

FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

APRIL 5, 2012
VOL. 54, NO. 14



**EASTER
SUNRISE
SERVICE**
APRIL 8
6:30 a.m.
Outside
Gift Chapel

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

Easter Egg Hunt entertains kids



Photo by Deyanira Romo Rossell

Gabrielle Simmons stops to load her basket with eggs she collected at the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Joint Base San Antonio - Fort Sam Houston March 31 at Fort Sam Houston's Dodd Field.

Mission and Installation Contracting Command welcomes new leader

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs

Command of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command changed hands during a ceremony in front of the historic Long Barracks March 28 attended by Fort Sam Houston leaders, local civic

dignitaries and members of the command.

Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke assumed command from Brig. Gen. Stephen Leisenring in a ceremony that was officiated by Dr. Carol Lowman, executive director of the

See MICC, P15

AMEDD Center & School welcomes Volpe, bids farewell to Rubenstein

By Esther Garcia
AMEDDC&S Public Affairs Office

Maj. Gen. Philip Volpe officially took command of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School from outgoing commanding general Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein during a change of command ceremony at MacArthur Parade field March 27.

Fort Sam Houston leaders, family, and friends from the San Antonio community gathered at MacArthur Pavilion to meet and welcome Volpe and

to say farewell to Rubenstein, who commanded the AMEDDC&S for two years.

“Sam Houston once said a leader is someone who helps improve the lives of other people or improve the system they live under,” said Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, Army Surgeon General and commanding general for the U.S. Army Medical Command and host for the ceremony.

“Army Medicine continuously aims to improve life for all its beneficiaries and I can’t think of any Army leaders that epitomize this

more than the two distinguished leaders who are here with us today, Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein and Maj. Gen. Phil Volpe,” Horoho added.

The Army surgeon general said under Rubenstein’s command, the AMEDDC&S earned four full accreditations from military and civilian evaluation teams providing the quality of its team work and garnering positive national attention.

“An inspirational and visionary leader, David

See AMEDDCS, P11



Incoming commander Maj. Gen. Philip Volpe accepts the US Army Medical Department Center and Schools colors from Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho (left), Army Surgeon General and commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Command, during a change of command ceremony at MacArthur Parade Field March 27. To the right is outgoing commanding general Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein and AMEDDC&S Command Sgt. Maj. James Diggs.

Photo by Esther Garcia

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

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Airman and father speaks out about sexual assault

By Master Sgt. Ben Jefferson Jr.
Total Force Service
Center-San Antonio



As a child, I watched helplessly as my father abused my mom. With eight sisters, I sometimes witnessed firsthand some volatile encounters with the men in their lives.

While my living conditions changed after joining the military more than 24 years ago, life – the bad stuff – can never be avoided no matter where you go and what you do.

At my first base, my co-worker was a victim of rape, and later I supervised an Airman who was sexually assaulted.

All of this helped shape the man and leader I am today, and played an integral role during my Bystander Intervention Training course at Elmendorf Air Force Base,

Alaska, in 2009.

Bystander Intervention Training teaches people to be more aware of their surroundings and to report inappropriate actions, without getting physically involved in every situation.

Crisisconnection.org defines bystander as “someone who is a witness to an event but is not directly involved.

An active bystander is a witness to behavior that is violent or unfair and speaks up against it.”

An active bystander is committed to acting in a responsible manner to situations that can cause harm to another human being.

When you stop a friend from getting into a fight, help a child find

their parent, call 911 after an accident, or report sexual harassment of a co-worker, these are examples of active bystander intervention.

We ask personnel to become active bystanders in and out of uniform, at home and away.

We ask military and civilian members to use these techniques and incorporate the Air Force Wingman concept not only at Joint Base San Antonio but everywhere they go.

Look at someone you do not know as a loved one because they are someone's loved one.

Many of the scenarios we use to teach in this course center around female victims; however, it is my responsibility as a facilitator to teach males they can also be victims.

During my training

course at Elmendorf, the question was asked, “Men what do you do to prevent yourself from being sexually assaulted?” The class was silent!

When the same question was asked to the women, they could not stop identifying the protective measures they take.

At this time the light bulb went off in the heads of the men in the class and they stated, “We do the same thing, except we are just trying to prevent ourselves from being assaulted period!”

At this point, the stories began to fly from attendees about their experiences and ones that occurred during their career.

Bystander Intervention Training is a way to open up the channels of communication on subjects that can be hard to discuss.

Sexual harassment and assault happens mostly to those between the ages of 18-24.

As a father of a 20-year-old son, it my responsibility to have this conversation with as many males as I encounter.

So I challenge you to talk to those you supervise and, most importantly, to those you love, and teach them how to be an active bystander as they go through life experiences.

How would you feel if someone just watched, said or did nothing while your loved one was attacked? Do not be that bystander.

Step up and act by speaking out, calling 911 and/or yelling for help. Do something that will not only be safe for them, but for you as well. Be an active bystander!

(Editor's Note: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month)

SAAM EVENTS

The schedule for Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Awareness Month events is:

- April 14:** Famaganza, Randolph AFB Youth Center, Building 585, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- April 20:** “Shoot-Out Sexual Assault” 3-on-3 basketball tournament and 3-point Shoot-Out, Lackland AFB, Warhawk Fitness Center, Building 2418, 1 p.m.
- April 20:** “Choose Respect” teen dance, Lackland AFB Youth Center, Building 8420, 8-11 p.m.
- April 21:** Kids Day at the Park, San Pedro Springs Park, 1415 San Pedro Ave., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- April 26:** SAAM presentation for leaders by Anne Munch, J.D., for commander's, E-9's and first sergeants, Lackland AFB, IAAFA Academy Auditorium, Building 7356, 2-3 p.m.
- April 27:** SAAM presentation for leaders by Anne Munch, J.D., for commander's, E-9's and first sergeants, Fort Sam Houston, location to be determined.
- April 28:** 5K Run For Awareness, Fort Sam Houston, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, corner of Reynolds and Wilson Way, 7 a.m.

In addition to these events, there will be awareness tables set up at various locations throughout the month at each installation.

For more information about a specific event contact any of the following Sexual Assault Prevention and Response offices for more details: Fort Sam Houston, 808-6316 or 0110; Lackland AFB, 671-7273; and Randolph AFB, 652-4386.

To report a sexual assault, call the Fort Sam Houston Crisis Hotline at 722-4920.

News Briefs

HHC, 106th Signal Battalion Change of Command

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 106th Signal Brigade, hosts a change of command ceremony at 10 a.m. April 6 at the MacArthur Parade Field. Capt. Manuel A. Sample will be taking over command from Capt. Richard Jimenez. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the Fort Sam Houston Teen Center Gymnasium. For more information, call 295-5940.

FSH Vet Facility Testing Clinic Management System

The Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Treatment Facility is a test site for a new web-based clinic management system that will improve patient recordkeeping. Over the next several weeks, appointments will take a little longer as we learn to enter valuable information in the new system. Unfortunately, fewer appointments will be available during this time. For more information, call 808-6101/6104.

Change with Processing DFAS PCS Travel Order Vouchers

Are you a civilian employee relocating? The DFAS-Columbus office no longer processes civilian PCS vouchers. This function will now be done by DFAS-Rome. For additional details, visit the Fort Sam Houston CPAC website at <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/cpac/> or the DFAS website at <http://www.dfas.mil/pcstravel/civlatestnews.html>.

Commercial Travel Office Closure

The Carlson-Wagonlit Travel Office at Building 367 will now close from noon to 1 p.m. daily.

Start a career with CID

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command needs qualified active duty Soldiers to become Special Agents. Contact the Fort Sam Houston CID Office at 221-1764 to set up an interview to determine if you meet the minimum requirements, or stop by 2164 Wilson Way, Building 268 during duty hours. The CID agents will provide assistance in guiding the applicant through the application process. Information could also be found at the Army CID website at <http://www.cid.army.mil>.

