

FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

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Gold Star Mothers remember loved ones

By Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos
ARNORTH Public Affairs

Our nation has powerful words for when one loses a loved one, such as “widow” and “orphan.”

Although accurate, how do people refer to parents who go through the tumultuous emotions involved when they lose a child during war? For the Army, they are recognized as Gold Star Mothers and Families.

Debbie Agnew and Reesa Doebler are both Gold Star Mothers. Both said they remember the day when military men in uniform informed them that their sons had been killed in action in Afghanistan.

Losing a child is a tragedy — and it's the mission of the Army's Survivor Outreach Services to help the Gold Star Mothers and Families

through the difficult process.

Both women said participating in the Alamo Area Gold Star Mothers Group also helped immeasurably.

For Agnew, now a retired elementary school teacher, that day was Feb. 13, 2006. The time was 2 p.m.

“I was in the classroom teaching third grade in Pleasanton, Texas, when the assistant principal came into my classroom and asked me to come to the office,” said Agnew, adding that she initially thought it was to discuss an incident that happened in her class the week before.

“I thought I was going to meet with an irate parent,” she said.

As the two women were walking down the hall, the assistant princi-

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Debbie Agnew lost her son, Staff Sgt. Clinton Newman, when a makeshift bomb detonated near his Humvee Feb. 13, 2006, near Deh Rawod, Afghanistan. Newman was a member of the 321st Civil Affairs Brigade, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Hook

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Byron Hepburn and Army Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong speak during the San Antonio Military Health System one-year anniversary at the San Antonio Military Medical Center Sept. 14. Hepburn is the SAMHS director and the 59th Medical Wing commander. Wong is the SAMHS deputy director and Brooke Army Medical Center commander.

San Antonio Military Health System celebrates first year

By Maria Gallegos
BAMC Public Affairs

San Antonio Military Health System celebrated its one-year anniversary with a ceremony at the San Antonio Military Medical Center Sept. 14.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Byron Hepburn, commander of the 59th Medical Wing and SAMHS director, and Army Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, commander of Brooke Army Medical Center and Southern Regional Medical Command, as well as SAMHS deputy director, hosted the event.

Hepburn and Wong welcomed the audience of military and community leaders,

and both announced the successful accomplishments in military medicine as well as increased partnerships with the city of San Antonio.

They noted the successes of the past year, including the successful integration of 1,900 Airmen and civilian personnel into SAMMC, improved accessibility to patient-centered medical homes and enhanced secure email communication between providers and patients.

The health system employs 12,000 military and civilian employees with combined budgets of over \$1.18

See **SAMHS, P10**

METC HONORS FALLEN NAVY CORPSMEN

Two fallen Navy corpsmen were honored during a memorial ceremony at the Medical Education and Training Campus Sept. 20. Hospital Corpsman First Class Darrel Enos and Hospital Corpsman Third Class Clayton Beauchamp were remembered by a gathering of METC and Navy senior leadership, staff and students of the Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Training Program, METC's combined Navy corpsman and Air Force medical technician schoolhouse, and members of the American Association of Navy Corpsmen. Beauchamp's brother, Hospital Corpsman Second Class Christopher Beauchamp, attended the ceremony from the Naval Branch Health Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas, and delivered remarks about his brother during the ceremony.



Photo by Lisa Braun

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National Hispanic Heritage equals success for Fort Sam Houston, Military City USA

By Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV
 Commander, U.S. Army North and
 Senior Commander, Fort Sam
 Houston and Camp Bullis

Cultural diversity has long been a strength in our military, which is truly representative of our society.

During the month-long period from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, our Army, our military and our nation celebrate the historical and cultural contributions of Hispanic Americans and the significant roles they have played throughout our history.

“Diversity United, Building America’s Future Today” is the national theme for the 2012 observation, and nothing could be more appropriate for the United States military as it continues to become increasingly diverse.



In fact, our growing Hispanic population has been one of the driving forces in our changing demographics.

Fort Sam Houston is unique in that it is tied, historically, to the great city of San Antonio – Military City USA.

The city itself is distinctive in that it is perhaps as culturally diverse as its military partner. Together, both

have experienced the great accomplishments of Americans of Hispanic descent – both on and off the installation.

It is this combination that led to the strengthening of the military and civilian populations, which resulted in innumerable great successes and accomplishments for the American Society dating back to the early days of the country.

It is through our diversity that our military draws one of its greatest strengths.

Recognition for the significant contributions of Hispanic Americans officially kicked off Sept. 17, 1968, with National Hispanic Week.

Under President Ronald Reagan, it was

extended to its 31-day, month-long observation on Aug. 17, 1988, and re-named National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Americans of Hispanic descent, as is the case with our remarkably diverse American population, represent a wide range of nationalities and backgrounds.

Also like many Americans, they have overcome numerous obstacles and flourish in every sector of our society.

One needs only bear witness to our nation’s population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Hispanic population was 52 million as of July 2011 – making people of Hispanic origin the nation’s largest ethnic or racial minority.

The United States Hispanic population, as of 2010, ranks second in the world only to the Mexican population of 112 million people.

