



TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY
DEC. 3
6-8 p.m.
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
Flagpole

Wounded Warriors take Heroes Leap

Story and photo by Robert Shields
BAMC Public Affairs

When it comes to the extreme sport of skydiving, most people would probably ask, "Why would I jump out of a perfectly good airplane?"

This question, however, didn't stop a group of comrades from taking that heart-pounding, stomach-in-your-throat leap. Twenty BAMC wounded warriors – from amputees to those with less visible wounds of war – participated in the third annual Leap of the Heroes Nov. 9.

The Wounded Warrior Program teamed with the Travis County Sheriff's Office and Skydive San Marcos to sponsor the event.

Jumping out of a plane truly has its benefits for these warriors, said Tim Horton, a wounded warrior and alumni manager for the Wounded Warrior Project.

"It allows wounded warriors freedom from their injuries," he said. "When leaping out of a plane, the wounded warriors forget about their injuries for a moment and just enjoy the ride down."

The purpose of Leap of the Heroes is to show wounded warriors just how much the local community appreciates their service and sacrifice to our great nation, he added.

The warriors were escorted by four different city and county police departments through San Marcos to a small air strip on the outskirts of the town. Here the service members were treated to a day filled with music, barbeque and the thrill of leaping from a perfectly good airplane at 13,000 feet above the earth.

Wounded warrior Staff Sgt. Michael Smith says he refuses to let the loss of his arm be the strong hold of his life.

"I started horseback riding two weeks ago and even went out and bought a pair of cowboy boots" he said. "Skydiving... It's just one of those things you don't see amputees doing."

Wounded warrior Sgt. Arie Colon Rivera was grinning ear to ear after he landed. While many were OK with just one the jump, Rivera said he'd be happy to leap again in a heartbeat.



Photo by Michael O'Rear

Command Sgt. Maj. Donald R. Felt, Installation Management Command Central congratulates Petty Officer 1st Class Stephen Lollis during a ceremony Nov. 13 at Roadrunner Community Center.

29 walk the stage to graduate college

By Cheryl Harrison
Warfighter and Family Readiness
Marketing

A late nineteenth century, and little known professor, college president and philosopher, Julia H. Gulliver once said, "Let us never be betrayed into saying we have finished our education; because that would mean we had stopped growing."

Twenty-nine men and women, retired, active duty, dependents and civilians crossed the stage of the Roadrunner auditorium Nov. 13 to receive their diplomas from various universities and colleges, proving they were continuing to grow.

With a capacity crowd cheering, taking photos and beaming with pride, Gulliver's idea of continuing education came to fruition for graduates of Webster, Wayland Baptist, Trident, Kaplan, American Military, Columbia Southern, and University of Maryland, as well as, Thomas Edison State and Excelsior College and the Community College of the Air Force.

"The pursuit of higher education is significant. It may not be related to your military duties today, but it is vital to your analytical abilities and critical decision making in the

See GRADUATION, P4

Wounded warrior Sgt. Arie Colon Rivera is all smiles coming in for landing as his skydiving tandem partner Connie holds the reins at this year's Leap of the Heroes.

FORST SAN ANTONIO

NewsLeader

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Enjoy your bicycle ride but do it safely

By Jewell Hicks
502nd Air Base Wing Chief of Safety

The San Antonio area enjoys some great weather year round. This means more riding days for those who like to ride their bicycles for pleasure or conserving fuel. Unfortunately, with the additional riding time comes the potential for additional risk of injury in a mishap.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 500,000 people in the U.S. are treated in emergency rooms and more than 700 people die as a result of bicycle-related injuries each year.

In most states, including Texas, bicycles are considered a vehicle when operating on roadways and bicyclists must follow the same rules as any other vehicle operator.

Joint Base San Antonio safety personnel have been advised of occasions where people are riding

bicycles in the opposite direction of traffic, which is not only unsafe but is also against the law.

Other bicyclist behaviors that can lead to injuries are not wearing a bicycle helmet, riding into a street without stopping, turning left or swerving into traffic that is coming from behind, and running a stop sign.

Bicyclists share the road with vehicles weighing thousands of pounds more than they do and if a cyclist tangles with an automobile, there is no guess work on who goes to the emergency room.

Bicycles are the smallest vehicles on the roadway though cyclists have the same rights as motor vehicle operators; cyclists also have a responsibility to maintain situational awareness to keep from getting themselves into a bad situation.

See and be seen. Whether daytime, dawn, dusk, foul weather, or at night, you need to be seen



Photo by Tim Cherry

Bicyclists share the road with vehicles weighing thousands of pounds more than they do, but they still need to obey the same rules as other vehicle operators.

by others - particularly vehicles.

AFI 91-207, U.S. Air Force Traffic Safety Program specifically requires that during the hours of darkness, riders will wear a retro-reflective vest/jacket or outer garment containing retro-reflective material.

When riding at night, the traffic safety instruction also requires a front lamp emitting a light that can be seen from a

distance of 500 feet and a rear reflector that can be seen for a distance of at least 300 feet.

