

# FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

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## JBSA Mobile App goes live

By Marilyn C. Holliday  
Chief, JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

The need to communicate with 80,000 employees at three geographically separated locations in San Antonio is a challenge, and the launching of the Joint Base San Antonio mobile app will provide basic information about the primary locations at the users' fingertips.

The mobile app, called "JBSA," is available for download today through the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

"Our original intent was to create a mobile app that newcomers would use," said Dan J. Solis, JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs photo imaging chief and team lead for the app project. "By the time we reached completion, the team had created a tool that students, employees and family members can use daily."

The "native" JBSA mobile app, which translates to mean an app created for a certain mobile device not one that is web-based, includes information about services and support facilities at each location with hours of operation and phone numbers and even amenities particular to the locale.

"Regardless of service affiliation, this app should prove

valuable for all of JBSA's members," said Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter, JBSA and 502nd Air Base Wing commander. "No matter where you live or work across San Antonio, you'll find information you can use whether you're scheduled to relocate here or if you're a long time resident."

Prominently featured on the new site is a feedback section, which allows visitors to make suggestions, ensuring the app remains relevant, valuable and a highly-used information source.

As part of the vetting process, more than 100 Army, Navy and Air Force members, government service employees and family members across all three primary JBSA locations

See APP, P10



## SANTA USHERS IN THE SEASON



Laynee and Riley Kerner pose with Santa at the annual holiday tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 3 on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. The 1 ½ year old and her 4-month-old brother were among the many children who enjoyed Santa, trucked-in snow, hot cocoa, hay rides and caroling around the tree at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston flagpole. See page 13 for more photos.

Photo by  
Deyanira Romo  
Russell

## Army North welcomes new senior enlisted leader

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos  
ARNORTH Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Hu Rhodes assumed responsibility as the senior enlisted leader for United States Army North, from outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood during a

change of responsibility ceremony Nov. 28 at the historic Quadrangle.

Wood, who assumed the Army North's senior NCO position in November 2009, is retiring following 33 years of military service.

Rhodes comes to Army North from Vicenza, Italy,

where he served as the command sergeant major for U.S. Army Africa.

"You will have my best effort every single day. We will not fail," he said to those attending the ceremony. "I look forward to serving all of you

See ARNORTH, P3

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# Army to close its National Capital Region contracting center

The U.S. Army will close its National Capital Region contracting center next year, the Army announced Nov. 16.

Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region, located in Alexandria, Va., will be closed July 20, 2013, and its workload distributed to other contracting centers operated by the U.S. Army Contracting Command.

Twelve positions will relocate to Mission and Installation Contracting Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Other positions will be distributed to ACC contracting centers at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. (87 positions), Joint Base

McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. (79 positions), Warren, Mich. (10 positions), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. (32 positions), and Redstone Arsenal, Ala. (22 positions) as well as to the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Fort Knox, Ky. (10 positions).

An element of 14 positions will remain in the National Capital Region at Fort Belvoir, Va., to handle support functions including customer support, coordination and Government Purchase Card oversight.

The workload redistribution affects 260 civil service positions and six military positions. All ACC-NCR civil service employees will be offered

their current position at the new locations. Soldiers will be reassigned through the military personnel system.

"This was a difficult decision," said Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, U.S. Army Contracting Command, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. "But as good stewards of the taxpayers' money, we must make the most effective and efficient use of our resources, including our people. We have a position for all of our valued employees and will work diligently to make their transition to their new job locations as easy as possible."

The Army predicts the move will save about \$13

million annually, once the transition is complete, through increased efficiencies, reduced facilities and information technology costs, reduced turnover and reduced locality pay as the positions are moved outside the National Capital Region.

Employees will have until Jan. 8, 2013, to accept or decline the management-directed reassignment.

Employees who decline transfer will be eligible to register in the Priority Placement Program, a Department of Defense system designed to help displaced employees.

In addition, ACC will provide relocation and transition assistance.

Employees may also be eligible for placement through the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan for positions outside the Department of Defense.

Army Contracting Command provides global contracting support to Soldiers through the full spectrum of military operations. ACC consists of about 6,800 civilians and Soldiers at more than 100 locations worldwide.

In fiscal year 2012 ACC awarded and managed more than 228,000 contract actions valued at more than \$74 billion.

*(Source: Army Contracting Command Public Affairs)*

## DECEMBER: Safe Toys & Gifts Month Toy safety tips for the holiday season

By Julie Gilkey RN, BSN  
Health Promotions Program  
Manager, BAMC

Once again, we come to the holiday season with thoughts of what to get for the children in our life.

We want something that will not only put a smile on their face as they unwrap the gift, but something that will make their smile last, so we need to be conscientious when purchasing gifts.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were an estimated 251,700 children under the age of 15 who were treated for toy-related injuries in 2010. Historically, the majority of toy-related injuries were to the head and face area.