Fort Sam Houston and our military community are committed to honoring and recognizing Americans of Hispanic origin in the defense of our nation and for their contributions in shaping the culture of the United States.

I invite all of our service members, civilians and family members from across Fort Sam Houston to this post’s Hispanic Heritage Observance, which is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Blesse Auditorium, 3151 Scott Rd., Building 2841. The 470th Military Intelligence Brigade will host the event for our military community.

Together, we are truly one team, one Army, one nation.

Combined Federal Campaign goals

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Combined Federal Campaign runs through Dec. 1.

The JBSA-FSH goal is \$1,411,250, while the overall JBSA goal is \$5,500,000. There are more than 2,700 local, national and international charitable agencies to choose from. For more information, call 221-2207.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Campaign Target:
\$1,411,250.00
Total Contributions:
\$22,370.00
Percent of Target Achieved: 2%


\$ 1,411,250.00
\$ 750,000.00
\$ 700,000.00
\$ 600,000.00
\$ 500,000.00
\$ 200,000.00
\$ 100,000.00
\$ 25,000.00

News Briefs

Budge Dental Clinic Hours Change

Walk-in exams at the Budge Dental Clinic, located at 3145 Garden Ave., Building 1278, are from 6 to 10 a.m. and noon to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Sick Call is from 6 to 10:30 a.m. and from noon to 3 p.m. weekdays. The clinic is open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., and closed for lunch from 11 a.m. to noon weekdays. There are department and clinic meetings from noon to 1 p.m. Thursdays. People may call to schedule an exam/prophylaxis appointment in place of a walk-in exam. These combination appointments are limited and only offered certain days of the week. For more information, call 808-3736 or 808-3735.

Rambler 120 Teams Forming

The seventh annual Rambler 120 Team Challenge at Canyon Lake takes place Oct. 20, with registration closing Oct. 5. The challenge includes a 22-mile bike ride, six-mile run, two-mile rafting trip, plus a mystery event, with gates opening at 6 a.m. Open to federal government employees, 18 and older, minors 16 and 17 years old can participate with a parent or guardian. Cost is \$100 for extreme four-person teams and \$150 for relay teams of five to eight people. Categories are all male, all female and coed. For more information, call 267-7358. To download a registration form, click on <http://www.randolphfss.com/cm/articlefiles/1-RamblerCombo.pdf>.

Prescription Take Back Day

Unused and expired prescription medicines can be turned in from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 29 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center Medical Mall on the first floor and at the Fort Sam Houston Refill Pharmacy, Building 2401 on Scott and Allen Roads. For more information, call 221-2988.

U.S. Army Soldier Show Final Performance Sept. 30

After nine months and more than 60 shows in 21 states and two countries, the U.S. Army Soldier Show returns to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, with the final performance at 2 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Fort Sam Houston Theater. The show is free. For more information, call 466-0684 or 466-0474.

Suicide prevention stand down day is Sept. 27

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

The Army is conducting a suicide prevention stand down worldwide to focus on promoting good health, team-mate involvement, risk reduction and resilience training.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III ordered the Sept. 27 stand down following the release of July suicide figures, which confirmed two suicides and another 36 potential suicides presently under investigation. To date, 120 active-duty Soldiers are confirmed to have taken their lives, while another 67 deaths are under investigation.

"Suicide is the toughest enemy I have faced in my 37 years in the Army," he said, adding that he believes it preventable through solutions aimed at helping individuals build resiliency to help strengthen their life-coping skills.

Austin said the Army must continue to address the stigma associated with asking for help.

"Ultimately, we want the mindset across our force and society at large to be that behavioral health is a routine part of what we do and who we are as we strive to maintain our own physical and mental wellness," Austin said.

The last suicide prevention stand down the Army had was in 2009 and followed the train-the-trainer concept and how to recognize potential suicides, but this year's program brings a more holistic approach to beating the epidemic, said Walter O. Morales, chief of the

Army Suicide Prevention Program. Morales said Army suicides have more than doubled since 2004.

"I think the big difference between 2009 and now is this time we've focused all across the Army, even here at the Pentagon we're going to stand down with the Army chief of staff leading a personal session by talking with the general officers and senior executives," said Lt. Gen. Howard Bromberg, Army G-1.

"This is absolutely a battle that we have to engage in every single day," Bromberg added. "I'm asking all Soldiers this entire month and moving forward to just to think about that as military members, family members, teammates, civilians, neighbors and friends to look out for each other in our community."

"We're looking at health promotion – establishment of good eating and sleeping habits, different ways of exercising and that leadership must be involved and accountable, so we'll be looking at many resources and not just those resources specifically for suicide prevention," Morales said.

"Our goal is to let Soldiers, leaders, family members and Army civilians know we have resources to help them remain risk-free."

Several of those resources include Army Strong Bonds, a program led by the Chaplain Corps which seeks to build resiliency by offering individual Soldiers and families relationship education and skills training, explained Col. George A. Glaze, chief

of the Health Promotion Risk Reduction Division of G-1.

"We have Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness which is about building resiliency and learning coping life skills that you need to handle with some of the challenges we have," Glaze added.