See NEWS, P4

Two METC instructors selected as Navy Medicine's best

By Larry Coffey
Navy Medicine Support Command Public Affairs

Two of Navy Medicine's top instructors for 2011 are assigned to Fort Sam Houston's Tri-Service Medical Education and Training Campus, Navy Medicine's education and training director announced March 28.

"It is my pleasure to announce that Chief Hospital Corpsman Christopher Owens, a pharmacy technician instructor at the METC is the Senior Instructor of the Year," said Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin, who manages Navy Medicine's training and education commands and programs, including enlisted medical training for Hospital Corpsmen, the Navy's largest rating, as well as operational medical training and graduate education.

"Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Sara Whipple, a medical laboratory technician instructor at METC, is the Junior Instructor of the Year," Valentin added. "I extend my congratulations and thanks to both of these outstanding Sailors."

Owens and Whipple, now Navy Medicine's top instructors, teach at the Department of Defense's Tri-Service METC, but are stationed at Navy Medicine Training Support Center at Fort Sam Houston, the Navy service-element command for the METC. NMTSC is an NMSC



subordinate command.

Valentin acknowledged all finalists and extended to them "my gratitude for the fantastic job and contributions they have made to the mission of Navy Medicine. I truly appreciate their hard work, dedication and support," said Valentin, who is also the Navy's Medical Service Corps director.

"Your recognition is well deserved, and I am very proud of you and your contributions in creating Navy Medicine's future leaders."

Owens is the Navy Service Lead and a Master Training Specialist at the METC. He leads an instructional team of three senior officers, and 27 enlisted and civilian personnel responsible for training more than 500 pharmacy technician students annually from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, other U.S. federal



health agencies, and allied nations.

The Pharmacy Program is accredited by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists.

Whipple is a medical laboratory technician training instructor, the Navy Phase 2 Coordinator and a master training specialist.

She leads a joint Army and Navy instructional team responsible for training more than 240 Army and Navy students annually through more than 1,040 instructional hours. The Medical Laboratory Technician Program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

Rear Adm. Bob Kiser, METC commandant, commended Owens and Whipple, as well as all METC instructors.

"I am tremendously proud of

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Sara Whipple, medical laboratory technician instructor instructs students Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Jose Cortez (left) and Hospitalman Charles Moore (right) at the Medical Education and Training Campus April 2. Whipple is the Navy's Junior Instructor of the Year. Chief Hospital Corpsman Christopher Owens (right), pharmacy technician instructor, works with Hospital Recruit Cody Jellison in the lab at METC April 2. Owens is the Navy's Senior Instructor of the Year.

Photos by Lori Newman

all of our outstanding instructors and staff who shape our future enlisted medical force at the Medical Education and Training Campus," Kiser said. "Petty Officer Whipple and Chief Owens are the cream of the crop and are enormously deserving of this great honor. My congratulations go out to both of these fine instructors."

NMSC and its subordinate commands are part of the Navy Medicine team, a global healthcare network of 63,000 Navy medical personnel around the world who provide high-quality health care to more than 1 million eligible beneficiaries.

Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ship, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.

Senator highlights 470th MI Brigade Women's History Month

By Gregory Rippes
470th MIB Public Affairs

The 470th Military Intelligence Brigade's observance of Women's History Month featured a speech by state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte at the Fort Sam Houston Community Center "Big Area Tent" March 26.

In introducing the Texas legislator, Col. Pierre Gervais, brigade commander, addressed this year's theme, "Women's Education-Women's Empower-

ment." He briefly recounted women's education in the United States, noting that women's attainment of higher education is a recent phenomenon.

"Today in our Army, we have women successfully leading at all levels and ranks," he said. "These women are shining examples of our great nation, and so is our guest speaker today."

Van de Putte is serving her fifth term as a Texas state senator, following five terms as a state representative.

In addition to other committee assignments, the lieutenant governor appointed her to chair the Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee.

"It's the best job in Texas government," she said. "We all want to make Texas the best state for military and their families and for veterans and their families."

Turning to the theme of Women's History Month, she said, "This is one month you get to think about everything

women did in our struggle."

Van de Putte shared part of her own struggle to become a pharmacist, her primary career. She first encountered obstacles to pursuing her primary vocation when she began high school in what she termed "systemic" discrimination against girls.

"You had to take algebra in your freshman year so you could take calculus in your

See SENATOR, P5

News Briefs

from P3

Military Tax Assistance Centers Open

Active duty military members, military retirees, and their families can take advantage of free tax services at the Military Tax Assistance Centers. The 502nd Mission Support Group's legal office opens offers the main site at 2271 Reynolds Road, at the corner of Wilson and Reynolds Roads, as well as a San Antonio Military Medical Center satellite office at the L44-6 conference room. All tax returns are completed on an appointment-only basis. Customers need to bring their W-2s, 1099-Rs and all other tax-related documents to their appointment. The main site phone number is 295-1040 and the SAMMC satellite phone number is 916-1040.

Nominations open for AUSA Volunteer Family of Year

The Association of the U.S. Army's Volunteer Family of the Year award recognizes an exceptional Army family whose dedicated volunteer service significantly contributes to improving Army well-being and the well-being of the local community and is open to families from active duty, National Guard, Reserves, retirees and Army civilians. Nominations for the award must be submitted only through AUSA chapters. Deadline is May 1. For more information, call the Alamo Chapter of the AUSA at (818) 516-3442.

Civilian Record Brief snapshot of personnel data

The Civilian Record Brief is a one-page snapshot of an employees' official personnel data. To access your CRB, click on the Army Civilian Personnel On-Line Portal page at <http://acpol.army.mil/>. For more information and to view a sample CRB along with the CRB Quick Guide, visit the Fort Sam Houston Civilian Personnel Advisory Center website at <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/cpac/>.

JBSA FAP CareLine

Reporting procedures for the Joint Base San Antonio Family Advocacy Program CareLine have been streamlined to ensure the easiest access and assistance to those in need of services related to the prevention of family maltreatment in our communi-

See NEWS, P10

AMEDDC&S dedicates Warrior Medic Memorial

By Phil Reidinger
AMEDDC&S Public Affairs

Staff and faculty members of the Army Medical Department Center and School assembled in the foyer of Aabel Hall March 23 to dedicate the new building entrance exhibit to Soldiers who have given their lives in service to the Army Medical Department.

In addition to featuring the command's mission to envision, design and train a premier medical force for decisive action, the new exhibit tells the history of the Army Medical Department Center and School and the Medical Field Service School, which traces its origin to 1920 at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

The Warrior Medic Memorial honors the 200 AMEDD officers, NCOs and enlisted Soldiers who have died supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn serving the Army Medical Department in a variety of occupational specialties.

After World War II, the Army relocated the Medical Field Service School from



Photo by Phil Reidinger

(From left) Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School commanding general, Col. Dawn Smith, AMEDDC&S chief of staff, and Garry Oakley, assistant chief of staff for facilities/engineering, prepare the cement on the last tile to complete the unit crest mosaic at the entrance to Aabel Hall during dedication ceremonies of the new command exhibit.

Carlisle Barracks to Fort Sam Houston in 1946.

The school headquarters was located in the former 9th Infantry Regiment headquarters buildings, which are currently the home of Instal-

lation Management Command. Students attended class in a variety of buildings located on the post.

The school leadership sought a consolidated training and headquarters facility on post

and in 1970 Congress appropriated \$9.8 million for the construction of the first building complex designed specifically for the MFSS.

See AABEL, P10

Liberty Barracks latest warrior transition facility

By Sgt. Lee Ezzell
ARNORTH Public Affairs

Fort Sam Houston officially welcomed the opening of its newest wounded warrior barracks during a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 2.

