

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Comal ISD middle school students enjoy Tommy Franks Museum Road Show**

Christopher Sultan (left) and Clayton Scherber, sixth-grade students in Jennifer Couch's world cultures class at Smithson Valley Middle, study a ceremonial Pakistani sword and a hand-woven rug from Afghanistan at the Tommy Franks Museum Road Show that Comal ISD hosted at all its middle schools in February.

Franks is a four-star Army General and one time Commander-in-Chief of the United States Central Command, who received five Distinguished Service Medals and three Purple Hearts during his long and distinguished career that took him from West Germany at the height of the Cold War to the Demilitarized Zone in Korea, to the deserts of Arabia.

The museum, which travels to schools nationwide free of charge, is a display of many of the gifts Franks received during his career and is cultural, social, and geographical showcase from 24 different Middle East countries.

"The Road Show gives students the chance to discover a bigger world and bigger possibilities," said General Franks.

Some of the items on display included the general's uniform, an East African bushman's sword, a black Abaya robe, silver boxes from Egypt, antique guns from around the world, an ancient window from Afghanistan, a crystal sculpture of a falcon from Oman, and a copy of the ballot of the first democratic election in Afghanistan.

"It was great to see so many of our students get to experience something this unique," said Linda Dreibrodt, Comal ISD social studies curriculum coordinator. "This may be the only chance they have to see historical items from this region of the world."