Wear a helmet - head injuries are ordinarily the most serious type of bicycle injuries.

AFI 91-207 requires all persons who ride a bicycle, tricycle, or other human powered vehicle, including motorized bicycles on Air Force installations in a traffic environment to wear a properly

fastened and approved (e.g., Consumer Product Safety Commission, ANSI, Snell Memorial Foundation) bicycle helmet.

Bicyclists should have their hands on the handlebars and focused on the task at hand. This means not hand-carrying any packages, bundles or objects which will interfere with the safe operations of the bicycle.

Air Force traffic safety instruction prohibits the wearing of portable headphones, earphones, cellular phones, iPods or other listening devices while walking, jogging, running, bicycling, skating or skateboarding on roadways.

For more information, refer to Air Force Instruction 91-207, Air Force Traffic Safety Program.

For Texas bicycle requirements visit http://www.biketexas.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54&Itemid=64.

A short video with tips for safe bicycling is available at <http://www.san-antonio.gov/oe/sabikes/safetyEd.aspx>.

News Briefs

Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline

The Army chief of staff and the acting secretary of the Army established the Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline to assist Soldiers and their families a place to share their concerns on the quality of care they received. This organization also provides Army senior leadership with a valuable tool to determine if appropriate resources are devoted to solving medical-related issues in timely and comprehensive fashion.

The hotline is available 24/7, call 1-800-984-8523, DSN: 421-3700 or email wsfsupport@amedd.army.mil.

Construction around Building 366

Due to the removal and repair of clay tiles on the roof of Building 366 the contractor requests an area around the building to be cleared of all vehicles and foot traffic for safety reasons in case of falling debris. The work takes place until approximately Jan. 5.

Army Benefits Center-Civilian's Newest Benefits Tool: eRetirement

Retirement is an important milestone in an employee's life. The Army Benefits Center-Civilian offers the new eRetirement web application, located in the Employee Benefits Information System, which allows an employee to easily fill out a retirement application. Army-serviced employees, within one year of retirement, can fill out an application on the ABC-C secure website at <https://www.abc.army.mil> with a Common Access Card and then selecting the EBIS icon or web link. Next, employees enter their Social Security Number and Personal Identification Number. Click on the eRetirement button and complete all the forms listed. Once finished, print each form individually, review closely and sign any applicable forms. Finally, send the application to the ABC-C at 301 Marshall Avenue, Fort Riley, KS, 66442. ABC-C reviews the application closely and sends a letter stating the application has been received. For more information on eRetirement, contact a benefits counselor at 1-877-276-9287 between 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Flu Shots Available On and Off Post

Seasonal influenza vaccines are offered at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, for Department of Defense beneficiaries 5 years and

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

12 singers selected for Operation Rising Star finals week

By Tim Hipps
IMCOM Public Affairs

Twelve performers have been selected for 2012 Operation Rising Star Finals Week, with shows scheduled for Dec. 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15 at the historic Fort Sam Houston Theatre, home of Army Entertainment. Fourteen judges helped select the semifinalists after watching videos of winners from 33 garrisons around the world that hosted local competitions, mostly at Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation venues.

The finalists are Capt. Jaqueline Allen of Fort Gordon, Ga.; Staff Sgt. John Andelfinger of Yongsan, Korea; Spc. Paula Ashcraft of Fort Detrick, Md.; Senior Airman Sherita Cummings of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston; Spc. Reuben Eldridge of Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.; Pfc. Marvin Forbes of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; 1st Lt. Thomas Johnson of Fort Jackson, S.C.; Spc. Mary Knudson of Wiesbaden, Germany; Spc. Constance Mack of Presidio of Monterey, Calif.; Staff Sgt. Darren McGraw of Grafenwoehr, Germany; and military family members Calvin Snead of Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and Christina Williams of the Naval Support Facility in Dahlgren, Va.

The military singing contest is based on the premises of FOX television's "American Idol," complete with celebrity judges and recording artists, and will be tele-

vised by the Pentagon Channel.

Allen, a signal officer from Monroe, N.C., is married to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Allen. She says music is her first love and greatest passion. She prefers gospel, soul and R&B.

Andelfinger, a member of the 51st Security Forces Squadron at Osan Airbase, sang Bon Jovi's "Always" to win at the U.S. Army Garrison in Yongsan.

Ashcraft, a logistics supply specialist from Clinton, Md., was the 2011 Operation Rising Star runner-up in the local competition at Fort Detrick. Inspirational and gospel are her favorite music genres.



Photo by Tim Hipps

Army Entertainment's panel of judges help narrow winners from 33 garrisons around the world to 12 finalists in the Operation Rising Star singing contest who will perform in December at Fort Sam Houston Theatre on Joint Base San Antonio.

She said events like Operation Rising Star give her confidence to be in front of people, which is important to a noncommissioned officer.

