



MILITARY'S HOLIDAY EXODUS TO BEGIN OVER WEEKEND

SAN ANTONIO TX- December 15, 2011— Saturday marks the day when military service members from local military bases will begin their holiday trek home. **December 17-18 and 20-22** will be especially busy at San Antonio International Airport; with the beginning of the 2011 “Military Block Leave” (also known as Exodus). This is the six-day period where military service members are temporarily released from duty at Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Air Force Base for the upcoming holidays. Nearly 8,000 of these men and women are expected to come to the airport over the next few days as part of their holiday travel plans.

In an effort to support the men and women in uniform and to minimize the impact of this year's “Block Leave,” airport officials, the Transportation Security Administration, several airlines and airport concessionaires began planning for this event several months ago. The largest affected days for “Exodus” will be the morning of **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011** when Ft. Sam Houston will release its personnel on Friday evening and they will continue through Sunday, December 18. Then, beginning on the evening of **DECEMBER 20, 2011**, Lackland AFB will release their personnel trying to leave town for the holidays.

This year is unique in that it will also include Navy medical personnel for the first time that are being trained at Ft. Sam Houston.

December 16, 2011: Airport officials, the Transportation Security Administration and airline personnel are going to Fort Sam Houston to assist by printing boarding passes, check-in luggage and pick up and deliver luggage to the airport for security screening.

VISUALS FOR MEDIA: The best Video/Photo opportunity will be:

-4:00 AM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17-18 First Ft. Sam bus is scheduled to arrive at the airport around 4:00 AM filled with military personnel heading home. Buses will unload at far west end of Terminal B-Upper level. Buses will arrive every 7-10 minutes.

-Volunteers at the USO and at the airport information booths assisting the military.

AIRPORT MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC:

The traveling public may see a slight impact with the increased number of travelers. Airport officials are recommending travelers arrive two hours prior to their flight to ensure enough time to check-in and get through security check-points.

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To innovatively manage our airports to provide a positive customer experience while supporting economic development.