Liberty Barracks, the latest warrior transition facility, will be home to Soldiers as they undergo treatment and rehabilitation at nearby Brooke Army Medical Center.

One of the distinguished guests helping to cut the ribbon was also the most recent Purple Heart recipient as well.

Maj. Gen. Walter Davis, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, presented the Purple Heart Award to Sgt. Richard Rye, who was wounded

by small-arms fire while conducting motor pool operations in December 2011.

Rye served as a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 125th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Davis quoted Winston Churchill in presenting the Purple Heart, saying that while Soldiers and other service members often stand humbly before such figures as the esteemed British prime minister or general officers such as himself, it is the generals and prime ministers who are in greater awe and most humble before heroes such as Rye and others like him.

The general also said it is



Photo by Sgt. Lee Ezzell

Sgt. Richard Rye assists the Texas State Sen. Jeff Wentworth and ARNORTH's deputy commanding general Maj. Gen. Walter Davis as they cut a ribbon to open the Wounded Warrior Liberty Barracks April 2.

See WTB, P11

SENATOR from P3

senior year so that you could study to become a pharmacist in college,” she said. “However, girls were discouraged from taking algebra.”

Her persistence paid off – she was one of two girls to take algebra in a class of 30.

Ultimately she completed college and became a pharmacist, a vocation she holds 32 years later.

She credits her father for encouraging her. When she was a child, whenever anyone said that she was a pretty little girl, her father immediately responded that she was the smartest girl in her class.

“Because he said it, I thought it might be true,” she said, and that prompted her to try even harder.

The senator emphasized the importance of



Photo by Gregory Ripps

Familiar with the military custom, Sen. Leticia Van de Putte slips one of her own “challenge” coins to Sgt. 1st Class Sandra Hocking of the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade as she shakes hands. Col. Pierre Gervais, brigade commander, looks on. Earlier, the senator addressed members of the brigade as featured speaker at its March 26 observance of Women’s History Month.

the home and the family in framing children’s regard for their roles in society when they became adults.

“It’s important that when we raise our sons ... we set a good example,” she said. “Jokes about gender should not

be tolerated.”

Van de Putte said we must value each individual.

“When we celebrate this month, we can celebrate our own daughters and granddaughters,” she said. “When women work at it, they can achieve it.”

201st MI Bn Soldiers perform weapons training off post

By Spc. Qaasim Jenkins and
Gregory Ripps
470th MIB Public Affairs

Soldiers of the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion took their weapons training to a public range on their Safety Stand-Down Day March 9 to obtain first-hand knowledge of non-standard U.S. Army issue guns.

"These range activities provided a hands-on approach for the Soldiers to familiarize themselves with several types of weapon possibilities," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Flores, who helped organize the event.

"This training could assist Soldiers deployed overseas in scenarios where familiarity with other weapons could become a matter of life or death."

Flores coordinated the training with Kathy Morningside and Carol Hester of the Bullet Hole Shooting Range on San Antonio's west side.

Flores and 1st Lt. Alexandr D'Agostino, range safety officer for the training, said the shooting range met all their size and training requirements, which included separate ranges for rifles, pistols and shotguns.

The Soldiers were briefed for each of the ranges, then proceeded to familiarize themselves with various weapons and fire them with one-on-one guidance from fellow Soldiers.

Among the weapons were an AK47, an M4 with sniper scope, a Glock 19 handgun and a Stevens 350 12-gauge shotgun.



Photo by Sgt. Oscar Marroquin

Spc. Qaasim Jenkins fires an AK47 at the Bullet Hole Shooting Range during the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion's Safety Stand-Down Day March 9.

The Soldiers later received classroom instruction from Capt. Mike Tacquard from the Texas Highway Patrol.

Tacquard covered Texas gun laws, focusing on applications of the Castle Doctrine, which allows people to use deadly force to defend their homes under specified circumstances, and the state's driving-while-intoxicated laws.

A retired Air Force chief master sergeant who works at the THP Tactical Training Center, Tacquard said THP also works with numerous civic groups on topics ranging from child safety to concealed hand guns, stressing public safety awareness.

"Always check with local authorities wherever you are stationed to obtain clarification of laws," Tacquard said, offering advice to Soldiers when they find themselves in other states.

"Don't listen to the guy next door. His information is generally incorrect, and if you follow it, you will find yourself in trouble with the authorities and in your military career. Do your own research."

D'Agostino said the shooting range event was part of dynamic hands-on safety program to engage, challenge and motivate Soldiers that was implemented by the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Joe Barber, with the guidance of the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade commander, Col. Pierre Gervais.

"Soldiers were equipped not only with the skills to fire weapons but also with the knowledge of their rights, responsibilities and possible consequences if they ever discharge their privately owned weapon in self-defense," Flores said about the training day.

Earth Day Month events commence at JBSA

By Robert Goetz
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

A golf tournament, an environmental booth at a Fiesta celebration, and a Fun Run headline a month's worth of activities as Joint Base San Antonio prepares to celebrate Earth Day/Month 2012.

This year's Joint Base San Antonio activities kicked off March 29, when Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter, JBSA commander, proclaimed April as Earth Day/Month.

This year's Air Force theme is "Conserve Today. Secure Tomorrow." The proclamation encourages people in the JBSA community to "think and act as a responsible trustee of Earth, seeking the best choices in an effort to eliminate pollution in an



effort to foster a brighter future for all individuals."

The Fort Sam Houston environmental unit led the way this year with their annual Basura Bash event Feb. 25, an event that concentrates on waterway cleanup in areas around JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, including Salado Creek.

According to Kristen Lynch, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron environmental engineer, the Basura Bash was the "most successful so far."

Celebrations through-

out the month include activities at all three locations.

The Earth Day Celebration and Fun Run will begin at 9 a.m. April 19 at JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Adventure Center Trails.

The Earth Day Golf Tournament is planned for 10:30 a.m. April 19 at the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course.

The environmental booth will be part of the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Fiesta day events starting at 5:30 p.m. April 22.

These events join a list of established events, including a month-long environmental awareness display at the JBSA-Randolph Library starting April 1, various JBSA-Lackland Recycling Center events on April 12, 21 and 25, environmental and energy kiosks April 18 at the JBSA-Randolph base exchange, and activities at the JBSA-Randolph Elementary School April 20 and Tree City USA/Arbor Day Ceremony at JBSA-Fort

Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph.

Tiffany Evans, 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron environmental engineer, said she hopes the golf outing will allow more people to be exposed to Earth Day's environmental awareness message.

"It's also something fun to do outside in the fresh air," she said. "We'll have an environmental kiosk set up at the golf club and we'll have literature to distribute." In addition, Earth Day trivia will be posted at each hole, Evans said.

Judy Lopez, 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron environmental engineer, said JBSA activities "will raise awareness and provide information to the base community."

The planned JBSA activities, like the celebration at Lackland Adventure Center Trails April 19, includes booths with

environmental-themed information, giveaways, fitness challenges, equipment demonstrations and a deejay. There will be a complimentary lunch while supplies last.

Environmental brochures, fliers and freebies will be distributed at the Randolph Base Exchange event April 18, and will include 902nd CES energy office personnel and CPS Energy representatives which will also take part in the event.

April 5 is the deadline to enter the April 19th Earth Day Golf Outing, which includes 18 holes of golf, a riding cart, entry gifts, a barbecue dinner and awards. Registration will start at 10:30 a.m. the day of the event. To reserve a place, call 652-0077.

For more information on Earth Day/Month events, call 652-2251, 671-5305 or 221-4251.

Your pet at 10,000 feet: traveling and PCSing with pets

By Maj. Todd M. Thomas
Public Health Command
Region-South
Military Working Dog Consultant

There are many regulations about flying with and transporting our pets. Knowing and abiding by these rules is the pet owners' responsibility, with veterinary personnel guiding you through the process.

