

# FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

AUGUST 15, 2014  
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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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**ROCKING HORSE HELPS STUDENTS**

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**NEW WILFORD HALL**

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Army Reserve Soldiers assigned to the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, Columbus, Ohio, transport simulated injured Soldiers Aug. 4 during Vibrant Response 14 at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind.

**Photo by Spc. Caitlyn Byrne**

## ARNORTH-led Vibrant Response 14 exercise showcases support

**By Spc. Caitlyn Byrne**  
27th Public Affairs Detachment

“The real task at hand for Vibrant Response 14 was how do we give support to those states and communities that have been affected,” said Maj. Gen. Charles Gales, Vibrant Response 14 exercise director. “VR 14 is a combination of active, Reserve and civilian components that come together to form a unified, joint response to a large catastrophic event.”

Vibrant Response 14, the nation’s premiere disaster relief training mission, took place at Camp Atterbury, Ind., and the

Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Ind., and came to an end Aug. 7.

The exercise was split into two different iterations with two different missions based on the same scenario – a simulated nuclear attack in a major metropolitan area somewhere in the United States.

The first half of the exercise, from July 21-27, focused primarily on training the Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear response team, which deals with the initial response to a crisis, including helping displaced citizens and starting investigations into who, or what,

caused the catastrophes.

“I feel like we’ve been pretty effective in training our Soldiers and federal first responders to do their mission and to be confirmed to do it for another year,” Gales said.

In total, agencies from more than 28 states and territories participated in the exercise.

“We had a wide range of personnel and capabilities that were brought to Indiana,” Gales said. “As we get further and further along, we bring in more partners and willing-participants for the exercise including the state

**See VIBRANT, P8**

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# Stage 4 water restrictions implemented across JBSA

By Benjamin Martinez  
Joint Base San Antonio  
utility manager

The 10-day average of the Bexar County index well J-17 – the official well for recording groundwater elevations in the San Antonio Pool of the Edwards Aquifer – fell below 630 feet mean sea level as of 9 a.m. Tuesday. (Note: Comal Springs and San Marcos Springs are also spring flows that trigger given stages.)

Stage 4 water restrictions for Joint Base San Antonio are triggered at the following levels: Bexar (J-17): less than 630 feet above sea level; Comal Springs: less than 100 cubic feet per second.

The J-17 well is actually housed in a nondescript building just off Harry Wurzbach and

near the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. It serves as the official well for recording groundwater elevations in the San Antonio Pool of the Edwards Aquifer, according to the Edwards Aquifer Authority website (<http://www.edwardsaquifer.org>).

J-17 is the most cited and recognized in a network of observation wells maintained by the Edwards Aquifer Authority to monitor aquifer conditions in Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal and Hays counties. Water level readings at J-17 are continuously recorded and monitored by the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

The JBSA Base Civil Engineer declared Stage 4 in accordance with the current JBSA Critical Period Management Plan

and Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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

The changes from Stage 3 facing base residents are substantial.

All the Stage 3 restrictions are still in place; in addition to Stage 4 water restrictions, such as:

- Installation of new turf is prohibited;
- Lawn/turf watering is prohibited;
- Landscapes may be watered by a one-inch diameter (or less) handheld garden hose, soaker hose

or a five-gallon (or less) bucket every two weeks from 3-8 a.m. and 8-10 p.m. on days from Table 2, JBSA Critical Period Management Plan (<http://www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130809-013.pdf>);

• Athletic fields may be watered once every two weeks between the hours of 3-8 a.m. and 8-10 a.m. once per week on the days from Table 2, JBSA Critical Period Management Plan;

Government vehicle and POV washing not allowed except in extreme circumstances approved in advance by the Wing Commander or his/her designee.

In Stage 4, the water-



Courtesy illustration

ing days are:

- Address/facility number ends in 0 or 1, Monday is the watering day;
- Address/facility number ends in 2 or 3, Tuesday is the watering day;
- Address/facility number ends in 4 or 5, Wednesday is the watering day;
- Address/facility

See STAGE 4, P10

## Back-to-school time calls for student vaccinations

By Monica Bullock  
U.S. Army Public Health Command

Back-to-school events are drawing near and it is a prime time for ensuring that children are up to date on all their immunizations.

What is immunization? According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, immunization refers to the process by which a person becomes protected against a disease, usually through vaccinations.

A vaccination uses a weakened or partial virus or bacteria to trigger an immune system reaction. The immune system reaction reduces the chances

of developing illness if a person is later exposed to the actual virus or bacteria.

"Vaccinations are the most effective protection against disease," says Lt. Col. Laura Pacha, disease epidemiology program manager at the U.S. Army Public Health Command. "Through vaccinations, naturally occurring smallpox was eliminated around the world.

"Routine childhood vaccinations have meant some diseases, like polio, have been eradicated from the United States," Pacha added. "The impact of others has been greatly reduced. However, these diseases, including polio,

still circulate in other parts of the world, so reintroducing them to the U.S. may be only a plane ride away."

Not only should adults be vigilant in their vaccinations to prevent spreading diseases to their children and others, but the children themselves need the protection.

"Children are a vulnerable population," said Maj. Jasmine Peterson, a US-APHC public health nurse. "The risk of spreading disease among them is higher due to their interaction with other children in various settings."

The required vaccinations vary between states and different ages; for

more information contact your healthcare provider or local health department. Here is a list of commonly required vaccinations for children:

- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- DTaP or Tdap (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Polio
- Varicella (chicken pox)

Army public health experts say the advantage of vaccinations is not just protection for the individual who chooses to be immunized.

"When enough people in a community have immunity to a disease, opportunities for an outbreak are reduced because protected indi-

viduals interrupt disease spread," Pacha said. "Vulnerable persons who cannot receive certain vaccines – such as infants, pregnant women, or immune-compromised individuals – get some protection because the spread of contagious disease is contained."

Additionally, health experts say that when individuals choose not to get immunized, outbreaks of a disease can occur.

"Unfortunately, in some communities, immunization rates have dropped and we see outbreaks of diseases we thought had been controlled," Pacha said.

See VACCINES, P3



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## News Briefs

### Texas Transition Assistance Program

Joint Base San Antonio, in partnership with the San Antonio Coalition for Veterans and Families, hosts a workshop Wednesday for retiring or separating service members and their families. This event is the beginning of a new initiative by 802nd Force Support Squadron and Military and Family Readiness Centers to provide targeted transition assistance to service members and their families who exiting military service and starting civilian life in San Antonio. The workshop is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Arnold Hall on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Participants have the opportunity to learn about San Antonio area employment and networking, using education benefits in Texas, health insurance and housing. Call 671-3722 to reserve your seat. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided to all participants.