Cummings, a medical

admin from Atlanta, was selected for the 2010 Tops in Blue Worldwide Talent Contest. She patterns her style after Christina Aguilera.

Eldridge, a motor transport operator from Valdosta, Ga., hopes Operation Rising Star will provide his love for singing with direction and purpose. He prefers country, but likes all kinds of music.

Forbes, a human resource specialist from Columbus, Ga., has been singing since age 5 and has recording studio experience. "Music has been my release," said Forbes, a longtime school and church choir member. "My only real relaxation is music."

Johnson, a finance officer from Hacienda Heights, Calif., has deployed to Afghanistan, Thailand and twice to Iraq. He says his life is encompassed by music. His style is most influenced by opera and '80s music, but his favorite genre "depends on the day."

Knudson, an X-

ray technician from Atascadero, Calif., took second place in her local 2011 Operation Rising Star competition. She has been singing and playing musical instruments for most of her life. "It's everything to me," she said.

Mack, a linguist from Stone Mountain, Ga., is a jazz enthusiast who sang in choirs in church, high school and college. She won the local 2011 Operation Rising Star event at Presidio of Monterey.

McGraw, a petroleum supply specialist from Pensacola, Fla., was the runner-up in Grafenwoehr's local event but advanced to ORS finals week because the winner advanced last year. His style is patterned after that of his grandmother, Donnie Hathaway, Usher and Otis Redding. "I grew up singing and listening to music," McGraw said. "When it all fell down, music was there to pick it back up."

Snead, a former Soldier from Tifton, Ga., is no stranger to Army Entertainment. He was in the cast of the 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show and is competing in Operation Rising Star as husband of Staff Sgt. KaMeshia Snead.

"Music has allowed me to travel the world and meet, network and have experiences that only music can create," Snead said. "I'm just appreciative that they still have competitions for the military and family to participate in."

Williams, a military wife from Covington, Tenn., won a 2010 Tennessee All-Star in Music award. She hopes her Operation Rising Star participation will help her become more involved in the military community.



Photo by Deyanira Romo Rossell

Airman Sherita Cummings sings during the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Operation Rising Star competition. Cummings is one of the 12 finalists who will perform in December at Fort Sam Houston Theatre.

GRADUATION from P1

future,” said guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Donald R. Felt, Installation Management Command Central.

“So commanders, I urge you to support that Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine to pursue higher education goals. You will reap benefits in the future.”

Following the presentation of diplomas, the Education Center offered refreshments and representatives from numerous local colleges and universities were on hand to speak with future students or give information about their programs.

Congratulations to the following graduates present at the day’s ceremony.

American Military University
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Cooper, BA Criminal Justice
Staff Sgt. Megan Deleon, MA National Security Studies
Sgt. 1st Class John Gantzer, BA Homeland Security with honors
Master Sgt. Christopher Graham, BA Criminal Justice with honors
Retired Sgt. 1st Class Carolyn Everage, MS Education, Teaching-Instructional Leadership with honors
Retired Sgt. 1st Class Donna Horton, BA Homeland Security
Tech. Sgt. Patrick Hunt, BA Criminal Justice
Chief Master Sgt. Jimmy Jones, BA Criminal Justice
Master Sgt. Tiffany Oliver, BS Public Health
Master Sgt. Steven Ostrov, BA Intelligence

Studies with honors
Tech. Sgt. Antonio Payne, BA Emergency & Disaster Management
Tech. Sgt. Timothy Petch, BA Criminal Justice
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Simms, MA Management & Human Resources

Columbia Southern University
Staff Sgt. Damion Noiell, BS Business Administration

Community College of the Air Force
Petty Officer 1st Class Stephen Lollis, AS Biomedical Equipment Technology

Excelsior College
Retired Sgt. 1st Class Harrison Jules, AS Nursing
Retires Chief Petty Officer Joseph Rudolph, BA Criminal Justice with honors

Kaplan University
Sgt. 1st Class Kendrick Sallis, BS Psychology

Thomas Edison State College
Sgt. 1st Class Roydon Johnson, ASAST Medical Imaging

Trident University
Master Sgt. Brian Morris, Masters in Business Administration
Retired Sgt. 1st Class Collette Weary, BSHS Health Care Management
Sgt. Annoniette Pierce, Masters in Business Administration

University of Maryland University College
Retired Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Vann, BS Management Studies

Wayland Baptist University
Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Cervantes, BS Occupational Education
Sgt. 1st Class William Mitchell, Bachelor of Applied Science
Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Morajara, BS Occupational Education

Webster University
Chris Hillard, MA Management & Leadership
Retired Master Sgt. Derrick Johnson, MA Procurement & Acquisitions Management
Retired Master Sgt. Tony Erskine, MA Procurement & Acquisitions Management

HOLIDAY HELPING HAND



Photo by Lori Newman

Chaplain (Col.) Terry L. Whiteside, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Installation Command chaplain, presents a check in the amount of \$12,375 and an additional \$1,500 in Commissary gift cards collected from the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Chapel congregations to Staff Sgt. Adam Sahlberg, president of the SMA Leon Van Autreve Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. The funds were used to purchase \$25 gift cards for service members in the need of a little extra help during the Thanksgiving holiday. The SAMC hosts the annual Thanksgiving basket donation to support service members on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Camp Bullis and JBSA-Lackland.