Therefore, the national



Photo by Lisa J. Young

group, Prevent Blindness America, chose December as "Safe Toys and Gifts Month."

Following these tips will help people choose safe and age appropriate gifts for children.

**Read the label.** Warning labels give important information about how to

child's mouth to prevent choking.

**Avoid toys that shoot objects into the air.** They can cause serious eye injuries or choking.

**Avoid toys that are loud** to prevent damage to the child's hearing.

**Stuffed toys should be well made.** Stuffed toys should be washable and shouldn't have buttons, seams or exposed removable parts. Avoid toys with small bean-like pellets.

**Look for toys that have a solid design and a sturdy construction.** Toys that won't break, crush, or be pulled apart easily.

**Non-Toxic.** Check the label. Items such as crayons, bath products, markers, paints, etc should be non-toxic.

**Avoid hobby kits and chemistry sets for children less than 12 years.** They can cause fires or explosions and may contain dangerous chemicals. Make sure your older

child knows how to safely handle these kinds of toys.

**Electric toys should be "UL Approved."** Check the label.

**Be careful when buying crib toys.** Keep strings or wires short. Crib toys should not be used if the child can push up on hand and knees.

**Take food allergies into account.** Both children and adults can be allergic or highly sensitive to a range of food gifts, especially nuts, MSG, and chocolate.

For more gift giving ideas and safety tips, visit the American Academy of Pediatrics website for parents [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org). Check [www.usa.safekids.org](http://www.usa.safekids.org) or the CPSC website for the latest information on toy or other product recalls.

*(Sources: [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org); [www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org); [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov))*



## News Briefs

### Holiday Closures

The following Joint Base San Antonio locations will be closed during the holidays:

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Warfighter and Family Readiness – Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course – Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center – Dec. 23 through 26, Dec. 30 through Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equipment Center – Dec. 22 through 26, Dec. 30 through Jan. 2

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Auto Shop – Dec. 22 through 25, Dec. 30 through Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center – Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Hacienda – Dec. 22 through Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Java Cafe – Dec. 22 through Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston RV Park – Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

JBSA-Camp Bullis Sportsman Range – Dec. 24 through 27 and Dec. 31 through Jan. 3

### TSP Withdrawals Due to Hurricane Sandy

On Nov. 21, the Thrift Savings Plan made temporary changes to the financial hardship withdrawal rules for participants affected by Hurricane Sandy. Requests to TSP must be received by Jan. 25, 2013. For more info regarding the TSP withdrawal process, please contact TSP at (877) 968-3778 or visit the TSP website: <https://www.tsp.gov/representative/announcements/announcements.shtml>.

### U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations Tip Line

Report crime or suspicious activity to the anonymous tip line by text message, online or download the Smart Phone app. Text AFOSI and your tip to 274637 (CRIMES) or online visit <https://www.tipsubmit.com/webtips.asp?agencyID=1111> or <http://www.osi.af.mil>.

### Wounded Soldier/Family Hotline

The Army chief of staff and the acting secretary of the Army established the Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline to give Soldiers and their families a place to share their concerns on the quality of care they received. This

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

# Army North bids farewell to deputy commander

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson  
ARNORTH Public Affairs

Army North civilians and military members bid farewell to Maj. Gen. Walter Davis, deputy commanding general for operations, U.S. Army North, during a Nov. 27 tattoo ceremony in the historic Quadrangle.

Davis, who began his Army career in 1979 as a distinguished military graduate of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va., officially retired following a 33-year career that included assignments in Korea, Germany, Kuwait, the Pentagon and many others.

“It’s hard to imagine that a really bad experience – student-teaching physical education at Denbigh High School in Newport News, Va. – led me to an understanding that perhaps taking a regular Army commission wasn’t such a bad idea after all,” said Davis.

“Even if it was in the artillery, where I had to trudge around the mountains of South Korea my first year with a PRC-77 (portable VHF FM combat-net radio transceiver) loaded in a rucksack, and I was sleeping on a very large plastic map case that my brother, 1st Lt. Clint Davis, had sent me from Germany, on the side of a snow-covered hill with the 1st (Battalion) of the 38th Infantry (Regiment).”

The seasoned Army aviator, a native of Alexandria, Va., said



Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV, commanding general, U.S. Army North, and senior commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, stands with Maj. Gen. Walter Davis, his deputy commanding general for operations, during Davis’ Tattoo Ceremony Nov. 27 at the historic Quadrangle.

that despite the hardships, the brotherhood of Soldiers and the importance of the mission convinced him that the Army was the right career.

“Really, from that beginning and for the next 33 years, what struck me was that there’s always someone right beside you, whether they were above you in rank and position; whether they were alongside you as a peer or subordinate to you, all of them, they were Soldiers,” said Davis. “They were always by your side, believing in you, making you understand that being a part of something bigger than yourself was the most important thing,” said Davis.

After leaving the artillery, Davis went on to

become an Army aviator. He is certified on six different Army aircraft, with more than 1,500 flight hours.