### Lincoln Military Housing Closures

All Lincoln Military Housing Offices will be closed from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 22 and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 12 and 19 for training. For maintenance emergencies, call 225-5564. For other emergencies, call 911.

### JBSA Strategic EPR Writing Course available

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Eric Jaren, former command chief master sergeant of Air Force Material Command, will be the guest speaker providing "The Magic of Bulleting Writing" and "Feedback Your Supervisor Never Gave You," presentations Thursday through Aug. 22 in San Antonio. The two presentations are designed to improve strategic writing skills for bullet writing, enlisted evaluations and award packages, and insight into senior NCO promotion complexities. Presentations are: Thursday, 9-11 a.m. at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Evans Theater; Aug. 22, 9-11 a.m. at the JBSA-Randolph Fleenor Auditorium; and Aug. 22, 1-3 p.m. at the JBSA-Lackland Bob Hope Theater. To register for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, visit <https://jbsa.eis.aetc.af.mil/502abw/CCC/default.aspx> and look for JBSA Strategic EPR Writing Course.

### Hiring Heroes Career Fair

Recruiters from the Department of Defense, federal agencies and the pri-

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

# Charter leveraging resources, facilities strengthens partnerships between military, civilian communities

By L.A. Shively  
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston  
Public Affairs

Leadership from across San Antonio and surrounding areas joined Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, to sign a charter launching the JBSA Public-Public/Public-Private, or P4 Community Partnership Initiative, Aug. 5 at the Alamo University Center in Live Oak.

The P4 initiative was organized in direct response to fiscal constraints the 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA face over the next five to ten years.

Last year's defense authorization bill allowed installations to enter into intergovernmental support agreements with local governments.

As a result, strategizing and reaching out to the city began early this year to explore routes toward sustaining and preserving JBSA mission sets, while leveraging resources and reducing operating and service costs in collaboration with the San Antonio community.

"We've always had a great relationship and a wonderful partnership between the military and

the San Antonio community, but this initiative puts action into the words, "Military City USA." In fact, I see it as a new beginning in our relationship because we'll be sharing and optimizing our capabilities not only for today but for the future," LaBrutta said just before signing the charter.

"It's exciting for me and I hope it is for everybody that will be signing on the dotted line today," the general added.

After the signing ceremony, updates were presented from various agencies involved in the processes of creating alliances with JBSA.

A new Texas Transition Information Program providing separating servicemembers and their families information on locally-based employment, housing, educational opportunities and healthcare launches Aug. 20 during JBSA-Lackland's Transition Assistance Program.

"It's helping veterans get in touch with the community," explained Steven Johns, secretary, San Antonio Coalition for Veterans and Families.

"Veterans retiring or getting out in the San Antonio area are connected with information they need to have in this



Photo courtesy City of Schertz Public Affairs Department

(From left) Brig. Gen. Robert LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander; Keith Graf, Texas Military Preparedness Commission; and Schertz Mayor Michael Carpenter sign the JBSA Public-Public/Public-Private, or P4 Community Partnership Initiative, Aug. 5 at the Alamo University Center in Live Oak. Officials from other local city governments also signed the charter document.

area," Johns continued, adding that the military program separating servicemembers attend is nationally based, whereas this new program will focus locally.

Lt. Col. Scott Foley, commander, Security Forces Squadron, said that he and his group are looking at finding methods to share resources across the entire JBSA installation and surrounding areas. Although both security forces and the fire departments already share facilities, training and emergency response districts, they are working at enlarging areas of operations.

"It's an expansion of the mutual aid agreements we've been doing

for a long time," explained JBSA Fire Chief Mark Ledford. "There are a lot of smart people doing smart things together."

"I think about Oklahoma City and I think about 9/11 every day. The training that we are doing across the front on the emergency side of the house is critically important for us and also for San Antonio at large.

"Ten days into my command we had an active shooter on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. The San Antonio police department was right there with us," LaBrutta said illustrating the collaboration between the military and civilian emergency response

teams already in place.

Other partnership ideas include reestablishing bus routes within JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, using renewable energy sources and storm water reuse among other projects.

"We're looking to leverage the capabilities within Joint Base San Antonio, the city and communities of San Antonio in formulating economies of scale and streamlining processes, so that the military mission can be sustained and make it more vital to our nation," LaBrutta said.

"By the same token, we want to continue to support the economic vitality of the San Antonio region as well."

## VACCINES from P2

Measles is just one example. According to the CDC, there have been multiple outbreaks of measles across the United States in 2014, almost 600 cases.

According to Army

public health nursing personnel, common side effects resulting from a vaccination shot, if any, would be redness, swelling or soreness at the site of the injection. There could possibly be a low-grade fever that goes away after a few days.

A common misconception about vaccinations is that there is a possibility that the vaccine could give you the real virus and cause you to be very sick. Health experts say vaccines cannot cause your children to contract the actual disease.

Another misconception is that 'natural infection' is preferable to vaccine-induced immunity.

"Natural infection is unpredictable and risky; severe or even fatal illness could result," Pacha said. "Preventing illness and its complications

are precisely the reasons vaccines were developed."

(Editor's note: The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District immunization requirements chart is on Page 15.)

# U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research helps West Point cadet learn combat casualty care

By Steven Galvan  
USAISR Public Affairs

As upcoming future U.S. Army commissioned officers, West point cadets are educated and rigorously trained through drills designed to shape them into topnotch leaders.

Cadets like third-year Cadet Sgt. Matthew P. Altamirano is becoming a leader who will someday inspire and motivate the Soldiers he will be in charge of.

His knowledge and experience comes not only from within the boundaries of West Point, as every summer cadets from the U.S. Military Academy spend a few weeks getting some “real Army” experience at Army installations around the world.

This year, the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston hosted Altamirano, so he could get some hands-on experience in combat casualty care research – specifically on tourniquets.

Altamirano spent his time at the USAISR under the mentorship of retired Col. (Dr.) John F. Kragh, an orthopedic surgeon/tourniquet researcher and a 1985 West Point graduate. Kragh said that the experience and exposure cadets get during the summer is invaluable in many ways.

“West Point is great at training cadets on Army stuff,” he said. “They have to go out and experience firsthand what is available for them once they leave the

academy so that they can determine what career path they want to follow.”

