

FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader



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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance at JBSA-FSH

The life of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be commemorated at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston at noon Jan. 25 at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, 3060 Stanley Road.

The event is hosted by the Southern Regional Medical Command.

The guest speaker is Oliver W. Hill, president of the San Antonio branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Hill is a fourth-generation San Antonio native and worked at the former Kelly Air Force Base.

Hill has also served as chairman of the City of San Antonio's Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, the San Antonio Citizens Advisory Action Board, board member of the Fair Housing Council of Greater San Antonio, board member of The Employment Network, president of the Southwest Texas Conference Lay Organization,

board member of the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority and their representative on the Transportation Policy Board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and member of the Historical Research Museum of the AME Church of Texas.

The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

The federal holiday of Martin Luther King Day is Jan. 21. The City of San Antonio honors King with a march that day, which begins at 10 a.m. at the Martin Luther King Academy located in the 3500 block of Martin Luther King Drive and ends at Pittman-Sullivan Park at 1101 Iowa.

For more information about the march, click on <http://www.sanantonio.gov/MLK.aspx>.



SAMMC to unveil guest Wi-Fi for patients, families

By Elaine Sanchez
BAMC Public Affairs

Patients and their families will soon be able to text, email or just browse the Internet from their commercial, personally-owned wireless devices at the San Antonio Military Medical Center, thanks to a new guest wireless pilot program set to launch in late January.

Upon connection, SAMMC will become the first military treatment facility in the Army to offer Wi-Fi capability to its beneficiaries, officials said.

"Many civilian health care facilities offer wireless capability, and if they can offer it, why not us?" said Army Maj. Anthony Bradway, chief technology officer for Brooke Army Medical Center's

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Photo by Robert Shields

Patti Steward (right), senior wireless engineer for Brooke Army Medical Center Information Management Division, discusses San Antonio Military Medical Center's new wireless service with wireless engineers Phillip Forister and Rosendo B. Flores. The pilot program will enable beneficiaries to connect to Wi-Fi while in the hospital using commercial, personally owned wireless devices.

Officials announce TRICARE Prime service area changes

By Amaani Lyle
American Forces Press Service

Active-duty service members and their families will be unaffected when long-delayed reductions to areas where the TRICARE Prime option is offered take place Oct. 1, TRICARE officials

said Jan. 9.

But as TRICARE seeks to synchronize service area shifts once staggered by contract delays, some military retirees and their dependents will be moved to TRICARE Standard coverage, S. Dian Lawhon, beneficiary education and support



division director, said during a conference call with reporters.

Those affected reside

more than 40 miles from a military treatment facility or base closure site, she said.

The new contracts limit Prime networks to regions within a 40-mile radius of military treatment facilities and in areas affected by the 2005 base closure and

realignment process, Lawhon said.

But provisions will allow Prime beneficiaries who see providers outside the 40-mile service area to remain in Prime if they reside within 100 miles of an available primary care manager and sign an access waiver, she added.

"If TRICARE retirees and young adults live less than 100 miles away from a remaining Prime service area, they can reenroll in Prime by waiving their drive standards and there will be room made for them," Lawhon

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New co-pays for TRICARE pharmacy customers

New copayments for prescription drugs covered by TRICARE will go into effect soon.

The Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act requires TRICARE to increase co-pays on brand name and non-formulary medications that are not filled at military clinics or hospitals. There is no increase to co-pays for generic medications.

Increases will be effective sometime in February, depending on when system changes can be made, and the publication of a required Federal Notice.

TRICARE Pharmacy co-pays vary based on the class of drug and where beneficiaries choose to fill their prescriptions. The co-pay for generic medications stays at \$5 when a prescription is filled at a network pharmacy. There is no co-pay when generic prescriptions are filled through TRICARE Home Delivery.

The new co-pay for a 30-day supply of a brand name medication purchased at a retail network pharmacy will be \$17, up from the current \$12. Beneficiaries using TRICARE Home Delivery will pay

\$13 for brand name drugs, up from \$9. However, the Home Delivery price is for a 90-day supply.

The greatest change in co-pays applies to non-formulary medications. The \$25 co-pay for these drugs increases to \$44 at retail pharmacies and \$43 through Home Delivery.

The TRICARE Uniform Formulary is a list of all the medications TRICARE covers.

For fiscal 2014 and beyond, the new law directs that co-pays increase annually by the same percentage as retiree cost-of-living adjustments (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2012/11/2013-retiree-and-veteran-cola-announced/>).

In years when a COLA increase would total less than a dollar, it will be delayed a year and combined with the next adjustment so increases will always be \$1 or more.

Pharmacies at military hospitals and clinics will continue to provide medications with no co-pays. Visit <http://www.TRICARE.mil/costs> for more details.

(Source: TRICARE at <http://www.TRICARE.mil>)

FSHISD PUBLIC HEARING

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District invites all parents and community members to a public hearing at 11 a.m. Jan. 25 in the Professional Development Center at 4005 Winans Road for public discussion of the 2011-2012 FSHISD annual performance report. The hearing will be held in conjunction with the regularly called meeting of the FSHISD Board of Trustees.



ARMY SAFETY 2012: A year in review and the year ahead

The significance of safety is one of many critical lessons our Army has learned after 11 years at war. We have learned that lesson well as demonstrated by a 9 percent annual decline in Soldier accidental fatalities.

Fiscal 2012 was our third safest year on record. This is a great accomplishment for every member of our force, and one that will sustain us as we transition to the Army of the future.

We can improve upon that performance in 2013 by treating safety as an imperative, not just a priority. As the mission changes, priorities may shift in importance. Safety, however, is non-negotiable in all that we do, both on and off duty. It must be at the center of every function throughout the chain of command for the proper care of our Soldiers, civilians and families.

By focusing on several key actions, leaders at all levels can contribute to the safety of our personnel.

First, commanders should evaluate unit safety culture and the degree of organizational risk by scheduling their individual formations for the Army Readiness Assessment Program (<https://safety.army.mil>).

Next, commanders at all levels must continue to ensure timely completion of accident reports. Lags in reporting time and incomplete reports complicate trend analysis and delay the distribution of vital safety information to the field. Reports must contain all relevant facts and be as comprehensive as possible before they are submitted through the reviewing chain.

Safety information is only as good as the data used to analyze it, and incomplete accident reports may obscure emerging trends.

Finally, leaders must know what their Soldiers are doing off duty. Mishaps involving privately owned motor vehicles – both cars and motorcycles – remain the number one cause of accidental deaths of Soldiers.

We must fight off-duty risk with the same tenacity and principles that we apply to minimizing accidental fatalities on duty.

By actively engaging Soldiers, civilians and families, we can and must work together to ensure our continued safety success.

Thank you for what you do every day for our Army and the United States of America. Together, we are the Strength of the Nation!