"We have the Army substance abuse program that gets after the dependencies on alcohol and drug abuse and we have for those Soldiers who are geographically dispersed the National Suicide Prevention Life-

line, 1-800-273-TALK."

Morales said programs like ACE – Ask, Care, Escort – teaches skills on how to intervene, and what questions to ask to get Soldiers the help they need. Key he says is to have the courage to intervene by stepping in with alternative solutions.

"There can be no bystanders in this battlefront," Glaze said.

"The stand down is an opportunity to heighten awareness by offering a menu to commanders, those leaders down to the unit

to figure out what is specific to their communities and populations – relationship challenges or financial challenges – then making sure the assets are available to them."

In the end, he said, the solution to Army suicides rests with Soldiers asking for help and recognizing that it's okay to come forward and ask for help without repercussion.

"Seeking help when needed is a sign of strength, help is out there, it's available and it works," Glaze said.

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month: the warning signs call for action

By Maria Gallegos
BAMC Public Affairs

Suicide prevention is a shared responsibility for everyone. We all need to take action, know the available resources, and the warning signs associated with suicide.

Recognizing the common signs of suicide can help save

lives; however, this is not enough.

If you see a mood change, a change in appetite, or your buddy or loved one is going through a tough relationship breakup, consider intervention.

Ask the question, "Are you thinking about killing yourself?"

Listen to what your friend is saying; and

escort him or her to the nearest available resource, such as a chaplain, behavioral health provider or the emergency room.

Suicide can be prevented and every suicide is an unnecessary death. Asking the right questions and listening can make all the difference to save one's life.

SUICIDE RESOURCES PHONE NUMBERS:

BAMC Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care: 916-1105;

BAMC Behavioral Health: 916-1600

Military Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) - Press 1

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Military One Source: 1-800-342-9647

Defense Center of Excellence Outreach Center: 1-866-966-1020

Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline: 1-800-984-8523

WEBSITES:

Military One Source: <http://www.militaryonesource.mil>

Military Crisis Line: <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ActiveDuty.aspx>

Military Pathways: <https://www.militarymentalhealth.org>

Real Warriors Campaign: <http://www.realwarriors.net>

Army Suicide Prevention: <http://www.preventsuicide.army.mil>

Operation Healthy Reunions: <http://www.nmha.org/reunions/index.cfm>

inTransition: <http://www.health.mil/InTransition/default.aspx>

American Psychiatric Association: <http://www.healthyminds.org/>

Make The Connection: <http://maketheconnection.net/go/>

Wellness Resources: <http://www.afterdeployment.org>

News Briefs

from P3

Flu Shots at SAMMC

Flu vaccinations are mandatory for Brooke Army Medical Center employees, military, government service civilians and contactors who have direct patient contact. BAMC employee flu vaccinations are available from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 1 at the garden entrance of the new tower. Flu vaccinations for beneficiaries will be at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, in October and November. Dates and times are posted on the flu hotline at 916-7FLU.

Lincoln Military Housing National Night Out Event

Lincoln Military Housing hosts the annual National Night Out crime prevention event Oct. 2. NNO is a nationwide crime prevention activity designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and foster police-community relations. LMH mayors and staff will be sponsoring events at each community center. Family housing residents are encouraged to take part. Call 270-7638 for more information.

Hispanic American Heritage Month event

The 470th Military Intelligence Brigade will host a Hispanic American Heritage Month event at noon Oct. 2 at Blesse Auditorium. Guest speaker is Army South Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Cervantes. Call 221-0417 for more information.

Wilson Way, Liscum Road Intersection Closure

The intersection of Wilson Way and Liscum Road will be closed Oct. 4 and 5. During this closure, traffic from the Wilson/Cunningham gate will be detoured from Wilson Way right onto Liscum Road, left onto S-6 Road, and left onto N. New Braunfels Avenue back to Wilson Way. Traffic from the Walters gate turning left on Wilson Way will turn left onto N. Braunfels Avenue, right onto S-6 Road and right onto Liscum Road back to Wilson Way.

Child Safety Seat Clinic

A child safety seat clinic is scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston fire station, 3101 Schofield

Walters Street Gate nighttime closures

Starting Sept. 27, the Walters Street entrance to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston will close between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. through Oct. 21, according to 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron sources.

The Jadwin Road gate (commercial gate) will be the alternate gate for inbound and outbound traffic during these hours.

Detour signs will

help guide traffic around this area. Normal hours and operations resume Oct. 22.

Additionally, starting Nov. 1, the Walters Street entrance will close again between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. through Nov. 5.

Again, the Jadwin Road gate will be the alternate gate and detour signs will be in place. Normal hours and operations resume Nov. 6.

Hiring Heroes Career Fair connects military to employers

By Deyanira Romo Rossell
502nd FSS Marketing

Retired and active duty veterans, wounded warriors and military dependents revved up their job search at the Hiring Heroes Career Fair Sept. 18, taking advantage of 43 employers who were accepting resumes at the Sam Houston Community Center.

Nearly 600 job-seekers made their way through the five-hour career fair which has been held biannually since 2006.