When Altamirano graduates from West Point, he will have earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. He said the experience he has gained at the USAISR has given him a new perspective on what career path he’d like to follow.

“I’ve learned a lot about tourniquets and the research process,” Altamirano said. “I had no idea how important combat casualty care research is and how it’s all conducted for those wounded in combat. I am now considering the medical corps when I go on active duty.”

The New Mexico native said he decided to attend West Point to serve his

country and follow his dad’s footsteps.

“It’s exciting to think that when I graduate I will be leading Soldiers,” he said. “My family is very proud of me.”

Altamirano left the USAISR in late July to commence his junior year at West Point. He said he was grateful for the experience and training he received. After spending about three weeks learning about tourniquets and how they work, he feels confident he will know how to apply one if ever needed in the future.

“I had very little exposure to tourniquets before coming here,” Altamirano said. “It’s good to know how to apply them and how they work. It has been an awesome experience.”



Photo by Steven Galvan

Cadet Sgt. Matthew P. Altamirano from the U.S. Military Academy was at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston for more than three weeks this summer learning about combat casualty research and how tourniquets play a role in saving wounded warriors on the battlefield.

# Leadership changes during U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research ceremony

By Steven Galvan  
USAISR Public Affairs

Col. (Dr.) Michael A. Weber relinquished command of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research to Col. (Dr.) Michael D. Wirt II during a change of command ceremony July 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Wirt took command of the USAISR when he received the institute's flag from Maj. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., commander of U.S. Army Medical Research and

Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Md., who hosted the ceremony.

Carvalho praised Weber's success and the support of his family for his "unprecedented levels of scientific productivity."

"The USAISR's successful organizational evolution and innovative life-saving research is a direct result of sound, thoughtful leadership," Carvalho said. "It has been a pleasure working with you. Thank you for all of your efforts, expertise and leadership."

"Colonel Wirt, wel-

come to MRMC and USAISR," continued Carvalho. "You come to us well prepared from your recent tour in Afghanistan. In fact, you have served in a number of assignments in forward surgical combat environments, which will give you a great perspective as you come in to set the course for ISR and its critical work in combat casualty care."

Wirt comes from the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity at Fort Campbell, Ky., and recently returned from

a deployment where he served as the officer-in-charge of the U.S. contingent at the Bastion Role 3 Hospital at Camp Bastion, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Weber, who has served as the USAISR commander since July 2012, will transfer to the Middle East where he will be the assistant program manager at the Health Affairs Division of the Office of the Program Manager, Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program.



Photo by Steven Galvan

Col. (Dr.) Michael D. Wirt (right) takes the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research colors July 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston from Maj. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., commanding general of U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command during the USAISR change of command ceremony.

## 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>.



## News Briefs

### Continued from P3

vate sector will be at the Hiring Heroes Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 17 at the Sam Houston Community Center, 1395 Chaffee Road on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. For information, call 571-372-2123.

### Walters Street, Wilson Way Periodic Closures

With construction continuing at the Walters Street Entry Control Point, the intersection of Walters Street and Wilson Way will be closed periodically through Oct. 7. The closures will occur between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. Monday through Friday. The Walters Street ECP will remain open throughout this time and detour signs will be posted.

### WHASC Step Saver Cart Drivers Needed

The 59th Medical Wing Volunteer Service Office needs licensed drivers at least 20 years of age to transport patients to and from clinic entrances and parking lots in the vicinity of the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Clinic, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Carts operate from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Training is available. Call 292-6591.

### Temporary Lane Closures On Garden Avenue

Construction on Garden Avenue between Wilson Road and Hardee Road will continue through Sept. 11, which will not allow two-way traffic during that time. Access to driveways along both sides of Garden Avenue will remain open.

### Volunteers Needed For Medical Readiness Training

The 937th Training Support Squadron's Medical Readiness Training Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis needs volunteers to serve as patients for medical readiness training. Patients are needed from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays from Sept. 17-18 and Sept. 24-25. Volunteers can assist for one hour or an entire day. Volunteers will be moulaged to have fake injuries, such as gunshot wounds, stab wounds, etc. Volunteers can be in civilian or military clothing, although it is preferable to wear old civilian clothing as the materials used for simulated injuries may stain. Call 808-3406 or 808-3410.

# Army Medical Department, AMEDD Regimental Corps celebrate their respective anniversaries

By Esther Garcia  
AMEDDC&S Public Affairs

Officers, senior non-commissioned officers, civilians and friends of the Army Medical Department gathered at the AMEDD Museum Aug. 1 to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the creation of the AMEDD Regimental Corps and the 239th Anniversary of the AMEDD.

Hosted by members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, the 28th AMEDD Regimental Corps Social is an opportunity for members of the AMEDD to meet and mingle.

According to the AMEDD regiment website (<http://ameddregi->

ment.amedd.army.mil), the U.S. Army Medical Department was formed on July 27, 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized a medical service for an army of 20,000 men.

The Hospital Department was then created and Dr. Benjamin Church of Boston was named as director general and chief physician.

The U.S. Army regimental system was established in 1981 to preserve the history and lineage of the medical department and to provide Soldiers the opportunity to identify with a single regiment.

The U.S. Army Medical Department Regiment was officially

activated July 28, 1986 during ceremonies at Fort Sam Houston. The purpose of the regiment is to develop loyalty and commitment, foster a sense of belonging, improve unit esprit de corps, and commit to the war-fighting ethos.

"The purpose of the creation of our regiment is to enhance combat effectiveness, develop loyalty and commitment," said retired U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. James Aplin, keynote speaker and former command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Health Service Command. "That is really what it is all about. It is the bedrock of what we do. Fostering a sense of belonging, we wear our distinguished crest and folks know that we belong to the AMEDD and that we are special and that we are different."

Aplin said the AMEDD regimental insignia was designed by the Army Institute of Heraldry and is one of the oldest crests in the Army today. The origin of the crest dates from the Act of April 14, 1818, by which the Medical Department of the Army was first organized.

The 20 stars of the crest correspond with the number of the states entering the union between Dec. 10, 1817 and Dec. 3, 1818. The red and white stripes are the 13 stripes of the American flag.

The green staff is the staff of Aesculapius (the son of the Greek god Apollo, the first healer, according to Greek mythology). Green was also a color associated with the medical corps during the last half of

the 19th century.

"My favorite part of the crest is the words 'To Conserve Fighting Strength.' This gives testimony to our mission's combat multiplier, guardians of our nation and how we protect our peace," Aplin said.