During the ceremony, as the narrator read through the list of assignments Davis served in, the 323rd Army Band played the distinctive unit song for each unit.

After commanding the 229th Attack Helicopter Regiment, XVIII Airborne Corps, and serving as the chief, Readiness Division, Deputy Directorate for Global Operations, Operations Directorate, Joint Staff, he was chosen in 2004 to establish and command the Army’s new 20th Support Command CBRNE (Chemical,

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## ARNORTH from P1

as we make this the best place to work in the Army.”

Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV, commanding general, U.S. Army North, and senior commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, presided over the ceremony. He praised Wood for his dedication to the Army, Army North and his Soldiers.

“Talk to anyone who’s served with Command Sgt. Maj. Wood,” said Caldwell. “You will find that he goes to great lengths to put those tanker boots on the ground with our men and women in the field.

“Dave Wood has truly been the epitome of a great noncommissioned officer. He is a Soldier’s Soldier – from beginning to end. My sincere thanks for your 33 years of service.”

Caldwell also praised

the selection of Rhodes as the incoming command sergeant major.

He said Rhodes is “just the right person to serve as (the) backbone for Army North. On top of his operational experience, he also has a lot of great experience in our institutional Army. He is the right person, at the right time, to help guide this organization.”

Rhodes spent the majority of his career with the 75th Ranger Regiment and has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as well as Panama and Somalia. He also served as the Commandant of U.S. Army Europe’s non-commissioned officer academy as well as the command sergeant major of the Army’s officer candidate school.

“One of the things I love about this job,” said Rhodes, “is I can look the people in the eye I am serving for – the American citizens.”



Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV, commanding general of U.S. Army North and senior commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, passes the U.S. Army North colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Hu Rhodes during a change of responsibility ceremony Nov. 28 at the historic Quadrangle.

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## News Briefs

from P3

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 wfsupport@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.

### 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 em-

See NEWS BRIEFS, P20

## SPOUSE CAREGIVERS: ADAPTING TO A NEW ROLE

# Long road back to San Antonio

Story and photo by  
Lori Newman  
JBSA-FSH News Leader

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

Thirteen years ago, two young Soldiers met during combat medic training at Fort Sam Houston. More than a decade later, they returned for a very different reason.

Army Sgts. Ed and Karen Matayka are currently at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston because Ed is undergoing treatment at the Center for the Intrepid for injuries he received in Afghanistan.

Both Ed and Karen are medics with the Vermont National Guard's 186th Brigade Support Battalion.

The couple was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, when the armored vehicle Ed was riding in struck a roadside bomb.

"I was on the same base that Ed was, but they didn't notify me right away because his injuries were so severe that they didn't expect him to survive his first surgery," Karen said. "They waited until five hours later to come get me, and tell me what had happened."

Both of Matayka's feet were blown off, he suffered multiple fractures in his back and a severe head injury.

"Ed was so unstable when he was wounded that they had a hard time getting him back



Karen Matayka helps her husband, Ed, get situated to enjoy a quiet moment outside the Warrior and Family Support center.

stateside," Karen said quietly, remembering their long journey and how far they have come.

The trip took four days with Karen by his side. Their first stop was Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for a day and a half. Then he was transferred to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. because of his severe brain injury.

"We were at Bethesda for three months while he recovered," Karen said. "Half of that time he was in a coma."

"I would always hold on to the smallest little thing," she said thinking back to when Ed was in

the beginning stages of his recovery process.

"When Ed was in the coma he was on a ventilator. I would check to see what rate they had him breathing at. Then I would check his actual physical rate. He was always over breathing the ventilator, so I knew he was breathing on his own," Karen said.

"That tiny piece of information gave me hope to know he was going to get better.

"The first two weeks were touch-and-go. Then we started to notice little pieces of Ed emerging from the coma. His personality was coming through even though he was just

laying there," Karen said.

The doctor's tried to get Ed's spinal fractures to heal naturally, but he wasn't getting enough nutrients while he was in the coma, so he ended up having spinal fusion surgery three months after his injury.

Following the spinal surgery, Ed went to Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va. for six months for his brain injury rehabilitation.

"We met with his primary care doctor toward the end of his rehab there," she said.

The doctor told the couple that he didn't think Ed would ever walk again.

"We fought really hard to get him sent to another rehab facility," Karen said.

The Mataykas then went to the Boston VA Hospital where Ed underwent spinal cord injury rehabilitation and received prosthetics.

"When Ed started walking they asked us where we wanted to go," Karen said. "We requested to come to San Antonio, because of the CFI, knowing that it's the best rehab facility in the country."

"Karen has been just an absolute godsend," Ed said, explaining that they spend almost every waking moment together, "more than any couple should," he laughs.

"Our relationship has gotten a hell of a lot stronger. That's because of changes in my own personality and changes we have had to make to

accommodate the curveball that life has dealt us at this point."

