



Med-Alert

The 5th Brigade (HS) Newsletter

February 2002
Volume 24



THE COLONEL'S CORNER

IRS E-MAIL AUDIT SCAM

The Michigan Department of Treasury recently received an alert from the Internal Revenue Service about a fraudulent scam being conducted via e-mail that you should be on the look out for.

Some taxpayers have received an e-mail from a non-IRS source indicating that the taxpayer is under audit and needs to complete a questionnaire within 48 hours to avoid the assessment of penalties and interest.

The e-mail refers to an "e-audit" and references IRS form 1040. The taxpayer is asked for social security numbers, bank account numbers, and other confidential information.

THE IRS DOES NOT CONDUCT E-AUDITS, NOR DOES IT NOTIFY TAXPAYERS OF A PENDING AUDIT VIA E-MAIL. THIS E-MAIL IS NOT FROM THE IRS.

Do not provide the requested information - this may be an identity-theft attempt. If you receive an e-mail of this nature, the source may be the address blesstoday.com, please contact the Internal Revenue Service office in your area.

FROM THE S-1

A make-up APFT will be conducted in April 2002 for those not able to take the test in October 2001. If you need to take the test prior to April, contact

Mr. Garza at (210) 221-5041 to make arrangements for testing.

FROM THE S-4

Sgt. 1st Class Hernandez visited 10th Battalion in Houston to assist with Annual Training supply issues.

Maj. Cain visited one of the 91W EMT-B sites in Albuquerque, NM. The need for shelving in Albuquerque to store equipment and supplies was identified by the 2291st. The brigade we will be purchasing this for them.

So far we have 5 of 6 EMT-B contracts for supplies and equipment complete, because of the quantity of items ordered, we have been given discounts by the vendors that enable us to procure more needed items!!!! We also have 2 of 4 PHTLS contracts complete.

Spc. Banda has been promoted to sergeant - way to go, he will be RSTing the next few months as he attends the Police Academy. We wish him the best of Luck!!

FROM THE S-5

This will be my last newsletter with the 5th Brigade (HS). I have enjoyed working with all of you over my tenure with the unit. I will continue to assist with re-establishing a web page for the unit over the next few months. You may still contact me at fred.jones@us.army.mil.

AWARD INFORMATION

Sgt. 1st Class Abbott was given an award in San Antonio for educational excellence. General Silverthorn was very pleased with this accomplishment. Way to go!!!



FROM THE PND

TRAUMA AIMS courses have been scheduled for the following dates:

June 20th – 29th, 2002 in San Antonio, TX
August 10th – 19th, 2002 in Iowa City, IA
September 7th – 16th, 2002 in Little Rock, AR

SFC OCKLETREE WINS MARATHON

Last year Sgt. 1st Class Sandra Ockletree requested and was selected to be on the 90th RSC 10-Miler team. This race was to be held October 14, 2001 in Washington, DC, but was cancelled on October 8, 2001. She was determined to put her intense training to use, so she joined the “Clear Cube Challenge” which is a program in which she had to complete eight races ranging from a 10K to the marathon.



The most notable was the 3M Half Marathon because she was able to enter under the Military category. SFC Ockletree competed in this event on February 3, 2002 and got first place in the Military Female category with a time of 1:42.

<http://www.runtex.com/3MResults2002/3MMILITARY AGE GRP.HTM>

She also, competed in her first marathon February 17, in Austin with a time of 3:49.

<http://www.runtex.com/motorola2002/2002MOTOAGEGRPCHIPTIMES.HTM>

90-DAY EVENT CALENDAR

<u>February</u> 22 nd – 24 th	PHTLS Course (Des Moines, IA)
<u>March</u> 1 st – 3 rd 8 th – 10 th	PHTLS Course (Iowa City, IA) PHTLS Course (Des Moines, IA)
<u>April</u> 12 th – 14 th 26 th – 28 th	PHTLS Course (Iowa City, IA) PHTLS Course (Des Moines, IA)
<u>May</u> 3 rd – 5 th 17 th – 19 th 31 st – 2 nd June	PHTLS Course (Camp Mabry, TX) PHTLS Course (Offutt AFB, NE) PHTLS Course (Independence, MO)

VEHICLE REGISTRATION NOTICE

Due to temporary unavailability of DoD registration stickers, priority for issue of vehicle registration stickers will be for active duty and civilian employees. Provost Marshal anticipates issue of more registration stickers in late January and will announce when stickers are available for open registration.