"Within the framework of our business, our regiment is filled with words like this: beyond the call of duty, distinguished gallantry, honorable recognition, without regard for self, bravery in action, fearlessness, determined courage, a spirit of self sacrifice, supreme devotion to duty, extraordinary heroism, outstanding courage, and unshakable devotion to duty," Aplin added.

"That is the foundation of our AMEDD Regiment. That is what makes us different from the rest of the Army."



Photo by Esther Garcia

(From left) Spc. Brittany Mabasa, retired Command Sgt. Maj. James Aplin and U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School Chief of Staff Col. Randall Anderson cut the ceremonial cake Aug. 1 celebrating the 28th anniversary of the creation of the AMEDD Regimental Corps and the 239th anniversary of AMEDD during a social hosted by members of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club at the Army Medical Department Museum.

## 232ND MEDICAL BATTALION WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

Col. Jack Davis (center), 32nd Medical Brigade commander, presents the 232nd Medical Battalion colors to incoming commander Lt. Col. Woodrow Nash (left), signifying the acceptance of the duties and responsibilities of the battalion during a change of command ceremony at MacArthur Parade Field July 30. The outgoing commander is Lt. Col. Philip Sheridan (right).

Photo by Ed Dixon



# Building rocking horse helps occupational therapy students

By Lisa Braun  
METC Public Affairs

When Jeffrey Bruce, a clinical coordinator for the occupational therapy assistant program at the Medical Education and Training Campus, was approached by a co-worker with a request to build a rocking horse for his daughter, Bruce told him no ... but he did offer to show him how to make one.

Bruce and his co-worker each built a horse, utilizing the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph wood shop and Bruce's home shop for the majority of their project. Bruce was planning to give his to one of the civilian pediatric therapy clinics that his program sends its students to for phase II training.

"My first thought was

pediatric therapy specialists, as they have been so helpful and willing to take our students," Bruce said. "We knew they were opening a new clinic in Schertz, so I thought this would be a fitting gift."

Before completing the rocking horse, Bruce brought it to the occupational therapy assistant program's workshop to afford students and staff the opportunity to work on it as well.

The occupational therapy assistant workshop allows students to learn therapeutic techniques patients can use to increase tolerance to specific activities, improve motor control, and increase strength and balance. Woodworking is an activity that can be used

**See ROCKING HORSE,  
P14**



Photo by Lisa Braun

Spc. Ryan Jamerson (left) and Spc. Jacqueline Rivera, students in the occupational therapy assistant program at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, sand and clean a wood rocking horse that will be presented to a pediatric therapy clinic. The program's clinical coordinator, Jeffrey Bruce, built the horse and brought it to the occupational therapy assistant program's workshop for students and staff to help finish. The occupational therapy assistant program workshop allows students to learn therapeutic techniques that will help patients increase tolerance to specific activities, improve motor control and increase strength and balance.

## **VIBRANT from P1**

of Indiana and FEMA's regional response coordination center."

This year also marked the first time the Indiana Department of Homeland Security participated in the multi-agency exercise alongside the Department of Defense, FEMA, National Technical, Nuclear Forensics Task Force and the FBI.

"Partnering with the DOD, the National Guard, the state emergency management agencies and learning how we all operate and how we communicate is essential," Gailes said, "because if this ever actually happened, it would be paramount that we have a substantial amount of ground work covered as well as experience that we can build on."

The second half of the exercise, which began Aug. 1 and concluded Aug. 7, focused on the

Command and Control CBRNE Response Elements (C2CRE-A and C2CRE-B), which are essential to the long term response and assisting the local population in gaining a sense of normalcy.

The DOD's C2CRE response force is a 1,500-person-strong element designed to provide lifesaving measures to a 'worst-case scenario' event that occurs on the American home front in the most expedient fashion possible. The DOD has two C2CREs at its disposal. C2CRE-A, Task Force 76, is made up of reserve units from around the nation and C2CRE-B, Task Force 46, is made up of National Guard units. The units are on this mission for one to two years before cycling off.

Once they have arrived on the scene, the task force will monitor situational awareness and assist first responders in

alleviating human suffering. Gailes noted that the main focus and duty of the task forces is to be the nation's secondary response force to any catastrophic, man-made, domestic disaster.

As with any situation involving the homeland, the military gets its marching orders from a civilian authority.

"We are always in support," Gailes said.

As part of VR14 both Task Force 46 and 76 are rehearsing their response capabilities.

"Task Force 76 is going to handle chemical, biological and nuclear responses. We are one of the three elements in the C2CRE enterprise," said Sgt. Maj. William Powers, 302nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Chicopee, Mass.

Powers is also the Task

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**See VIBRANT, P9**

## **VIBRANT from P8**

Force 76 mobilized operations sergeant major.

As for aesthetic authenticity, rubble piles were carefully set up in training sites in both Camp Atterbury and the MUTC to make the venues as challenging as possible to control the search and recovery training.

Several very realistic mannequins were placed throughout the rubble piles, which the search and recovery teams had to cut and dig their way to.

Mannequins, however, were not the only way the units interacted with mock victims. More than 100 role players were hired in order to create the feeling of a real city in distress. "I find it difficult to believe that there is anyplace that can better simulate that environment [a nuclear detonation in a heavily populated area] than here," Gailles said.

The role players were civilians of all ages who had special effects makeup applied to them in order to act as though they were injured and in need of help.

The role players added an element of realism on top of the destroyed buildings; fire, water effects and roads blocked by tons of overturned vehicles and other rubble.

Medical and decontamination units from Mobile, Ala., and Tampa, Fla., ran decontamination stations on site and airlifted the "worst" of the mock victims.

Victims were even hoisted from the tops of buildings in order to give helicopter MEDEVAC units practice in case the time comes for them to put their skills to work.

The exercise focused on Department of Defense support of civil authorities in a consequence management role. All of these

elements came together to provide a whole-of-government response to a disaster, said Gailles. The C2CRE is part of DOD's scalable response capability to assist civilian responders in saving lives, relieving human suffering and mitigating great property damage in response to a catastrophic CBRN incident.

As Vibrant Response 14 concluded, there was evidence that the annual training exercise is evolving and improving each year and as the nation's premier homeland response exercise, VR 14 is a training exercise that continues to provide a plethora of learning experiences for all participants involved.

Gailles remarked, "We learn a lot from our state and local counterparts, and they also learn a lot about our federal capabilities as well."

# New Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center will showcase patient-focused comforts

By Staff Sgt. Chelsea Browning  
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

Construction of the 59th Medical Wing's new Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center continues with an expected completion date in fiscal year 2016.