Raymond F. Chandler III
 Raymond F. Chandler III
 Sergeant Major of the Army



Raymond T. Odierno
 Raymond T. Odierno
 General, United States Army
 Chief of Staff



John M. McHugh
 John M. McHugh
 Secretary of the Army

News Briefs

2013 JBSA Annual Awards Auditions

The Joint Base San Antonio Annual Awards Committee hosts auditions for emcees and national anthem singers at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Robert D. Gaylor NCOA Auditorium on JBSA-Lackland. Members of all service branches of any rank are encouraged to audition. For more information, call 671-3722 or 565-3673.

Large Troop Formations in METC Campus Area

With the upcoming Feb. 1 closure of the Slagel Dining Facility, motorists on Garden Street in the Medical Education and Training Campus area can expect large troop movements during meal times. Motorists are advised to expect delays and avoid the area if possible as troop formations head to the new DFAC for meals. In the near future, the Schofield Road access control point will be moving back near the railroad tracks and will open up other routes around the METC campus.

ASA Security Office Relocation

The Army Support Activity Security Office has relocated to the second floor of Building 2001 in Room 201. The new address is 1837 Army Blvd., which is in the west corner of the installation. Business hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fingerprinting for background investigations are only performed for government positions, with no appointment necessary. For more information, call 221-2829/2268/9611.

Judo Fitness Instructor Course

Sensei Roy Eby will be putting on a judo fitness instructor course for judo practitioners and unit physical training leaders looking to improve their unit's fitness and resiliency skills. The 40-hour course takes place at 7 a.m. from Jan. 28 through Feb. 1 at the Medina Fitness Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Annex. No fitness or martial arts experience is needed. Sign up is open until Jan. 23. For more information, call 671-0566.

Spouse's Club scholarships

Applications for the Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area College Scholarship are being accepted. The Spouses' Club will award scholarship funds for the 2013-2014 academic year to select students with military

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New commander takes helm of Navy Medicine Training Support Center

By Lori Newman
JBSA-FSH News Leader

A ceremony steeped in rich Navy tradition took place Jan. 11 in front of one of Texas' most historic landmarks – the Alamo.

Navy Capt. Joel A. Roos assumed command of the Navy Medicine Training Support Center as Navy Capt. John D. Larderd retired after more than 35 years of service.

Rear Adm. William M. Roberts, commandant of the Medical Education and Training Campus on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, provided welcoming remarks during the change of command ceremony.

"The NMTSC team will inherit a truly accomplished, experienced naval officer and leader in Capt. Joel Roos. He will absolutely build on the successes of Capt. Larderd and the current team," Roberts said.

"You should be incredibly proud of your astonishing, accomplished, selfless career wearing the cloth of our nation," Roberts told

Larderd, thanking him for his leadership.

The Navy Medical Training Center was established at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 29, 2008 and consisted of five enlisted "C" schools and four officer programs. It has since grown to support 24 programs arriving from across the nation.

Today, the NMTSC has a staff of about 600, with an average daily population of 2,300 students. Over the last two years, NMTSC has supported training for more than 10,000 students.

During the change of command, Larderd addressed his team.

"You guys have worked unbelievably hard and accomplished amazing things over the last two years," he said.

Larderd said his team was highly motivated because there was no plan "B."

"Every challenge was met head on and dealt with effectively. We have not needed a plan "B" because the men and women of this command have done a fantastic job at accomplishing what so many saw as the



Photo by Lori Newman

Navy Capt. Gail L. Hathaway, commander, Navy Medicine Education and Training Command, congratulates Capt. Joel A. Roos (right), new commander of Navy Medicine Training Support Center during a change of command ceremony Jan. 11 at the Alamo. Capt. John D. Larderd (left) relinquished command to Roos.

impossible.

"It has been an honor to serve as your commanding officer. This has truly been the highlight of my career," he said thanking the staff for their hard work.

Roos thanked Larderd for his service and assistance in preparing for his new assignment.

"I relish this challenge and the responsibility that I assume today," Roos said.

Following the change

of command, a retirement ceremony was held for Larderd.

Rear Adm. Larry Jackson, deputy commander of Military Sealift Command, praised Larderd for his service.

"Today, I am here to pay witness and offer tribute to someone who has spent his life on the moral high ground while serving our Navy and our nation," Jackson said.

"You are a shining

example to all those who have served with you," Jackson told Larderd.

As Larderd said an emotional goodbye, he thanked his family and wife, Debbie, for their support.

"There have been good times, there have been hard times, but frankly I can't think of anything I would have rather spent my life doing," Larderd concluded before being piped ashore.

Army Benefits Center-Civilian offers benefits overview online

The Army Benefits Center-Civilian conducts retirement benefits overview briefings via Defense Connect Online for Civil Service Retirement System/CSRS Offset and Federal Employees Retirement System personnel.

DCO allows an employee to participate in

web conferencing and meetings from their computer or workstation.

DCO briefing sessions are at no cost or tuition and last about four hours each. Generally, the CSRS briefings are scheduled for morning sessions, while the FERS briefings are

scheduled for the afternoon.

The DCOs are usually scheduled once a month. To view the ABC-C schedule for the current fiscal year, click on <https://www.abc.army.mil/CPACCPOC/FY-13DCOSchedule.htm>.

The target audiences for these briefings are

employees who are within five to 15 years of retirement eligibility.

ABC-C benefits briefing slides are located on the ABC-C website at <https://www.abc.army.mil/retirements/retire.htm> under "General Retirement Information," "Benefits Overview Slides."

To schedule participation in a DCO benefits briefing, an employee or organization POC must coordinate with the Southwest Region at usarmy.riley.chra.mbx.abc-c-ice-comments@mail.mil or by calling (785) 239-3612 or DSN 856-3612.

Friday Night Jazz & Wine is back

Jazz fans can celebrate Valentine's Day a little early with pianist David Benoit and saxophonist Paul Taylor.

Back by popular demand, Army Entertainment's Friday Night Jazz & Wine presents its first show at 8 p.m. Feb. 8 at the historic Fort Sam Houston Theatre on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Doors open and cocktail hour begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for \$35 – plus a nominal service fee – and \$45 at the door. Visit <http://www.ArmyMWR.com> to purchase tickets.

The concert hotline number is 466-2020. The theater is located at 2472 Stanley Road, Building 2270.

The performance is



Pianist David Benoit



Courtesy photos

Saxophonist Paul Taylor

open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and their guests. Visitors may enter through either the Walters Street Gate off I-35 or the Harry Wurzbach Gate off Loop 410 and

Harry Wurzbach Road.

All vehicle occupants ages 16 years and older must present a valid photo ID to enter the gates.

New interactive resource helps troops, families plan deployments

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department launched a new resource to help troops and their families plan for the “before, during and after” of deploying.

Barbara Thompson, director of DOD’s office for family policy, explained “Plan My Deployment” during an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press

Service.

“This is a new, interactive, online tool that supports service members and their families as they prepare for the different stages of deployment,” she said.

The new resource guides users through the “ins and outs” of deployment, Thompson said: from power of attorney and legal assistance considerations to financial and emotional issues. Other tips and

tools address education and training benefits, she added.