Did you know?

One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service. It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.

2 x 3.75 AD

4 x 4.75 AD

6 x 4.75 AD

6 x 4.75 AD

News Briefs

from P3

older from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 28. Beneficiaries can also get the vaccine at no cost at one of 45,000 network pharmacies that administer vaccines to TRICARE beneficiaries. Find a participating pharmacy at <http://www.express-scripts.com/tricare/pharmacy>, or by calling Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303.

Customer Care Center at CPAC

People looking for job information can visit the new customer care center at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Building 144, 2438 Stanley Road. Army civilian employees can also receive assistance with resetting passwords for the Electronic Benefits Information System or completing employee beneficiary forms. For more information, call 221-1425.

Nasal influenza research study

Brooke Army Medical Center is enrolling people for a self-administered nasal influenza feasibility study. Male and female applicants should be in good health, between 18 and 49 years of age and be a Department of Defense beneficiary. During the study, applicants will complete an interview and diary, have blood drawn twice, make two visits over a one-month period and be supplied with the nasal vaccination. There is a payment of \$25 for each blood draw. To apply, or for more information, call 916-6014.

Commissary Rewards Card

The Defense Commissary Agency's new commissary rewards card allows shoppers to download coupons directly onto the card and redeem them at checkout. For more information, visit your local commissary or go to <http://www.commissaries.com>.

Auto Ad Scam

Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials warn car shoppers from Texas to Colorado to beware of false advertisements in Auto Trader and major metropolitan newspapers offering automobile sales through a company calling itself "Exchange Inc." It is reported the Exchange's trademarked logo and name are being used without permission to purportedly sell vehicles in the United States, despite the fact that military exchanges do not

See NEWS BRIEFS, P19

US Army Environmental Command assists parks and recreation effort at Brackenridge Park

Story and photos by
Barry R. Napp
USAEC Public Affairs

Volunteers from U.S. Army Environmental Command recently celebrated the command's 40th year of service to Soldiers, families and the Army as they combined forces with City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department staff to clear and remove invasive plants such as Chinaberry, Ragweed and other non-native species in San Antonio's Brackenridge Park.

"The drought and high summer temperatures impacted many of our native plants and trees so we are making every effort to help them thrive," said Meredith Ruiz, program manager.

"Chinaberry is an invasive, non-native species that is crowding out native species and preventing nutrients from reaching native species and blocking growth, so we needed to thin out the Chinaberry."

Approximately 40 USAEC volunteers helped Parks and Recreation staff and local community members distribute mulch around both established and newer trees to help protect them and beautify the hiking and biking trails around Joske's Pavilion.

The unit's last organization day was held at the Brackenridge Park Joske Pavilion so they were familiar with the grounds.

"We always appre-



U.S. Army Environmental Command employees (clockwise from left) Roger Paugh, Jim Bard, Derrick Lopez, Gary Birge and Adrian Salinas (kneeling) tear an invasive non-native Chinaberry tree from the ground while Commander Col. Mark A. Lee looks on during a park cleanup day at Brackenridge Park.

ciate the Army and USAEC's help," said Ruiz.

"Our relationship with them is growing very quickly and is important to the Parks and Recreation Department as well as to the entire community that uses and enjoys our city parks."

"This event is helping to build on a relationship started a couple of years ago during annual Earth Day activities held at John James Park and hosted by USAEC," said Julie Jeter, one of USAEC's fish and wildlife

biologists.

"This is incredibly important work and it's imperative we work together with the community to help support and preserve land here for all to enjoy now as well as for future generations."

According to Justin Krobot, a horticulturist with Urban Forestry for the Parks and Recreation Department, it's tremendously helpful for the Army and local community volunteers to pick up trash, clear out invasive plant and tree species and support the overall planning of



Sharon Jones (foreground) pulls an invasive non-native Chinaberry tree from the ground at Brackenridge Park during a park cleanup day sponsored by the U.S. Army Environmental Command as part of their 40th anniversary celebration.

future park events.

"Chinaberry trees were brought in to landscape homes but they've taken over, so with the Army's help we'll knock some of those trees out," he said.

"The last group that helped us thought some of the Chinaberry trees were too big to remove by hand but the folks from USAEC have proven them wrong today. Nothing is too big for these guys."

"Hundreds of Chinaberry trees and ragweed plants met their match today here in the park," said Col. Mark Lee, commander of USAEC.

"We pulled the trees and plants out of the ground and when that didn't work we used heavy rocks to break up roots. No tree was so big that we couldn't take it down when we worked together as a team."

According to Ruiz, next spring they hope to do more with Army volunteers like re-

mulching, xeriscaping and adding benches for the trails.

