

**150 Years a Cavalryman**



**Fort McKavett State Historical Site  
P. O. Box 68  
Fort McKavett, Texas 76841**



# Fort McKavett Gazette

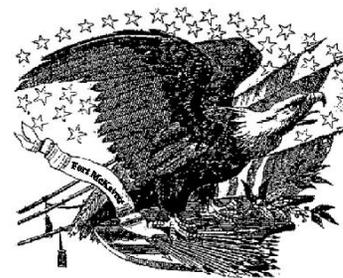
“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

**Volume 3, Number 2**

**March, 2004**

## Upcoming Events

March 20, JSCAS Star Party  
March 26, Friday, Education Day at McKavett  
March 27-28, West Texas Heritage Day at McKavett  
April 22-24, Buffalo Soldier Workshop, Lake Brownwood  
April 23-25, Texas Forts Trails Muster, Fort Worth  
May 14-15, Fort Chadbourne  
May 14-16, Texas State Railroad  
May 22-23, Docent Training at Fort McKavett  
June 4-6, *Fort McKavett Cemetery Special Project*



**“150 Years a Cavalryman”  
March 27-28, 2004**

## *Second Docent Class Set*

Fort McKavett's Docent Program will offer a second Docent Class on May 22-23 at the Post.

Those of you who have not been through the training yet, and would like to, need to contact Gabe Schooley at the Site as soon as possible for reservations.

You will be certified in both the Docent Program and the Buffalo Soldier's Program at the end of training.

Gabe can be reached at the Post on his new telephone number, (325) 396-2253 in the Post Library.



## *Friends of Fort McKavett*

February 26, 2004

Dear Friends of Fort McKavett,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of Fort McKavett SHS. Without your help, many of the special activities and events would not be possible.

Fort McKavett SHS will host its annual West Texas Heritage Day on March 27, 2004. You are invited to attend and participate in the scheduled activities beginning with flag raising 10:00 am.

As with past events, the Fort McKavett staff will need help with the noon bar-b-que that will be offered to all participants and the public for a donation to our Friends organization. You are encouraged to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert that will complement a variety of bar-b-que meats, beans and potato salad. Please let the staff know what you can do to help by calling 325-396-2358. Thank you for your contribution.

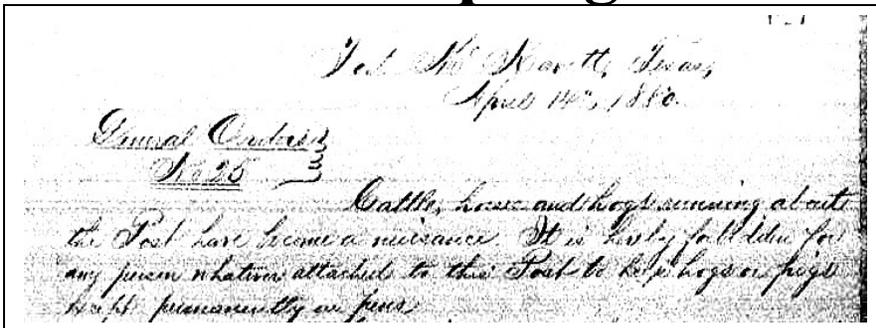
Sincerely,  
Col. Richard R. McTaggart  
President  
Friends of Fort McKavett

## Tentative Schedule of Events For March 27, 2004 Fort McKavett SHS

- 8:00 Breakfast for Volunteers
- 8:00 Park Gates open to the Public
- 8:45 Officers Call at Visitor Center
- 9:00 Weapons Inspection
- 9:55 Form for Morning Review and Flag rising
- 10:00 Morning Parade (announcement of general orders)
- 10:30 Uniform and Weapons Demonstration Barracks #3
- 11:00 Ladies Presentation at Headquarters
- 11:30-12:00 Lunch for volunteers before the public**
- 1:00 Eric Strong storyteller at Schoolhouse
- 1:30 Period Baseball Game
- 2:00 Artillery firing and demonstrations
- 2:45 Cavalry Drills on Parade field
- 3:15 Texas Rangers Demonstration Headquarters Building
- 4:00 Period Medical Presentation
- 4:30 Flag Lowering
- 5:00 Park closed to public



# We Don't Keep Pigs here...



Going by General Orders No. 26 in 1880, the Barracks and Quarters at Fort McKavett must have been a wild place. Major A. L. Hough ordered that pigs could not run loose anymore and must be penned.