The 681,000-plus square-foot, state-of-the-art treatment center will replace the existing medical center, which opened in 1957, and was named after Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Wilford Hall on March 2, 1963. Hall is known for his contributions to Air Force medicine in the field of aeromedical evacuation.

Serving more than 55,000 patients, the WHASC will continue its tradition as the U.S. Air Force's flagship medical facility for outpatient care. It will be the largest

outpatient ambulatory surgical center in the Department of Defense.

The new WHASC is designed to provide enhanced outpatient health care in an innovative facility designed to provide a healing environment for patients.

The building will feature logical floor plans that improve operational efficiencies. Design efforts include a holistic environment that incorporates modularly designed clinics promoting future flexibility.

The design concept also incorporates a 50-year-old oak tree into a grove that gives tribute to Wilford Hall's rich history. Interior gardens, roof gardens and plazas are integrated into the overall design.

The facility will feature four wings, housing more than 25 outpatient clinics

and clinic services.

"Progress on the new Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center is going well," said Capt. James Jordan, project health facilities officer. "Construction for the WHASC is comprised of four phases and at this time is scheduled for completion tentatively in fiscal year 2016."

Phase one is complete and consists of the first wing of the building, parking garage and central utility plant.

Phase two, which features the atrium, will build out the second and third wings. It is about 90



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Iinuma

Construction of the 59th Medical Wing's new Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center continues with an expected completion date in fiscal year 2016. The 681,000-plus square-foot treatment center with patient-centered features will replace the existing medical center, which opened in 1957.

percent finished.

Phase three includes the final wing and an ambulance shelter; this

phase is 75 percent complete.

Phase four will demolish the existing WHASC,

and the energy plant, along with other outlying buildings. The site will be restored to add parking and landscaping. This phase begins in fiscal 2015.

"The scope of phase four is being finalized now," Jordan said. "It must be carefully coordinated so as to not interrupt current patient services."

"The new Wilford Hall represents the highest level of enhanced outpatient health care available anywhere," said 59th MDW Commander Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Bart Iddins. "It's a testament to the dedication our men and women of the 59th Medical Wing have for our service members and the more than 240,000 beneficiaries we care for in and around the San Antonio area."

## INSIDE THE GATE

### Family Movie Day

Friday, 1-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. The movie "Rio 2" will be shown followed by a group discussion. Bring chairs, blankets and whatever makes you comfortable and enjoy the show. Call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

### EFMP Splash of Summer Fun Camp

Saturday, 8-11 p.m. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center. This is an event for members

of exceptional family member program and their families. Call 221-2962.

### JBSA-Lackland 5/6 Leadership Meeting

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Gateway Club Alamo Room. Open to all JBSA E-5/E-6. Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, will discuss his thoughts on leadership and the Air Force NCO Corps. Pizza will be provided by the JBSA-Lackland 5/6 group for all attendees. All information, including registration, on professional development is on SharePoint at <https://cs3.eis.af.mil/sites/00-ED-AE-15/default.aspx>. Call 925-8763 or 671-1575 for more information.

### STAGE 4 from P2

number ends in 6 or 7, Thursday is the watering day;

- Address/facility number ends in 8 or 9, Friday is the watering day.

Use of portable yard pools is prohibited, as well as fire hydrant and sewer flushing. Additionally, there will be no watering on weekends with a sprinkler, soaker hose or irrigation system.

All water restriction measures are listed in the JBSA Critical Period Management Plan available online at [www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130809-013.pdf](http://www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130809-013.pdf)

All utilities/well permit

holders (including JBSA and SAWS) who withdraw water from the Edwards Aquifer are required to reduce withdrawals as the level of the Aquifer drops. Many water utilities, such as SAWS, have alternate sources of water that is not pumped from the Edwards Aquifer. Information on SAWS Aquifer Storage and Recovery can be viewed at the following website [http://saws.org/Your\\_Water/WaterResources/projects/asr.cfm](http://saws.org/Your_Water/WaterResources/projects/asr.cfm).

These utilities have more flexibility because they can use non-Edwards water to replace the lost Edwards pumping authority without implementing more se-

vere restrictions to their customers. JBSA does not have this ability – as Edwards restrictions get more stringent, we must pass on these restrictions directly to the JBSA population.

The JBSA Water Conservation Hotline at 466-4H2O (466-4426) allows for reporting of water abusers and will bring potential disciplinary measures to violators. This water point of contact will respond to calls, investigate, annotate abuse and inform the resident, facility manager or responsible individual of the problem. The POCs will then report the problem to the 502nd ABW, with further

action coordinated from this point.

For people who live off base, SAWS has an online form to report water wasters at <http://www.saws.org/conservation/waterwaste/reportform.cfm>. These offenses can lead to citations and fines for homeowners and businesses not following the rules.

If you are not a SAWS customer, please check your water provider's website for their process to report violations.

For more water-saving tips, check out these websites: <http://www.WaterUseItWisely.com> (100+ ways to conserve), <http://www.EPA.gov> and <http://SAWS.org>.

# EFMP arts and dance camps help kids learn new skills

By Lori Newman  
Military & Family Readiness Center

The Exceptional Family Member Program has partnered this summer with Austin art gallery VSA Texas to provide four arts and dance camps throughout Joint Base San Antonio.

"These camps provide exceptional family members the opportunity to learn new skills, challenge their minds and bodies and make new friends through art, dance and martial arts," said Grace Martinez, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston EFMP community readiness specialist.

"VSA Texas helps people from children up to adults with disabilities, no matter what their disability, so everybody can enjoy and have accessibility to the arts. It's also a program that helps disabled veterans transition into civilian life through the arts," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Denise Knebel, San Antonio VSA Texas representative. "VSA Texas gives us grants to do this program in different schools and different venues around Texas."

VSA Texas pays for the artists who are teaching and all of the supplies.

"This is awesome," said Lt. Col. Erica Rabe, 802nd Force Support Squadron commander, during the last day of camp at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. "The cool thing about today is to see the kids smile, but the best part about today is watching the parents smile at their kids smiling."

This was the second year JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Lackland held the camps and the first year at JBSA-Randolph.



Photo by Joycelyn Elaiho

Children learn interpretive dance moves during the June Exceptional Family Member Program Arts and Dance Camp at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Freedom Chapel.

"JBSA-Fort Sam Houston actually held two camps this year," Martinez said. "In June, the camp highlighted photography, art and dance. In July, they focused on art using recycled materials and martial arts."

The children learned about color, completed projects using chalk, glue and water color and also learned about the Mayan culture.