The couple has been here since August 2011 and plans to make San Antonio their home.

When their unit returned home from deployment, the couple traveled to Vermont to greet them.

"There were plenty of hugs," Karen said, laughing. "They were all surprised at how well Ed was doing."

"My wife is still a motherly figure to the guys that were deployed with us," Ed said.

These days the Mataykas spend their spare time driving around San Antonio getting lost, going out to eat or visiting with other wounded warriors and their families at the Warrior and Family Support Center.

"We just laugh at ourselves all the time. We have fun together," she said smiling about their adventures.

While Ed concentrates on continuing his rehabilitation, Karen is busy preparing for the birth of twins.

"I want to make sure we have two happy and healthy babies," Ed said. "Once that's all done and they grow up a little bit, we will start volunteering around the community. We really want to give back, because we love the military."

"The big goal for us is kids. We have always wanted kids," Karen said. "Then the next big thing is getting a house that is suitable for our needs."



## SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JOINT BASE WORKING GROUP TOURS JBSA



Photo by Doug Meyer

(From left to right) Army Lt. Col. Vincent Navarre, Army Representative to the Office of Secretary of Defense Joint Base Working Group, Air Force Col. Charles D. Perham and Ms. Jane Goldberg OSD Joint Base Working Group co-chairs and Mark Grezler, Plans, Programs and Integration Division director, tour the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston facilities Nov. 28. JBSA is the largest joint base organization in the Department of Defense, comprising three primary locations at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Randolph, and more than 200 mission partners.

### FAREWELL from P3

Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives).

At Army North, Davis was responsible for leading and managing operations for Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command. He was also responsible for the training and readiness oversight of the Army's homeland defense and response forces that provide support to civil authorities.

"I've had the privilege of serving with Walt Davis twice in my career," said Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV, commanding general, Army North, and senior commander, Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis.

"He's a man who has made a lasting impact on nearly everyone he's ever met. As I spoke with a number of Soldiers, past and present, who served

with Walt over the past few years, we all agreed that Walt was a professional, an exceptional mentor and someone who truly epitomized selfless service."

For Davis, Army service is a family tradition.

"Walt carries on a proud legacy of service," said Caldwell. "His father served in the Army during the Second World War, earning a Silver Star and a Bronze Star medal. And, oh by the way, he also served under (Lt. Gen.) Mark Clark at Fifth Army. This same tradition of service was passed down to Walt and his two brothers and lives on with his son, Kyle, currently serving as an Apache pilot at Fort Rucker, Ala."

Davis, an avid fly fisherman, recently became a proud grandfather with the birth of Emma in October. Davis has another son, Ryan, who is attend-

ing college, and a daughter, Lindsey, who works as a lab technician.

"I simply want to close by telling every one of you, and those that you represent, military and civilian, all components, family and friends, thanks from the bottom of my heart for everything that you've done for me, for my family, for our current military force, and for making this old Soldier's time in my military something that I would not change one minute of - even if my life depended on it," Davis told guests at the ceremony.

"I look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead, and I hope and pray that in some small way, I am able to give back in some measure that which was so selflessly and graciously given to me: a life and career in the United States Army."





# Employees ready boxes for 201st MI Battalion

Story and photo by

**Gregory Ripps**

470th Military Intelligence

Brigade Public Affairs

Some 150 deployed Soldiers of the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion in Afghanistan will receive extra gifts during the holiday season, thanks to employees of HNTB Corporation.

The 42 employees of the engineer, architect and planning company's downtown San Antonio office piled a conference table full of shippable items, among them snacks, condiments, coffee and cocoa mixes, grooming accessories, toiletries and even Christmas ornaments.

Deborah Parker, HNTB office technical specialist, coordinated



Andrea Greene, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade family readiness support assistant; Tricia Peters and Dorothy Parker, HNTB Corporation employees; and 1st Lt. Chendrell Stewart, representing the 201st MI Battalion, look at items collected for the battalion's deployed Soldiers before readying them to mail overseas.

the activity for the company.

"We do something every year," said Parker. "This year we

wanted to do something for our Soldiers overseas."

A retired staff sergeant with 22 years in

the Army, Parker said she first called Army Community Service at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. She

learned there that a battalion of the 470th MI Brigade had deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She then contacted the brigade and spoke to the unit's family readiness support assistant, Andrea Greene, who offered information and pointers about mailing packages overseas.

On Nov. 28, Greene and 1st Lt. Chendrell Stewart went to the HNTB office to see what had been gathered and to help package the items into three small and three larger boxes. Besides contributing the contents, the employees were also paying for the postage to mail the boxes.

"They'll love it," said Greene in expressing gratitude for the intended mailing. "The young Soldiers' faces will light up ... like Christmas."

## APP from P1

were given the opportunity to provide feedback.