*It must have been pretty lonely on the Frontier*

## Special Project needs your help...

June 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> (Friday, Saturday and Sunday), Volunteers are needed to build a rock wall around our part of the Post Cemetery at Fort McKavett.

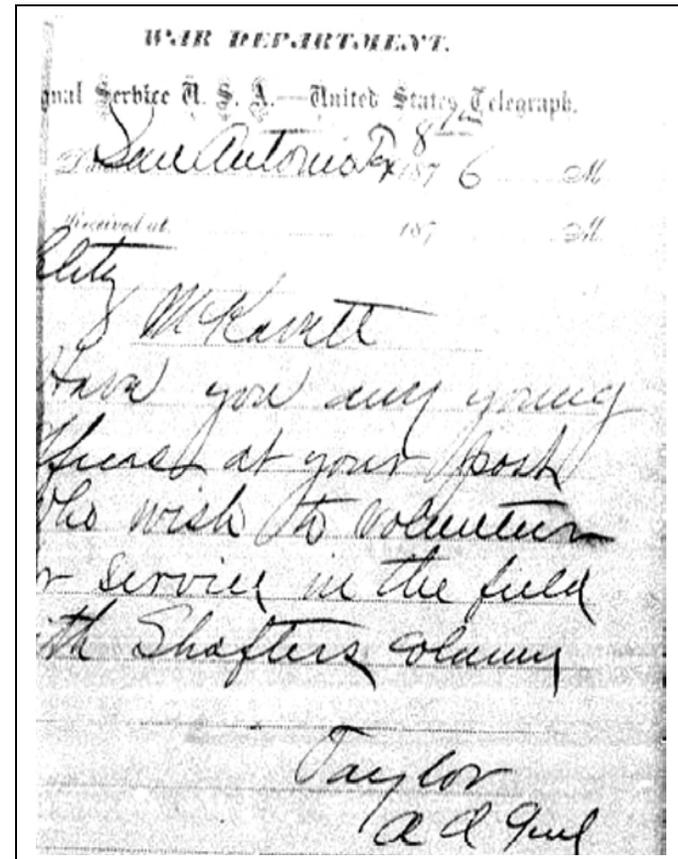
If you can help, please remember this date and contact Gabe Schooley at the Post as soon as possible. We will have a place for people to stay and provide meals during this project.

We will try to duplicate the original wall built in the 1870's. This is an important project and will go hand in hand with the Memorial being worked on by the V.A. and the State of Texas.

**Let us know if you can help...**

## Overshadowed by Custer

Shafter led a Major Campaign in the Pecos River area and Mexico in 1876. Fort McKavett was involved. With the Custer disaster during the same time, there was little press coverage of this action.



In the above telegram from June 1876, Lt. Col. Shafter is looking for young Officers to Volunteer for his campaign against the Apaches in the Trans-Pecos region. Several went with him. Fort McKavett also furnished Company K, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry plus several pack mules and supplies to this campaign. The John Wayne movie "Rio Grande" was somewhat based on this expedition. With the exception they didn't show Infantry nor Black Soldiers. More to come on this in future articles.

## *Regulations for Trousers – 1870's*

For all Regimental Officers of Cavalry, Artillery, and Infantry: Light blue cloth, same shade of color as prescribed for enlisted men, with stripe one and one-half inches wide, welted at the edges; color, that of facings of their respective arms, except infantry, which will be dark blue.

Storekeepers: Dark blue cloth, with black stripe one and one-half inches wide.

For Chaplains: Plain black.

For Enlisted Men of all Arms and of the Ordnance Department: Sky blue mixture, pattern now worn; waistband three and a half inches wide, to button with two buttons in front; pockets in front, opening at top.

Sergeants to wear a stripe one inch Wide, color of facings; and Corporals to wear a stripe one-half inch wide, color of facings, except Infantry, which will be dark blue. For Engineers: According to pattern in Quartermaster General's Office.

For Ordnance Sergeants: Crimson stripe, one inch and one-quarter wide.

For Hospital Stewards: Emerald green stripe, one inch and one-quarter wide. All stripes to be of cloth.