Brig. Gen. Theresa

C. Carter, commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, joined Paige Hinkle-Bowles, deputy assistant secretary of defense for civilian personnel policy, to welcome the crowd.

"I have talked with the employers. They have shown great enthusiasm and are very grateful for this event and the opportunity to connect with service members and their families," said Hinkle-Bowles.

The job-seekers were also thankful to have a job fair so convenient to

their workplace. Capt. Lamar Sales spent some time talking with Robert Clarke, a human resources advisor with BP.

"This is a great opportunity. We are very often offered the perfect opportunities," said Sales, who is with Company B, Warrior Transition Battalion. "We just have to go to them. The networking is huge here and we don't even have to leave the base."

It is Soldiers like Sales that draw employers like the Texas Department of Public Safety to the Hiring Heroes Career Fair. They recruit heavily from the United States military.

DPS Cpl. Arminda Henke spent the day talking to service members to fill them in on how to get hired as a state trooper.

"It's wonderful to be here because more than 60 percent of our force is former military," she said. "We seek out military and their dependents because they have the structure and meet the qualifications we are looking for," Henke



Photos by Deyanira Romo Rossell

Texas Department of Public Safety Cpl. Arminda Henke meets with members of the armed forces like Sgt. 1st Class Christian Garcia at the Hiring Heroes Career Fair Sept. 18. Veterans and retirees make up 60 percent of the DPS force, according to Henke.

added.

She quickly let visitors to her table know that with the DPS there are no age limits and that the sky's the limit.

Spc. Hector Santacruz, Company C, WTB, spent some time talking to John Brown, division manager with the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Office. Santacruz has been going through a long reha-

bilitation process and is ready to find a good job, using his background as a mechanic.

"I like that there are a lot of opportunities for wounded warriors," Santacruz said. "This gives me some options as I try to figure out where to go from here.

The next Hiring Heroes Career Fair is in March 2013.



Capt. Lamar Sales (left) talks with BP human resources advisor Robert Clarke at the Hiring Heroes Career Fair Sept. 18.

GOLD STAR from P1

pal told Agnew that there were two men waiting to speak to her.

Agnew stopped and said, "It's Clint, isn't it? He is dead." Clint was Staff Sgt. Clinton Newman, Agnew's 26-year-old son.

A member of the 321st Civil Affairs Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Newman died Feb. 13, 2006, when a makeshift bomb detonated by his Humvee near Deh Rawod, Afghanistan. He was nine months into a 12-month tour.

"I didn't want Clint to join the Army," Agnew said. "I wanted him to go to college."

But the 17-year-old knew there was no money for college, so he decided to join for a few years to get the Post-9/11 GI-Bill.

"He joined the infantry and was sent to Germany," Agnew said. "He was only going to do a two-year enlistment and then go to college, but he fell in love with the Army."

After his enlistment was

up, Newman returned home to San Antonio with a girlfriend. Not wanting to give up the military completely, he joined the 321st Civil Affairs Brigade.

"Clint met Julia while stationed in Germany," Agnew said. "He would have liked to stay on active duty, but Julia wanted to go to college in San Antonio, so he came home. He didn't want to join the National Guard and couldn't find a Reserve infantry unit in San Antonio, so he switched to civil affairs.

"Clint liked being in civil affairs," Agnew said. "He got along well with the Afghan people. He was diplomatic enough to be around them and they loved him. Whenever their convoy would arrive in the village, the Afghans would ask, 'Where is Sgt. Clint?'"

What Agnew remembers most about her son was his modesty and compassion.

"He was named the Army Reserve Soldier of the Year in 2000," Agnew said. "But he didn't brag about it. His fellow Soldiers



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Clayton Bowen, an 82nd Airborne combat veteran, deployed to Afghanistan in February 2009 with the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

didn't even know until they looked through his records and asked him how a specialist had been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

"He was an easy kid. He was smart, made good grades, and always did his work," Agnew said.

"He always wanted to help people. That's one of the reasons he joined the Army."

For Doebbler, it was 10 p.m. on Aug. 18, 2009, when she got the "knock" that changed her life.

"Instead of a knock on

the door, I got a knock on the gate," Doebbler said.

"We lived on five acres, and I saw a car sitting outside my front gate. My husband went out to see what they wanted, so he was told first.

"He came back to the house and told me to put my robe on. It was then I knew what had happened. My life changed forever that night."

Like Newman, Staff Sgt. Clayton Bowen also joined the Army at 17.

The 12-year Army veteran served as a drill sergeant and a shooting instructor before deploying to Afghanistan in February 2009 with the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

Bowen was riding in a Humvee with four fellow "Spartan Brigade" Soldiers, on his way to provide security for Afghanistan's presidential election, when

the vehicle hit an IED.

Doebbler had spoken to her son the night before, as he prepared to go on the mission.

"Clay called me around midnight to tell me I wouldn't hear from him for a few days," she said. As she later learned, "the mission was to travel to the voting precincts so the Afghans could vote in the presidential election."

Bowen joined the Army after high school, and after infantry basic and advanced individual training, he was sent to the 82nd Airborne Division.