“We modeled this after the very, very popular ‘Plan My Move,’ which helps with [permanent change of station] moves,” she said. “It’s the same kind of approach: we look at providing the tools and information, and you tailor it to your individual family’s needs.”

Plan My Deployment saves the user’s infor-

mation, she said, so people can exit from the site and return at their convenience, picking up where they left off.

Though other deployment planning guides and resources already exist, Thompson said, DOD leaders wanted to offer family readiness assistance to the entire active duty, National Guard and Reserve force and their families.

While the pace of deployment across the ser-

vices has dropped since U.S. forces left Iraq and will continue to decline as the combat mission in Afghanistan draws to an end, Thompson said, service members always will face the possibility of deploying for duty.

“Let’s face it: military members deploy all the time. We’ve learned a lot of lessons during this long-term conflict, and we want to make sure that our service members and their families

are prepared for what’s in the future,” she said.

Plan My Deployment is available at DOD’s Military OneSource website, which also offers a range of other services for military families, she said. Thompson pointed out the site is “outside the gates” in the public domain, so it is available to extended family members who don’t have access to military facilities.

Internal Revenue Service releases annual inflation adjustments for 2013

The Internal Revenue Service announced Jan. 11 annual inflation adjustments for tax year 2013, including the tax rate schedules and other tax changes from the

recently passed American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.

The tax items for 2013 of greatest interest to most taxpayers include the following

changes.

- Beginning in tax year 2013 (generally for tax returns filed in 2014), a new tax rate of 39.6 percent has been added for individuals

whose income exceeds \$400,000 (\$450,000 for married taxpayers filing a joint return). The other marginal rates — 10, 15, 25, 28, 33 and 35 percent — remain the

same as in prior years. The guidance contains the taxable income thresholds for each of the marginal rates.

- The standard deduction rises to \$6,100

(\$12,200 for married couples filing jointly), up from \$5,950 (\$11,900 for married couples filing jointly) for tax

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affiliation to assist them with college expenses. Graduating high school students, dependent undergraduate students continuing their education and spouses who are current members of the Spouses' Club as of Dec. 1 are eligible to apply. Applications need to be postmarked no later than Feb. 28. For more information, go to the "Scholarship" area on the Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area website at <http://www.scfsh.com>.

TSP Withdrawals Due to Hurricane Sandy

The Thrift Savings Plan made temporary changes to the financial hardship withdrawal rules for participants affected by Hurricane Sandy Nov. 21. Requests to TSP must be received by Jan. 25. For more info regarding the TSP withdrawal process, please contact TSP at (877) 968-3778 or visit the TSP website at <https://www.tsp.gov/representative/announcements/announcements.shtml>.

Spouse's Club Welfare Funds

Applications for the Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area welfare funds are being accepted. Any non-profit organization that supports the welfare of the Armed Forces and their families located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis is eligible to apply. All information necessary can be found at <http://www.scfsh.com/> under the "Welfare" button on the left of the page. The application form is available for download and contact information is provided. Applications must be submitted by April 1.

Military Nurses and Ethical Issues during Wartime Deployments Research Study

Active duty or reserve component Nurse Corps officers who have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan are invited to participate in a research study about the types of ethical issues encountered in their practice and how these issues were managed in theater. Participants will be asked to take part in a 1 to 1 1/2 hour interview in person or by telephone and may also be asked to take part in a final presentation at the end of the study. To participate, call 202-319-5719.

Military ambassadors chosen for 2013

By William Gaines
502nd ABW Public Affairs

Military ambassadors from the Army, Air Force, Marine, Navy and Coast Guard represent their respective services at San Antonio-area community events, including nearly 150 activities associated with Fiesta San Antonio. They also participate in parades and visit local schools, nursing homes and retirement facilities throughout the year.

Courtesy photos



ARMY

Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Von Palacio and
Sgt. 1st Class Ishmah C. Bailey

Palacio is assigned to Company B, 232nd Medical Battalion as an advanced individual training platoon sergeant who trains, mentors and develops the Army's future fighting force by providing excellent leadership and training. Bailey is with the Army Medical Department Center and School Non-Commissioned Officer Academy as a senior small group leader. His job is to supervise and manage both internal and external course processes that provide training for 1,200 Soldiers annually. He also provides counseling and mentorship for 12 small group leaders.



MARINES

Sgt. Angela Marie Sanchez and
Sgt. Deyvi Gomez Mondragon

Sanchez is assigned to the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion as a career planner, where she counsels, screens and administratively processes Marines concerning career progression, retention, special duty assignments and incentives. Mondragon is an administrative specialist and the color sergeant for the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion in San Antonio. He oversees the battalion defense travel system, liaisons with city banks as the unit agency program coordinator and performs at all ceremonial events, i.e. joint service and standard Marine Corps ceremonies.



AIR FORCE

Staff Sgt. Leslie Hernandez and
Capt. Aaron Lee Eggers

Hernandez is an Aerospace Medical Service Apprentice Assistant Course supervisor with the 59th Training Squadron at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center. She instructs more than 300 medical technicians annually, as well as training and assessing more than 240 preceptors. She also creates schedules for 28 clinical areas and provides course administration support. Eggers is the chief of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Integration at the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. He oversees full spectrum intelligence integration into organizing, training and equipping Air Force intelligence personnel.



NAVY

Petty Officer 2nd Class Gina A. Martinez and
Petty Officer 2nd Class William J. Cruz

Martinez is a San Antonio native and instructor at the Medical Education and Training Campus on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. She was also selected as the first clinical site coordinator at the Baptist Medical Center and was the Navy Ambassador for the Respiratory Therapy Program for the new enlisted clinical sites in the San Antonio area. Cruz is assigned to the Navy Information Operations Command in San Antonio and is widely recognized as a subject matter expert in the joint operations arena.



COAST GUARD

Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Gribbins and
Petty Officer 3rd Class Sara S. Santos

Gribbins works at the U.S. Coast Guard Recruiting Office in San Antonio. Santos is assigned to the Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit-Texas and deploys aboard Coast Guard or Navy surface assets to analyze, process, and disseminate intelligence to support tactical, operational, and national decision makers.

SAMMC from P1

Information Management Division.

“We don’t want the ability to communicate with loved ones hinder people from coming here or detract from their quality of care.”

The 180-day pilot program, which will run through mid-July, will enable beneficiaries to connect to Wi-Fi while in the hospital using their tablets, smartphones or any other web-capable wireless device, Bradway explained.

Throughout this time, BAMC Information Management Division will be tracking Wi-Fi use, connection speed and users’ experience to determine if this service is in demand and if there’s a reason to expand.

“We believe there will be a desire for this service,” he added.

If the pilot is deemed successful, Army Medical Department leaders may consider delivering this service to other military treatment facilities in the Army, said Michele Krause, chief of the Medical Network Operations and Security Center Customer Support Division of U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center.

The program’s goal, she explained, is to provide beneficiaries with the same Wi-Fi experience, whether at a hospital on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston or a clinic on Fort Polk.