*From the 1872 Regulations for Uniforms*

Questions have come up regarding the Trousers used during the later years at Fort McKavett. This copy of the Regulations shows several things of interest. One of the least known is the width of the leg stripes for enlisted men.

Officers had a 1 ½ inch wide stripe, Sgt.'s had a 1 inch wide stripe, Corporals had a ½ inch stripe, Privates had no stripe, but the Ordnance Sgt. and Hospital Stewards had an 1 ¼ inch stripe. This shows their higher rank. They were paid more than even a Sgt. Major.

Also, in the early 1870's, Chaplains wore a black uniform with no stripes. This was changed later in the late 70's to a Staff Uniform with Captain's markings.

Later, in the early 1880's, a belt was added to the back of the trousers. The trousers (sometimes spelled trowsers in the regulations posted) were several shades of light blue because of the different manufacturers. This led to the "medium blue" color adopted in the 1880's.

Johnson Space Center  
Astronomical Society

## Star Party

On the Parade Ground at  
Fort McKavett State  
Historic Site  
Saturday  
March 20, 2004  
Lectures and Viewing



4.22 The guard house is well ventilated and amply provided  
Prisoners are required to bathe frequently. There are ample facilities  
for bathing near the post, in both houses

### 1881 Inspection Shows Bathhouses

Somewhere along the San Saba River by Fort McKavett, there were bathhouses for use by the Soldiers. In this excerpt from the 1881 Inspector General's Report, there is mention of these bathhouses.

Somewhere between the Government Springs and the Post Gardens, there should be some foundations close to the water showing where they were.

At this time, no plat or drawing of the Post shows where they were located. Research continues on this subject and more information will be published as soon as we find anything new.

## Fort McKavett and Charles E. Travis

Charles Edward Travis, son of William Barrett Travis of the Alamo was appointed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry in 1854. He was not respected by his fellow officers and on December 10, 1855, Col. Albert Sidney Johnston relieved him of command and placed him "under arrest in quarters." To a formal charge of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," Travis pleaded not guilty. He retained H. M. Lewis as his counsel; as an attorney himself, however, Travis mainly handled his own defense. Capt. Eugene E. McLean of the Quartermaster Department was appointed Judge Advocate and Fort McKavett's Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge of the First Infantry served as president.

The court-martial, which convened on March 15, 1856, at Fort Mason, proved one of the most sensational in Texas history with Colonel Johnston, Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee and many other fellow officers testifying against him. After almost a month of testimony and deliberation, Travis was found guilty of all three charges on April 11 and was dismissed from service on May 1, 1856.