"Clay wanted to 'be all you can be,'" Doebbler said. "He loved jumping out of perfectly good airplanes."

Doebbler knew her son would go far in the Army when, at his graduation from basic, he was the Soldier leading his platoon and carrying the guidon.

See GOLD STAR, P8

NEWS from P4

Road, Building 3830. This clinic includes safety seat check-ups, installation education and recall notices. Registration is required and children must be present to be weighed and measured. Call 221-0349 or 221-9425 to register or for more information.

Army Candidate School Structure Interview Panel

The 502nd Force Support Squadron's Military Personnel Branch conducts an Army Officer Candidate School structure interview panel board at 8 a.m. Oct. 24 in Room 117B of Building 2263 on Stanley Road. All Soldiers must have a bachelor degree and cannot be more than 28 years old. For a complete listing and checklist of the OCS requirements and forms, visit <https://www.hrcapps.army.mil/>. All OCS applicants must see their S1/G1 prior to submitting their OCS packets. Packets must be turned in by Oct. 16. For more information, call 221-0885.

Air Force Reserve MTIs needed

The Air Force Reserve Command is looking for traditional Reservists, senior airman through

master sergeants, who are interested in filling military training instructor positions at the 433rd Training Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The 433rd TRS is looking to fill 76 MTI vacancies. Requirements include excellent military image and appearance, minimum fitness score of 75 (must be within last 6 months), ability to speak clearly, TAFMS less than 15 years, minimum score of 49 in General area on ASVAB. Call 671-7975/7336 for more information.

Stray Dog Capture Underway

According to 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron sources, the number of stray dogs on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston has increased dramatically during the past several months. An independent animal control specialist has been contracted to capture the dogs at various locations. Residents are asked not to approach the traps or attempt to release the captured canines. The vendor will transport the dogs to local animal shelters, where they can be checked for microchips and rabies. Residents and people who work on the installation are reminded not to feed any stray animals. For more information, call 221-3144.

HONORING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



Photo by St. Tamika A. Exom

Dr. Thomas McNish, a former Vietnam prisoner of war for 6 1/2 years, speaks to U.S. Army South Soldiers and civilians during a ceremony in front of the Army South headquarters Sept. 21. The National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony recognized and honored those who have been imprisoned and those missing while defending the nation. The ceremony concluded with the raising of the POW/MIA flag on the flagpole in front of the ARSOUTH headquarters.

GOLD STAR from P5

“His drill sergeants voted for him to lead the platoon, because he had earned it,” she said.

Bowen was also a very good singer.

“He was asked to try out for the 82nd Airborne All-American Chorus,” Doebbler said. “He passed the audition. I got to see him perform two or three times a year when the group came to San Antonio.”

After leaving the 82nd, Bowen became a drill sergeant and then a drill sergeant instructor.

“A book about how to survive basic combat training was written and Clay was selected as the role model – he’s on the front and back covers.”

In December 2008, Bowen got orders for the 501st Infantry Regiment, based out of Fort Richardson, Alaska. The group deployed to Afghanistan three months later.

“He was a mortar platoon sergeant,” Doebbler said. “He and about 100 other Soldiers were sent to an outpost in the middle of Paktika Province.”

While in Afghanistan, Clay asked his parents to send him tools and other things to make their lives more bearable.

“I called the campaign ‘Tools for Troops,’” Doebbler said. “We sent him supplies to make his and his Soldiers lives better.”

His parents put an article in their newspaper, Construction News, asking for donations. Donations poured in, including cordless power tools, two big-screen TVs and gaming systems.

“Clay loved the military,” Doebbler said. “He was proud of what he was doing. His goal was to be a command sergeant major.”

Within 24 hours of being notified of their son’s deaths, both women were visited by casualty assis-

tance officers. The CAOs were Soldiers that would spend the next several weeks assisting the family with everything they needed, from helping them get ready for the funeral, to inventorying their personal possessions to making sure the survivors got all their benefits.

“First Sgt. Lionel Schneegans did a great job,” Agnew said. “He was with us every day until the end of May.” Schneegans was the rear-detachment first sergeant in Newman’s unit.

Doebbler also was very happy with the quality of support she got from her CAO.

“My casualty officer, Capt. Kelly Wilhelm, came here the next morning,” she said. “He was absolutely wonderful and took care of everything; he really helped out when I couldn’t think.”

Wilhelm was assigned to Brooke Army Medi-

cal Center at the time he served as a CAO.

Like many mothers who lose a child, Agnew went through several stages of grief.

“In the beginning it was minute by minute,” she said. “I sometimes felt like I was hanging by my finger nails.”

Talking about her feelings and being around others who had lost a loved one helped Agnew work through the pain.

“About six weeks after Clint’s death, I started attending a grief support group here in Pleasanton,” Agnew said. “They helped me get through the pain. If I wanted to talk, they let me talk. If I wanted to cry, they let me cry.”

In late May 2006, while Agnew and her husband were visiting Fort Bragg to attend a memorial service for Newman and other civil affairs Soldiers killed that year, a military chaplain told the family

members that the reason the Army has so many memorial services for the fallen is because it helps the survivors deal with the reality of the situation and begin the healing process.