The U.S. Army Environmental Command usually does work at John James Park as part of the city's Adopt-A-Park program, but construction in the John James Park area shifted the volunteer work to Brackenridge Park this fall.

Brackenridge Park is comprised of almost 344 acres, located just below the headwaters of the San Antonio river and very close to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The park consists of three rentable pavilions, the Japanese Tea Garden, the San Antonio Zoo, Lambert Beach and the Sunken Garden Theatre. A golf course, soft and hard walking trails and restrooms are also on-site amenities.

For more information on John James Park and Brackenridge Park, call 207-8603. For more information on USAEC, visit <http://aec.army.mil>.

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JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON ADOPTED SCHOOLS CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY



Photo by Esther Garcia

Lt. Col. Neil Nelson, 264th Medical Battalion commander, speaks to students at East Terrell Hills Elementary School, during the school's Veterans Ceremony Nov. 9. The ceremony recognized veterans who are relatives of the students. Each veteran was introduced and presented with paper flowers made by the students. East Terrell Hills Elementary School is the 264th Medical Battalion adopted school through the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Adopt-A-School program.



Photo by Serafina De Los Santos

Col John Lamoureux, 502nd Mission Support Group commander and members of the 106th Signal Brigade participate in a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 12 at Wilshire Elementary School. Lamoureux presented an American flag to the school and members of the brigade conducted a flag folding ceremony so the children could see the proper way to fold the flag. The school's choir performed a special musical tribute and each veteran was presented a white rose adorned with red, white, and blue ribbons. The honored guests were then treated to a reception with refreshments in the Wilshire Library.

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IMCOM looks to expedite hiring at garrisons

Garrison commanders are recruiting for about 2,000 job openings, and while the competitive process can be time-consuming, exceptions to the process allow for noncompetitive selection of current IMCOM employees, transitioning Soldiers, disabled veterans and certain others.

At the same time, the Army still faces a new fiscal environment that could require more civilian workforce reductions in the future, so the headquarters will continue to closely oversee the filling of critical vacancies to ensure the command stays within sustainable end strength numbers.

IMCOM started fiscal year 2012 facing a mandatory reduction of more than 4,000 civilian positions including the headquarters, the regions and the garrisons.

In the interest of retaining a highly experienced and specialized workforce, the command approached the necessary reduction with a commitment to meet the end strength target through attrition and judicious filling of critical vacancies.

This proactive ap-

proach to human resources management has succeeded to the extent that IMCOM has exceeded its reduction target through voluntary separations, retirement and cross-leveling through reassignment.

The new personnel outlook is good news for protecting the workforce, but the garrisons are now anxious to fill these nearly 2,000 openings to sustain their operations.

“It’s great to see that we could continue to meet our mission requirements while still taking care of our civilian workforce,” said IMCOM Commander Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter.

The federal hiring system is a competitive process, designed to evaluate applicants fairly, but not necessarily quickly, especially in recruiting from outside the government. But federal regulations allow for noncompetitive consideration of the very populations IMCOM seeks to help – including current employees, transitioning Soldiers and

disabled veterans.

“As we look at ways to expedite the approval process, there are steps the garrisons can take to speed the process, including streamlining the recruiting process, working in advance with the CPAC on determining the level of competition, getting job assessments ready, considering noncompetitive selections of the current IMCOM workforce, and hiring veterans and family members,” said IMCOM Director of Human Resources (G1) Karen M. Perkins.

Most hiring actions still must go to the Headquarters IMCOM Human Resources Management Board for initial screening and a recommendation to the commanding general.

When the commander approves a hiring request, he specifies whether a vacancy must be filled by a current IMCOM employee or whether it can be recruited outside the command and even outside the federal workforce.

The first step remains

active duty during a war, a recognized campaign or expedition, or certain other military operations.

Another opportunity is to appoint a veteran retired from active duty with a disability rating of 30 percent or more. These appointments are 60-day temporary or term to start with, but may be converted to career or career-conditional.

Another talent resource is Army spouses, who normally won’t qualify for noncompetitive appointment, but often come with wide experience and varied skill sets that might not be readily available in the local talent pool.

Also, former government employees eligible for reinstatement can be selected noncompetitively in any grade up to their former highest grade, as long as they meet qualifications.

The installation Civilian Personnel Action Center is the local resource for all civilian hiring. Every action should be in consultation with them.

(Source: IMCOM Public Affairs)

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3 x 4.75 AD

6 x 4.75 AD

Army North hosts Pow Wow for National Native American Heritage celebration



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
Donovan Anderson, 3, puts his all into his dance during the "Gourd Dance" Nov. 17 in the historic Quadrangle as part of the National Native American Heritage Month celebration.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
Air Force Capt. Amileah Davis (left) is honored by Lenny and Dana Medina, the head gourd dancer and head lady dancer respectively, Nov. 17 as part of the National Native American Heritage Month celebration in the historic Quadrangle. Members of the United San Antonio Pow Wow organization were the main guests as part of the celebration, along with vendors and other distinguished members of the shared communities from here and around Texas and represented tribes and nations from across North America. The celebration and pow wow are sponsored by the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Equal Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity Programs as well as the USAPW.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
Maj. Gen. Adolph McQueen Sr., deputy commanding general for support, U.S. Army North, receives one of the first 2013 Fiesta medals from Erwin De Luna, master of ceremonies and Head Man dancer.

