Capt. Robert Skinner, Fort Bliss, Texas; Capt. Marvin Johnson II, 187th Medical Battalion; 1st Sgt. John Buford, Fort Hood, Texas; Master Sgt. Andres Rosalez, 106th Signal Brigade; Sgt. 1st Class Irether Gaines, 502nd Mission Support Group and Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Edwards, Warrior Transition Battalion.

Did you know?

One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not

just for poor service.

It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



Overnight construction continues at North Walters Street Gate

Overnight work continues at the North Walters Street entry control point. This work is being done between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Friday. The Jadwin Gate ECP at Interstate 35, just south of Coliseum

Road, is being used as the detour until Nov. 25, when traffic will be routed to the N. New Braunfels ECP until remaining work on the Walters Gate barrier systems is completed. For more information, call 466-2669.

CCAF grants METC full affiliation status

By Lisa Braun
Medical Education and Training
Campus Public Affairs

The Medical Education and Training Campus has attained “full institutional affiliation” status within the Community College of the Air Force system. The affiliation became effective July 10.

The largest community college in the world, CCAF is a federally-chartered, degree-granting institution serving more than 307,000 active duty, Guard, and Reserve enlisted Air Force students at any given time.

Additionally, it is the only school of its kind within the Department of Defense, partnering with more than 106 affiliated



Air Force schools and serving 212 total force education service offices around the world.

The benefit of full affiliation with CCAF affects both METC students and staff, said Air Force Col. Karen Weis, METC Dean of Academics.

“METC’s affiliation with CCAF ensures college credits are available for Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen who attend

or instruct at METC.”

Weis explained that “METC’s institutional affiliation with CCAF ensures that each of our graduates can apply their CCAF credits awarded through METC’s accredited programs toward civilian degree programs.”

Additionally, instructional staffs at METC are able to complete an instructional certification and/or the Instructional Systems Development Certification.

Becoming a fully affiliated school within the CCAF system means METC has met all standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or SACS, the

See METC, P16

METC pharmacy program teaches technical skills, customer service

By Lori Newman
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

(Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles highlighting the consolidated enlisted medical training programs offered by the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.)

How often do I need to take this medicine? Do I need to take this with food? Will this medication make me sleepy? Can I take this if I'm pregnant?

These are just a few of the questions students in the Medical Education and Training Campus Pharmacy Technician/Specialist Program are bombarded with at the outpatient pharmacy windows, along with other people grumbling: "Why is this taking so long? I've been waiting for an hour. Can't you move any faster?"

"By using pharmacists and techs at the windows as

mock patients we basically give the students that tough day here (at METC) when it's a controlled environment," explained Cmdr. Mathew Garber, Navy service lead for the pharmacy program. "The students don't always know the right answer, but that's the whole point."

"We train them to a very high standard, so they are prepared for what's ahead," said Lt. Col. Leslie Walthall, the Army service lead for the pharmacy program. "It's a very rigorous program. Our students live, breathe and eat pharmacy for an intense period of time."

Phase one of the program is 12 weeks long, combining classroom study and hands-on learning.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Coastguardsmen learn the major disciplines of pharmacy operations including administration and supply; inpatient and outpatient pharmacy operations; human

anatomy and physiology; mathematics; therapeutics and compounding.

Students are taught how the body's major organ systems work, what diseases could affect them and what drugs will make them work again.

"We can't tell them what a bronchial dilator is if they don't know what a bronchial is," Garber said.

"We go through all the different organ systems and investigate the top drugs. We don't do 3,000 drugs in this program, but we do go through 700 or 800 that represent the major medication classes."

Students not only learn technical skills, they also learn customer service skills by practicing outpatient pharmacy operations utilizing a 12-window pharmacy equipped with all the technology they will encounter once they graduate the program.

Students must process pre-



Photos by Lori Newman

Navy Hospitalman Sujana Rai and fellow Sailors scrub in prior to donning the remainder of their protective garments and entering the interventional infusion laboratory as part of the Inpatient Pharmacy Program at the Medical Education and Training Campus.



Airman Maria Rodriguez (center) practices her medication counseling technique on Airman Kari Szafaran (right) while Airman 1st Class Ty Schaar (left) supervises during the Pharmacy Outpatient Course at the Medical Education and Training Campus.



