

# Donors Contribute 388 Units During Military Blood Drive

## Record Amount For Fort Sam Center

Although it fell short of its 480-unit goal, last week's military blood drive earned praise from both the organizers - the Fredericksburg Knights of Columbus and St. Joseph Society - and the support staff from the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at Fort Sam Houston, Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

The 388 units of blood collected during the two-day drive held Wednesday and Thursday at St. Joseph's Halle will be used for military personnel and their families around the world. According to Sammie Ed-

wards, blood donor recruiter with the Akeroyd BDC, the 388 figure represents "a record number for our blood donor center."

Bob Sagebiel, local blood drive coordinator for the Knights of Columbus Council 9765 of St. Mary's Catholic Church, added his congratulatory comments. "We experienced first-hand that Fredericksburg and the area are caring and patriotic," he said.

"It was an incredible two days," he continued, adding that "I know that this commu-

nity opened the eyes of the personnel from Akeroyd Blood Center."

Last week's drive, which was part of the Armed Services Blood Program, was held in honor of two area military personnel who were killed in the Middle East - Capt. Andy Houghton and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Phillip I. Neel.

Sagebiel, who said plans are already underway to make the military blood drive a semi-annual or quarterly event in Fredericksburg, expressed his gratitude to the people who responded to the blood drive call.

"To the community, I personally want to thank all of those who came to donate, whether or not they were able to give," he said. "It was amazing to experience the care and the emotion. For that, you all should be extremely proud."

Sagebiel went on to say that while the final figure was not available as of now, he estimated that between 700-800 people showed up to give blood. "Many who were turned down were extremely and/or emotionally disappointed. All wanted to donate to do their part, young to old, in support of our troops," he said.

Hill Country, the thin, alkaline soil, cedar thickets, over-abundant deer populations, frequent periods of drought and occasional heavy rains, and other unique features not usually found in the big-city suburbs from which many people came.

It is the purpose of the Land Management Assistance Program to help these landowners manage their land and the plants and animals thereon in a way that is both sustainable long term and consistent with



**TAKING THE CHANCE** to get to know a little bit about his captive audience, medical team member Specialist Nicholas Harris, left, attends to 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division SFC Dana Oberdorf (Ret.) as the local resident donated blood during a community-wide drive for military personnel and their families. According to a spokesman, the two-day event, hosted here by the Fredericksburg Knights of Columbus and the St. Joseph Society, raised 388 units – a ‘record number’ for the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at Fort Sam Houston. – Standard-Radio Post Photo