Virgie Ravenhawk, one of the vendors and a retired Army veteran, plays one of her hand-crafted flutes for guests Nov. 17 as part of the National Native American Heritage Month celebration in the historic Quadrangle. Ravenhawk's family heritage comes from Wichita and Aztec backgrounds.

Photo by Col. Wayne Shanks



Several of the dancers in accurate Native garb perform a Northern-style dance Nov. 17 as part of the National Native American Heritage Month celebration in the historic Quadrangle.

Photo by Col. Wayne Shanks



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
Dancers, performers and participants stand together during the Grand Entry Nov. 17 as part of the National Native American Heritage Month celebration.



Photo by Col. Wayne Shanks
Sebastian Morado, one of the dancers, performs a Northern traditional dance Nov. 17 as part of the National Native American Heritage Month celebration. Morado's name means "purple" so he dresses accordingly for every event he attends.



Photo by Col. Wayne Shanks
Air Force Capt. Amileah Davis, a clinical psychology resident at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, participates as a dancer following the Grand Entry ceremony Nov. 17 as part of the National Native American Heritage Month celebration in the historic Quadrangle. Davis created a unique garb that incorporates her military service and her Native American heritage.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
Members of the United San Antonio Pow Wow organization participate in the National Native American Heritage Month celebration.

3 x 3 AD

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2012 Armed Forces Action Plan Conference a historical success

By Cheryl Harrison
Warfighter and Family Readiness,
Marketing

Active duty, retired, civilians and family members joined together to address significant issues that could affect the well-being of the military family at the annual Armed Forces Action Plan Conference Nov. 13 to16 at Dodd Field Chapel.

Once known strictly as an Army conference, AFAP continues to evolve as a Joint Base military effort.

AFAP allows a process for concerns and issues of not only Army Soldiers, but all members of the Joint Base San Antonio community to be heard and potentially resolved to make a better and stronger military.

AFAP was created in 1980 through focus groups, but was fully developed with the first official conference held in July 1983.

The Army designed the AFAP program to identify issues, raising them to the appropriate level to be solved. But, the program doesn't stop there. Once an issue is entered into the program, the Army monitors it to ensure it is resolved or deemed unattainable.

This 'grass root' program brings up issues and provides recommendations to the chain of command.

Some issues are handled at the local level, but many issues

take Department of the Army-level action to affect change.

This year's significant aspect of the AFAP program is its affect on the "total" military family and their quality of life.

"We have re-titled the AFAP to the Armed Forces Action Plan because of the joint nature of San Antonio," said Col. James Chevallier, vice commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and deputy commander, Joint Base San Antonio.

"It is good to see that we had representatives from all the services and clearly by some of the issues, they were joint issues."

During the three and a half day conference, 38 delegates, seven teenage delegates and 22 facilitators, recorders, transcribers, issue support persons, and room managers looked at about 85 issues during the conference and 59 issues were submitted to the Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, for resolution.

Guest speaker Maj. Gen. Adolph McQueen, deputy commanding general for Support, U.S. Army North addressed conference attendees saying, "Your being here, truly is improving your surroundings and these actions will improve the surrounding on Fort Sam Houston. The Army isn't a Soldier it is a family, your voice is important."

Each issue was considered and tackled in posi-

tive ways. All issues were prioritized and discussed in assigned work groups.

Subject matter experts were on-hand during the conference to provide delegates with information and facts so delegates could decide how to prioritize the issues and develop possible recommendations.

Issues that can be worked at the installation level will remain at the installation and those that require higher command action are forwarded to the major command level conference.

If prioritized at that conference, they are then forwarded to the Department of the Army conference.

The groups were given issues that pertained to Medical/Dental; Benefits, Entitlements, Facilities and Relocation; Force Support I and II; Family and Employment Support; and Teens.

During the Report Out, a spokesperson from each group presented the top two or three issues that were considered the most viable.

"A huge thank you to everyone who participated in this year's conference and helping to make it a great success," said Kathleen Moree, program manager for AFAP.

"Keep in mind that it is never too early to start coming up with issues for next year's AFAP conference."



Photo by DJ Green

Attendees listen closely to issues presented during an out brief held the last day of the Armed Force Action Plan Conference. The 38 delegates wore purple and the facilitators, reporters, transcribers and issue support or FERTIS were in red. The conference was held Nov. 13 to 16 at Dodd Field Chapel.