"The first camp, we did photography and visual arts," said VSA Texas in-

structor Fadela Castro. "This time, I wanted to do something different, like recycled art using stuff you find around the house."

To celebrate Independence Day, the children made rockets that looked like the U.S. flag.

"The kids were really good about following step-by-step directions," Castro said. "I'm really proud of the kids."

William Waring, a disabled veteran and second degree black belt with Hill



Photo by Lori Newman

Sofia Wind, 6, and Lolisa Wind, 5, decorate their projects with stickers during the June Exceptional Family Member Program Arts and Dance Camp at the Fort Sam Houston Elementary School.

Country Karate, taught the kids about the history of martial arts and self-defense.

"Self-defense for chil-

dren is really kind of a tricky area," Waring said. "We taught the kids how to get away from adults, how to identify risks they may encounter.

The kids learned how to run away and find someone who could help them, such as parents, teachers, military members, policemen or firemen.

They also learned how to use kicks to break away from someone who may grab them from behind and how to use sticks as weapons to protect themselves.

"Sticks are easy to find and easy to use," Waring said. "We have actually been working on 10 different strikes using sticks."

The children then provided a demonstration of the techniques they learned.

"I think martial arts

are overlooked as a good way for children to learn self-confidence and control," Knebel said. "It helps children adjust, gain confidence and helps them calm down a little bit."

The camps were so successful that they are planned again for next year.

"Smiles on the children's faces every day spoke volumes," said Marcia James, EFMP Community Readiness Consultant at JBSA-Lackland.

"Numerous parents asked if more of the same type of classes could be offered throughout the year," James said.

For more information about the EFMP program, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 221-2705; JBSA-Lackland at 671-3722; or JBSA-Randolph at 671-5321.



Photo by Lori Newman

William Waring, second degree black belt with Hill Country Karate, leads children in demonstrating how to use a stick to defend themselves July 2 at the Fort Sam Houston Elementary School during the final day of the Exceptional Family Member Program Arts and Dance Camp.



# U.S. Army Environmental Command welcomes new top NCO



Photo by Barry R. Napp

Col. Robert C. Wittig (left), commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Command presents incoming USAEC Command Sgt. Maj. Joe M. Ulloth (second from left) the sword of symbolic responsibility Aug. 5 during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston Theater. Ulloth assumed the duty from outgoing USAEC Command Sgt. Maj. Gene E. Canada (second from right). Staff Sgt. Joshua Davis (far right), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, was the sword bearer for the traditional NCO ceremony.

By Barry R. Napp  
USAEC Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Joe M. Ulloth began his duties as U.S. Army Environmental Command's top enlisted Soldier during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston Theater Aug. 5.

Ulloth, who replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Gene Canada, comes to USAEC from 593rd Special Troops Battalion, 593rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

"I'm very excited and honored to be on the USAEC team," Ulloth said. "As the senior enlisted Soldier, I must make sure our Soldiers here and at installations throughout the

world understand the importance of environmental stewardship so they can maximize training to be combat ready and protect our nation."

Ulloth has served in every leadership position from squad leader to command sergeant major and has twice deployed in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This is great news for us. Command Sgt. Maj. Ulloth has played a critical role as a leader throughout his Army career and knows and cares about Soldiers and their Families," said Col. Robert C. Wittig, USAEC commander, as he welcomed Ulloth and his family following the traditional passing of

the NCO sword.

"This senior NCO will take USAEC into the future providing Soldiers the opportunity to maximize the availability of training land resources."

"I have had a big support team throughout my career and I thank Command Sgt. Maj. Canada for laying the groundwork," Ulloth

said. "I owe the greatest success to Soldiers that came before me and taught and mentored me that the Army is about people."

Canada and his family are going to Fort Lee, Va., where he will serve as the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps and School, Sergeant Major of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Directorate.

# Soldiers get new camouflage uniform starting next summer

The Army has confirmed what Soldiers have been hearing rumors about for months – a new camouflage pattern for combat uniforms is on the way with a number of improvements.

Beginning in the fall of 2015, the Army will begin issuing to new Soldiers an Army Combat Uniform that bears the Operational Camouflage Pattern. That same uniform will also become available in military clothing sales stores in the summer of 2015.

Soldiers are expected to retire their current uniform and begin wearing the new pattern by the summer of 2018.

The uniform bearing the new pattern will be largely the same as what Soldiers wear now, except that the lower leg pockets will be closed by a button instead of the “hook and loop” fabric fastener on the current Army Combat Uniform, or ACU.

Soldiers complained that fastener made too much noise in combat environments, officials said. The insert pockets for knee pads and elbow pads will also be removed from the new uniform, according to Program Executive Office Soldier.

Other changes that will be considered by the 2015 Army Uniform Board include:

- Elimination of the mandarin collar and replacement with a fold-down design
- Change of the infrared

square identification for friend or foe, known as the IFF tab

- Removal of one of three pen pockets on the ACU sleeve
- Elimination of the drawstring on the trouser waistband

These last four potential changes have not yet been approved but are being considered, according to Program Executive Office Soldier.

The fabric of the uniform, the cut, the placement of pockets and other details, for instance, will remain the same. It is only the geometry and palette of the camouflage pattern printed on the fabric that will change.

The cost of uniforms with the new pattern will be comparable to the current uniform. At the Fort Myer, Virginia, military clothing sales store, for instance, an ACU top now sells for approximately \$45. The pants sell for around \$45 as well. A cap sells for about \$8.

According to the 2014 pay charts, online at <http://www.dfas.mil>, enlisted Soldiers receive between \$439 and \$468 annually to buy new uniforms – that includes replacing the outgoing UCP ACU with the Operational Camouflage Pattern ACU.

Soldiers will have about three years to transition the contents of their clothing bag to the new uniform. They will also have more than \$1,300 in clothing allowance at their

disposal to make that happen.

The new pattern is different, but visually compatible with what Soldiers wear now in Afghanistan. It does have the same acronym, however.

In Afghanistan, Soldiers wear the “Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern,” OCP for short.

“The Army is naming the pattern the Operational Camouflage Pattern to emphasize that the pattern’s use extends beyond Afghanistan to all combatant commands,” said one senior Army official in a July 31 press release.

The new pattern was designed to meet a 2009 directive by Congress to develop a camouflage uniform suitable for the Afghanistan environment. That initiative, along with Soldier feedback, led the Army to develop the Operational Camouflage Pattern.