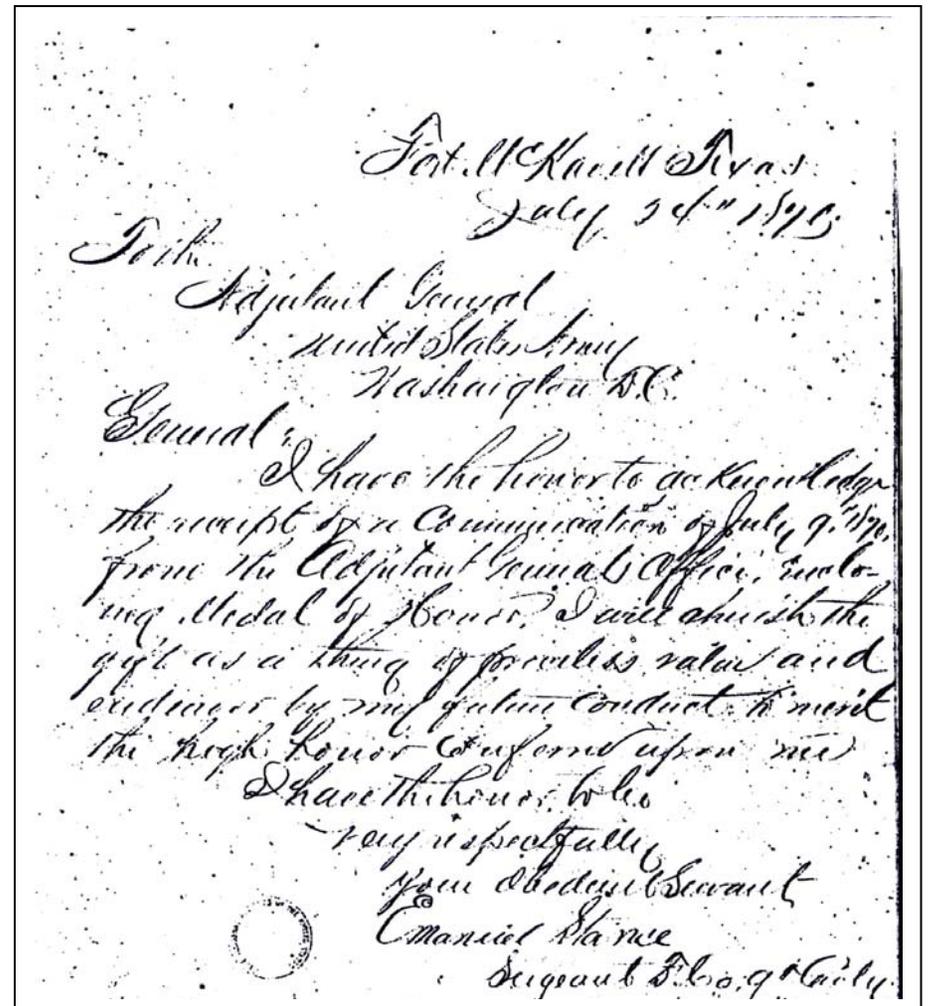
On detached Service				
1.	Henry Bainbridge	St. Col.	1st Infy	Member of a Court Mart. at Fort Mason Tex on Feb. 19 56. Relinquished com. of Fort to Lt. Gen
2.	Emanuel P. Kingelman	Major	1st Infy	In command of Newport Bk. Tex. Feb. No. 31. 56. from 1st since prom. Mar. 3. 1855.
3.	William E. Prince	Captain	1st Infy	Member of a Court Mart. at Fort Mason Tex. Feb. 19. 56. Relinquished com. of Co. 1st. 56.
4.	Joseph B. Plumber	Capt.	1st Infy	Member of a Court Mart. at Fort Mason Tex. Feb. 19. 56. Relinquished command of Co.

From the March, 1856 Post Returns of Fort McKavett, Lt. Col Bainbridge, Captain William E. Prince and Captain Joseph B. Plumber were assigned to the Travis Court Marshal Board

Travis died in 1860 in Brenham having never cleared his name. He lies in an unmarked and lost grave in that town.

# From the Archives

March 20<sup>th</sup> is the 134<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the action where Sgt. Emanuel Stance was awarded the Medal of Honor at Fort McKavett



Copy of Sgt. Stance's acceptance note to the Adjutant General of the Army for the Medal of Honor in the Post Archives at Fort McKavett

## Introduction

Each month history about some aspect of the Texas' Buffalo Soldiers will be a part of the Regimental insert into the Fort McKavett Gazette. The first historical series is about the Frontier Women who graced Texas with their sacrifices, hard work, dedication and commitment to family. This series will cover the next several months of the Gazette.

Frontier Women  
"Faith and Determination"

The "Frontier Women: Faith and Determination" program is about the strong and courageous women of all ethnicities who braved the Texas frontier and called it home. The program emphasizes how women from many different cultures contributed to the history of Texas through their own words and stories.

This continuing story is about Frontier Women: Military Families. This story provides a glimpse into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Texas military frontier and the role of the military wife "following the drum."

"A woman's view of the Texas Frontier, 1874: The Diary of Emily K. Andrews"

## THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Friday Morning,

Augt 14

*A good bath, plenty of sound sleep, a breakfast of rabbit and squirrel, and we are ready to start again—I find, as well as Maude, a good deal of pleasure in this out of door life, and often wish you could see us in camp especially at night. The men who are marched carefully, are never to weary to dance and sing about their camp fires. Their voices are many of them, so rich and full of melody that I am very glad if I can hear them as I go to sleep---The air is cool and fresh from the hills this morning, and we shall probably have a very comfortable day. Maude is getting so burnt that today she will ride in her sun bonnet. I wish you could see her now as she goes galloping off over the smooth prairie road with the Col. With our four good mules we shall have hard work to catch them. She rides in her short dress, this being much safer on account of the roads, and as she flies along showing her feet, and her green sun bonnet flapping in the wind, she makes quite a good Meg Merriles.<sup>1</sup>*