“Patients who have used this service in the public sector have said it improves their morale and happiness,” she said, noting the average American has 1.5 mobile devices.

“It gives family members something to do while waiting, and

enables patients to check social media sites, make appointments, or send updates to loved ones. The intent is to improve patient satisfaction overall.”

USAMITC, which is the lead agency for the guest Wi-Fi, chose SAMMC for this pilot program based on the hospital’s proximity and size, Krause explained.

Both worked closely with Southern Regional Medical Command Information Assurance Office to ensure they could balance usability with the utmost security of personal health information – a risk assessment that took more than a year.

“When I look back, it’s amazing how far we’ve come,” said Chris Sellards, SRMC senior information assurance manager.

“It was truly a great teamwork effort.”

Word of this effort has spread, he added.

He’s been fielding calls in recent months from agencies interested in a similar service from across the military and government, including the White House.

A successful Wi-Fi effort today could lead to additional benefits far into the future, Bradway noted.

The Army Medical Department is exploring the idea of a “Bring Your Own Device” program that would enable providers to bring their wireless device to work and still access secure clinical systems.

The road to these types of future technological advancements is starting at BAMC with the guest Wi-Fi, Krause said.

“BAMC is helping to shape the future of wireless for the AMEDD,” she said.

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Central Post Gym reopens for business

By Deyanira Romo Rossell
FMWR Marketing

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons now have another choice on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston where they can meet their fitness goals.

The newly-remodeled Central Post Gym, Building 961 on Patch Road, is open weekdays from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Built in 1945, the gym is still serving its purpose as an easily accessible place for troops to work out.

Featuring 67 pieces of cardio equipment, a basketball court area and a free weight room, the Central Post Gym is starting to draw service members and civilians who find it convenient to their work.

Retiree Zerick Owens works at the Budge Dental Clinic and heads over to the Central Post Gym every day at lunch for a 30-minute workout.

"All you need is 30 minutes," said Owens.



Photo by Deyanira Romo Rossell

Central Post Gym director Dave Waugh spots Pvt. Ryan Mcelfresh, who is with Company B, 232nd Medical Battalion on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"It's a great gym and very convenient."

The gym will be offering spin classes and other fitness training in the future.

"This is exciting. We're

thrilled to have reopened just in time to celebrate the New Year," said Dave Waugh, Central Post Gym director. "It offers our Fort Sam Houston Community one more option

for keeping those fitness resolutions."

The facility is closed weekends and holidays. For more information on the Central Post Gym, call 221-3593.



Pfcs. Edward Canseco and Robert Duncan, Company B, 232nd Medical Battalion, work out at the Central Post Gym. The World War II-era gym has been remodeled and opened in time for the new year.



Former Marine Lee Fulton likes the feel of the newly-remodeled Central Post Gym and now trains there daily. He cross trains, using the treadmill, the exercise wheel and medicine balls.

Information technology users get new work order 'remedy'

By Jerry Hernandez
Network Enterprise Center

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's Network Enterprise Center will be migrating to a new web-based information technology work order system. The new application – called "Remedy" Information Technology Service Management – is aimed at providing better customer service.

The new trouble-ticket system, will allow users to submit their own work orders online, using the Service Request Management web application, for IT services or by calling the Army Enterprise Service Desk at 866-335-2769. Customers will still have the ability to call

the NEC help-desk number at 221-HELP (4357).

"Simply put, ITSM is a way for the NEC to manage and track user day-to-day requirements in addition to tracking assets, request changes, and anything that causes a disruption to IT services whether an end-user reports the issue or not," said Jonathan Poole, chief of Customer Management Branch.

"Additionally, we will now provide a general '800' customer service number just like calling from home when you inquire about your personal home products."

In the past, each installation had its own system for reporting computer problems. The new system can be ac-

cessed from any computer and will require the Common Access Card authentication to access. The current system available now is web based, but it is not a well known or standardized enterprise system.

Remedy ITSM facilitates implementation of the Army-wide service desk concept that improves efficiency while achieving cost reduction.

The 800 number provides the customer a direct interface with service representatives which allows on the ground technical staff to concentrate on fixing computer problems while spending less time answering telephones.

"This enterprise system is already insti-

tuted Army-wide and the primary focus is the customers" said Maria Sutton, NEC Remedy project manager. "The return on investment of this new work order system will be to better serve our user population efficiently anytime and from anywhere."

The new system will continue to be publicized and training will be available to instruct users on how to use the application.

Instructions for the web application can be found at <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/nec/> under the services menu and by then selecting the Remedy ITSM computer based training system.

The first time you call to place a work order, your user contact profile information will be updated on the new system. Remedy ITSM is scheduled for implementation this week.

TRICARE from P1

said, adding that the networks are required to connect providers to those who elect to waive their drive standards.

Contractors such as United HealthCare Military & Veterans, Health Net Federal Services and Humana Military will continue to assist beneficiaries in obtaining providers in their regions, she added.

"Health care is best if it's local," Lawhon said. "We've established the drive standards (to enable) people to access their primary and specialty care within a reasonable period of time."

Austin Camacho, TRICARE's benefit information and outreach branch chief, said the out-of-pocket, fee-for-service cost of TRICARE Standard would cost a bit more, depending on

the frequency of health care use and visits.

No cost applies for preventive care such as mammograms, vaccines, cancer screening, prostate examinations and routine check-ups, he added.

Officials estimate the changes will lower overall TRICARE costs by \$45 million to \$56 million a year, depending on the number of beneficiaries who choose to remain in Prime, Camacho said.

Lawhon and Camacho said beneficiaries should speak to their health care providers and families to assess the best course of action.

"We're hoping people will take a careful look at their health care needs," Lawhon said. "We have seen that people using the Standard benefit are very pleased with it, and their customer satisfaction is the highest of all."

Thrift Savings Plan: Traditional or Roth, bottom line is saving when it matters most

By Desiree N. Palacios
Air Force News Service

With the current military retirement system, service members must serve in the military for 20 years before reaping retirement benefits, unless they are medically retired before hitting that mark.

But what about service members who serve fewer than 20 years? What can they take away from their military service beyond a medal, a handshake and solid work experience?

A Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and savings plan originally designed for Federal Employee's Retirement System employees and later became available to service members and employees of the older Civil Service Retirement System.

On Oct. 1, service members became eligible to take advantage of a Roth version of the Thrift Savings Plan, where money is deducted from taxed income, but becomes tax-free money when it is withdrawn.

According to TSP's external affairs director, Kim Weaver, there's a big difference between the two options.

"The biggest difference is that the traditional TSP is pre-taxed money, so it reduces the amount of your income in that year," she said.

"So let's say your salary is \$50,000 and you contribute \$5,000 to traditional TSP. That money comes out before you pay taxes on it. You're only paying taxes on \$45,000, but, when you retire, or when you need the money, you pay taxes on what you withdraw then.

"The Roth TSP is just the opposite," she explained. "The money coming into the Roth TSP is after-tax money."