A licensed veterinarian must issue a health certificate to all animals traveling by air within 10 days of transport. Health certificates can be obtained by appointment at U.S. Army Veterinary Treatment Facilities worldwide.

This website includes links to all VTFs: <http://vetcom.amedd.army.mil/map.html>

For people going to Japan, Hawaii or Guam,



Courtesy photo

these locations require long quarantine periods (3-6 months) before your animal will be admitted beyond the arrival point. The process to qualify for shorter quarantine periods requires multiple visits with your pet to your local VTF.

Failure to follow the proper timeline can result in extended quarantine times for your pets and large out of pocket expenses upon arrival.

For all destinations outside the continental United States, an ISO (International Organization for

Standardization)-compatible microchip must be implanted before the rabies vaccine is given for the rabies to be considered valid.

The ISO-compatible microchips have a 15-digit ID. If your pet's chip ID is shorter, it may need to be re-chipped and re-vaccinated. For most destinations, the most current rabies vaccine must be in the animal 30 days prior to arrival.

Additionally, many countries require health certificates and rabies certificates from civilian veterinarians to have original signatures and to be countersigned or stamped by a U.S.D.A. veterinarian.

For most, but not all, countries, original signatures by U.S. Army Veterinary Corps Of-

icers are exempt from this requirement, so it may be advantageous to complete all of the steps in the process through the local VTF.

Regulations also prevent our pets from riding in temperatures under 45 degrees or over 85 degrees for more than 45 minutes.

This can be a major concern depending on what cities your flight goes through during your travels. It may be necessary to ship the pet before or after the PCS in order to safely transport.

For other foreign countries, see the listed websites and contact your local VTF.

Questions about sedatives, food and water the day of travel

See PETS, P9

TIPS FROM SUCCESSFUL TRAVELERS

- Plan months in advance
- Stay flexible
- Contact the commercial airline months before you PCS
- Fly to any major hub
- Stay overnight if necessary
- Rent a car and drive to your destination
- Take leave to avoid being rushed
- Send your family with pets either before or after the weather embargo starts
- Contact a pet broker to ship your pets in case you cannot take them with you
- Allow sufficient time between connecting flights in case there are delays or your pets cannot fly due to weather restrictions
- Have a list of hotels that accept pets in the cities you are stopping
- Do time consuming tasks weeks before you PCS
- Make an appointment with the Veterinary Treatment Facility for a health certificate within 10 days of your departure. Call well ahead of time to ensure availability.

If you have further questions, need to schedule an appointment to obtain a health certificate or want to pick up copies of your pets' medical records for travel, call your Veterinary Treatment Facility. Happy and safe traveling!

PETS from P8

and traveling with very old, young or debilitated animals are best addressed with a veterinarian before the date for the final health certificate exam.

Appointments at the VTFs fill up fast, so plan to call to schedule at least 2-3 weeks before the travel date. Call several months before moving OCONUS to ensure you pet meets the import requirements.

Contact the VTF as soon as you have your Request For Orders or orders. The Fort Sam Houston VTF appointment numbers are 808-6104 or 808-6101.

USEFUL WEBSITES

TSA Traveling with Pets http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/assistant/editorial_1036.shtm

International requirements listed by destination
<http://vetcom.amedd.army.mil/vetops/international.html>

Battling mosquitoes and West Nile Virus

By Capt. Lyndsay Knoblock-Fast
Entomologist, Brooke Army
Medical Center

The mosquitoes are back in business for 2012.

In 2011, West Nile virus was reported in 49 states and the District of Columbia. In all, a total of 690 human cases and 43 fatalities were reported in 2011.

In Texas, there were 26 human cases resulting in two fatalities. The majority of these cases (14) were centered in Harris County.

While all human cases of WNV are unfortunate, there are several ways to prevent human exposure to these blood seeking critters.

People become infected with WNV by the bite of an infectious mosquito. Only certain species of mosquitoes

are infectious.

Mosquitoes become infected by feeding on infected birds. It is through this means that they can infect other birds or humans. It is not transmitted from person to person.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, even in areas where WNV has been documented, less than 1 percent of the mosquitoes are infected.

In addition, less than 1 percent of the individuals who are actually bitten by an infected mosquito develop severe symptoms. Therefore, the chance of you becoming seriously ill from any one mosquito bite is extremely small.

Basic personal protective measures can be implemented in and around the home to mitigate the potential for

WNV transmission.

Eliminating standing water around your home and in your neighborhood is critical.

If you have recycling bins with open tops, place a tiny hole in the bottom to keep them drained. Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.

Scrub and change the water in birdbaths. Get rid of old tires, bottles, tin cans, buckets or drums, or turn them over.

On a more individual level, wear a long sleeve shirt or pants if you are going to be outdoors at dawn, dusk, or the early evening.

Most importantly, spray insect repellent on your clothing and rub it gently on your face, ears, neck, and hands.

For children between the ages of 2 and 12



Photo courtesy of CDC

People become infected with West Nile virus by the bite of an infectious mosquito. Only certain species of mosquitoes are infectious.

years, a DEET (active ingredient) concentration between 5 and 10 percent is recommended.

For older individuals, a 20 to 30 percent concentration is suggested.

A surveillance and testing program is in place on Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis. Mosquito traps to monitor population density and to collect adult female mosqui-

toes for WNV analysis are placed in several locations throughout the installation and camp by the preventive medicine entomologist.

Mosquito traps are generally operated two to three nights per week. Trapped mosquitoes are sent to Public Health Command South for WNV testing.

For more information, call 295-2500 or 2742.

AABEL from P4

The late Henry B. Gonzales of the 20th Congressional District helped secure funds for the construction and was the principal speaker for the groundbreaking ceremony July 18, 1970.

“The money spent to build and equip the new school should be considered an investment in life for all mankind because the techniques for the preservation of human life developed at the school have universal application,” Gonzales said at the groundbreaking.

Construction on the facility began immediately and the San Antonio-based Browning Construction Company completed construction in

the winter of 1972.

The smaller of the two buildings was designed specifically as an administrative building, although the first floor and basement of the basement contained student-related activities as the officer student battalion personnel services, the school library and reading room, a post office and a book store. The second and third floors contained the commandant's office and other staff administrative facilities.

The larger building, the school house was designed to house 48 classrooms, with a seating capacity of 3,000.

On Dec. 10, 1972, administration building B-2840 and primary academic building B-2841 of

the Medical Field Service School were renamed in honor of Col. Bernard Aabel, Medical Service Corps and Maj. General John M. Willis, Medical Corps, respectively.

During the building dedication, the then-Secretary of the Army, Robert F. Froehlke, announced the Medical Field Service School name had been officially changed to the Academy of Health Sciences.

Aabel served through five campaigns in the European Theatre during WWII and was wounded in action.

During the Korean War, he was deputy commanding officer of the Medical Replacement Training Center at Camp Pickett.

Aabel's service in-

cluded duty with the Surgeon General's Office, with the military attaché to Finland and as Chief, Medical Service Corps. Aabel served as chief of the Corps from 1955 to 1959.

The Medal of Honor display was dedicated in the Aabel Hall foyer July 12, 1985.

Designed, constructed, and donated by the non-commissioned officers at the Academy of Health Sciences, the display was dedicated to the United States Army Medical Department Soldiers awarded the nation's highest military award – the Medal of Honor.

(Adrian Neidinger, AMEDDC&S historian, contributed to this story).

NEWS from P4

ty. To report incidents of spouse or child abuse and to coordinate an emergency response for victims of domestic violence, call 292-5967. This line is monitored 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

Dog teams needed

The Brooke Army Medical Center's Volunteer Service is seeking dog-assisted activities teams. The dog's owner must provide current immunization record, as well provide an obedience and temperament pictured ID certification issued by a nationally recognized organization. Pet teams selected for the positions must complete a

DOD Veterinary Health Certificate form filled out by the dog's veterinarian. For more information, contact Volunteer Services at 916-5381 or 916-5388.

