



# Med-Alert

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade (HS) Newsletter

October 2001  
Volume 20



### THE COLONEL'S CORNER

## COMPLETE ONLINE RECORDS ACCESS AT AR-PERSCOM'S "My2xCitizen" PORTAL

Reserve soldiers who have signed up for their Army Knowledge Online (AKO) accounts, which are mandatory (see September 2001 Med-Alert), can use the My2xCitizen portal website located at <https://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil/portal/> to review their records and update important information.

All personnel are encouraged to access this site and review their information. This site uses each soldier's AKO account information to login.

### FROM THE S-1

#### Up-Front Tuition Assistance Program

Up-Front Tuition Assistance (TA) is authorized for voluntary, off-duty education under section 2007, Title 10, US Code (10 USC 2007) and Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 1322.8. Commanders are given the authority to establish local criteria for participation. Within the 90th RSC, commanders are requested to recommend approval for TA for eligible soldiers whom, in the unit commander's opinion: (1) have shown commitment to the Army Reserve, (2) add value to their unit, and (3) have a reasonable expectation of success in pursuing voluntary, off-duty education.

Tuition assistance may be used by soldiers earning their first credential at the diploma, certificate, associate, baccalaureate, or master level. TA will not be paid for courses on the same level as that previously obtained, except in instances where such courses are required for completion of certification.

The program is offered to selected reserve soldiers only and includes: TPU, JRU, ROTC SMP Cadets

(Non-scholarship), Chaplain Candidates that sign a 4-year obligation to remain in the Army Reserve, and soldiers enlisted under split option provisions. AGR soldiers desiring to use TA must contact any active duty education center to receive TA.

Soldiers must have completed IADT with exception of SMP and Split Option Cadets. Enlisted soldiers that have completed basic training and are waiting to go to AIT can receive TA provided they are being paid and credited for drills.

Soldiers flagged for weight control or because of the results of their APFT can receive TA. Soldiers flagged for adverse actions cannot receive TA.

Soldiers with 4 unexcused absences, as determined by the commander, leading up to the date TA would be required, are not eligible for TA. Soldiers that acquire 4 unexcused absences within 90 days following award of TA are subject to recoupment.

Commissioned officers must agree to actively participate for 4 years in the Selected Reserve commencing with the date of completion of the course for which TA is provided. This applies to each enrollment. Failure to meet this requirement due to voluntary separation or discharge for misconduct will result in recoupment.

Enlisted soldiers must certify that sufficient time remains within their term of service to complete the course before their ETS.

Funding of TA requests is subject to the availability of funds. TA will pay 75 percent of the tuition costs not to exceed maximums established by the DOD Uniform Tuition Assistance Policy. These maximums are:

- \* \$187.50 per semester hour, or
- \* \$125.00 per quarter hour, or
- \* \$12.50 per clock hour, AND

\* An aggregate maximum of \$3,500, per student, per fiscal year, AND

\* TA payments are limited to 15 semester hours, per semester, or the equivalent.

In determining financial aid requirements, the school will take into consideration TA when determining total financial aid required. Soldiers cannot use TA for courses for which they are receiving any other federal education assistance funds for the same class. Soldiers may, however, use other federal sources



simultaneously to pursue courses for which they are not receiving TA.

To apply for TA, the soldier must submit DA Form 2171-R together with "Statement of Understanding: Up-Front Distance Learning & ACES Tuition Assistance" and a degree plan signed by a representative of the school. The soldier forwards the completed forms to:

90th Regional Support Command  
ATTN: Education Services  
8000 Camp Robinson Road  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-2205

TA must be authorized prior to the student enrolling. TA may not be authorized retroactively.