"Seven Mile Creek"<sup>2</sup> Friday

Evening 14<sup>th</sup>

*Our road this morning was through a wild tangle forest, the trees mostly of nut and oak, with here and there the delicate leafed Mesquite [sic]. About eleven we forded a deep stream and rested and lunched on the opposite bank, listening to the song of a very beautiful red bird in the tree above us, and the cooing of the wild dove. Here we waited for the wagons, and then started on again. Soon leaving the woods, we came on to a hot dusty plain covered with cactus plants of immense size, while the few trees were so entirely covered with grapevine as to completely hide their growth. Each one looked like a great green dome.*

*Just before reaching Fredericksburg we came upon a curious little graveyard the tombs of which were very peculiar. They seem to be large blocks of stone hollowed out so as to admit the coffin, then the top stone fitted and sealed. These were long rows across the ground and had a very strange appearance as we saw them from the road.<sup>3</sup> Fredericksburg is a small German town filled with Lager beer salons and beer gardens, with more blue eyed frauleins about, than anything else—<sup>4</sup>*

*At the only Hotel in the place we had a real German dinner, highly seasoned with herbs and onions, but our appetites were sharp enough to enjoy anything. Mein Moste was a kolly fat Dutchman seemingly everywhere at once, with his dark colored Meusehaum [sic] constantly in his mouth. The dining room was evidently the concert and ballroom of the town. Also a skating Rink in winter—Parlor skates being used. It was about a hundred feet square, with balconies gracefully festooned with evergreen, while over the door in large letters was the word "Willkommen" greeting every stranger. A fine piano stood in one corner and the musical taste of the family was evident in the music lying about, Beethoven's Sonatas being the most conspicuous<sup>5</sup>*

*All the way from Fredericksburg to our camping ground, the country was very beautiful and the farming land really had a New England look, thrifty and well cared for. Now while our tents are being pitched, Maude has gone to the river below and with shoes and stockings off is having a fine time jumping from stone to stone or wading in the shallow water near the bank. It is often a wonder to me how easily and quickly the making and breaking of camp is accomplished. Each man has his special duty and we are no sooner on the ground than as if by magic our canvas house is ready for habitation or the order given for a move and as quickly the tents are struck and we are off.*

**The story continues in the April Issue of the Ft McKavett  
Gazette**

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<sup>1</sup> Meg Merrilles was an “aged gipsy, half alby” in Sir Walter Scott’s novel the Astrologer and the “heroine” of John Keat’s poem “Old Meg.”

<sup>2</sup> “Seven-Mile Creek” was probably a small stream that crossed the Austin-Fredericksburg roed approximately seven miles from Fredericksburg.

<sup>3</sup> Such gravesites were not unusual in North and Central Texas. Similar crypts can be seen in a number of rural cemeteries.

<sup>4</sup> Fredericksburg was founded In 1846 by John O. Meusebach and a small group of German settlers. By the 1870s, it had a population of over 1,100, most of German extraction and was the county seat of Gillespie County.

<sup>5</sup> The hotel was the famous Nimitz, built in 1847 by Charles H. Nimitz and for many years the last “real hotel” between Austin-San Antonio and El Paso. As Andrews pointed out, “Adjoining the lobby was a high ceiling, combination casino-theatre-dance hall, with a balcony running along the left side and rear,” where local citizens gathered for stage performances, magicians, masque balls and gala suppers. During the day, local men’s clubs met in the casino to play skat or chess and argue politics and music. The hotel had “the most famous dining room on the frontier.” A typical menu included: home-grown meats, wild game, chicken, kraut, cabbage slaw, beans, pumpkins, and turnips with honey cakes or custards for dessert.