"We tried to keep 'one stop shopping' in mind with the app," Solis said. "With updates, we expect to be able to increase bells and whistles for the app. For now, our main focus was to consolidate information that realistically is available at the press of a couple of buttons."

The PA team most recently consolidated websites from JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Randolph to create the JBSA website at [www.jbsa.af.mil](http://www.jbsa.af.mil). The majority of the website information is now a part of the mobile app.

Joint Base San Antonio is the largest of the 12 joint bases created under the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005. JBSA includes three primary locations at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph, plus eight other operating locations and more than 200 mission partners.





# Children spend day at Mission and Installation Contracting Command

By Ben Gonzales  
MICC Public and Congressional Affairs

Smiles, laughter and happiness could be seen and heard at the Mission and Installation Contracting Command during the unit's Bring Your Child to Work Day Nov. 20.

Children of MICC employees spent the day with their parents to learn about what their parents do for a living as well as have fun with their parents and hosts for the event; MICC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades.

The general welcomed the children and guests to start the day, then invited them all to walk around the historic Long Barracks building, home to the MICC first built in the 1880s. Rhoades talked to the children too, and even taught them how to give an enthusiastic Army "Hooah."

Following the welcome, the children learned about the mission of the command, and also did arts and crafts with their parents.

The children, ranging in age from 3 to 16 learned how to make slime, made bracelets and necklaces, built a Thanksgiving memento, and a volunteer drew a caricature of each child.

"We wanted to show our next generation that contracting can be fun, and what their parents do is important to the Army and our nation," said Pete Hunter of the MICC Office of Small Business Programs who taught the children about contracting.

After a pizza lunch and ice cream social, the children played in the playground area adjacent to the MICC headquarters.

Waiting for them outside were members of the 323rd Army Band, "Fort Sam's Own" who entertained the children



Photos by Dan Elkins

Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades talk to children of Mission and Installation Contracting Command members during the MICC's Bring Your Child to Work Day Nov. 20, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Vollmecke is the MICC commanding general, and Rhoades is the command sergeant major.

with lively and current songs and then even took time to talk to the children about musicianship. Also outside were several military vehicles for the children to crawl in and explore.

The city of San Antonio

also participated in the MICC's Bring Your Child to Work Day as they brought a San Antonio Police Department vehicle and McGruff the crime dog for the children to meet, as well as Sparky the fire dog from the San Antonio Fire Department.

While Rhoades applied war paint to the children's faces to make them look like young warriors, MICC officials set up games for the children to accomplish with their parents.

The day concluded with Vollmecke wishing them well

and presenting mementos from the day.

"I didn't know work could be so much fun," said teenager Cynthia Gentry who participated in the event with her father, Simba Gentry from the MICC Manpower Office.



A child of a Mission and Installation Contracting Command member sits in a military vehicle during the MICC's Bring Your Child to Work Day Nov. 20.



A child of a Mission and Installation Contracting Command member gets camouflage paint put on his face during the MICC's Bring Your Child to Work Day Nov. 20.



Children of Mission and Installation Contracting Command members participate in games during the MICC's Bring Your Child to Work Day Nov. 20, 2012.





Photo by Spc. James Gaspar

Santa's elves, even the four-legged kind, enjoy the festivities of the holiday season during the annual holiday tree-lighting ceremony.

# Tree lighting festivities at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston



Photo by Deyanira Romo Russell

A tree by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston flagpole was decorated and lit Dec. 3. After the tree was lit guests enjoyed refreshments and played in the snow.



Photo by Deyanira Romo Russell

Students from Fort Sam Houston Independent School District rocked the stage at the annual holiday tree-lighting.



Photo by Deyanira Romo Russell

Col. Rob Tempel, U.S. Army Dental Command commander, makes a snow angel at the annual holiday tree-lighting.



Photo by Spc. James Gaspar

Col. Jim Chevallier, deputy commander of Joint Base San Antonio and 502nd Air Base Wing vice commander, huddles with children during the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston holiday tree lighting ceremony.



Photo by Bulent Sencalar

Two-year-olds Jarred Hoppes and Asher Sencalar aren't sure what to do with the snow that was brought in for the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston annual holiday tree lighting ceremony Dec. 3 at the flagpole.





## STUDENTS TOUR AKERROYD BLOOD DONOR CENTER



Photo by Kathy Salazar

Spc. Crystal Crespo, medical laboratory specialist, demonstrates how to filter out the white blood cells from a unit of whole blood (Leukoreducing) to Holy Cross High School tenth graders at the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center Nov. 27. Leukoreduction of blood products is a technique used to help prevent a type of transfusion reaction when blood is given to a patient. The Akeroyd Blood Donor Center was one of several stops on their tour of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

## PLEASANTON JROTC TOURS JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON



Photo by Kathy Salazar

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jesus Martinez, basic medical technician corpsman program nursing instructor, assists Pleasanton JROTC Cadet Pvt. Maria Veramontes in making sure an intravenous line is secure on Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Jason Smith during a visit to the Medical Education and Training Campus, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Nov. 27. The BMTCP provides simulated and clinical training in various aspects of emergency, nursing, and primary care with safety emphasized throughout the program.