Contributors pay taxes before it is put in their account and as long as they follow two IRS rules, it will remain tax free, Weaver explained. Funds contributed must remain in the Roth TSP for five years and members must be 59 and a half



Photo illustration by Airman 1st Class Teresa Cleveland

before they can withdrawal their funds.

"All of the money that comes out is already taxed, so when that money is withdrawn at retirement, it is tax-free, which makes obviously a huge difference," she explains.

"Then the question becomes, 'Do I think I'm going to pay higher taxes now or higher taxes later and is it going to help me to defer income now or is it ok to pay taxes going into the Roth TSP?'"

Federal employees can use the contribution comparison calculator on www.tsp.gov to help them determine which plan is right for them. The maximum contribution this year will be \$17,500.

Although federal employees must sign up for TSP, Weaver explained that Airmen can take advantage of TSP from day one of their enlistment. It is done through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

While most look at TSP as a roadmap to a comfortable retirement, Weaver said that enrolling in thrift savings, even for one or two enlistments, can pay real dividends.

"They can either leave it in their TSP untouched, move the money around within the funds or leave it in until they are ready to retire," Weaver said.

"They can also roll it over into another 401k plan in the private sector if they choose to do that. So, just because service members leave the military, it doesn't mean they are forfeiting their money. Once they contribute their money, the

TSP belongs to the participant."

One bit of caution. There can be large tax consequences for Airmen who simply pull their money out without any type of rollover into another account.

TSP officials also confirm the adage that the 'early bird gets the worm,' or in the case of TSP, the dividends.

For example, two service members join the military at the same time.

One service member decides to immediately put away five percent of her pay for 20 years while the other service member decides to invest 10 percent of his pay for his last 10 years of service.

Which service member would accumulate more money over time? Is it the service member who started saving as soon as she joined, setting aside a smaller percentage, or the service member who started saving 10 years later, but doubled his contribution for the remainder of his career?

The service member who chose to contribute five percent from day one is the winner. This service member ended up saving more overall due to compound interest that accumulated over a longer period of time. This despite the fact that the other service member saved doubled the amount of his pay for 10 years.

The service member who started contributing as soon as she joined would have a total estimated TSP account balance of \$95,133 while the other service member who waited would have a total estimate TSP account balance of \$51,325. The difference is almost double.

"If you get an early start and put in just a little bit of money into either the traditional or Roth TSP, you are going to do yourself a big favor for that time when you are ready to retire."

For more information on the Thrift Savings Plan, go to <http://www.tsp.gov> or check out the video at <http://www.youtube.com/user/tsp4gov>.



Tax filing season delayed until Jan. 30; JBSA-FSH Military Tax Center opens Jan. 28

By Brian J. Novak
502nd Military Support Group Military Tax Assistance Center Director

It's a new year and a new tax season. The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen that make up the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military Tax Center are preparing for the upcoming tax season and will be trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service by Jan. 18.

However, with the January tax law changes made by Congress under the American Taxpayer Relief Act, the IRS plans on opening the 2013 filing season later and will begin processing individual income tax returns beginning Jan. 30.

The MTAC grand opening is Jan. 28 and returns prepared Jan. 28 and 29 will be e-filed Jan. 30.

On JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the main MTAC is located at the 502nd Mission Support Group Staff Judge Advocate at 2271 Reynolds Road.

At the San Antonio Military Medical Center, the MTAC is located in the basement in conference room L-44-6. Tax returns are prepared on a "by appointment only" basis and appointments can

be made starting Jan. 22.

The IRS will begin accepting tax returns on that date after updating forms and completing programming and testing of its processing systems to reflect the bulk of the late tax law changes enacted Jan. 2.

This means that the vast majority of tax filers – more than 120 million households – should be able to start filing tax returns beginning Jan. 30.

The IRS will not process paper tax returns before the anticipated opening date. There is no advantage to filing on paper before the opening date, and taxpayers will receive their tax refunds much faster by using e-file with direct deposit.

More information on MTAC services and preparations for having your tax return done will be released in coming weeks. The 2013 MTAC staff looks forward to providing personal income tax preparation and filing services to JBSA-FSH.

To schedule an appointment at the Reynolds Road location, call 295-1040. To schedule an appointment at the SAMMC location, call 916-1040.

Social Security withholding increase will have little effect

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

This year, military members and most civilians will see an increase in the amount of their pay withheld for Social Security. The withholding has increased from 4.2 percent to 6.2 percent.

The change comes with the expiration in legislation that was passed in 2010. Back then, that legislation actually decreased the withholding from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent.

Military members can see the effects of the change by looking at the line marked "FICA" on their leave and earnings statement. Civilians will look under the line marked "OASDI."

Service members are also seeing an increase in pay this year of 1.7 percent. In addition, there are changes to the basic allowance for housing and basic allowance for sustenance. For service members, the change in Social Security withholding may not have a noticeable effect on their take-home pay.

"Overarching, it's not huge based on the paychecks that the individuals are getting," said Roy Wallace, assistant deputy chief of staff with the Army G-1. "The typical service member will probably see no decline."

Wallace said that despite the possible sequestering of money from the Department of Defense and the rest of the government, which could happen in March, the 1.7 percent increase in Soldier pay is protected.

"The president of the United States exempted military salary from sequestration," Wallace said. "The payroll for service members will continue on, as outlined by the National Defense Authorization Act at the rates specified in that document."

In addition to a pay increase, increases in BAS and possible increases in BAH may help insulate service member take-home pay against the small increase in Social Security withholding. Enlisted service members will see their BAS go up by \$3.83. Officers will see a comparable

increase of \$2.64 in their BAS. Service members can visit the BAH calculator at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm> to look up their BAH for 2013 or for previous years.

Wallace said that it is the Department of Defense which is responsible for setting BAH rates across the United States. Those rates are recalculated each year, in January, and are based on rental rates in particular zip codes.

Service members got a 1.7 percent increase in January. Civilians might get a 1/2 percent pay increase later this year, Wallace said.

Also later this year, sequestration may happen, cutting billions from the DOD budget, and ultimately the Army budget. Wallace

said pay cuts and civilian cuts in the military are not necessarily guaranteed if that happens.

"Most civilians in the military are paid by an account called 'operations and maintenance,'" Wallace said. "That account has lots of flexibility in it. It has peo-



ple, it has supplies, it has travel, it has contracts; it has all sorts of different classes of expenses in it. So you don't immediately have to go to people."

IRS says don't bother filing returns before Jan. 30 tax season

By Lea Crusberg
Internal Revenue Service

Following the January tax law changes made by Congress under the American Taxpayer Relief Act, the Internal Revenue Service announced Jan. 8 it plans to open the 2013 filing season and begin processing individual income tax returns on Jan. 30.

The announcement means that the vast majority of tax filers – more than 120 million households – should be able to start filing tax returns starting Jan. 30.

The IRS estimates that remaining households will be able to start filing in late February or into March because of the need for more extensive form and processing systems changes. This group includes people claiming residential energy credits, depreciation of

property or general business credits.