Soldiers organize the material and medications needed to prepare intravenous infusions. Soldier, Sailors and Airmen are trained in a USP 797 clean room as part of the curriculum for the Inpatient Pharmacy Program at the Medical Education and Training Campus.



Pvt. Simonique Burns transfers newly compounded simple syrup to be used in a medication mixture. Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen are trained to create complicated medications from other ingredients as part of the METC compounding pharmacy laboratory.



Coast Guard Health Services Technician 3rd Class Brittany Dykes verifies the measurements of an ingredient used to compound medication in the pharmacy compounding laboratory as instructor Staff Sgt. Clayton Anderson looks on.

scriptions, using the Composite Health Care System, the electronic medical records system used throughout the Department of Defense.

“They also get hands-on experience in pharmacy automation as well,” Walthall said. “We have robotic systems that dispense the medication.”

“Within our lab we have all the major types of robotics that are used out there. So we can give students good experience with what they are going to be using (in the field),” said Garber.

The students must also explain how to take the medications, what the possible side effects may be and how the medications may react when taken with certain foods or other drugs.

“The instructors throw different scenarios at the students to prepare them for what they may encounter when they are in a real pharmacy,” said Navy Capt. Derrik Clay, department chair, Ancillary Services.

“I love the hands-on portion,” said Coast Guard Health

Services Technician 3rd Class Brittany Dykes. “Customer service is a very big part of the job. It’s realistic and it’s better training for actually being in the field.”

Inpatient pharmacy operations allow students to experience working with medications under ventilation hoods just as they would in a laboratory. Instructors evaluate each student’s sterile technique to make sure that chances for contamination are minimized. They are also assessed on their ability to select the best fluid, concentration and flow rate for the medication.

“Therapeutics is the study of therapeutic uses and effects of drugs on the body,” Clay explained. “That tends to be one of the hardest series of classes in the program.”

Another skill the service members learn is compounding or building drugs. This doesn’t occur a lot in the civilian world anymore but it is important for service members who may deploy, because all the medica-

tions may not be readily available.

“If the (local) pharmacy doesn’t have a medication, they can usually order it and have it the next day,” Garber said. “In the military sometimes, you’re in locations where you can’t order stuff and get it the next day. So we train students fairly extensively in compounding.”

Airman Crystal Moody said pharmacy was something she was interested in coming out of high school, going into college but didn’t get the opportunity to pursue it. Joining the Air Force allowed Moody to pursue her dream.

Army Pvt. Simonique Burns’ reason for choosing the pharmacy program was more personal.

“I want to be the person behind the scenes that helps my sister (because she is ill). I want to be the person making the drugs and IV bags she needs,” Burns said. “You are actually saving someone’s life, in my eyes.”

After phase one of the train-

ing, Army and Navy students must complete an additional 3 1/2 weeks of advanced service specific training followed by five weeks of clinical rotation.

The advanced training is required for the Soldiers and Sailors because they may deploy to remote locations around the world where there may not be a pharmacist to guide them.

The Army students also must complete a 72-hour field training exercise at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

Air Force students also complete three weeks of clinical rotation, followed by 18 months of on-the-job training.

The Coast Guard does on-the-job training before they enter the pharmacy technician program, but they also complete three weeks of clinical rotation.

Hospitalman Joshua Adams decided on the pharmacy program because he wants to further his career in the Navy.

“It will open a lot of doors for me to go into the medical field,” Adams said. “Whether I choose to go into pharmacy or become

a nurse or physician’s assistant. It’s been a great course so far.”

After the students complete their training and clinical rotations they are eligible to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board exam.

The average national pass rate for the PTCB exam is about 70 percent. However, for METC students the average pass rate is 86 percent on the exam.

“The training students receive here is at a higher level and that’s why you see the better pass rates on the certification exam,” Garber said.

The METC pharmacy program is accredited by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists and students are eligible to receive up to 39 college credits.

“The ultimate goal is that on ‘day one,’ when they walk into a pharmacy they are an asset to that pharmacy.”

“We produce a very high caliber, well trained force able to meet our country’s mission,” Walthall added.

IMCOM welcomes new deputy commanding general

By Jade Fulce
IMCOM Public Affairs

More than 200 Army senior leaders, civilians, friends and guests gathered at Fort Sam Houston Theater Nov. 1 to welcome Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols to the U.S. Army Installation Management Command community and Joint Base San Antonio. Nichols is the new deputy commanding general for operations and chief of staff in a ceremony.