## FSHISD WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

### Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

#### Dec. 14

Dad's Day, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Army Environmental Command  
5th Grade Holiday Concert, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

### Robert G. Cole Middle and High School

#### Dec. 10

Middle School Boys Basketball vs. Brooks Academy at Brooks City Base, 5 p.m.  
Middle School Girls Basketball vs. Brooks Academy at Cole, 5 and 6 p.m.

#### Dec. 11

Baseball at Ingram, 5 (JV b), 6:30 (JV a), 8 (V) p.m.  
Boys Soccer vs. Cornerstone, 6 p.m.

#### Dec. 12

Girls Soccer at Holy Cross High School, 4:30 p.m.

#### Dec. 13

Cole Middle School Baseball 7th and 8th Gervin Tournament  
Varsity Baseball at Hempstead Tournament, Time TBA  
Cole Band Holiday Concert at Mosely Gym, 7 p.m.

#### Dec. 14

Cole Middle School Baseball 7th and 8th Gervin Tournament  
Varsity Baseball at Hempstead Tournament, Time TBA  
Boys Soccer vs. St. Mary's Hall, 4:30 p.m.

#### Dec. 15

Cole Middle School Baseball 7th and 8th Gervin Tournament  
Varsity Baseball at Hempstead Tournament, Time TBA



# Stars aligned for Operation Rising Star Live Finals

By Tim Hipps  
IMCOM Public Affairs

Bo Bice, the singer who finished runner-up to Carrie Underwood in American Idol's fourth season before charting smash hits and videos of his own, will perform during the 2012 Operation Rising Star Live Finals Dec. 8-15 at Fort Sam Houston Theatre.

Bice will be joined by guest recording artists The Main Squeeze and R.L., along with 2011 Operation Rising Star winner Melissa Neal. Each will appear on different shows during finals week of the Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored military singing contest based on the premises of "American Idol."

The shows will be recorded in front of a live audience by the Pentagon Channel on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston at 7 p.m. Dec. 8, 10, 12 and 14, with a 5:30 p.m. reveal show Dec. 15 to crown the champion.

Bice will perform Dec. 10. The Main Squeeze is set for Dec. 12. R.L. is the Dec. 14 guest artist, and Neal will perform during the Dec. 15 reveal show.

Bice, whose rendition of "Inside Your Heaven" peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard charts, has recorded three albums and his latest is titled 3. Recorded in his hometown of Nashville, the album features an array of influences ranging from Jim Croce, Van Morrison, James Taylor, Gram Parsons to The Black Crowes and Lenny Kravitz. Performers on the album include Crowes drummer Steve Gorman and keyboardist A.J. Croce, son of the late great Jim Croce.

After making a name for himself on American Idol, Bice toured with Lynyrd Skynyrd, Carlos Santana and Willie Nelson, among others. He also performed for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"You hear and see first-hand some of the devastating



Courtesy of Family and MWR Promotions

Pfc. Marvin Forbes of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., is one of the Operation Rising Star semifinalists competing Dec. 8-15.

stories, but you witness the blessing that these men and women are fighting for us," Bice said. "I just hope I'm lifting them up somehow."

Bice says performing for live audiences is his main reason for making music.

"It's funny," he said. "When I started out after my first record, there were a lot of women in the crowd, and a lot of guys with their arms crossed, kind of like saying: 'Show me what you got.' Then I do my show - which is sort of like Motley Crue, Vince Gill and Bob Seger - and by the end, the guys were the ones screaming and whistling - even in New York. I always say, she'll bring you to the first Bo Bice show, and you'll bring her to every one of them afterward."

Robert Lavelle "R.L." Hugger is a rhythm and blues singer/songwriter from Minneapolis best known as front man for the group Next. He also worked with rappers Snoop Dogg, Lil' Kim and Lil Wayne. The Main Squeeze brings their funk, rock, hip-hop and blues sound from Bloomington, Ind.

Each show will air on the

Pentagon Channel at 8 p.m. the day after the live events and can be viewed at [www.OpRisingStar.com](http://www.OpRisingStar.com). The shows will air three times daily to accommodate viewers in different time zones: Eastern Standard, Central European and Korean Standard. Viewers can vote for their favorite contestants for two hours following each broadcast.

The votes of judges and viewers each count 50 percent in determining which contestants advance to elimination

rounds of eight, four and two competitors. The final tally is determined by cumulative votes and judges' decisions.

The judges are retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley, the 12th sergeant major of the Army; Debra Byrd, vocal coach for NBC television's "The Voice," who also served as vocal coach for the first 11 seasons of "American Idol," and country music artist Michael Peterson, who struck No. 1 on the Billboard

country chart with "From Here to Eternity."