The organization that helped Agnew work through her grief the most was the Alamo Area Gold Star Mothers group.

“It is all women. We all lost a child in war,” Agnew said. “We understand each other.”

As part of the Gold Star Mothers group, Agnew also helps teach the JBASA-Fort Sam Houston CNO/CAO class and served at Survivor Outreach Services.

Doebbler has also found healing through the Alamo Area Gold Star Mothers group.

“It has been wonderful,” said Doebbler, who also serves as the secretary for the group. “They are the only people I can be around who know exactly where I am coming from.

It is good to have others around; we all help each other and have good times together too.”

The best thing to help in the healing process is to find people you can talk to.

“I know what it is like in the beginning,” Doebbler said. “At first you get bombarded, you can’t keep things straight, you are afraid to go out because you can see something that will break you down.

“I started going to TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) at six months and also started seeing a grief counselor,” she said. “The earlier you get assistance, the better you heal. It is difficult to convince a mother of this, but they will show up and be glad they did.”

JBASA-Fort Sam Houston will honor Gold Star Mothers and Families Sept. 29, conducting a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Survivor Outreach Center.

VA, DOD to fund \$100 million PTSD and TBI study

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense announced Sept. 19 they are investing more than \$100 million in research to improve diagnosis and treatment of mild traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

“At the VA, ensuring that our veterans receive quality care is our highest priority,” said Veteran Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki.

“Investing in innovative research that will lead to treatments for PTSD and TBI is critical to providing the care our veterans have earned and deserve.”

The two groups – the Consortium to Alleviate PTSD and the Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium – will be jointly managed by VA, and by the Congressionally Directed Medical Research

Programs, on behalf of the DOD.

More than 15 percent of service members and veterans suffer impaired functioning as a result of PTSD.

CAP will study potential indicators of the trauma, as well as prevention strategies, possible interventions, and improved treatments. Biomarker-based research will be a key factor for CAP’s studies.

A primary goal of CENC is to establish an understanding of the after-effects of an mTBI. Potential comorbidities also will be studied; that is, conditions associated with and worsen because of a neurotrauma.

“PTSD and mTBI are two of the most-prevalent injuries suffered by our warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan, and identifying better treatments for

those impacted is critical,” said Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Jonathan Woodson.

“These consortia will bring together leading scientists and researchers devoted to the health and welfare of our nation’s service members and veterans.”

On Aug. 31, President Barack Obama signed an executive order to improve access to mental health services for veterans, service members and military families.

As part of that executive order, Obama directed DOD, the VA, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education to develop a National Research Action Plan that will include strategies to improve early diagnosis and treatment effectiveness for TBI and PTSD.

He further directed DOD and HHS to conduct a comprehensive mental health study, with an emphasis on PTSD, TBI, and related injuries to develop better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options.

The VA, which has the largest integrated health care system in the country, also has one of the largest medical research programs.

This year, approximately 3,400 researchers will work on more than 2,300 projects with nearly \$1.9 billion in funding.

Specific information on the consortia, including the full description of each award, eligibility, and submission deadlines, and general application instructions, are posted on the Grants.gov and CDMRP (<http://cdmrp.army.mil/>) websites.

(Source: Department of Veterans Affairs)

SAMHS from P1

billion annually.

“Our Airmen are honored to serve side-by-side with their Army colleagues here at SAMMC, the DOD’s only Level I trauma center in the U.S.,” Hepburn said.

Under the new military health system, Airmen and civilian personnel were integrated with the Army at SAMMC Sept. 15, 2011.

SAMHS provides oversight for the healthcare delivery to more than 240,000 Department of Defense beneficiaries in the San Antonio metropolitan region.

Healthcare services are provided by San Antonio Military Medical Center, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, 19 primary care clinics, and more than 100 specialty services.

“The SAMHS fosters an opportunity for synergy, enabling BAMC and the 59th Medical Wing, in collaboration with healthcare partners, to make system-wide improvements that elevate our quality of care, and increase the efficiency in delivering healthcare,” Wong said.

“We believe that all

our active duty members, dependents and retirees deserve the best possible care and I am excited about the opportunities our health system will afford our patients and the city of San Antonio in the years ahead,” Hepburn said.

“Our patients will remain our top priority and our sole reason and purpose for our existence, as we provide high quality, safe and accessible care, while maintaining our patient’s trust and confidence,” Wong said.

According to its website, SAMHS is responsible for providing oversight of clinical, educational, and business operations for all military treatment facilities in the San Antonio area.

The objective of SAMHS is to provide the highest quality of health improvement and healthcare services for the DOD beneficiary community, sustain the readiness skills of the medical force, support graduate medical education and other education and training, and support basic and clinical biomedical research.

Army seeks Soldier input with Army Service Uniform survey

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III is encouraging all active-duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers to take the Army Service Uniform survey to help inform the Army’s decisions regarding future uniforms and equipment.

The survey runs through Oct. 12, and is currently available online through AKO. To date more than 4,200 Soldiers have taken the survey.