20-YEAR-HIGH MILITARY PAY RAISE AVERAGES 6.9 PERCENT

Service members will see an average increase of 6.9 percent in their January pay.

“It’s the largest pay increase in 20 years.” Navy Capt. Chris Kopang, DoD director of compensation, said in a recent American Forces Information Service interview. In general, officers will see their pay increase 5 percent, he said, and enlisted service members get a 6 percent boost in their pay beginning Jan. 1.



Several pay grades will see significantly larger increases.

“We have chosen to target the pay raise to certain pay grades that we feel need an extra boost because of retention needs.” Kopang said. For instance, officers in grades 0-3 and 0-4 will receive 6 and 6.5 percent increases respectively.

Non-commissioned officers are also receiving larger raises, Kopang said, with the highest increases — up to 10 percent — going to the highest enlisted grades.

Enlisted members in grades E-5 and E-6 will see an average 7.5 percent increase, E-7s an average increase of 8.5 percent, and up to 10 percent for E-9s.

Certain lower-ranking grades also will see increases that have nothing to do with percentages or retention, but to fix inequities in the pay table, he said.

For instance, on the 2001 pay table an E-3 with under two years of service would make more money by going over two years in service as an E-3 than by getting promoted to E-4.

“We thought that sent the wrong signal,” Kopang said. “We wanted to send the signal that people should strive for promotion quicker.

President Bush in February 2001 pledged an additional \$1.4 billion to go toward pay raises for service members. He signed the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act, which included the extra money, Dec. 28, 2001. Without this money, Kopang said, members would have gotten a 4.6 percent across-the-board increase at the New Year.

Higher raises for NCOs reflect the changing demographics of a more-educated force. Kopang explained the military pay tables are based on the premise that enlisted members are high school

graduates. Most of today’s enlisted members have some college under their belts. The services strongly encourage members to further their education.

Kopang estimated that up to 40 percent of senior NCOs are college graduates. “We can’t pay them as much as a college degree holder right now,” he said of the senior enlisted grades. The idea, he said, was to bring their earnings closer to civilian counterparts who are high school graduates with some college.

Housing allowance rates have increased as well. In 2001, military members not living in government provided quarters paid an average 15 percent of their housing costs out of their own pockets. DoD is working to ensure the Basic Allowance for housing covers all of a member’s housing costs by 2005.

In 2002, for instance, members will pay 11.3 percent of their housing costs out of pocket on average. Housing allowances are tied to actual housing costs in a given geographic area, so some areas are getting larger rate increases than others. No rates are going down, though. Kopang said DoD has implemented individual and geographic rate protection. Even if housing costs decrease in an area, the rates won’t go down.

Members will not get a lower rate in 2002 than they did in 2001 as long as they stay at the same duty station, and members moving into an area won’t get a lower rate than individuals who live there already, he said

By Sgt 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
American Forces Press Service



YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND

5th Brigade (HS)
COL Angel Padilla CSM Alfred Habelman

10th Battalion
MAJ James Hickey CSM James Schiffman

3457th
LTC Floyd Priester CSM Blanca Ramirez

Practical Nurse Detachment
LTC Mary Gomez Vacant

HHD – 5th Brigade (HS)
CPT Mario Avila MSG Dan Carlin

WEB INFORMATION FOR RESERVIST

Here are some important Internet military links to assist you as a reservist:

Finance Regulations: www.dfas.mil

TC 21-7: www.finance.army.mil

Per Diem Rates/BAH Rates:
www.dtic.mil/perdiem

Pay Tables: www.dfas.mil/money/milpay

Retired Pay Calculator:
www.asafm.army.mil/fo/fo.asp

Thrift Savings Plan: www.tsp.gov

AR-PERSCOM's My2xCitizen Portal:
<https://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil/portal/>

Online Correspondence Courses:
<http://www.atsc.army.mil/accp/aipd.htm>

Army Publications and Forms:
<http://www.usapa.army.mil/>



5TH BRIGADE (HEALTH SERVICES) –
SHOWING PRIDE IN EVERYTHING WE DO!!!