Most of those in this group file more complex tax returns and typically file closer to the April 15 deadline or obtain an extension.

"We have worked hard to open tax season as soon as possible," said IRS Acting Commissioner Steven T. Miller said. "This date ensures we have the time we need to update and test our processing systems. The best option for taxpayers is to file electronically."

The opening of the filing season follows passage by Congress of an extensive set of tax changes in ATRA on Jan. 1, 2013, with many affecting tax returns for 2012.

While the IRS worked to anticipate the late tax law changes as much as possible, the final law required that the IRS update forms and instruc-

tions as well as make critical processing system adjustments before it can begin accepting tax returns.

The IRS originally planned to open electronic filing this year on Jan. 22; more than 80 percent of taxpayers filed electronically last year.

The IRS anticipates that the vast majority of all taxpayers can file starting Jan. 30, regardless of whether they file electronically or on paper.

The IRS will be able to accept tax returns affected by the late Alternative Minimum Tax patch as well as the three major "extender" provisions for people claiming the state and local sales tax deduction, higher education tuition and fees deduction and educator expenses deduction.

There are several forms affected by the late legislation that require more extensive

programming and testing of IRS systems.

The IRS hopes to begin accepting tax returns including these tax forms between late February and into March; a specific date will be announced in the near future.

The key forms that require more extensive programming changes include Form 5695 (Residential Energy Credits), Form 4562 (Depreciation and Amortization) and Form 3800 (General Business Credit). A full listing of the forms that won't be accepted until later is available on IRS.gov.

As part of this effort, the IRS will be working closely with the tax software industry and tax professional community to minimize delays and ensure a smooth a tax season as possible under the circumstances. Updated information will be posted on IRS.gov.

Cody leaves AETC to become chief master sergeant of the Air Force

By Tech. Sgt. Beth Anschutz
AETC Public Affairs

The Air Education and Training Command will bid farewell to its senior enlisted leader as he transitions to the highest enlisted level of Air Force leadership Feb. 1.

Chief Master Sgt. James Cody will take the reins as the 17th chief master sergeant of the Air Force to provide direction for the enlisted corps and represent their interests, a job he is prepared for after his tenure as the command chief master sergeant of the Air Force's "First Command."

On the cusp of the new chapter in his life, Cody took a moment to look back on his time within AETC.

"Like many Airmen in our Air Force, I'd been exposed to AETC throughout my career, but to be honest, only as a recipient of the recruiting process, training and education," he said.

"What you learn when you come into AETC is just how much you don't know about what goes into those three critical aspects of our Air Force."

Cody said he believes Airmen learn new things from every assignment, but that his experience in AETC was unique.

"The amount and complexity of what we do in AETC is much larger than you can fathom without being or having been part of it," he said.

Cody joined the Air Force in 1984 as an air traffic control specialist.



Photo by Senior Airman Corey Hook

Staff Sgt. Christian Maes, 59th Dental Squadron dental laboratory journeyman (right), shows Chief Master Sgt. James Cody, Air Education and Training command chief (center), models he helped create using stereolithography at the MacKown Dental Clinic, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The stereolithography lab on JBSA-Lackland is one of only a few in the Department of Defense that creates prosthetic body parts, such as eyes, ears and noses for wounded warriors.

Throughout his career, he has filled myriad roles to include additional duty first sergeant and directorate superintendent. Prior to his tour in AETC, he served as the command chief master sergeant for 18th Air Force at Scott AFB, Ill.

Cody said learning from challenges is important to the future of the command and the Air Force; the greatest challenge here being to have a good grasp of every aspect in the complex mission of AETC and making a positive impact throughout.

"I've certainly learned a lot, but there is still much more to learn," he said. "Working to keep focus on the mission is why we're here and we can never forget that. The challenge becomes

ensuring we are also focusing the necessary resources and time on our most important asset – our people."

The chief's attention to the resiliency of Airmen and its impact on the Air Force's future is evident from his speeches in large settings as well as his one-on-one conversations with Airmen throughout the command.

"Airmen and their families are the foundation of all that we do. If we don't take care of them, everything crumbles. I believe we've worked hard on this and will continue to after my departure," he said.

"The resiliency of our Air Force depends on it. We've faced and continue to face several other challenges and this I

we'd wished never occurred, we are extremely fortunate in our Air Force to have a team of dedicated professionals and their families taking care of business," he said.

"We can't afford to have the actions of a very few derail the good you do. Stay focused. Do your best every day and seek opportunities to do so. We can ask no more --take care of each other and your families."

Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., AETC commander, offered words of encouragement and confidence in the chief's future success at a recent event, bidding farewell to the chief and his family.

"I do think that people will look back on this as a very extraordinary time in history," the general said.

"I certainly think that the experience the Codys have had here at the Air Education and Training Command is important.

If you were to ask me what kind of experience I think the next chief master sergeant of the Air Force should have, a tour here would be very near the top of my list."

As the chief prepares to leave Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, he

conveys his thanks to all who have touched his and his family's lives.

"The entire tour here has been memorable for both Athena and me, along with our daughter Danielle, but the most memorable experience for us has been the opportunity to spend time with Airmen and their families," Cody said.

"The dedication and commitment displayed by the AETC team is inspiring and simply put, amazing. The 'First Command' impacts every Airman in our Air Force, and by this very nature every family member also. There is no question this is a tremendous responsibility that is not lost on anyone in this command.

"We certainly would have liked to spend more time with our Airmen throughout the command. While we were fortunate to visit and spend time with many, we missed some and everyone is important. Please know that," he concluded.

"Both Athena and I would like to personally thank all the Airmen and their families of AETC for all they've done, do, and will do...you're all just amazing."

AETC commander selects new command chief

The commander of Air Education and Training Command announced the selection of the command's next senior enlisted leader.

Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr. tapped Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia Jr., currently the 12th Air Force command chief at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., as the AETC command chief master sergeant. Tapia is slated to begin his tenure at the end of January.

Tapia, who has nearly 28 years of Air Force service, is an El Paso, Texas, native. He is a master personelist and has served as a command chief during his past two assignments at the 49th Wing at Holloman AFB, N.M., and Davis-Monthan AFB.



Official Photo

Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia Jr.

ARMY NORTH CG, CSM SHARE EXPERIENCES DURING AMEDDC&S PRE-COMMAND COURSE



Photo by Sgt. Lee Ezzell

Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV, commanding general of U.S. Army North and senior commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, discusses the successes and failures he has faced as a leader Jan. 8 during the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School Pre-Command Course. He was also joined by ARNORTH Command Sgt. Maj. Hu Rhodes. The course, held in downtown San Antonio, is designed to mentor incoming commanders and their senior enlisted leaders on the skills and methods required to be effective leaders in diverse environments.

TECH EXPO OFFERS VARIETY



Photo by Steve Elliott

Wes Jennings (left) and Melissa Arthur (right) of Accu-Tech talk to a visitor at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Tech Expo at the Sam Houston Community Center Jan. 14. Accu-Tech is a supplier of cabling solutions for the data, voice, security, sound, video, electrical contractor and central office markets. More than a dozen vendors representing about everything from technical schools to office furniture to oscilloscopes took part in the expo. The event was sponsored by the Army Signal Network Enterprise Center.

