

2,000 Fort Hood soldiers prepare to deploy to Kuwait

FORT HOOD (AP) — About 2,000 soldiers at Fort Hood will be deployed to Kuwait in the next two weeks, post officials said.

The soldiers are from the 1st Cavalry Division and from other Corps support elements, said Gen. B.B. Bell, III Corps and Fort Hood commander.

The 1st Cavalry Division will be equipped with Abrams tanks, Bradley infantry, fighting vehicles and artillery. Also included will be the necessary support structure — engineers, intelligence, maintenance and communications — to keep the force moving, fighting and, if necessary, fighting.

Although Peterson classified the deployment as large, it is only about a third the size of the 2,000 soldiers the 4th Infantry Division sent to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in March.

CARS

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negotiate, be smart and they don't take advantage of you as a first-time buyer."

The most important thing students should consider is how much they can afford and what kind of car is practical, Lightfoot said of the BBB's list of car-buying hints.

Dealers will be wary of students with little or bad credit, and students should take a parent with them if it is their first time buying a car, or else fully understand their financial situation, Lightfoot said. The more information you have going to each dealership, the better you can negotiate, he said.

Safety features should also be at the top of the list when considering a new car, Lightfoot said.

Brenda Keith, a State Farm insurance agent in College Station, said she insures many young people and college students. After years of experience of dealing with people who are buying cars for the first time, she said she always recommends that students conduct as much research concerning the safety of the car as the economic research.

"I always tell my clients to buy a car with air bags and a car with lots of metal," Keith said.

Smaller, less expensive cars, like Chevrolet Cavaliers and Dodge Neons, have been totaled in 10-mile-an-hour crash tests, Keith said. Other small cars, like Saturns, are very well built, but the most important thing is that students know the safety ratings, she said.

Keith said that A&M students are in the best place for buying cars because they have options: the surrounding area and big cities. Bryan-College Station dealerships are competing with the cities, so students may find better deals here, she said.

Similarly, Lightfoot said, the location costs for dealerships are less in the Bryan-College Station area as compared to cities, and the costs are priced into the vehicles, so students may find better deals here.

"One of the biggest mistakes new car shoppers make is being so set on buying a certain type of car they lose the power of negotiation," Lightfoot said.

Another hint for new car shoppers is knowing how to finance the car, Keith said. Consumers should not go for deals that require no down payment, she said.

"I see it happen all the time — people don't put a down payment and have no equity built up from payments, then they get in a wreck, totaling the car," Keith said. "Insurance only pays for the value of the car, you will still have to pay what you owe on the car. Put down an initial payment and start payments immediately and build that equity."

Lightfoot said car buying does not have to be difficult for students. First-time car buyers need to assess their financial capabilities and research car costs, dealerships and safety options in order to be armed with the right information to negotiate, he said.

Diversity conference convenes at A&M

By ERIC AMBROSO
THE BATTALION

More than 400 officials from Texas universities will gather at Texas A&M today and Friday to discuss ways to enhance cultural diversity at institutions of higher learning.

The 12th annual Texas Higher Education Diversity Conference, titled "Diversifying Our Institutions for the 21st Century ... Expanding Paradigms and Possibilities" will focus on promoting diversity and institutional change. Participants will look at campuses and university visions in order to develop

plans to transform Texas academic communities.

"Administrators will examine different tools in leading institutions to diversity. They will then develop strategic plans in order to make changes," said Megan Palsa, assistant director of Multicultural Services at A&M. "Identifying diversity at institutions in the state of Texas is essential in building just communities."

The conference will be divided so administrators, faculty, staff and students will each have tools to assist them in diversifying their institutions. Speakers at the conference will include Dr. Frances

Kendall instructing administrators, Dr. James Anderson leading the faculty track, Becky Pettit and Carolyn Sandoval lecturing to staff members, and Breeana Busch guiding students.

"I hope to instruct the faculty how to connect diversity to teaching, learning and research," said James Anderson, vice provost for undergraduate affairs and professor of counselor education at North Carolina State University. "I also plan to show how diversity cannot become a significant part of any university if classrooms are ignored."

Several multicultural organizations at Texas A&M will be involved in the conference this week. According to Palsa, two

of the A&M organizations that will participate are MOSAIC and U-ACT. MOSAIC stands for Maximizing Opportunities for Staff to Achieve an Inclusive Campus. The purpose of this organization is to give the staff at A&M a chance to train their peers on how to promote diversity at Texas A&M. University Awareness for Cultural Togetherness (U-ACT) is a student organization that is designed to promote cultural awareness among students.

"A&M is doing a good job moving forward so that people feel accepted here," Palsa said. "However, diversity has to become a tradition here. A lot of people must be on board in building an inclusive community."

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