Personalized Retirement Estimates Available

Current Army-serviced employees who are eligible for a voluntary/optional retirement within the next five years can now request a retirement estimate electronically through the Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS). To request an estimate, log into EBIS through the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) website at <https://www.abc.army.mil> and click on the "How Do I...?" button.

**Coming to a Joint Base San Antonio location near YOU!
LEADERCAST May 4, 2012**

WTB from P4

with facilities such as Liberty Barracks that the military can begin to repay the debts owed to those men and women by caring for them and helping them to heal.

Rye thanked those who he said he felt contributed

most and accepted the honor alongside his wife, Leda, and his father, who pinned the award to his ACU jacket.

BAMC commanding general Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong oversaw the ceremony alongside Davis.

"The opening of this facility reaffirms our com-

mitment and duty to support and assist Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors during a difficult time in their lives," Wong said.

"Not only did these men and women volunteer to defend our country's freedom, they have gone in harm's way

resulting in their injuries. They are our Nation's heroes, and we as a Nation need to repay this debt."

The new \$48.6 million, five-story barracks offers 216,873 square feet of space and can house up to 360 wounded warriors. The 180 suites consist of two bedrooms with a

common area per suite. There are 36 suites per floor, and all suites on the first floor are American's with Disabilities Act approved.

The facility also includes a multi-purpose room, a central courtyard with three picnic areas and barbeque pavilions,

shaded seating walls and a covered mailbox area.

The location is centrally situated between the amenities of Joint Base San Antonio and BAMC with three new company headquarters located in the administrative building adjacent to the barracks.

AMEDDCS from P1

protected Army equities and Title 10 responsibilities while ensuring the success of both the Medical Education and Training Campus and newly created joint base San Antonio," Horoho said.

"He impeccably executed every aspect of the AMEDDC&S mission with continued focus on Soldiers and the families and the community.

"He orchestrated the establishment of a paramedic course to full fill a critical need in Afghani-

stan that will produce 28 graduates this summer, and serve as yet another force multiplier for Soldiers in harm's way," Horoho added.

In his remarks, Rubenstein reviewed the pledges he made two years when he took command of the school.

"General Horoho, I pledged to General Schoomaker that when MEDCOM called, AMEDDC&S would be ready," Rubenstein said. "I said that whether training medical warriors, developing battlefield

doctrine or sending our own in into harm's way, when we are needed we would be there.

"For the past two years, our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and our civilians have been there," Rubenstein continued.

"They have deployed to combat and noncombatant missions around the world, they've been called to provide their military skills and to provide their expertise, and the men and women of the AMEDDC&S have been called to excel at accomplishing their

individual team missions. Each time they have been called, they have been there.

"Our health service support doctrine, operations and tactics have been and continue to be adjusted and fine tuned based on what we are learning from deployed warriors and units and the education and training provided in over 300 programs of instruction has been improved," Rubenstein added.

As an example, Rubenstein referred to the four graduate programs that

are at the top of their categories as listed in US World News & Report.

"We started a basic health care administration course to provide critically needed business skills to young sergeants, officers and civilians going into their first health administration job and we have rewritten the rules for becoming a flight medic, mandating that flight medics must be paramedic qualified," Rubenstein said.

Volpe most recently served as the commanding general of Western Regional Medical Command and senior market executive for TRICARE Puget Sound. He is a board-certified family medicine physician and commissioned as a captain in the Medical Corps in 1983, entering the Army through the Health Professions Scholarship Program.

He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pre-Professional Studies from the University of Notre Dame and a Doctorate in Osteopathic

Medicine from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. His internship and residency training in family medicine were completed at Tripler Army Medical Center from 1983 to 1986.

"I look forward to serving with you in the months and years ahead to contribute the success of Army Medicine, our Army and our sister services as we serve side by side for the benefit of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines worldwide and to serve our nation," Volpe said to the AMEDDC&S staff.

Addressing the Soldiers on the field Volpe said, "Never forget who we are in Army medicine. We are a source of compassion and humanity for all those we serve, a symbol of strength for warriors, a symbol of hope for the wounded, and a symbol of comfort for the sick and ill.

"Army medicine starts here," Volpe said. "We have a huge responsibility to do here and I am thrilled to be here."

Did you know?

Mission leaders and service provider managers need a method to track, understand, and gauge the true determinant of how well services are provided within their organization.

Over the past two fiscal years, the use of the Interactive Customer Evaluation or ICE has grown greatly.

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>.



Photo by Tiffany Boulez
Fort Hood Cavalry soldiers demonstrated drill maneuvers like this one, using a saber to hit a target while mounted and at full-speed.

COWBOYS FOR HEROES

entertains, fills bellies at Fort Sam Houston

By Deyanira Romo Rossell
502nd FSS Marketing

Chuckwagons are still roaring into town every year to cook the famous cuisine of the old west for wounded warriors and their families at the annual Cowboys for Heroes event. Like the cattle drives of the 1800s, the seventh annual event featured chuckwagon cowboys cooking chili, beans, stew and many more campfire meals for the troops March 31 at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center. "I think it is awesome," said Keith Wilke of Flying W Chuck Wagon from Houston. "It is a great way to give back to our troops," he added, as he dished up a crowd favorite, peach cobbler made on the coals. Pfc. Ronnie Doud with Company G, Warrior Transition Battalion, made his way from one cast iron pot to another trying the vittles with authentic old west flavor. "This is my first time to come to this event. I like it," he said. "The food is good and so is the entertainment."



Photo by Tiffany Boulez
Five-year-old Garrison Barker had his first try at mutton busting and immediately wanted to try it again.



Six-year-old Zachary Hilliard poses for a picture on a longhorn named Shotgun provided by cow whisperer Ron Sitton of Lukenbach, Texas
Photo by Deyanira Romo Rossell



Photo by Deyanira Romo Rossell
Many enjoyed a hot, steaming serving of stew cooked on the open fire by the North Texas Gunslingers from Denton, Texas.



Dusty Odom with the North Texas Gunslingers in Denton serves a bowl of stew to Tanya Rodriguez, whose dad retired from the military.
Photo by Deyanira Romo Rossell

The lineup for the day included the Fort Hood Calvary, the Texas Wild Bunch Gunslingers, trick roper Kevin Fitzpatrick, Charro Jerry Diaz and musical entertainment by Buck Helton and Desert Reign. Throughout the day, children enjoyed hay and stage coach rides, mutton busting and pony rides.

Volunteers with the 232nd Medical Brigade, Spcs. Manabu Goseki and Shawn Adams, took a break to enjoy some of the food and desserts. "This is the first time I have ever been to an event like this," Goseki said. "This is the best way we could spend our Saturday - helping people." Fitzpatrick and his horse, Chief, volunteered their trick roping talent, which included lassoing young lasses and corralling cowboys. Children lined up for a chance to get caught in Fitzpatrick's lasso.

"My horse, Chief, and I like to do what we can to support worthwhile causes," Fitzpatrick said. "This is definitely an honor and we had a great time out here today." Some 1,500 people enjoyed the western-style entertainment and food. Among them, Col. John Lamoureux, the 502nd Mission Support Group commander, took a moment to thank both the cowboys and the heroes. "In the good old days, it was cowboys and all they stood for that were the glue that held the West together," Lamoureux said. "Similarly, it is the military family that demonstrates perseverance and sacrifice day in and day out, much like the cowboys do and it is what keeps this country strong." The chuck wagon community offers this complimentary entertainment and food annually to take a moment to thank the heroes of the armed forces with their special western hospitality.