INSIDE THE GATE

Get Lean in 2013

Individuals or teams of five can join the 10-week weight loss challenge by Jan. 18 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, Building 320. The contest runs Jan. 22 through April 17. Those who lose, win prizes. Call 221-1234.

Exotic Hunts

Hunts start Jan. 19, 4-8 p.m. on Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis and will continue every Friday through Sunday evening until Feb. 17. Permit-holding hunters need to call Thursday morning no earlier than 8 a.m. for a reserve stand. Hunters seeking a second or third day, may call beginning at noon for any stands which are left over that have not been selected. Walk-in hunters are not permitted and all reservations must be made by calling 295-7577.

Credit and Debt Management

Jan. 22, 9-11 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-0516 or 221-0427.

First Termer Financial Readiness

Jan. 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-0516 or 221-0427.

Helping Us Grow Securely Playgroup

Jan. 22, 9-11 a.m., Middle School Teen Center, Building 2515,

for kids up to 5 years old. Call 221-0349.

Consumer Awareness

Jan. 22, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-0516 or 221-0427.

Teen Resilience Workshops

Jan. 22 and Feb. 19, 4 to 5 p.m., Building 2620 on the corner of Schofield and Scott Road. Call 808-6089 or visit <http://www.csfprep.army.mil>.

Hunt the Good Stuff

Jan. 23, 1-1:45 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-0946 or 221-9079.

First Termer Financial Readiness

Jan. 23, noon-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-0516 or 221-0427.

Women Encouraging Women

Jan. 23, 11 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-0349.

Better Opportunities for Single Service Members Meeting

Jan. 23, noon at the BOSS Room in the Benner Barracks. The group offers service members recreational activities and volunteer opportunities.

Armed Forces Team Building Level 1

Jan. 23-24, 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-1628.

Word Level 3

Jan. 24, 8 a.m. to noon, Road-

runner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Family Readiness Group Leadership Academy

Jan. 24 and 25, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-0946.

Frosty 5K

Jan. 26, noon, Fitness Center on the Medical Education and Training Campus. Call 808-5709.

Ranger Jam XV

Players, ages 18 and older, can get their teams together for the Ranger Jam XV Varsity Basketball Tournament Jan. 26-27, at the Fitness Center on the Medical Education and Training Campus, Building 1669, Williams Road. The cost per team is \$350. Call 808-5710.

Excel Level 3

Jan. 29, 8 a.m. to noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

PowerPoint Level 1

Jan. 30, 8 a.m. to noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

PowerPoint Level 2

Jan. 31, 8 a.m. to noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

African-American Heritage Month Taste of Soul

Feb. 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., JBSA-Randolph Youth Center Gym, cost is \$7. Call 565-3736, 565-4904 or 652-2525.

Murder is a Game at the Harlequin

Runs through Feb. 16, dinner is served at 6:15 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre, Building 2652 Harney Road. Call 222-9694 for tickets.

Teen Poetry Slam

Feb. 23, 6 to 9 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, for teens 13 to 18 years old. Open to military ID card holders. Call 221-0349.

Military Saves Week Feb. 25 to March 1

For more information on Military Saves Week or help planning to improve your financial future call the Financial Programs at JBSA-Lackland 371-3722; JBSA-Randolph 652-5321 or JBSA-Fort Sam Houston 221-2330.

Air Force Arts & Crafts Gallery

The 2013 Air Force Arts & Crafts Gallery Program requests submissions from artists, craftsmen and photographers in the armed forces and their family members around the world. Adults, teens ages 13-17 and youth ages 6-12 may submit 2- and 3-D art, photography and digital art. Three entries are permitted per person per category. Entries must be dropped off at the JBSA-Lackland Arts & Crafts Center, 1441 Patrick St., Building 7041. For more information, call 671-5508 or visit <https://www.usafservices.com/ArtsCraftsGallery.aspx>.

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 for information.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ticket Office

The ticket office has discount tickets for Disney on Ice "Rockin' Everafter," April 10 through 14, at \$14 for plaza seating and \$44 for second row floor seating. Discounted tickets for the Spurs regular season games are also available. The ticket office is located in the Sam Houston Community Center and is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The ticket office will reopen Saturdays in spring 2013. Call 808-1378.

Sportsman Range

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

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 Childcare 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 Central assists walk-in patrons from 8 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. for registration and 12:30 to 1 p.m. for out processing and payments. Parent Central is located in Building 2797, on Fort Sam Houston. Call 221-4871.

Before and After School Care Registration

Register your child for before and after school care at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Parent Central, 221-4871. Warriors in Transition and their family members should register at Soldier Family Assistance Center or call 916-6377. Registration is ongoing until full.

School Liaison Office

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston School Liaison Office can assist patrons in registration, provide information about the local school system and community, educate parents on school policies, procedures, programs and schedules and home schooling. Call 221-2214/2256 or visit <http://www.fortsammwr.com/youth/slo.html>.

See INSIDE, P16

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>.



INFLATION from P5

year 2012.

- The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 added a limitation for itemized deductions claimed on 2013 returns of individuals with incomes of \$250,000 or more (\$300,000 for married couples filing jointly).
- The personal exemption rises to \$3,900, up from the 2012 exemption of \$3,800. However

beginning in 2013, the exemption is subject to a phase-out that begins with adjusted gross incomes of \$250,000 (\$300,000 for married couples filing jointly). It phases out completely at \$372,500 (\$422,500 for married couples filing jointly).

- The Alternative Minimum Tax exemption amount for tax year 2013 is \$51,900 (\$80,800, for married couples filing jointly), set

by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, which indexes future amounts for inflation. The 2012 exemption amount was \$50,600 (\$78,750 for married couples filing jointly).

- The maximum Earned Income Credit amount is \$6,044 for taxpayers filing jointly who have 3 or more qualifying children, up from a total of \$5,891 for tax year 2012.
- Estates of decedents

who die during 2013 have a basic exclusion amount of \$5,250,000, up from a total of \$5,120,000 for estates of decedents who died in 2012.

- For tax year 2013, the monthly limitation regarding the aggregate fringe benefit exclusion amount for transit passes and transportation in a commuter highway vehicle is \$245, up from \$240 for tax year 2012 (the legislation provided

a retroactive increase from the \$125 limit that had been in place).

Details on these inflation adjustments and others are contained in Revenue Procedure 2013-15 (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-13-15.pdf>). Other inflation adjusted items were published in October 2012 (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/RP-12-41.pdf>).

(Source: Internal Revenue Service)

OUTSIDE THE GATE

JROTC All-Army Drill Meet Feb. 9

More than 700 Army Junior ROTC cadets will take part in the All-Army Drill Meet from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Conventions Center, 200 E. Market Street. Free parking is available at the San Antonio Federal Courthouse Building, 655 E. Durango Blvd. Top five winners will represent the 5th Brigade Army ROTC at the Army national competition April 6 at Fort Knox, Ky. For more

information, click on <http://www.sahbgcc.com> or call 295-2014.