“She was handpicked for this position and we are blessed to have her,” said Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter, IMCOM commanding general.

“She knows the business of taking care of people. She’s knows the business of transforming.”

In her previous assign-



Photo by Neal Snyder

Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols is the new deputy commanding general for operations and chief of staff for the U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

ments, Nichols was U.S. Army Contracting Command’s first commanding general and served

as program executive officer, Program Executive Office Soldier, at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Nichols has more than 25 years experience in Department of Defense acquisition.

She has also served in various engineer jobs earlier in her career as an engineer officer in tactical engineering units.

Nichols has a unique distinction as a member of the 1984 U.S. Olympic women’s handball team, serving as manager and assistant coach.

“Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your team,” Nichols said. “I look forward to meeting and spending time with all of you.”

Nichols enlisted in the Army in 1975 in her home town of Niagara Falls, N.Y. In 1981, she was commissioned as an engineer officer upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

METC from P11

regional accrediting body for private and state supported colleges and universities throughout the southern region of the United States.

Getting to this point involved an intense review process. The CCAF affiliation team spent three days in August 2011 reviewing affiliation candidacy status for several of the METC enlisted medical technical courses and touring the campus.

“This significant

achievement is a reflection of our dedicated faculty and staff, and confirmation of the high quality curriculum METC provides its students,” said Rear Adm. William Roberts, METC commandant. “Attaining CCAF accreditation is a huge step forward for METC.”

METC is the largest consolidation of military training in the history of the Department of Defense and the largest medical technical education institution in the world.

PRIDE DAY from P3

“502nd ABW pride in appearance isn’t just a one-day event, it is a continuous focus on keeping our installation, our home, our workplace looking the best it possibly can on a daily basis,” said Antony Person, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron Operations Flight.

Now that the 502nd

ABW has successfully launched this initiative across its wing staff agencies, groups and squadrons, LaBrutta will communicate and highly encourage a “JBSA-wide Pride Day” to all Fort Sam Houston, Lackland, and Randolph mission partners with a plan to make this a semi-annual (fall/spring) event starting in the spring of 2014.

JBSA photographers tell military service story

By Alex Salinas
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Photographers from the photo imaging divisions of the 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs offices at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston stay busy as their role evolves and their position is not only to document events for posterity, but to tell the Department of Defense story in order to increase public understanding.

With a team of nine civilian photographers and five Air Force military photojournalists between the three locations, “we have a good mix of people with many years of experience to support the public affairs mission,” said Dan Solis, JBSA Visual Information chief.

Most JBSA civilian photographers have had their work professionally published and the average time in the career field is more than 20 years – some more than 40 years.

“We see our role as photojournalists as a step in a new direction toward a military multimedia hybrid lab,” Solis said.

Today’s role as a photographer involves not only taking the photographs, but conducting interviews and posting it to the Web within certain time constraints.

“JBSA photographers have incorporated more of a storytelling aspect to their photography in recent years,” said Benjamin Faske, JBSA-Lackland photographer and mobile app lead. “Through closer work with the base newspaper staffs and with the creation of new multimedia



Photos by Joshua Rodriguez

Senior Airman Derek Heers, 59th Dental Training Squadron, poses during his studio appointment Nov. 12 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Visual Information photo studio. Head-and-shoulders portraits, special duty assignment applicant photos and official travel passport photos are all taken by the photographers who are part of the 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs.

products, photographers are now able to focus their craft specifically to the DOD missions within JBSA.”

The wide range of photographic services offered at all three locations, in addition to the photojournalist aspect of the job, includes studio portraits, on-location jobs, documentation, copying, digital imaging and self-help photography.”

Examples of location photography are award ceremonies, retirements, mission briefings and base-wide events.

Studio work involves taking head-and-shoulders portraits for inclusion in special duty assignment applications, official travel passports and at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Department of the Army promotion photos.

“On busier days, we take about 15 to 20

Soldiers’ pictures per day,” said Richard Valdez, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Visual Information manager. “The portraits are mandatory for Soldiers to have in their military records prior to being looked at for promotion.”

During this past quarter more than 850 Department of the Army photos were taken at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Valdez said.

