



Med-Alert

The 5th
BDE(HS)
Newsletter

January 2001
Volume 11



THE COLONEL'S CORNER

A NEW CENTURY

As we enter the new century, we are reminded of the many challenges that await the Army Reserve and the 5th Brigade (Health Services).

With your dedication and hard work, we can make this a banner year in meeting all challenges that lie ahead.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM THE SGM

All soldiers who think that they are enrolled in a course need to take it upon themselves to check with their first line supervisor to ensure that they are enrolled in ATRRS.

TID BITS

- The Ft. Sam Houston Photo Lab has changed locations. It is now located in Building 914, on Patch Road, across from the Harlequin Dinner Theatre. **YOU CANNOT JUST WALK IN! YOU MUST HAVE AN APPOINTMENT!** Call 221-5453 to make an appointment.
- The Health Professionals Loan Repayment program is a program that applies to commissioned officers in the Medical Corps or Army Nurse Corps who entered after September 30, 1990. After a year of satisfactory service, members are eligible for up to \$3,000 a year in loan repayment, with a total repayment not to exceed \$20,000. Refer to AR 135-7, Chapter 7 for additional information.

MONEY FOR COLLEGE AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING



If you're attending (or planning to attend) college or vocational school, you can qualify for one of the Army Reserve's educational assistance plans.

A six-year reenlistment or enlistment can qualify a Reservist for up to \$9,036 under the Montgomery G.I. Bill. This money can be applied toward student expenses for:

- undergraduate study (including a second or more baccalaureate degrees),
- graduate study,
- vocational technical training,
- civil flight training, or
- other academic programs approved by the Veterans Administration.

Under the Montgomery G.I. Bill, full-time students may qualify for up to \$251 per month for 36 academic months. Three-quarter-time students may receive \$188 per month for up to 48 months for each month they attend classes. And, half-time students may receive \$125 monthly for up to 72 months when they're in school.

Eligibility criteria and additional information can be found in Army Regulation 135-7, Chapter 8.

INCOME TAX BREAKS

You may be able to deduct some of the expenses associated with inactive duty drills. These include:

- Transportation to a drill if the location is outside the city or area of your primary employment;
- Meals, lodging and round-trip expenses in excess of reimbursements if you are required to stay overnight in the performance of duties;
- Dues for membership in Reserve-oriented associations;
- Personal items lost in performance of military duties;
- Educational expenses for tuition, books and travel when undertaken primarily for maintaining or improving your Army Reserve skills or meeting Army Reserve requirements.



Because tax laws change, you should consult the IRS or a tax accountant for specific information about how business expense deductions apply to your tax situation.

YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND

- 5th BDE(HS)**
- COL Angel Padilla
- 10th Battalion**
- LTC Gordon Koenig CSM Paul Castro
- 3457th**
- LTC Floyd Priester CSM Jackie Adams
- PND**
- MAJ Mary Gomez CSM David Stading
- HHD – 5th BDE**
- 2LT Beth Spoon SFC Dan Carlin

FROM THE S1

The preferred method for travelers to obtain TRAVEL ADVANCES is to use the government Bank of America (BoA) Travel Card. Anyone who has a BoA Travel Card must obtain travel advances using cash advances at most ATMs. The maximum cash advance is \$250 per calendar month. If the cardholder needs more than \$250, contact on of the Agency Program Coordinators (APC) to obtain a temporary increase.

All others who do not have a BoA Travel Card may obtain travel advances from DNO-INDY. Up to 80% of the expected reimbursable expenses may be allowed. Requests must be made at least 15 days in advance.

FROM THE S3

The 95th Division (IT) has announced the CIP schedule for FY01. The 5th Brigade (HS) will be inspected on 19 and 20 May 2001. Be prepared!

FROM THE HHD COMMANDER

We have received a report of a new variant of the LOVE LETTER VIRUS circulating on DoD networks. The virus arrives via e-mail possibly with the subject line: "US President and FBI Secrets" and will contain an attachment. If you get such a message, delete it immediately. Do not open any such message!

REMEMBERING DESERT SHIELD AND STORM

It is the 10th anniversary of Desert Shield and Desert Storm. These photos capture some of the moments that occurred during the engagement.