Legacy Ball

The 4th Annual Legacy Ball will be held 6 to 11 p.m. Feb. 15 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel Resort and Spa. For tickets visit <http://www.4th-annual-legacyball.eventsbot.com/> by Feb. 7. Call 652-4527, 652-7129 or 565-2665 for more information.

Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets at 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the

Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-0584 or 889-8212.

Foster a Puppy

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

FOR SALE:

Dell laptop bag, \$15; 3-cubic-foot refrigerator, \$50; black entertainment center, \$40; Weber charcoal barbecue, \$25; small wood dresser, \$35. Call (512) 943-2314.

FOR SALE: New Rascal wheelchair with instruction manual included, \$700 obo. Call 661-3765.

FOR SALE: Grandfather clock, Whirlpool refrigerator, Whirlpool freezer, dining set, patio set and miscellaneous household items. Call (951) 489-9809.



CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PROTESTANT SERVICES

Main Post (Gift) Chapel
Building 2200, 1605 Wilson Way
8 and 11 a.m. - Traditional

Dodd Field Chapel
Building 1721, 3600 Dodd Blvd.
8:30 a.m. - Samoan
10:30 a.m. - Gospel

**Army Medical Department
Regimental Chapel**
Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.
9:20 a.m. - 32nd Medical Brigade
Collective Service

**Brooke Army Medical
Center Chapel**
Building 3600,
3851 Roger Brooke Rd.
10 a.m. - Traditional

Evans Auditorium
Building 1396, 1396 Garden Ave.
11:01 - Contemporary
"Crossroads"

Catholic Services
Daily Mass
Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel
Building 3600,
3851 Roger Brooke Rd.
11:05 a.m., Monday through Friday

Main Post (Gift) Chapel

Building 2200, 1605 Wilson Way
11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday

Saturday

Main Post (Gift) Chapel

4:45 p.m. - Reconciliation

5:30 p.m. - Evening Mass

Sunday

8 a.m. - Morning Mass, AMEDD

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

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

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

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

JEWISH SERVICES

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

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

ISLAMIC SERVICE

1:30 p.m. - Jummah, Friday,
AMEDD

LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES

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

BUDDHIST SERVICES

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

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

FSHISD WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES JAN. 21-26

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School Jan. 21

School Holiday

Jan. 25

College/University T-shirt day
Progress reports go home

Robert G. Cole Middle and High School Jan. 21

School Holiday

Jan. 22

Boys (JV/V) basketball vs.
Diley at Cole, 5 and 8 p.m.
Boys Soccer vs. Feast at Cole,
7 p.m.

Girls (JV/V) basketball vs. Diley at
Cole, 5 and 6 p.m.

Jan. 23

Girls soccer vs. Providence
at Providence (Central Catholic
H.S.), 6 p.m.

Jan. 24

Middle school girl's basketball
vs. Natalia at Natalia, 5 and 6
p.m.

Middle school boys basketball
vs. Natalia at Cole, 5 p.m.

Jan. 25

Boys (JV/V) basketball vs.
Brooks Academy at Brooks City-
Base, 5 and 8 p.m.

Boys soccer vs. St. Anthony at St.
Anthony, 4 p.m.

Girls (JV/V) basketball vs. Brooks
Academy at Brooks City-Base, 4
and 6:30 p.m.

INSIDE from P15

Story Time at the Library

Preschool children are invited to the weekly story time at 10 a.m. Thursdays, at the Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, Building 1222 on Harney Path. Call 221-4702.

Thrift Shop Open

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Thrift Shop at 3100 Zinn Road, run by the Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area, is open to all DOD cardholders and full of clothing, shoes, housewares, toys, books, furniture, jewelry and more. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and the third Saturday of each month. Consigned items are taken from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations are taken anytime during regular business hours. For more information, call 221-5794/4537 or click on <http://www.scfsh.com>.

Pet Consult Services Available at JBSA-Lackland

The JBSA-Lackland Veterinary Treatment Facility provides animal behavior consult services for family pets. The VTF's military animal behavior resident is scheduling appointments. The Army resident can assist pet owners with understanding their pet's behavior, and preventing, managing, or resolving pet behavioral problems. Common problems may include aggression, fear, anxiety, hyperactivity, inappropriate elimination and tail chasing. For details, call 671-3631/2245.

Education and Training Office

The 502nd Force Support Squadron Education and Training Office offers a variety of military testing, including Professional Military Education, Career Development Courses and Defense Language Proficiency testing. PME Testing is conducted on Tuesdays, CDC on Wednesdays, and DLPT on Thursdays. Education and Training also offers Armed Forces aptitude testing such as the Armed Forces Classification Test and Armed Forces Officer Qualification Test. Tests are scheduled on an as-needed basis. To schedule military testing at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-0852.

Basic Skills Education Program

Classes are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a period of 14 working days. Service members will receive instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills. The class is designed to teach basic college preparatory skills to service members with a GT score less than 110. Call 221-1738 to enroll.

Stilwell House

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Stilwell House, a historic landmark since 1888, is open for tours, receptions and parties. The Stilwell House is managed by the Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam Houston, Inc. a 501(C)(3) corporation not affiliated with the Department of Defense. Call 224-4030 or 655-0577.

Cloverleaf Communicators Club

Meetings are held the first and third Thursday of every month 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at San Antonio Credit Union, Stanley Road, in the conference room. Call 916-3406 or 221-8785 or visit <http://power-talkinternational.com/>.

Future Speakers on the Horizon

Enjoy food and develop public speaking and leadership skills the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, noon-1 p.m. at the Joint Program Management Office, Building 4196. Call 295-4921.

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club meets the last Thursday of each month, noon-1 p.m. at the Army Medical Department Museum. All Sergeant Audie Murphy or Sergeant Morales members are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-4424 or 837-9956.

Retired Enlisted Association

Chapter 80 of the Retired Enlisted Association meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club. Call 658-2344 for more information.

Lost Property

If you have lost any property on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-2340. To claim items, you must have a form of photo identification and be able to identify the property.

Edwards Aquifer Level

in feet above sea level as of Jan. 15

CURRENT LEVEL * = 655.6'

*determines JBSA water conservation stage

Normal - above 660'

Stage I - 660'

Stage II - 650'

Stage III - 642'

Stage IV - 640.5'

Stage V - 637'

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



Weekly Weather Watch

	Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21	Jan 22	Jan 23
San Antonio Texas	59° Sunny	64° Sunny	65° Mostly Sunny	64° Mostly Sunny	58° Partly Cloudy	66° Partly Cloudy
Kabul Afghanistan	39° Sunny	40° Mostly Sunny	42° Sunny	43° Mostly Sunny	44° Mostly Sunny	41° AM Clouds/PM Sun

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



Scan with Smartphone app to
access the Joint Base San Antonio
website at www.jbsa.af.mil