Chandler said the Army needs continued support from Soldiers and leaders at all levels

to ensure the Army gets maximum participation in the survey.

He said the ASU survey is part of the Army’s effort to solicit continuous feedback on the equipment it provides to Soldiers – active duty, National Guard, and

Reserve.

The survey is available at <https://asusurvey.natick.army.mil/> (AKO login required) or at <https://surveys.natick.army.mil/Surveys/asu.nsf>.

(Source: Army News Service)

Spouse caregivers: Adapting to a new role

By Lori Newman
JBSA-FSH News Leader

(This is the first in a series of articles about spouses who have had to adapt to the role of a caregiver for their wounded spouse.)

An Army wife and mother of two had to learn to adapt to a new role – caregiver – after her husband was severely injured in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Army Staff Sgt. Dan Burgess was injured when he stepped on a roadside bomb during a routine clearing mission Nov. 20, 2011.

Burgess lost his right leg below the knee and the skin was completely ripped off his left leg.

He also suffered a traumatic brain injury, broken fingers and several other fractures.

Back home in Cleveland, Ohio, his wife Genette was caring for their two little girls, 9-year-old Kaylee and 10-year-old Gracie, when she received a phone call notifying her that

her husband had been injured.

A week later, Genette was reunited with her husband at San Antonio Military Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The doctors were trying to get Dan stateside as fast as possible but his oxygen levels were too low, she explained.

“They didn’t fly me to Germany because they thought that our flights would cross.”

“We requested he come here because of the facilities we had heard about,” she said.

Dan spent two months in the hospital.

“The first month, until my children came down, I was at the hospital with him every day from the time I woke up until the time I went to bed,” Genette said. “He would fall asleep in the bed and I would fall asleep in the chair.”

“Even though the nurses were there, I would still care for him. I would help give him a bath, help him get dressed and help him

shave,” she explained. “I would alert the nurses if there was something that just didn’t look right.”

Once Dan got out of the hospital, Genette assumed responsibility for his daily care, but more importantly, she provided him encouragement during his recovery.

“He needed the encouragement to keep going on,” she explained.

“One of the hardest things for me was dealing with everyone else’s emotions,” she said.

“When you have to inform so many other people about everything, and they’re trying to deal with it, it’s not like you get to deal with it yourself. You’re trying to do everything



Photo by Lori Newman

Genette Burgess (center) spends time with her husband Dan and children, 9-year-old Kaylee and 10-year-old Gracie, at the Warrior and Family Support Center. The family often goes to the WFSC to relax between Dan’s medical appointments. “The Warrior and Family Support Center is a great place to interact with people,” Genette said.

else around you.” Genette said her mornings were a struggle,

trying to get the girls ready for school and Dan ready as well.

“The girls had to adjust to a new school and they had to adjust to me taking care of their dad and not just them,” she said.

“I had to dress and massage his wounds and give him his medication, and also be there to take care of my children.”

“Prayer does help,” Genette said. “But, the thing that got us through the most was being here and making friends with people who are going through the same things.”

Genette’s advice to other caregivers is – “you’re not alone, there is somebody out there going through the exact same thing you are.”

“Find someone to talk to. The Warrior and Family Support Center is a great place to interact with people. You will make some great friends during the process.”

Dan is still undergoing rehabilitation at San Antonio Military Medical Center.

“We still have a long way to go,” Genette said. “But, our plans are for Dan to stay in the Army. So our future takes us wherever the Army sends us.”

Department of Veteran Affairs offers numerous support services to family caregivers of post-9/11 veterans

Under the “Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010,” additional Veterans Administration services are available to seriously injured post-9/11 veterans and their family caregivers through a program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

The VA is currently accepting applications for these services.

According to the VA

website, in order to be eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, veterans must first be enrolled for VA health services, if not enrolled previously.

Veterans eligible for this program are those who sustained a serious injury – including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma or other mental disorder –

incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Veterans eligible for this program must also be in need of personal care services because of an inability to perform one or more activities of daily living and/or need supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological impairment or injury.

The law will provide

additional assistance to primary family caregivers of eligible post-9/11 veterans and service members.

Services for this group include:

- Monthly stipend;
- Travel expenses (including lodging and per diem while accompanying veterans undergoing care);
- Access to health care insurance (if the caregiver is not al-

ready entitled to care or services under a health care plan);

- Mental health services and counseling;
- Comprehensive VA Caregiver training provided by Easter Seals; and
- Respite care (not less than 30 days per year).

Family caregivers who fit the criteria for these services can visit <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/Care->

http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/Care-eligibility_Check.asp or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

There is also information at <http://www.facebook.com/VaCaregiverSupport>.

The application enables veterans to designate one primary family caregiver and up to two secondary family caregivers, if desired.

Caregiver support coordinators are available at every VA Medical Center to assist with the application process.

(Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)



Joint Base San Antonio

FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

October

Service Member and Family Readiness

Foreclosure workshop covers alternatives

The Randolph Airman and Family Readiness Center is offering a Foreclosure Avoidance Seminar Oct. 3, 11 a.m.-noon. Some of the topics include: foreclosure alternatives, information on VA programs available to homeowners facing possible foreclosure and actions to take if foreclosure is imminent. For more information, call 652-5321.