Photo by Deyanira Romo Rossell
Two-year-old Kaylynn Krueger and her mom and dad enjoy a western picnic under the oak trees at the annual Cowboys for Heroes



Photo by Deyanira Romo Rossell
Pfc. Ronnie Doud tries the peach cobbler, served by Keith Wilke of Flying W Chuck Wagon from Houston.



Photo by Deyanira Romo Rossell
Ricky Martinez gets caught in trick roper Kevin Fitzpatrick's lasso at the annual Cowboys for Heroes at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center.

TDY and trashed the rental car? What to do next

By Capt. John Withers
U.S. Army Claims Office
Army Support Activity

Most people know what to do if they are in a car accident with their privately owned vehicle: swap insurance information with the other driver, file a vehicle accident report with law enforcement, etc.

Because accidents are relatively rare, however, we often don't think about our rental car coverage while on a temporary duty assignment or what to do if we are involved in an accident while TDY.

Travelers on TDY orders should take these steps when involved in an accident with their rental car: file an accident report with law enforcement, notify the rental agency immediately, complete a rental company

accident report, and notify the government travel card benefits administrator of the accident.

They should also notify their chain of command as soon as possible.

Several types of coverage apply to property damage and personal injury resulting from the use of a rental vehicle.

To ensure full coverage, travelers should always use their government travel card to rent the vehicle, arrange their travel through the Defense Travel System, and decline the company's insurance or damage waiver.

Under its government travel card contract with the government, Visa provides coverage for loss or damage to the rental vehicle.

Visa pays first in any claim. Notification to Visa must be made within 45

days from the date of loss or damage. If the traveler pays for the car rental with a credit card other than the Visa Travel Card, the protection does not apply.

The Defense Travel Management Office rental agreement provides coverage for loss or damage to the rental vehicle and third-party liability coverage for property damage, personal injury, or death arising from a collision with a vehicle rented under the terms of the Agreement.

Coverage applies when the traveler is in official travel status, evidenced by presenting a government travel card or official travel orders to the rental agency at the time the vehicle is picked up or by using DTS to make the travel arrangements.

Travelers involved in an incident should report

it to the rental agency immediately, obtain a police report, and complete a rental company accident report.

Under the DTMO Agreement, third-party claimants seeking recovery for property damage or personal injury should file their claims directly with the rental agency.

When the Visa and DTMO Agreement coverages do not apply, the unit must generally pay the damage.

The agreement does not apply to certain types of vehicles, to certain foreign locations, or to vehicles rented from companies not party to the Agreement.

Additionally, the agreement contains express exceptions involving negligence.

For example, if the renter leaves the keys in an unattended vehicle

and it is subsequently stolen, the agreement does not apply. In that case, the rental agency will bill the traveler's unit directly.

If the unit determines that the traveler was within the scope of his employment when the loss or damage occurred, the unit coordinates with its Defense Finance and Accounting Service to pay the claim out of its TDY funds.

If the traveler was not acting within the scope of his job when the loss or damage occurred, the rental agency must proceed against the traveler individually.

Because rental vehicles do not become government property when rented for official travel, they are not subject to financial liability investigations of property loss.

For more information, call the Army Claims Office at 295-1973.



The Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign kicked off March 26 and runs through May 4. This year's goal is 100 percent contact, ensuring everyone is aware of the campaign and has the opportunity to donate. The AFAF was established to provide an annual effort to raise funds for the charitable affiliates that provide support to the Air Force family (active duty, retirees, reservists, guard and their dependents, including surviving spouses) in need. For more information, call 671-1938.

MICC from P1

Army Contracting Command.

Vollmecke comes to the MICC after serving as the director for contracting at the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. Leisenring leaves for an assignment as the deputy commander for the Joint Theater Support Contracting Command for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Lowman praised Leisenring for the successes of standing up and transforming a new command over the past two-and-a-half years, noting his leadership in realigning support through an intermediate level of command, development of the Acquisition Milestone Agreement process and management of contracts in support of Arlington National Cemetery.

She added that the insight, energy and enthusiasm Vollmecke brings to the MICC remain critical in meeting the acquisition needs of Soldiers against a backdrop of shrinking funds.

“While the MICC is saying goodbye to an outstanding leader, the command is fortunate to welcome another superb leader in Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke,” she said. “He understands our procurement processes and practices as well as ... the uncertainties of the budget environment and the challenges that lie ahead.”

At the ceremony, Vollmecke echoed that awareness as the Army transforms the institutional Army.

“Our Army is in a new era of budget uncertainty and resource constraints. A decade of war needs coupled with a decade of statutory and regula-

tory procurement changes have brought great challenges to our contracting workforce and team,” he said.

“Now, more than ever, we must provide the smartest and most effective contracting solutions with the best possible oversight.”

The new commanding general said that the command must focus its resources and expertise on awarding timely contracted solutions to meet mission needs, negotiating better outcomes for our customers, and improving contract performance oversight.

Vollmecke, who is Acquisition Level III certified in contracting and program management, is a certified professional contract manager and



Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke (left) accepts the organizational flag and command of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command from Dr. Carol Lowman during a ceremony March 28 at Fort Sam Houston. Vollmecke assumed command of the MICC from Brig. Gen. Stephen Leisenring. Lowman is the director of the Army Contracting Command.

Photo by Mike O'Rear

member of the National Contract Management Association.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College where he was awarded the first Hite Acquisition Award for Excellence, and he earned a Master of Science Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S.

Army War College.

He also graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Management with a concentration in acquisition and contracting management.

As commanding general of the MICC, he is responsible for provid-

ing contracting support for the warfighter across Army commands, installations and activities located throughout the continental United States, Alaska and Puerto Rico.

In fiscal 2011, the command executed more than 63,000 contract actions worth almost \$7 billion across the Army.

Geotagging social media applications pose security risks

By Cheryl Rodewig
Fort Benning Public Affairs

“Is a badge on Foursquare worth your life?”

The question was posed by Brittany Brown, social media manager of the Online and Social Media Division at the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs. It may sound outlandish, but in the age of social geotagging, it can be a reality.

There are a number of location-based social media applications and platforms, including Foursquare, Gowalla, SCVNGR, Shopkick, Loopt and Whrrl, currently on the market.

They use GPS features, typically in the user's phone, to publish the person's location and offer rewards in the form of discounts, badges or points to encourage frequent check-ins.

A deployed service member's situational

awareness includes the world of social media. If a Soldier uploads a photo taken on his or her smartphone to Facebook, they could broadcast the exact location of their unit, said Steve Warren, deputy G2 for the Maneuver Center of Excellence, or MCoE.

“In most smartphones, there is built-in GPS,” Warren said. “For every picture you take with that phone, it automatically embeds the latitude and longitude within the photograph.”

Someone with the right software and the wrong motivation could download the photo and extract the coordinates from the metadata.

Warren cited a real-world example from 2007. When a new fleet of helicopters arrived with an aviation unit at a base in Iraq, some Soldiers took pictures on the flightline, he said. From the photos



that were uploaded to the Internet, the enemy was able to determine the exact location of the helicopters inside the compound and conduct a mortar attack, destroying four of the AH-64 Apaches.

Staff Sgt. Dale Sweetnam of the Online and Social Media Division, said geotagging is a concern for deployed Soldiers and those heading to a mission.

“Soldiers should always be aware of the dangers associated with geotagging regardless of where they are,” he explained.

General hazards for family members:

- While especially relevant for those in the military, cautions about geotagging

extend to anyone who uses that feature.

- Facebook has rolled out Timeline, a new layout that includes a map tab of all the locations a user has tagged.

- “Some of those individuals have hundreds of ‘friends’ they may never have actually met in person, he explained. “By looking at someone's map tab on Facebook, you can see everywhere they've tagged a location. You can see the restaurants they frequent, the gym they go to everyday, even the street they live on if they're tagging photos of their home.

- Most of the applications let people limit who can see their check-ins

to friends or friends of friends.