(Source: CPT Lehman, Asst. S1)

**FROM THE S-3**

**Golden Corral Announces Military Appreciation Night**

In support of Veterans Day, on Monday night, November 12th, every Golden Corral restaurant across the country will be offering a Free Dinner Buffet with choice of beverage to any veteran, as well as active duty military personnel who visit any Golden Corral...No Questions Asked. Note: We are not requiring IDs or uniforms for veterans and active duty military. All that is necessary is that they identify themselves at the register when they come through the line. Veterans and active duty military may represent our largest single demographic group of regular customers in many of our markets. And while some companies place a local ad saying "thank you" to these men and women, Golden Corral is making a unified commitment to honor them with a free meal.

(Source: SGM Hurst, Brigade S-3)

**FROM THE S-4**

This has been a very dynamic year so far for the Brigade with many challenges yet to come. We have had a successful Annual Training period this year and made a positive impact upon many soldiers in the Brigade. As annual training come to a close, we want to lean forward in preparation for the upcoming challenges. It is my intent to be as proactive as we can

be in order to make for smoother transitions, thus maximizing training opportunities and events.

Logistically speaking, we want to ensure that all support requirements are projected out as far in advance as possible. I urge all logistical cells in the Brigade to begin this process now while the recently completed missions are still fresh in your minds and we have the supporting documentation readily available to use in forecasting.

We will maintain a continuity file on hand to capture this information, but we do not want to delay submission of the requests.

I want to thank all the soldiers in the Brigade S-4 as well as all the battalion logistical cells for making the summer a success. Your hard work and dedication ensured that all missions were fully supported and your flexibility proved an even greater asset to the Brigade Team's success.

*Recent Events:*

A special thank-you to the S-4 CIP/CSDP team for a great effort in not only conducting yourselves professionally but also aiding and assisting the BN supply staff members in correcting problem areas. This process continues, keep up the great work!!!!

*Special Recognition:*

We want to extend a well-deserved congratulations and job well done to SGT Thirakul on his recent promotion. He has proven to be a valuable asset to the Brigade logistical operations.

SSG Gonzales, SGT Sledge, and SGT Thirakul did an outstanding job in updating the clothing records for reservist being activated to active duty. SSG Gonzalez was extremely instrumental in obtaining Physical Fitness Uniforms (PFU) for the personnel of the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade (HS), 95<sup>th</sup> Division (IT). Thank you for a job well done!

Congratulations to SFC Hernandez and SPC Banda for being selected to attend MOSQ schools. Good Luck!

Thank you to SFC Lein for your time in Houston assisting the 10<sup>th</sup> BN supply section set up property accountability procedures.

Welcome aboard SGT Henry Ruiz, 76J! SGT Ruiz lives in San Antonio and works for HEB. He spent four years activity duty and, after a break in service, is the newest member to the S-4 Staff. SGT Ruiz is



attending UTSA and is a cadet in the Military Science Department.

(Source: MAJ Cain, Brigade S-4)

**FROM THE S-5**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade (HS), 95<sup>th</sup> Division (IT) website located at <http://160.136.109.3/95thDiv/5Bde> has been deactivated since early October. The site was deactivated in order to review the content and identify information requiring removal per guidance by USARC.

The content has been reviewed and a request has been submitted to USARC to reactivate the site. Once the Brigade site is activated and updated, additional content will be added for the Brigade's subordinate units.

Please contact CPT Jones at [fred.jones@us.army.mil](mailto:fred.jones@us.army.mil) with any questions.

(Source: CPT Jones, Brigade S-5)

**FROM THE SSA**

**America's Heroes Honored At Anheuser-Busch (A-B) Adventure Parks**

Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., and its independent family of wholesalers has expanded its salute to American heroes by offering free admission to its adventure parks to active duty military and reservists through the end of 2001 season.

On the first visit to a participating A-B adventure park, the active duty member or reservists will receive a customized passport valid for free, unlimited admission every day the park is available through December 2001. Immediate family members will receive complimentary admission on the first visit and a 25 percent discount on every subsequent visit through December 2001. The active duty member or reservist must be present the first time the family member visits a park. All heroes and guests will be required to have valid military identification. Proof of employment may also be required.