Work groups and Issues prioritized at the Joint Base San Antonio 2012 AFAP conference were:

Family and Employment Support

- Military spouses eligibility date for appointment under Executive Order 13473
- Centralized child care registration across Department of Defense

Benefits, Entitlements, Facilities & Relocation

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance of DOD facilities for wounded warriors
- Lodging and meal expense reimbursement for single/divorced service members required to reside in unaccompanied housing that are non-custodial parents during court approved visitation

Force Support I

- Training in military career field prior to deployment
- Placement of unfit for duty service members
- Communication of tri-service commands policy and procedure

Force Support II

- Education on non appropriated fund activities for eligible patrons
- Multiple names for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs across the DOD
- Contracting officer representatives and publication of Equal Employment Opportunity complaint filing procedures

Medical and Dental

- Cross training for general medical care for all Unified Systems for military treatment facilities medical personnel
- Military Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE)
- Work related data access for employees working at San Antonio Military Medical Center and Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center

Teens

- High school graduation requirements for military students
- Communication between students and administration

Did you know?

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

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



Jazz & Wine Night now a can't-miss event

By **Deyanira Romo Rossell**
502nd FSS Marketing

Playing to a full house, blues and funk saxophonist Ronnie Laws, jazz pianist Alex Bugnon and baritone jazz vocal recording artist Jeffery Smith were the featured attraction at Friday Night Jazz & Wine Nov. 9 at the Fort Sam Houston Theatre. With an autumn night offer-

ing the perfect ambiance, service members, veterans and their families and guests soaked in the music, wine and hors d'oeuvres at the third Jazz & Wine event hosted by Army Entertainment at the historic theater.

"I would like to thank everyone who supported the 2012 Friday Night Jazz & Wine Series," said Joe Leavell, Army Entertainment chief.



Jazz pianist Alex Bugnon entertains the crowd at Friday Night Jazz & Wine, Nov. 9, at the Fort Sam Houston Theatre.

Photos by Tim Hipps



Baritone jazz vocal recording artist Jeffery Smith played to a sold out audience at the third Friday Night Jazz & Wine, Nov. 9, at the Fort Sam Houston Theatre.

For folks ready to enjoy more jazz and wine, three shows are scheduled in 2013. Show dates are Feb. 8, April 26 and Nov. 8. The featured artists for these shows will be announced at <http://www.Armymwr.com>. For more information, call 466-2020.



Performing to a sold out Army Entertainment Theatre, blues and funk saxophonist Ronnie Laws was the headliner at the Friday Night Jazz & Wine Nov. 9.

3 x 4.75 AD

3 x 4.75 AD



Family Readiness Group Leadership Academy

Nov. 27-28, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

Homeland Security Career Fair

Nov. 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-0516 or 221-0427.

Credit and Debt Management

Nov. 27, 9-11 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

First Termer Financial Readiness

Nov. 27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Dodd Field Chapel, call 221-2380.

HUGS Playgroup

Nov. 27, 9-11 a.m., Middle School Teen Center, Building 2515, call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

Newcomer's Extravaganza

Nov. 27, 9:30-11 a.m., Sam Houston Community Center, meet representatives from many different organizations, programs and businesses, call 221-1681 or 221-2418.

Consumer Awareness

Nov. 27, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

First Termer Financial Readiness

Nov. 28, noon-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building

2797, call 221-2380.

Excel Level 3

Nov. 29, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Downtown Walking Tour

Nov. 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., departing from Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, space is limited, so sign up early, call 221-9698 or 221-1681.

Civilianjobs.com Job Fair

Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sam Houston Community Center, call (678) 819-4153 or visit <http://www.civilianjobs.com>.

'Scrooge' at Cole High School

The Robert G. Cole High School music and drama departments invite the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston community to celebrate the season at their annual holiday dinner theater musical featuring Charles Dickens' "Scrooge." Shows are Nov. 29 through Dec. 1. Dinner is served each day at 5:30 p.m. in the Cole High School Mall; with show time at 6:30 p.m. in the Moseley Gym. Cost is \$7 per person; reservations can be made on the Cole website at <http://colehs.fshisd.net/>.

Women Encouraging Women

Nov. 30, 11 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, bring your lunch and enjoy an hour of learning, interacting and encouragement, call 221-0349.

Fall Ball Sign Up

Youth Sports is hosting the annual fall basketball league for children ages 5 to 15. Registration deadline is Nov. 30 at Parent Central, Building 2797. Cost is

\$65. Children participating in youth sports must have a current physical on file with Child, Youth & School Services at the time of registration. Call 221-5519/5513 for information.

Youth Flag Football Game

The Middle School Teen Center will host an Army vs. Air Force flag football game Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. at the Youth Center Football Fields, next to Building 1630. The competition is open to children in junior high and high school.

Tree-Lighting Ceremony

Dec. 3, 6-8 p.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston flagpole, Santa will bring some snow and holiday treats and caroling will highlight the evening, call 221-1718.

Word Level 1

Dec. 4, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Excel Level 1

Dec. 6, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Armed Forces Team Building's 18th Birthday

Dec. 6, noon-1:30 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, everyone's invited to enjoy cake, punch and fun, call 221-2611.