Job fair offers employment opportunities

The Fort Sam Houston Employment Readiness Program hosts a Job Fair Oct. 4, 4-7 p.m., at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797, for active duty military, retirees and family members and DoD civilian card holders. Representatives from more than 40 agencies and organizations will offer information on available positions. For more information, call 221-0427 or 221-0516.

Tips on writing effective resumes

Lackland Airman and Family Readiness holds a Resume Writing Class Oct. 9, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Resume formats, what items to include and how to write cover letters and reference lists will be discussed. To sign up, call 671-3722.

Orientation gets service members off on the right foot

Lackland Airman and Family Readiness hosts Right Start newcomers' orientation for military personnel Oct. 10 and 24, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Gateway Club. Participants must preregister with the base intro monitor to attend. For details, call 671-3722.

Seminar helps members transition to civilian jobs

Lackland Airman and Family Readiness holds several three-day Transition Assistance seminars to help military personnel transition to civilian employment. Available dates are Oct. 2-4, Oct. 23-25 and Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Classes meet 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m. The seminar covers multiple employment-related topics presented by the Texas Workforce Commission. A pre-separation briefing and DD Form 2648 must be completed before attending this class. Dress code is civilian attire. To sign up, call 671-3722.

Exceptional Family Member Program recruits buddies

The Fort Sam Houston Exceptional Family Member Program is recruiting buddies and volunteers for activities on Oct. 13 and 30 for JBSA Special Olympics Nov. 3. For more information or to volunteer, call 221-2962.



Preschool children are invited to don their costumes for a Halloween tradition, Spooky Story Time, Oct. 27, 2-3 p.m. at the Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library on Fort Sam Houston. Costumes are a must to enjoy ghoulish stores, a trick-or-treating parade and fun crafts. Preschool children up to age 5 are welcome to join the excitement. For more information, call 221-4702.

Morgan's Wonderland entertains military children

Exceptional Family Member Program military children and their families are the guests of honor at the JBSA Special Needs Resource Fair and Child Find Event Oct. 13, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Morgan's Wonderland. Entrance is free for these family members and three immediate military family members. Additional family members pay \$10 each at the door. Child Find is a service for parents or caretakers who have questions about whether a child between the ages of 0-5 is developmentally on track. Specialists will be available to answer questions. Families must register for the event by Oct. 9 at noon. Registration to volunteer at the fair is online at <http://jbsaefmp.wufoo.com/forms/z7x2k5/>. For more information, call 221-2962.

Armed Forces Action Plan welcomes great ideas

Armed Forces Action Plan is the community voice. It's a chance for service members, DoD civilians, retirees and family members to submit ideas to improve Joint Base San Antonio. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 19 at <http://bit.ly/AFAP12>. Since 1983, Armed Forces Action Plan has addressed more than 600 issues and each one originated as an idea that someone decided to pursue including development of the BOSS Program, the need for School Liaison Officers and so much more. Armed Forces Action Plan also offers volunteer opportunities. For more information, call 221-2336.

Arts and Crafts

Halloween wreath craft class at Lackland

Lackland Arts and Crafts Center holds a Halloween wreath class Oct. 15, 5-7 p.m. The one-session class costs \$10 and all supplies are included. To sign up, call 671-2515.

Monster Smash non-juried art exhibit

Lackland Arts and Crafts Center invites all artists to display their work at the non-juried Monster Smash exhibit Oct. 12, 5-8 p.m. The art theme is "Monsters, Mayhem and More!" All submissions must be ready to hang, and received no later than Oct. 10, 4 p.m. For details, call 671-2515.

Vendor spots available for Lackland craft fair

Lackland Arts and Crafts Center is accepting applications until Oct. 26 for vendor spots at the holiday craft fair taking place Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The fee is \$30. One table, two chairs and a lunch are included in the price. For complete details, call 671-2515.

Bowling Center

Bowling specials offered for holiday weekend

Bowlers can celebrate the Columbus Day holiday at the Randolph Bowling Center with a special rate of \$2 per game, per person (excluding Thunder Alley) Oct. 6-8. Shoe rental is \$2. For more information, call 652-6267.

Thunder Alley gets spooky for Halloween

Join the Randolph Bowling Center for Halloween Thunder Alley Oct. 27, 8 p.m.-midnight. There will be a DJ, bowling games, prizes and Spare Time Grille specials. The cost is \$10 per person for ages 17 and older, and \$5 for ages 16 and younger, plus \$2 per game (includes shoe rental). The prizes include a bowling ball and bag, bowling shoes, bowling pin bank, games of bowling and much more. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union.

Halloween "Boo-ling" lights up the lanes

Lackland Skylark Bowling Center features Halloween "Boo-ling" Oct. 27, 8-10 p.m. Glow-in-the-dark bowling balls and pins, laser lights, and a DJ will add to the party atmosphere. Patrons with the best costume will take home a prize. For more information, call 671-1234.