This program is available at Sea World - Orlando, Sea World - San Diego, Busch Gardens - Tampa, and weekends through the end of their seasons at Sea World - San Antonio, Busch Gardens - Williamsburg,

Sesame Place, and Adventure Island. This program is not available at Water Country and Discovery Cove.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact the A-B customer service staff at 1800-342-5283 or the specific park prior to the visit.

The Coast Guard sincerely thanks A-B Companies, Inc. for recognizing the commitment, dedication, and courage of our active duty and reserve forces. Neither the Coast Guard, the Department of Defense, nor any other entity of the federal government officially endorses any company, sponsor, or their products or services.

(Released by Mr. Thomas F. Fisher, Deputy Director of Personnel Management.)

**ARMY RESERVE VOLUNTEERS**

Currently the Army Reserve-Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM) is only filling individual requirements coming from headquarters and agency levels. If you are an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) or Troop Program Unit (TPU) member, please contact your chain of command.

**YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade (HS)**  
COL Angel Padilla      CSM Alfred Habelman
- 10<sup>th</sup> BN**  
MAJ James Hickey      CSM Pascual Castro
- 3457th**  
LTC Floyd Priester      CSM Vacant
- PND**  
MAJ Mary Gomez      CSM David Stading
- HHD - 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade**  
CPT Mario Avila      MSG Dan Carlin





## TIDBITS (FROM THE SSA)

**Mobilization** - The 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade recently mobilized 18 Instructors to augment the capabilities of the AMEDD Center and School. These instructors came from each of the units and from many locations throughout the nine state region. They are presently performing duties with the 232<sup>nd</sup> Medical Battalion and with the Academy Battalion here at Fort Sam Houston. The eagerness and drive with which they approached this mobilization makes me positive that they will represent our unit properly and that they will do a bang up job at the AMEDD Center and School.

The mobilization of 18 soldiers from our Brigade will require that other instructors in the Brigade step right in to fill the vacancies created. The remaining personnel in the PND and 3457th MTC will take up these tasks. Some of these instructors will be asked to travel to new locations and to learn lesson plans, which they have not taught before. Let's insure that we all perform this duty in the most professional manner.

**Accreditation** - In October, we received the accreditation certificates for our units. Congratulations to every one on a job well done. We worked hard at obtaining this most important certificate. We can't let our guard down. As LTC Ruppert has warned, she and her team will go out to visit our sites even though we are in an off-accreditation year. This includes the 91W transition courses.

**Transition Courses** - Talking about 91W transition courses, both the 10<sup>th</sup> Bn and the PND are roaring to go in teaching their courses. 10<sup>th</sup> Bn will start teaching NR EMT/B in November with all sites being operational by January 02. The PND has already been teaching PHTLS and Trauma AIMS. We all need to remember that our instructors also need to be qualified as 91W and the chain of command should have a training plan for every soldier who is not 91W qualified.

**Access to Military Installations** - As most of you are aware, FT Sam Houston— as all military bases— is in a heightened state of security. Due to this fact, access to FT Sam is closely scrutinized. In order to easily get into post, we all should ensure that we have a current military ID card and that our vehicles is registered in a military installation with a sticker showing in the windshield.

**APFT** - During the most recent APFT I noticed that almost everyone out taking the APFT was in very high and cooperative spirit. It gave me a great deal of pride

to see all of us face this challenge with such grace and motivation.

When we signed out from drill the month of October we passed out a card that has the drill dates for FY 02 and various phone numbers for staff members. If you did not get one make sure you see me.

## 90-DAY CALENDAR

### November

12<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day Holiday  
15<sup>th</sup> ITSW for FTS  
17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> HQ's, PND & 10<sup>th</sup> Bn Drill  
22<sup>nd</sup> Thanksgiving Holiday

### December

1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Bde Logistics Conference  
1<sup>st</sup> Yearly Strategic Briefing Rehearsals  
1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Management Workshop  
8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> All units Drill  
25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Holiday

### January

1<sup>st</sup> New Years Holiday  
5<sup>th</sup> Yearly Strategic Briefing Rehearsal  
12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> All units drill  
25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> YSB to Division