Fort Sam Houston Theatre doors will open at 6 p.m. and Army Festival of the Performing Arts winners will provide pre-show entertainment for early arrivers.

"That's just another way that we're trying to incorporate different things that we do in showcasing Soldier talent," Operation Rising Star Executive Producer Tim Higdon said. "I'm very excited this year to see how many active-duty Soldiers won at the garrison level."

Another new twist this year provides active-duty Soldiers who won their local Operation Rising Star event with an automatic berth in the live auditions for the 2013 U.S. Army Soldier Show, another Army Entertainment event.

Fourteen judges from Army Entertainment and Installation Management Command helped select the semifinalists. The 34 garrisons around the world that hosted local Operation Rising Star competitions submitted videotapes of their winners to the panel.

## The 12 semifinalists 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
- Military family member Calvin Snead of Fort Wainwright, Alaska
- and family member Christina Williams of the Naval Support Facility in Dahlgren, Va.





# Special Olympics awards bring smiles, cheers

Story and photos by

**Cheryl Harrison**

Marketing, Warfighter and Family Readiness

Exceptional Family Members found contagious joy abounding Nov. 29, in the smiles of the award recipients faces as they received medals for their bowling experience in a recent Special Olympics Bowling Challenge held Oct. 30 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center.

Ten children, ages 5 to 17, receiving ribbons and medals, and their faces shined with joy while parents, buddies and respite care providers cheered, applauded and made memories with cameras.

Presented by Special Olympics and the Exceptional Family Member Program, the evening's



(Left to right, back row) Krestain Watson, 16 years old; Ronald Diaz, 16 years old; Christian Daniels, 15 years old; Christian Chow, 13 years old; Alex Hoffstetter, 14 years old; (Left to right front row) Truth Pierce, 7 years old; Ethan Garcia, 9 years old; Alex Reynoldson, 9 years old; and Gabriel Limon, 5 years old; all winners at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Special Olympics Bowling Awards Ceremony held Nov. 29.

events included pizza, soda, cake and cookies, but that was just icing on the proverbial cake as the athletes proudly wore their ribbons and medals, and grins from ear to ear.

Melissa Reyes, program manager for the Excep-

tional Family Member Program on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston opened the festivities introducing Shawn Britt, program director for the Special Olympics.

"San Antonio Central Texas Area has over 60

athletes. This is the first group from a military installation, and we are so excited to be a part of tonight's ceremony," Britt said.

The Joint Base San Antonio Exceptional Family Member Program is



Alex Hoffstetter, 14 years old, grins with happiness when he was asked to hold up his award, following the ceremony.



Sixteen-year-old Krestain Watson, makes sure his medal lays perfectly as he slips it over his head during the Special Olympics Bowling Awards Ceremony.

a mandatory enrollment program that works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, medical, education, and personnel services to military families with special needs.

"Special Olympics, Texas has been one of our best cheerleaders in trying to get us involved with their programs,"

Reyes explained.

The EFMP staff on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston offer many social activities for the EFMP enrolled families throughout the year.

For more information about the EFMP on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-2962 or visit their offices at the Roadrunner Community Center, 3060 Stanley Road, Building 2797.



### Operation Rising Star Finals

The 12 finalists selected from military installations worldwide will compete in the 2012 Operation Rising Star Finals 7 p.m. Dec. 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15, at the historic Fort Sam Houston Theatre. Admission is free. MWR patrons and their guests can be part of the live televised audience. Call 466-2020 or visit <http://www.oprisingstar.com>.

### Word Level 2

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

### Credit and Debt Management

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

### HUGS playgroup

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

### Key Caller Training

Dec. 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

### Immigration Services

Dec. 11, noon-2 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1372.

### Consumer Awareness

Dec. 11, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380

### Overseas Orientation

Dec. 12, 10-11 a.m. and 5-6 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1372.

### Pre Deployment Planning Training

Dec. 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

### First Termer Financial Readiness

Dec. 12, noon-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

### 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.

### Family Readiness Groups for Commanders

Dec. 13, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

### 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.

### Holiday Story Time

Dec. 15, 2-3 p.m., Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, call 221-4702.

### Better Opportunities for Single Service Members Meeting

Dec. 19, noon, Benner Barracks in the BOSS Room.

### Youth & School Services Winter Camp

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

### 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>.

### Holiday Musical at the Harlequin

In the Mood...for Christmas runs Nov. 29-Dec. 22; dinner is at 6:15 p.m., curtain opens at 8 p.m. at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre, Building 2652, Harney Road. Call 222-9694.

### Barber Shop Opens

Shapin' Headz is now open at the Sam Houston Community Center, Building 1395 Chaffee Road. Call 808-1374/1376/1378.

### 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.

### Youth Basketball Registration Deadline Extended

Youth Sports is hosting the annual fall basketball league for youth ages 5 to 15. The registration deadline is Jan. 11 at Parent Central, building 2797 on Fort Sam Houston. The 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 or 221-5513.