Active-duty members and civilians who require passport photos must have an authorized agent at their location’s passport office sign a work order form before scheduling a passport photo appointment.

While turnaround times for products vary based on the request, portrait appointments usually take about 15 minutes, Solis said. Customers leave their appointment with a printed

copy or digital file in hand, the same day as their appointment.

In addition to location photography and studio portrait work, JBSA photographers are also responsible for alert photography that includes investigative assignments, which is usually at the request of security forces or the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

As the host visual information offices, the team provides installation support services to mission partners at all three primary JBSA locations and on average provides about 26,000 photographic products each quarter, according to Solis.

To see some of the photographic products used to tell the story, go to one of the PA team’s four Facebook pages at <http://www.facebook.com/JointBaseSanAntonio>; <http://www.facebook.com/JBSARandolph>;



passport photos are cut into the required measurements by a 502nd Air Base Wing photographer prior to customer delivery at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Active-duty members and civilians who require passport photos must have an authorized agent at their location’s passport office sign a work order form before scheduling a passport photo appointment.

When requesting location photography or studio portraits, an AF Form 833 must be filled out by customers and physically turned in or emailed to their corresponding location’s multimedia center workbook.

To digitally access an AF Form 833, visit <http://www.jbsa.af.mil>, scroll to “Library” at the top of the website, click on “Multimedia,” then click “AF Form 833” at the bottom of the page.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

Studio appointments are 7:30-11 a.m. and 12:30-2:45 p.m. Monday through Friday and contact info is usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.visual-information@mail.mil and 221-5453.

JBSA-Lackland

Studio appointments are 8-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and contact info is 502abw.pam.lacklandmultimediacenter@us.af.mil and 671-2313.

JBSA-Randolph

Studio appointments are 8-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and contact info is randolphmultimedia@us.af.mil or 652-4226.

JBSAFortSamHouston;
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lackland-JBSA> or
<http://www.facebook.com/JBSARandolph>.

JBSA photos are also posted to the JBSA website at <http://www.jbsa.af.mil>.

Air Force leave policy allows permissive TDY to legally marry

By **Debbie Gildea**
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

Airmen who are unable to legally marry in the state or country where they are assigned can request permissive temporary duty to travel to a state where they can get married, according to an Oct. 15 leave policy update, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

Following a June 26 Supreme Court decision finding Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, Defense Department officials implemented a plan to extend benefits to same sex spouses. Airmen requesting benefits for spouses must present a marriage certificate.

However, some Airmen and their significant others have been unable

to marry because they live in a state or country where same sex marriage is prohibited.

The Oct. 15 guidance memo updating Air Force Instruction 36-3003, Military Leave Program, modifies Table 7, Rules 49 and 50, to allow Airmen to apply for permissive TDY to obtain a legal marriage, with guidelines and restrictions on the number of days allowed

depending on applicants' locations. The rules apply equally to same sex and opposite sex couples.

To be eligible, Airmen must be stationed more than 100 miles from the nearest location allowing them to be married. Airmen stationed in the 48 contiguous United States may be authorized up to seven days, which includes a maximum of two travel days. Airmen

stationed overseas may be authorized up to 10 days; a maximum of five for travel.

The number of days approved will be based on travel combined with the waiting period required by law from the jurisdiction nearest the duty location. The waiting period is the wait time required to obtain a marriage license and the required wait time

after getting a marriage license, but before the marriage may be performed.

For more information about the military leave program and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>. To review the guidance memo changes to AFI 36-3003, go to the Air Force publishing site at <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil>.

Same-sex spouses eligible for Family and Medical Leave Act benefits

By **Debbie Gildea**
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

Federal employees with same-sex spouses are now provided the same Family and Medical Leave Act coverage as those with opposite-sex spouses, according to an

Oct. 21 Office of Personnel Management memorandum.

Following a June 26 Supreme Court decision finding Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, OPM officials implemented a review of guidance governing FMLA. Fed-

eral agencies now define spouse as a partner in any legally recognized marriage, regardless of the employee's state of residency.

Included in FMLA benefits are the right to take FMLA leave to care for a spouse with a serious health condi-

tion or who gives birth to a child, to care for a spouse who is a covered service member with an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty on active duty, or for qualifying exigencies while a spouse is on active duty or has been notified of an impending

call to activate.