As part of that program, the Army was directed to develop and evaluate camouflage patterns that will provide effective concealment in a wide variety of terrains and environments. The Operational Camouflage Pattern is a result of that effort.

As part of the program two “bookend patterns” of OCP are being optimized and evaluated for possible use on Flame Resistant ACUs that would be worn by Soldiers deployed in either arid or heavily wooded terrains.

All organizational clothing

and individual equipment referred to as Modular lightweight load-carrying equipment, such as gear, protective vests, ruck sacks and plate carriers and non-flame resistant ACUs and will be offered in the OCP pattern.

The Army has also said that following rigorous testing and evaluation, the OCP was proven “the best value for the Army. Soldier force protection and safety was the Army’s primary decision criteria,” a senior Army official said.

“The Army has selected a pattern as its base combat uniform camouflage pattern,” explained the official.

“The Army has confirmed through testing that the pattern would offer exceptional concealment, which directly enhances force protection and survivability for Soldiers.”

The senior official said the Army’s adoption of OCP “will be fiscally responsible, by transitioning over time and simply replacing current uniforms and OCIE equipment as they wear out.”

*(Source: U.S. Army public affairs)*



Photo courtesy U.S. Army

Beginning in the fall of 2015, the Army will begin issuing new Soldiers an Army Combat Uniform that bears the Operational Camouflage Pattern. That same uniform will also become available in military clothing sales stores in the summer of 2015.

## ROCKING HORSE from P7

to treat occupational therapy patients.

“I brought the horse in for the students and staff to finish sanding on it during breaks, lunch, etc.,” Bruce said. “People will pass through, grab a piece of sandpaper, sand for 5 or 10 minutes, then leave again.

“I teach woodworking to the students and I tell them, ‘Woodworking can be relaxing.’ This is a good example. Take a few minutes, clear your mind and dirty your hands. Then back to lesson plans, meetings, etc.”

The rocking horse was presented to pediatric therapy specialists at the end of July.



Jeffrey Bruce (left), a clinical coordinator for the occupational therapy assistant program at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, shows off the wood rocking horse he started to build before bringing it into the occupational therapy assistant program’s workshop for students and staff to help finish.

Photo by Lisa Braun

## 2014-2015 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students Grades K-12

This chart summarizes the vaccine requirements incorporated in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 25 Health Services, Sections 97.61 to 97.72. This chart is not intended as a substitute for consulting the TAC, which has other provisions and details.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is granted authority to set immunization requirements by the Texas Education Code, Chapter 38, Health & Safety, Subchapter A, General Provisions.



## IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

A student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to a child-care facility or public or private elementary or secondary school in Texas.

Vaccine Required (Attention to notes and footnotes)	Minimum Number of Doses Required by Grade Level				NOTES
	K - 5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP/DTP/DT/Td/Tdap) <sup>1</sup>	5 doses or 4 doses		3 dose primary series and 1 Tdap/Td booster within last 5 years	3 dose primary series and 1 Tdap/Td booster within last 10 years	For K - 6 <sup>th</sup> grade: 5 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine. 1 dose must have been received on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday. However, 4 doses meet the requirement if the 4 <sup>th</sup> dose was received on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday. For students aged 7 years and older, 3 doses meet the requirement if 1 dose was received on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday. For 7 <sup>th</sup> grade: 1 dose of Tdap is required if at least 9 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. For 8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> grade: 1 dose of Tdap is required when 10 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. Td is acceptable in place of Tdap if a medical contraindication to pertussis exists.
Polio <sup>1</sup>	4 doses or 3 doses				For K - 12 <sup>th</sup> grade: 4 doses of polio. 1 dose must be received on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday. However, 3 doses meet the requirement if the 1 <sup>st</sup> dose was received on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella <sup>1,2</sup> (MMR)	2 doses of MMR	2 doses of measles and 1 dose each of rubella and mumps vaccine			The 1 <sup>st</sup> dose of MMR must be received on or after the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday. For K - 6 <sup>th</sup> grade: 2 doses of MMR are required. For 6 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> grade: 2 doses of a measles-containing vaccine, and 1 dose each of rubella and mumps vaccine is required.
Hepatitis B <sup>2</sup>	3 doses				For students aged 11 - 13 years, 3 doses meet the requirement if adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax <sup>®</sup> ) was received. Dosage and type of vaccine must be clearly documented. Two (2) 10 mcg 1.6 ml doses of Recombivax <sup>®</sup> . If Recombivax <sup>®</sup> is not the vaccine received, a 3-dose series is required.
Varicella <sup>1,2,3</sup>	2 doses	1 dose	2 doses		The 1 <sup>st</sup> dose of varicella must be received on or after the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday. For K - 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> grade: 2 doses are required. For 6 <sup>th</sup> grade: 1 dose is required. For any student who receives the 1 <sup>st</sup> dose on or after 13 years of age, 2 doses are required.
Meningococcal				1 dose	For 7 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> grade: 1 dose required.
Hepatitis A <sup>1,2</sup>	2 doses				The 1 <sup>st</sup> dose of hepatitis A must be received on or after the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday.

## FSHISD notifies public of nondiscrimination in career, technical education programs

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District offers career and technical education programs in the Human Services Career Cluster; the Marketing, Sales and Service Career Cluster and the Hospitality and Tourism Career Cluster.

Admission to these programs is open to all FSHISD-enrolled secondary students and is based on student interest.

It is FSHISD policy not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is also FSHISD policy not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices

as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The FSHISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact Jayne Hatton, Associate Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator at Fort Sam Houston Independent School District, 4005 Winans Road, San Antonio, TX 78234, or by calling 368-8703.

*(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)*

FORT SAM HOUSTON ISD

*Engaging Students. Ensuring Success*

## Dress code helps students 'dress for success'

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District prides itself on high academic and behavioral expectations. The district believes that school performance and future success are enhanced by appropriate dress and good grooming.

The dress code is in effect for students while attending school functions or school sponsored activities on or off school grounds.

Following are FSH's dress code guidelines:

1. Hair must be neat and clean. Unconventional hairstyles (spiked hair, shaved hair designs or extreme hairstyles) that are considered to be distracting and/or disruptive to the educational environment are prohibited. Students may wear natural hair colors only.

2. Halter tops, exposed mid-riffs, strapless and/or low-cut tops, exposed backs, spaghetti straps, see-through clothing, tank shirts and sleeveless athletic shirts are not permitted. Shirts and blouses must extend below the waistband, but cannot extend beyond the student's fingertips when the student is standing. Shoulder straps must be at least two inches wide for students in grades 6 through 12 and must be worn on the shoulder. Underwear shall not be visible or exposed.