### USAF 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 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 Fail 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.

### 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 Central assists walk-in patrons from 8 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. for registration and 12:30-1 p.m. for out processing and payments. 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

See INSIDE, P20

## Feast at the Firehouse

By Deyanira Romo Rossell  
502nd FSS Marketing

Getting into the spirit of the holidays, the youth and staff from the Middle School Teen Center prepared a Thanksgiving feast for the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Firefighters Nov. 21.

"We are so grateful for the firefighters on Fort Sam Houston for all they do to keep our military community safe," said

Leslie Obholz, who is president of Keystone, a popular club at the Middle School Teen Center.

Members of other teen clubs, including 4-H, Smart Girls and Torch had a hand in preparing and delivering the food to the firehouse as well. The teens take on community service projects year-round in fulfilling the tenets of their clubs and to make a difference in the world around them.



Orion Hart stirs up a delicious side dish in gratitude of the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston firefighters. The teens delivered the feast to the firehouse Nov. 21.



Photos by Yoko Moreno

Youth from the Middle School Teen Center make a difference in the lives of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston firefighters by delivering a Thanksgiving feast to the firehouse Nov. 21.



# OUTSIDE THE GATE

start between 8 a.m. and noon, finish by 3 p.m. For information, call 723-8574 or print a walk brochure at <http://randolphroadrunners.info/>.

## A Wonderland Christmas at Morgan's Wonderland

A Wonderland Christmas will be open 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 22. In addition to the park's regular rides and attractions, Morgan's Wonderland will recreate the North Pole at the Butterfly Garden playground and have it serve as the focal point for strolling entertainers, such as carolers, choirs and magicians. Visit <http://www.morganswonderland.com> for information.

## Military Job Fair

A job fair for active duty and retired military personnel and veterans will be held 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Norris Conference Center at Wonderland of the Americas, 4522 Fredericksburg Road. Register online at <http://mySA.com/MilitaryJobFair>.

## Holiday in Blue Concert

The United States Air Force Band of the West presents Holiday in Blue 7 p.m. Dec. 7 and 3 p.m. Dec. 8 and 9 at Edgewood Independent School District Theatre of Performing Arts, 607 SW 34th Street. Free tickets are available by visiting <http://www.bandofthewest.af.mil>.

## A Holiday Celebration Concert

The 323rd Army Band "Fort Sam's Own" will perform 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, 308 Avenue E. Admission is free.

## Boerne Christmas Walk

The Randolph Roadrunners volksmarch club is hosting a 5k and 10k walk Dec. 8 starting at St. John's Lutheran Church, 315 E. Rosewood Avenue in Boerne. Walks

## 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.

## 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 Rd. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-0584 or 889-8212.

## Dinosaur Stampede

The San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston, will feature a life-size dinosaur exhibit through Dec. 31. Call 207-3255 or visit <http://www.sabot.org> for more information.

## FOR SALE:

Furniture for sale, numerous, miscellaneous items, various prices, all in excellent condition; Oakley sun glasses, new, iridium, 99 percent UV protection, with soft case and hard case included, \$75; dog crate, excellent condition, folding double door, black, 24 inches long, 18 inches wide, 19 inches high, leak-proof plastic pan, \$30; small dog bed, like new, small, 15 inches by 18 inches, 2-tone color, \$35; color TV and new, portable TV's, ac or battery powered, with AM/FM reception, only two available \$25 and \$35. Call 313-0061.

**FOR SALE:** New rascal wheelchair, instruction manual included, \$700. Call 661-3765.

**FOR SALE:** 1996 Nissan Maxima, 4-door, 5-speed manual, white with grey interior, 198,000 plus miles, oil and filter changed every 2-3,000 miles, maintenance records available, "as is," \$1,400 OBO. Call 659-6741 or 827-2506.



## Edwards Aquifer Level

in feet above sea level as of Dec. 4

**CURRENT LEVEL \* = 650.1'**

\*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

	Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 12
San Antonio Texas	75° AM Clouds/PM Sun	77° Cloudy	77° Cloudy	59° Sunny	62° Partly Cloudy	65° Showers
Kabul Afghanistan	57° Mostly Cloudy	55° Partly Cloudy	56° Mostly Cloudy	53° Cloudy	51° Partly Cloudy	51° Sunny

(Source: The Weather Channel at [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com))

## INSIDE from P19

Center or call 916-6377. Registration is ongoing until full.

## 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.

## Pet Consult Services Available at JBSA-Lackland

The Joint Base San Antonio-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-Friday 7:30 a.m.-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.

## 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.

## 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. The shop will be closed Dec. 21 through Jan. 8. For more information, call 221-5794/4537 or click on <http://www.scfsh.com>.

## 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.

## 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.

## NEWS BRIEFS from P6

ployee 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 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, tri-cycle, 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.