Normally employees cannot retroactively invoke FMLA leave entitlement, but employees who had to use other leave to care for a same-sex spouse between June 26 and Oct. 21 may be able to redesignate that time off as FMLA leave. That

redesignation must be done by the end of the second pay period after their agency received the OPM memo.

For information about civilian benefits and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.



National American Indian Heritage Month Observance

The 14th Annual Honoring the Veterans Powwow is 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Middle School Teen Center, building 2515, Funston Road.

International Game Day at the Library

Saturday, 1-6 p.m., Keith A. Campbell Library, building 1222. Gamers of all ages are invited. Gaming consoles available are Wii, PS3 and XBOX 360. A variety of board games and puzzles are also available. Call 221-4702.

General Resume Writing

Monday, 9 a.m.-noon, Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0427 or 221-0516.

Special Needs Parent Tool Kit

Tuesday, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-2962 or 221-0600.

H.U.G.S. Playgroup

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

Savings and Investing

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

Personal Growth and Resiliency

Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0918.

Post-Deployment Resiliency for Families

Tuesday, 1-3 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0946.

Budgeting

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

Family Readiness Group Leadership Academy

Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Education Center. Call 221-0946.

Interview Skills-Dress for Success

Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon, Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0349.

5 Love Languages for Teens

Wednesday, 5-7 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0349.

Safety Seat Clinic

Thursday, 1-3 p.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Fire Station, building 3830. Call 221-0349.

Sponsorship Training

Thursday, 2-3 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-1681.

Downtown Walking Tour

Nov. 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Military

and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-1681.

Neanderthal Warrior Trail Run

The zombie edition of the annual Neanderthal Warrior Trail Run is Nov. 23 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis. The run is open to military and civilians, with registration available at <http://register.iaapweb.com>. Participants who register by Tuesday get a T-shirt. Event fee is \$20 for military with valid identification; \$30 for civilians without military ID; \$20 per person for teams of five to 10 people; and \$15 per person for teams of 11 or more. Arrival time is 6:15 a.m. and the run starts at 7:30 a.m. For more information, call 295-7710 or 848-2158.

Federal Resume Writing

Nov. 25, 9 a.m. to noon, Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0427.

Youth Fall Camp Registration

Parents can register children now for the School Age Services and Youth Services Fall Camp Nov. 25-29. Camp times for SAS will be 6 a.m.-6 p.m. and YS will be 6 a.m.-5 p.m. with open recreation starting at 1 p.m. daily. SAS camp fees will be according to fee category and YS camp fees are \$60 for the week or \$25 per day. Call 221-4871 for information.

Youth Basketball Registration

Child and Youth basketball registration is ongoing through Jan. 2. Child and Youth must have a current physical that meets the complete season, January through March. First game begins the second week in January. Cost is \$45 for 3-4

year olds and \$65 for 5 years and up. Call Parent Central at 221-4871 for information.

HIRED! Apprenticeships Program

Teens 15 to 18 years old can apply for the 2014 Winter Term, Jan. 13-April 5, apprenticeship program. If selected the teen will work within the 502nd Force Support Squadron facilities and activities on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Registration forms are available at Parent Central, building 2797, the Youth Center, building 1630 or the Middle School Teen Center, building 2515. Application deadline is Dec. 9. Call 221-3386.

Computer Lab

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

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.

Belly Dancing Class

Come learn the art of belly dancing 6 p.m. Wednesdays at the

Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The class is free and open to all DOD ID cardholders. Call 221-1234.

World Climb Tower Challenge

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

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ticket Office

The ticket office located in the Sam Houston Community Center, building 1395, Chaffee Road, is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Call 808-1378.

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. The range may close unexpectedly because of weather or troop use. Range users should call before coming out for target practice. Call 295-7577.

Hunting on JBSA-Camp Bullis

Now through Jan. 5 DOD cardholders can bow hunt big game and turkey at JBSA-Camp Bullis. Call 295-7577.

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.

Horseback Riding Lessons

The Equestrian Center offers both private and group lessons for Western and English style. Therapeutic riding lessons are also available and taught by certified instructors. Horses, saddles and tack for lessons will be provided if needed. Patrons must be at least 7 years old. Call 224-7207.

Theater Arts Program

Children, ages 4 and up, can take the stage after a long day at school 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.