Preparing the Way - A Christmas Concert

John Angotti and his band will perform at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 at Dodd Field Chapel, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and 7 p.m. Dec. 13 at Hope Chapel, JBSA-Lackland. Call 221-2755 for more information.

Journey to Bethlehem

Dec. 14 and 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m.,

grounds of the Gift Chapel. Call 221-2755.

Children's Holiday Party

Dec. 15, noon-4 p.m. at Kelly Hangar 1610, all DOD cardholders and their families are invited to attend. Children age 12 and younger can meet with Santa and receive a gift. Activities will include face painting, games, and crafts. There will also be music, food and a caricature artist. Families interested in attending need to reserve by Dec. 11 and provide children's age and gender. Call 671-6511, 671-9414, 671-8348 or 671-9889.

Youth & School Services Winter Camp

Parents can visit Parent Central to sign their children up for full-day winter camp, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 24-Jan. 4, call 221-4871.

Apprenticeships Available for Teens

Registration is open for youth, ages 15-18, who want to work as apprentices in the 2013 HIRED! winter term which runs Jan. 14-April 6. Registration forms are available at the Middle School Teen Center, Building 2515 and Parent Central, Building 2797, application deadline is Dec. 3, call 221-3386.

Notice of Fitness Center Closure

The Big Area Tent, temporarily housing the Brigade Gym at the corner of Hardee and Williams Roads, closes permanently Dec. 14. The Central Post Gym, Building 961, will reopen in December.

Wrap Up Some Holiday Funds

Private organizations, unofficial activities and informal funds authorized to operate on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston can raise funds for

their causes while spreading some holiday cheer. The JBSA-FSH Post Exchange is seeking partners for the annual community gift wrap program. The program runs through Christmas Eve. Call 221-0010 for available dates. Organizations are asked to provide their own tape, ribbons, bows and scissors.

Basketball Coaches Needed

Volunteer coaching opportunities are available for the youth fall basketball season at the Middle School Teen Center. Youth Sports is taking applications from DOD cardholders to coach youth ages 5-15. Background checks are required. Call 221-5519 or 221-5513.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ticket Office Fall Hours

Open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The ticket office will reopen on Saturdays in spring 2013. Call 226-1663.

Discount Tickets for Winter Ballets

The Sam Houston Community Center ticket office, Building 1395, is selling discount tickets for the Moscow Ballet, 7 p.m. Dec. 28, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 29, Discount tickets are also available for the Nutcracker, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 21, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 22, and 2 p.m. Dec. 23. The ticket office also has discount tickets for Disney on Ice "Rockin' Everafter," April 10-14. For

more information, call 226-1663.

Sportsman Range

The range is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. DOD cardholders may shoot their personal pistols, rifles and shotguns. Firearms must be registered at JBSA-Camp Bullis. The range may close unexpectedly because of weather, or troop use. Range users should call before coming out for target practice. Call 295-7577.

Theater Arts Program

Children, ages 4 and up, can take the stage after a long day at school in the Theater Arts Program at School Age Services, Building 1705. The cost is \$80 for a month of biweekly classes. Classes are 4-5 p.m. for ages 4-6, 5-6 p.m. for ages 7-10 and 6-7 p.m. for ages 11 and up. Call 221-3381 for information.

Home Child Care Providers Needed

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

Parent Central Customer Service Hours

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Parent

See INSIDE, P20

Edwards Aquifer Level

in feet above sea level as of Nov. 19

CURRENT LEVEL * = 648.4'

*determines JBSA water conservation stage

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

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



Weekly Weather Watch

	Nov 23	Nov 24	Nov 25	Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28
San Antonio Texas	68° Few Showers	65° Partly Cloudy	69° Partly Cloudy	75° Partly Cloudy	63° Mostly Sunny	65° Cloudy
Kabul Afghanistan	53° Few Showers	56° Sunny	52° Cloudy	49° Scat Snow Showers	53° Mostly Sunny	54° Partly Cloudy

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

NEWS BRIEFS from P6

have the authority to sell vehicles in the continental United States. AAFES facilities are located solely on military installations. While the Exchange does have mail order and Internet offerings, the Exchange does not advertise in civilian outlets such as metropolitan newspapers or automobile sales magazines.

Bicycle Helmets Required

Anyone who rides a bicycle, tricycle, motor drive bicycle or operates non-motorized transportation such as skateboards, kick-scooters and roller skates on an Air Force installation are required by Air Force Instruction 91-207 to wear a properly fastened and approved bicycle helmet. During hours of darkness, riders are required to wear a retro-reflective vest, jacket or outer garment containing retro-reflective material. In addition,

bicycles should be equipped with a white front light (not a reflector) visible for 500 feet and red rear reflector or light visible from the rear of the bicycle from a distance of 300 feet.

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 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. each Thursday. Patients 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.

CLASS
6X9.75 2

CLASS
6X9.75 3

6 x 4.75 AD