- “A good rule of thumb when using location-based social networking applications is do not become friends with someone if you haven't met them in person,” Sweetnam said. “Make sure you're careful about who you let into your social media circle.”

Even if there is nothing classified about an individual's location, a series of locations posted online over the course of a month can create a pattern that criminals can use.

“We live in a different world now,” Warren said. “If someone were going to get a hold of your phone, they could figure out who you are. It's like a beacon that's always out there communicating with towers and plotting your moves.”

“In operations security, we talk about the adversary,” said Kent

Grosshans, MCoE OPSEC officer.

“The adversary could be a hacker, could be terrorists, could be criminals; someone who has an intent to cause harm.”

Grosshans suggests disabling the geotagging feature and checking security settings to see who you're sharing check-ins with.

Ultimately, it's about weighing the risks.

“Do you really want everyone to know the exact location of your home or your children's school?” Sweetnam said. “Before adding a location to a photo, Soldiers really need to step back and ask themselves, ‘Who really needs to know this location information?’”

Grosshans said it's as important to Soldiers as to family members.

“Be conscious of what information you're putting out there,” he said. “Don't share information with strangers. Once it's out there, it's out there. There's no pulling it back.”

FSHISD CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School
April 12

College T-shirt Day; Honor Roll recognition; progress reports sent home

April 13

PTO Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Room 51; Dad's Day: dads volunteer in PE, library and cafeteria

Robert G. Cole Middle and High School
April 10

Baseball at Nixon-Smiley JV/V, 4:30 and 7 p.m.

April 11-12

District Track Meet at Randolph

April 13

Baseball vs. Luling VAR, 4:30 p.m.

COLE STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Courtesy photo

Each month Cole Middle and High Schools recognize one student from each grade level for his or her outstanding attitude, citizenship, and overall contribution to the school. The students are nominated by their teachers and then one student is selected by the faculty of each grade level. The recipients for March are (front row from left): Ashley Bell (6th), Cody Maxton (7th), Kaleb Dean (8th) and (back row from left) Gissele Granados (9th), Molly Gresenz (12th), Jacob Almquist (10th), Teresa Cenney (11th).

CANNONS, CAISSONS AND JROTC



Photo by Kathy Salazar

Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Army Support Activity's Caisson Unit instruct Kennedy High School Junior ROTC cadets how to assemble cannons used to support military honors and other military ceremonies during a tour March 28. The cadets learned that Soldiers from the caisson unit assist 54 counties with military honors throughout the southern region from San Marcos to Brownsville, Texas.

New construction projects underway at FSH schools

By Julie Novak
FSHISD Finance Director

Two construction projects in the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District are in full swing, with construction expected to continue through the summer.

A cafeteria is being built for Robert G. Cole Middle/High School and Fort Sam Houston Elementary School will soon see a renovated playground, a new walking track, and additional parking spaces to serve the campus.

The 12,012-square-foot Cole cafeteria, located between the science building and Cole Middle School, will have seating for 400 students during meal periods. The dining area will also be used for assemblies and other campus events.

A covered outdoor seating area will be a welcome new feature for students and staff. Four serving lines will be available for the students to make their healthy meal choices in the new "Cougar Café." The new cafeteria will include a staff dining area and a commercial kitchen, as



Courtesy photo

(From left) FSHISD facilities manager Darrel Plumlee, finance director Julie Novak, architect Robert Luna, Crownhill Builders job superintendent Carlos Gonzales, Cole Elementary Principal Tonya Hyde, and Crownhill Builders president Robert Hoek look over plans for the new playground.

well as an additional 1,694 square feet in a second-story mechanical room.

The construction contract was awarded to Eaton Commercial of San Antonio and, weather permitting, the project is scheduled to be completed in late September 2012.

"The added space will allow us to have two lunch periods instead of the three we have now, which results in more instructional time for the students," said Cole principal Isabell Clayton. "We are also excited to have a space large enough to hold class size meetings and community events."

"Funding for Cole's cafeteria project is provided by a \$4.2 million Impact Aid construction grant from the U. S. Department of Education, which owns the original core campus buildings and has been providing funding for their renovation or replacement," said Dr. Gail Siller, Fort Sam Houston ISD superintendent.

At Fort Sam Houston Elementary School, a major renovation of the playground area is underway that will allow for a centralized play area, increased accessibility for special needs students, and a rubberized surface around all the play

structures to provide safe fall zones.

The campus had three play areas, which will be combined into one expanded area in the back of the school.

A large canopy over the play structures will protect the students from the sun and a new concrete track, which will be approximately one-fourth mile in length, will provide a safe, even surface for walking.

The Fort Sam Houston community will also be able to use this track in the evenings and on weekends. Additionally, needed campus parking space is being provided by this project.

"Our Board of Trustees recognized the need for this playground, and approved the \$600,000 needed funding" Siller said. "Although the playground is scheduled to be completed by mid-September, the contractor hopes that if the weather cooperates, construction could possibly be finished in late August."

"This playground recognized the student's voices," said elementary principal Tonya Hyde.

Edwards Aquifer Level

in feet above sea level
as of April 4

CURRENT LEVEL* = 664.9'

*determines JBSA water conservation stage

Normal - above 660'

Stage I - 660'

Stage II - 650'

Stage III - 642'

Stage IV - 640.5'

Stage V - 637'

Joint Base San Antonio has reverted back to Stage Normal Water Restrictions. Landscape watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is permitted any day of the week between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. Watering with a hand-held hose, drip irrigation or bucket is permitted any time of the day.



INSIDE THE GATE

Chapel. Light refreshment will be served after the service. For more information, call 221-2754.

Summer Camp Registration

Registration begins April 9-10, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Child Youth & School Services, Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, for all active duty and dual military patrons. Remaining patrons may register April 11, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., call 221-4871.

Talk is Cheap

April 9 and 16, 1-2 p.m., Randolph Air Force Base Conference Room, Airman and Family Readiness, call 221-0349.

Budget Development

April 9, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2380.

English as a Second Language

April 9, 5-7:30 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2380.

5 Love Languages for Parenting Teens

April 9, 16 and 23, 5:30-7:30

p.m., Randolph AFB Conference Room, Airman and Family Readiness, call 221-0349.

Resiliency Day

April 9, 1 p.m., Bob Hope Performing Arts Theater, Lackland Air Force Base. Guest speaker is Abby Rike, former Biggest Loser contestant. Call 671-2619.

Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program

The six-part program begins April 9, 6-7:30 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-0349.

Word Level 2

April 10, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Key Caller Training

April 10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

Immigration Services

April 10, noon-2 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-1628.

Buyer Beware!

April 10, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2380.

Excel Level 1

April 11, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Overseas Orientation

April 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-1628.

Talk is Cheap

April 11 and 18, 2-3 p.m., Lackland Air Force Base, Airman and Family Readiness, call 221-0349.

Job Fair

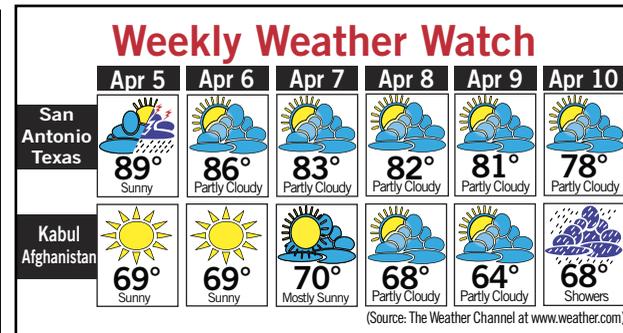
April 11, 5-7 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, for the Fort Sam Houston community, call 221-0427 or 221-0516.

Excel Level 2

April 12, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Texas Autism Supplement

April 12, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Road-



runner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2962.

Month of Military Child and Baseball Season Opener

April 14, 9 a.m.-noon, Dodd Field No. 3, call 221-5519.