AKERoyD from P5

receive multiple transfusions, they can build up excessive amounts of iron in their liver and other organs. This excessive iron can cause renal failure, cirrhosis of the liver and eventually liver failure," Laws said. "Red blood cell exchange procedures can minimize the amount of iron build up and remove damaged red cells."

During a red cell exchange, the patient's

red cells are removed and replaced by donor red blood cells using an automated procedure. Because of the amount of blood needed for these procedures – usually 10 to 12 units – it is critical that donated blood be as closely matched to the patient's blood type to include ethnic background and other blood group antigens. If not, the patient may develop complications to antibodies against the antigens in the donated blood.

"Sickle cell patients are surviving longer with better quality of life. It may be cheaper for the patient in the long run to keep up with blood exchanges and routine transfusion therapy with antigen negative blood over multiple hospital stays," Laws said. "We have the potential to be proactive and preemptive, rather than reactive. More minority blood donors are needed."

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and Akeroyd Blood Donor

Centers have joined forces to provide sickle cell negative units to the blood bank at SAMMC every week. However, the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center is encouraging additional African-American service members and family members with O-positive blood to donate.

The Akeroyd Blood Donor Center is building a database of blood donors who have been tested and identified as sickle cell trait negative. Each donor is encouraged to donate

every 57 days, or when there is a specific need identified by the blood bank.

For more information or questions about how you can sign-up for the Sickle Cell Blood Donor program, please call the Armed Services Blood Program blood donor recruiter directly at 295-6655/4989.

Walk-in donors are welcome at the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center between 7:30 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday.

The center is located at B1240 Harney Road, behind Budge Dental Clinic on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

To find out more about how you can help the Armed Services Blood Program or to schedule an appointment to donate, please visit <http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil>. For more information, visit <http://www.facebook.com/militaryblood>, <http://www.flickr.com/militaryblood> and <http://www.twitter.com/militaryblood>.

OUTSIDE THE GATE

Warrant Officer Association Meeting

The Lone Star Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Longhorn Cafe, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard warrant officers and family members of current or retired warrant officers are invited. Call 475-2565 for more information.

Red Bud Isle Walk

The Colorado River Walkers volksmarch club is hosting a 5k and 10k walk Saturday starting at the Lower Colorado River Authority, Redbud Center Building, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd. in Austin. Walks start between 9 a.m. and noon, finish by 3 p.m. For information, call 512-828-1229 or visit <http://www.coloradoriverwalkers.org>.

CHILE from P2

challenges as well.”

In addition to the staff talks, working sessions, Montini and Chamorro attended a luncheon in downtown San Antonio hosted by the Rotary Club Nov. 6. The luncheon was part of San Antonio's 43rd Annual Celebrate America's Military celebrations and marked the first time Chilean army leaders attended an official San Antonio Chamber of Commerce event.

This year's talks were centered on the two themes of promoting regional security and stability and strengthening doctrine and operational capacity to improve interoperability.

“Chile is a vital partner for our relationship in the hemisphere,” said Col. Tim Hodge, the Army South chief of international military affairs. “These staff talks are helpful for advancing the agendas that both our nations

Female Soccer Players Needed

All female Department of Defense ID card holders and family members are eligible to participate in the Joint Base San Antonio adult women's soccer team, which will play in the Women's Soccer Association of San Antonio. Games will be played Sundays at the S.T.A.R. complex located off Interstate 35. Cost is \$60 per season per player for active duty members and \$80 for non-active duty. Call 412-721-1061 for more information.

Women's Survivor Group

A women's survivor group has been created for women who have experienced sexual trauma. The goal is to increase survivors' understanding to their response to victimization and the impact on their lives. The group offers a safe, open atmosphere for discussion and support to facilitate understanding of sexual victimization and the healing process. The group meets 6:30 - 8 p.m. Mondays at the Rape Crisis Center group room at 7500 U.S. Highway 90 West, building 2,

Suite 201. Call 521-7273 for more information.

Teen Survivors Group

A teen survivors' group has been created for teens who have been victims of sexual trauma. The group's goal is to help teens learn and talk about sexual abuse in a safe environment and help survivors connect to others who have been in similar situations. Females from 13 to 17 years of age who are currently attending individual psychotherapy are encouraged to attend. A therapist's recommendation is required. The group meets from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Rape Crisis Center group room at 7500 U.S. Highway 90 West, Building 2, Suite 201. Call 521-7273 for more information.

Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets at 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Longhorn Cafe, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active

duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 539-1178.

Foster a Puppy

The Department of Defense dog breeding program needs families to foster puppies for three months. Potential foster families need time and patience to raise a puppy age 12 weeks to six months, a stimulating and safe home environment and a desire to help raise a military working dog. Call 671-3686.



FOR SALE: Anniversary clock with glass dome and rotating pendulum, Japanese made, perfect condition, \$50 obo. Call 771-7480.



Photo by Eric Lucero

The Chilean army delegation receives a briefing on the AH-64 Apache helicopter while in Austin Nov. 7. The Chilean delegation visited Texas to participate in the army-to-army staff talks between U.S. Army South and the Chilean army Nov. 5-7.

have toward peace and prosperity throughout the region.”

Specific areas of discussion included increasing the Chilean army's participation in joint regional support exercises and operations with the U.S. Army, to include engineering support of Beyond the Horizon 2014 in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.

BTH is an annual exercise deploying military

engineers and medical professionals to partner nation countries for training, while providing services to rural communities. The Chilean army deployed a team of engineers to El Salvador to participate in BTH 2013.

“These staff talks ensure the relationship between our countries and the sharing of information remain strong,” said Chilean Col. Humberto J. Assadi, the Chilean army's

foreign liaison officer to Army South. “We have learned much from participating in multinational exercises. In addition, we hope to share our experiences related to natural disasters like earthquakes and floods.”

With its highly capable military and law enforcement agencies serving as models of professionalism in the region, the Chilean army plays a vital role in enhancing security in the region.

“These annual meetings have contributed greatly to building the strong relationship between our armies,” Salinas said. “Through these talks, we have an opportunity to develop a final blueprint that General Montini and I can confidently approve to guide our cooperative security activities over the next few years, improving our capabilities as armies and reinforcing our relationship as equal partners.”

CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PROTESTANT SERVICES

Sundays

Main Post (Gift) Chapel

Building 2200, 1605 Wilson Way

8 and 11 a.m. - Traditional

Dodd Field Chapel

Building 1721, 5584 Dodd Blvd.

8:30 a.m. - Samoan

10:30 a.m. - Gospel

Army Medical Department

Regimental Chapel

Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.

9:20 a.m. - 32nd Medical Brigade

Contemporary Service

11 a.m. - Contemporary “Crossroads”

Brooke Army Medical

Center Chapel

Building 3600,

3551 Roger Brooke Rd.

10 a.m. - Traditional

CATHOLIC SERVICES

Daily Mass

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel

Building 3600,

3551 Roger Brooke Rd.

11:05 a.m., Monday through Friday

Main Post (Gift) Chapel

Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way
11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday

Saturday

Main Post (Gift) Chapel

4:45 p.m. - Reconciliation

5:30 p.m. - Evening Mass

Sunday

8 a.m. - Morning Mass, AMEDD

8:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC

9:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, MPC

11:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC

12:30 p.m. - Morning Mass, DFC

JEWISH SERVICES

8 p.m. - Jewish Worship, Friday, MPC

8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat, Friday, MPC

ISLAMIC SERVICE

1:15 p.m. - Jummah, Friday, AMEDD

LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES

1 p.m. - LDS Worship, Sunday, AMEDD

BUDDHIST SERVICES

1 p.m. - Buddhist Services, Sunday, AMEDD

For worship opportunities of faith groups not listed here, please visit the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Chaplain's website at <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain>.

Weekly Weather Watch

	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20
San Antonio Texas	76° Partly Cloudy	80° Cloudy	85° Mostly Cloudy	76° Sunny	60° Partly Cloudy	52° Partly Cloudy
Kabul Afghanistan	58° Mostly Sunny	60° Partly Cloudy	60° Sunny	62° Sunny	63° Sunny	62° Sunny

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

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. Avoid installing ornamental water features and fountains that spray water into the air. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation.
2. Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
3. Don't buy recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
4. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save four gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
5. Buy a rain gauge to track how much rain or irrigation your yard receives. Check with your local water agency to see how much rain is needed to skip an irrigation cycle.

(Compiled by 502nd Civil Engineering Squadron)