*Texas Buffalo Soldiers Regiment  
Fort McKavett, Texas  
9th Regiment U.S. Cavalry  
24<sup>th</sup> Regiment U.S. Infantry*

**March 1<sup>st</sup> 2004**

*I have the honor to present the Department of Texas, March 2004  
Regimental Communiqués and Schedule of Operations.*

*The Operations Orders with the Texas Buffalo Soldiers Workshop  
information will be mailed later this month under separate cover,  
prior to the Fort McKavett event.*

*February, Black History Month is now over. As we all have been  
traveling and conducting programs extensively across the State,  
I know a lot of students and the general public is more aware and  
knowledgeable about African American contributions.*

*See ya at Fort McKavett later this month.*

*Very Respectfully,*

*Capt. Ken Pollard, Chaplain*

*Capt. Ken Pollard, Chaplain  
Texas Buffalo Soldiers*

*Department of Texas  
Austin, Headquarters*

**Texas Buffalo Soldiers Regimental**  
**2004 SCHEDULE OF OPERATION**

DATE	PROGRAM NAME	LOCATION	STATUS	CONTACT
<b>March</b>				
02	TX History Month Celebration	Austin	Reserved	Capt Ken Pollard
02	Sebastopol SHS "Toast to Texas"	Seguin	Confirmed	Park Staff
08	Lone star Leadership Academy	Bastrop	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
15	Lone Star Leadership Academy	Bastrop	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
26-27	Ft McKavett LHD -MAX EFFORT	Ft McKavett	Confirmed	Lt Gabe Schooley
<b>April</b>				
03	Cowboys of Color Rodeo	Tulsa, OK	Open	CEO Jim Austin
07	A&M Env. Interpretation Class	College Station	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
22-24	TBS Workshop-MAX EFFORT	Lk Brownwood SP	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
23-24	Lk Brownwood SP School Day	Lk Brownwood SP	Confirmed	Park Staff
<b>May</b>				
01	Sebastopol "May Day Celebration"	Seguin	Confirmed	Park Staff
08	Cowboys of Color Rodeo	Oklahoma City	Open	CEO Jim Austin
11	Lake Arrowhead SP School Day	Lk Arrowhead SP	Confirmed	Maj Tad Gose
28-29	TX Black Inv. Rodeo-MAX EFFORT	Dallas	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
<b>June</b>				
01-03	Camp Texas "ICFI Fishing Camp"	Lk Brownwood SP	Reserved	Dir Mark Cole
07	Lone Star Leadership Acad Youth Prog.	Bastrop	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
14-19	Juneteenth Emancipation Trailride	Galveston	Reserved	Capt Ken Pollard
19	Austin Juneteenth Parade & Camp	Austin	Confirmed	Sgt Horace Williams
19	Moles Nat. African American Women's	Houston	Reserved	Capt Ken Pollard
22-24	Camp Texas "ICFI Fishing Camp"	Lk Brownwood Sp	Reserved	Capt Ken Pollard
21	Lone Star Leadership Acad Youth Prog.	Bastrop	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
25-26	Bracks United Methodist Church	Waco	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
25-26	Cochran Co Trail Drive	Morton	Confirmed	Sgt Otis Williams
<b>July</b>				
03	TBS Heritage Month Celebration	San Antonio	Confirmed	Sgt John Jones
05	Lone Star Leadership Acad Youth Program	Bastrop	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
10	Cowboys of Color Rodeo-MAX EFFORT	Austin	Confirmed	Sgt Horace Williams
10	TBS Heritage Month Celebration	San Antonio	Confirmed	Sgt John Jones
13-15	Camp Texas Proj "ICFI Fishing Camp"	Lk Brownwood SP	Reserved	Dir Mark Cole
17	TBS Heritage Month Celebration	San Antonio	Confirmed	Sgt John Jones
19	Lone Star Leadership Acad Youth Program	Bastrop	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
24	TBS Heritage Month Celebration	San Antonio	Confirmed	Sgt John Jones
24	Ft Lancaster "Capitol Salute"	Ft Lancaster SHS	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
27-29	Camp Texas Proj "ICFI Fishing Camp"	Lk Brownwood SP	Reserved	Dir Mark Cole
28-31	9 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> Horse Cavalry Assoc. Reunion	Fort Sill, OK	Reserved	Sgt Arthur Embers
30-31	1st Sgt Carl Durrah Mem. Youth Camp		Confirmed	Sgt Billy Gordon
31	TBS Heritage Month Celebration	San Antonio	Confirmed	Sgt John Jones
<b>August</b>				
02	Lone Star Leadership Acad Youth Program	Bastrop	Confirmed	Capt Ken Pollard
14	Cowboys of Color Rodeo	San Antonio	Confirmed	Sgt Billy Gordon