Teen Tailgate Party

April 14, 5-8 p.m., Youth Center Building 1630. The free event will include food, fun and activities for teens in grades 6-12. Call 221-3630.

Free Women's Rape Prevention Seminar

April 16, 5-6:30 p.m., Fitness Center on the METC campus. A police trainer, a 3rd degree black belt in combat Hapkido and a martial arts "hall of fame instructor" will train women on self-defense tech-

niques. Space is limited, to register call 808-5709 or 808-5708.

CSRS Retirement Planning Seminar

April 17, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Arnold Hall, Lackland Air Force Base. The Alamo Federal Executive Board will host a Civil Service Retirement System seminar. Cost is \$10. Register online at <http://san-antoniofeb.org/retirement-planning-seminars>. Call 565-1860.

FERS Retirement Planning Seminar

April 18, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Arnold Hall, Lackland Air Force Base. The Alamo Federal

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OUTSIDE THE GATE

Comfort Easter Walk

The Hill Country Volkssportverein volksmarch club is hosting a 5k, 10k and 15k walk April 7 starting at the Comfort Community Park, Hwy 27 and Main Street in Comfort. Walks start between 8 a.m.-noon noon; finish by 3 p.m. Call 830-995-2421 or visit <http://web.me.com/txtrailhead/GG/Comfort.html>.

Warrant Officer Association Meeting

The Lone Star Silver Chapter will meet April 16 at 5:30 PM at the Longhorn Cafe, at the corner of Rittiman and Harry Wurzbach. All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard warrant officers and family members of current or retired warrant officers are invited. Call

221-7327 or 666-9818.

Youth Photography Contest

Students 8-18 years old can submit photos of wildlife, landscapes, people enjoying the diversity of nature, and texture and design found on natural objects by April 18. Cost to enter is 10 for Green Spaces Alliance members and \$15 for non members. To register or for more information, visit <http://www.Greensatx.org>.

All-American Canteen

This official Fiesta event is sponsored by Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam Houston, April 21, 7-11 p.m. in the Mission Room of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 200 E Market St. Dance the night away as we honor our Military history and traditions through the ages. Admission is \$75 per person. Cash bar opens at 7 p.m. with a buffet dinner at 7:45. Price includes complimentary Fiesta Medal. Call 490-1818.

Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship

High school seniors who care about the environment have the chance to win a college scholarship by composing a 350-word essay explaining what they have done to improve the litter situation in their community. The first place winner will receive \$3,000 and the second and third place winners will receive \$1,000 each. Application and essay must be sent online or mail by April 20. For application and details visit <http://www.DontMessWithTexas.org>.

Quarry Farmers and Ranchers Market

Every Sunday, rain or shine, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Quarry Market adjacent to Whole Foods Market, 255 E. Basse Road. Some vendors offer military discounts, live entertainment and kid's activities. Visit <http://quarryfarmersmarket.com/> or call 722-5077.

For Sale: Six-shelf bookcase, oak finish, in good condition, \$25; new rim and tire for Honda Pilot, tire is a Goodyear Integrity P235/70R16, \$130; rattan and iron kennel for dog or cat, \$50. Call 467-5336.

For Sale: Cultured white marble vanity top with backsplash, 48 inches by 22 inches, \$20; Brighton heart necklace with red stone, 15-inches long, silver with Brighton tin, \$40; Liz Lange maternity dress; size medium, rose and beige pattern, \$10. Call 495-2296.

For Sale: Garage door opener, 1/2 HP chain driven with remote, \$125; GE Profile 30-inch electric cooktop, \$300; GE white side-by-side refrigerator with ice-maker, \$350; 9 foot by 12 foot wool Dhurrie rug,



pale floral pattern; 7 foot by 9 foot wool green floral hooked rug; 7 foot 9 inch round burgundy wool tufted oriental rug; 3 foot 6 inch by 5 foot 6 inch wool navy/red tufted rug; all in excellent condition. Sturdy wood desk with drawer \$40; two ceiling fans, \$25 each. Call 271-9127.

For Sale: Sleeper sofa, beige and light brown, \$50; loveseat, beige and light brown, \$45; coffee table, glass, bamboo frame, from Korea, \$50; bookshelf, brown, 5 feet by 4feet, \$45; TV entertainment center, multi-purpose, 7 feet by 3 feet, \$60. Call 512-943-2314.

For Sale: New Rascal electric wheelchair with detachable legs, instruction manual included, \$800 obo. Call 661-3765.

For Sale: REM bed, dual adjustable Martinique with massage, top of the line; \$6,800 retail, \$2,999. Call 659-6741.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 5, Maundy Thursday

Catholic Mass of the Lord's Supper – 5:30 p.m. at the Gift Chapel and 7 p.m. at AMEDD Chapel

Protestant Living Last Supper – 7 p.m. at the Gift Chapel

April 6, Good Friday

Catholic Service – 11:30 a.m. at the Gift Chapel and 7 p.m. at the AMEDD Chapel

April 7, Easter Sunday

Post-wide Easter Sunrise Service – 6:30 a.m. at the Gift Chapel

Regular services at normal times

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Executive Board will host a Federal Employees Retirement System seminar. Cost is \$10. Register online at <http://sanantoniofeb.org/retirement-planning-seminars>. Call 565-1860.

Army Environmental Command Open House

April 19, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., first floor Building 2264.

Soldier Show

April 19-21, 7 p.m., Fort Sam Houston Theatre.

Caminada de Fiesta Walk

The Fort Sam Houston Texas Wanderers volksmarch club will host a 5k and 10k walk April 21 starting at the Army Medical Department Museum. Walks start between 7:30 a.m. and noon, finish by 3 p.m. Call 658-2160 or visit <http://www.walktx.org/TexasWanderers/>.

Fiesta & Fireworks

April 22, 1-9 p.m., MacArthur Parade Field. The event will feature a military ceremony, food booths, carnival rides, children's games, entertainment, static displays and arts and crafts. Visitors can enter through the Harry Wurzbach gate. Call 221-1718.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Turn in unused or expired medication for safe disposal April 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at San Antonio Military Medical Center Medical Mall or the Refill Pharmacy Building 2401 on Scott and Allen roads. Call 221-2988.

Army Ten Miler

The registration deadline is April 30. The Army 10 Miler Qualifier is May 5, 6:45 a.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The run is open to all active duty military. The top five men and women will represent JBSA-FSH at the Army Ten Miler in Washington D.C. on Oct. 21.

Auditions for Youth GOT TALENT Show

The search is on for the most talented military youth and families in singing, dancing, music, comedy or specialty acts. Auditions are ongoing until May 16 for a chance to compete in the 2012 Fort Sam Houston You Got Talent Show on Saturday, May 19, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Theatre, Stanley Road. Youth, ages 6 to 18, or older if still in high school are encouraged to call 221-4016 to audition for this Air Force-wide family and teen talent competition.

Auditions for Festival of the Arts

The 2012 Festival of the Arts Variety Show, "Razzle Dazzle," will be held May 17, 7- 8:30 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Theatre. Auditions are open now for service members and their family members who sing, dance, or have a comedy bit or other specialty act. To audition, call 221-4016 before May 15. Selected performers will be judged live by Army Entertainment.

Retired Enlisted Association

Chapter 80 of the Retired Enlisted Association meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Lackland Air Force Base Gateway Club. Call 658-2344.

Green to Gold Program

Fifth Brigade Army ROTC will conduct a brief the second Monday of each month, excluding training/federal holidays, at 2 p.m. in the Education Center, Building 2248, Room 207C. The purpose of the brief is to educate active duty Soldiers on the benefits, options, and qualifications of the Army Green to Gold Program. Call 5th Bde. ROTC at 295-2006 or 295-0429; the UTSA Recruiting Officer at 458-5607 or the St. Mary's University Recruiting Officer at 436-3415.