3. Clothing with pictures, emblems, symbols (including gang and satanic), slogans or writings that are lewd, offensive, vulgar, obscene, contain sexual innuendoes, promote violence, are disrespectful, or cause disruption to the educational environment as well as articles of clothing that advertise

or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, controlled substances, or other prohibited substances is prohibited at the discretion of the campus administration.

4. Appropriate footwear is required. Footwear that has toes and/or soles reinforced with steel, hard plastic or similar materials is prohibited. Footwear with wheels is prohibited.

5. Shorts will be permitted provided that the shorts are neatly hemmed and conservative and modest in appearance and must extend beyond the student's fingertips when the student is standing or as determined appropriate by an administrator. The same standard applies to slits or slashes in shorts. Over-sized athletic shorts are prohibited. Form fitting and skintight shorts, pants (i.e. leggings or jeggings), or body stockings of spandex worn alone or other similar materials worn alone are prohibited.

6. Pants and shorts shall be worn securely at the waist. Sagging is prohibited. Worn, torn, cut-offs, over-sized or long clothing is not permitted. Underwear shall not be visible or exposed. Warm-up suits, sweat suits or wind pants except during physical education classes are prohibited in grades 6 through 12.

7. Dresses, skirts, skorts and split-skirts will be permitted provided that they are neatly hemmed, conservative, and modest in appearance and must extend beyond the student's fingertips when the student is standing or

as determined appropriate by an administrator. The same standard applies to slits or slashes in skirts or dresses.

8. Earrings or body piercing ornaments and other similar ornaments will be worn on the ear only. No gauges, spikes or thumbtacks may be worn. Band aids may not be used to cover body piercings not in the ear.

9. Visible tattoos must be covered while in the classroom, on school grounds, at school-related activities or school-sponsored events.

10. Hats, caps, or other head apparel ("do rags" or bandanas) are not permitted with the exception of JROTC, PE classes with permission of the teacher or those that meet medical needs of students. Hoods on hooded sweat-shirts, shirts, and jackets may not be worn during instructional time or while in the building. Hats, caps or other head apparel must be placed in backpacks prior to entering the building for students in grades 6 through 12.

11. Any apparel or attire that is considered to be distracting and/or disruptive to the educational environment (such as pajamas, lounging undershirts, pajama style clothing, temporary or permanent cosmetics, ornamental dental applies, "grills", house shoes, shower shoes, hair curlers/rollers, picks, sunglasses, studded jewelry, spikes or chains of any type) or is considered a safety concern is prohibited. Hats, caps or other head apparel

## District offers opportunities for numerous academic, extra-curricular activities

Schools in the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District provide numerous opportunities for students to excel in academics, athletics, fine arts and areas of leadership.

Recognizing that students possess rich and varied experiences, a wide range of instructional arrangements and programs are provided to meet their specific learning needs.

Services are provided for those identified as at-risk, disabled, gifted and talented, limited English proficient, and those whose previous educational experiences are inconsistent with Texas requirements. A team approach ensures that all students receive access to a rigorous educational program while receiving services to achieve academic excellence.

Seniors at Robert G. Cole High School consistently graduate prepared for college and the workplace. Cole's 2014 class of 82 students were offered a total of 191 scholarships, with 61 from private organizations, 11 from colleges and universities and 18 from ROTC programs.

Cole students actively participate in Academic Decathlon and University Interscholastic League competitions, special events designed for gifted and talented students, in addition to participation in rigorous summer academic and leadership camps.

Strong chapters exist of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society with a focus on scholarship, citizenship, service, leadership, and character; the Sigma Tau Delta National English Honor Society recognizes past and current academic accomplishments; Spanish and French Honor Society recognize the value of learning other languages; and Mu Alpha Theta National High School and College Mathematics Honor Society is for students with a keen interest and ability in mathematics.

Fine arts programs are available for students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. All elementary students attend classes taught by certified teachers in music, art, and theatre arts. An exemplary fine arts program is also available for eligible fifth-grade students.

Middle and high school students continue with classes in art, choir, band, and theatre arts with an opportunity to participate in numerous UIL competitions.

Health and wellness is also a priority in our schools. All students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade participate in physical education classes taught by certified teachers. The athletics program was recently expanded to include middle school students and compliments a strong high school athletics program.

Preparing our students to live and work in a

# School district offers free, reduced-price meals for qualified families

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District has 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 reduced 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 submitted 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 phone at 368-8700 or in writing 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

## Family Eligibility Income Chart

Household size	Annual Income Free	Annual Income Reduced
1	\$15,151	\$21,590
2	\$20,449	\$29,101
3	\$25,727	\$36,612
4	\$31,005	\$44,123
5	\$36,283	\$51,634
6	\$41,561	\$59,145
7	\$46,839	\$66,656
8	\$52,117	\$74,167
9	\$57,395	\$81,678
10	\$62,673	\$89,189
11	\$67,951	\$96,700
12	\$73,229	\$104,211

For each additional family member add: +\$5,278 +\$7,511

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

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.

*Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at 202-690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339; or 800-845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider.*

## DRESS from P16

must be placed in backpacks prior to entering the building for students in grades 6 through 12.

While it is inevitable that there will be differences of opinion as to the appropriateness of dress, grooming, and/or determining whether or not a student's attire is disruptive or distracting to the educational environment of the school, the final determination will be made by the campus administration.

Students who choose to violate the dress and grooming code will be sent

to an administrator for clarification and/or disciplinary action. Parents will be contacted and requested to bring a change of clothes so that the student will be in compliance with the dress code.

If available, the student may also change into clothing provided by the school. Repeated violations of the dress code will be construed as insubordination and further disciplinary consequences will be incurred by the student.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)

## ACTIVITIES from P16

global community, the district offers students in kindergarten through twelfth grade the opportunity to learn languages other than English. Currently, one class of students at each grade in the elementary school is learning to speak Spanish. Students transitioning to middle school continue their learning and can take more advanced classes in high school in Spanish or French.

Career opportunities exist for students in high school culinary arts, journalism, photography, and multi-media classes. One of the most popular electives in high

school is JROTC as students contribute to their school and the San Antonio community in numerous ways, often leading to careers in the military.

Leadership and learning experiences also exist on both campuses with Student Council organizations and programs to ease the transition of students new to schools through the elementary Ambassador program and secondary Student to Student programs. Elementary students have after school opportunities to participate in a robotics club and science club.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)