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LACKLAND TALESPINNER

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Memorial takes root

Photo by Staff Sgt. Marissa Tucker

In memory of eight security forces Airmen who were killed in action in support of Operations Iraq and Enduring Freedom, eight trees are planted Nov. 1 at the Headquarters of Air Force Security Forces Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

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ONLINE | http://www.jbsa.af.mil

'Dignified departures' share a personal obligation of respect

By Bob Tullgren
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Live Oak

Paying respects to fallen military veterans is a personal obligation and one that signifies respect for the ultimate sacrifice that was paid for our freedoms and to this nation.

During the past week and with mixed emotions, I have had the honor to join others in escorting the remains of two military members who passed away due to wounds received while serving in Afghanistan.

"Dignified departures" or "dignified transfers" as they are commonly called, are done with military precision, respect and pride.

These last two truly met that expectation. Upon the call of duty, the Patriot Guard (a highly respected motorcycle escort), police from Randolph, Live Oak and Universal City, coordinators from mortuary and public affairs and others meet at the designated rally point.

While the group of escorts wait for the arrival of the fallen Soldier, I walked among them and heard stories of pride in the mission they were about to undertake and others from the past.

As they talk, I learn how some have taken personal leave from work to participate, the number of hours some rode in the dark, rain, heat and cold; all to ensure our fallen, their families, friends and members of former units were provided the ultimate respect for the ultimate sacrifice. The time they gave was personal and an unspoken symbol of respect.

At each event, we could quickly identify who was the deceased's designated uniformed escort. Each time, we could see the hefty weight of responsibility they willingly carried on their mind as they escorted their friend, a member of their unit, to a final resting place. We could see the turmoil of emotion while they faithfully and skillfully carried out their friend's last mission.

This recent event was just as prideful as those in the past. As the call to assemble was given, the lumps in our throats became more apparent. The police blew a warning sound, their lights began to flash and road traffic stopped as we pulled out of the parking lot toward the base and awaiting aircraft.

At the first turn onto Pat Booker Road, we see residents from the City of Live Oak and Universal City standing along the route. We see folks patriotically holding American flags, long retired veterans rendering a solid salute that would make today's Basic Training instructor proud, and kids not old enough to attend school with hands over their hearts mimicking

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Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency

Cyber link for stronger Air Force operations

By Col. Timothy Haugh
Assistant Vice Commander, Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency

The Internet, software, cell phones, communication technology, satellite transmissions and secure transactions impact virtually every aspect of our daily lives.

Those capabilities, collectively, make up what we've come to call "cyberspace." Cyberspace has become so entrenched and so vital to U.S. interests that attacks on our cyber enterprise have been likened to another "Pearl Harbor" in terms of the devastating impact it could have on us.

If cyber is that important to us, then we know it is just as important to our enemies, today and in the future, especially as we focus on highly contested environments – that is, against peer or near-peer enemies.

Cyber is and will always be a contested environment. It will require specialized intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance to defend AF networks, and leverage cyberspace as a unique intelligence source.

At the Air Force Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, we understand the critical importance of integrating cyber and ISR to meet increasing combatant commander demand now and in future operations, as do our partners at the 24th Air Force, responsible for maintaining and defending Air Force networks.

After a decade of fielding and operating new ISR capabilities in Iraq and Afghanistan, the AF ISR Agency is well postured to advance cyber ISR and integrate intelligence derived from cyber into the myriad products produced daily for combined forces air component commanders and combatant commanders and national decision makers at the highest levels.

ISR and cyber are inextricably linked. To find and fix problems in the cyber realm, operators first need to know where their target sits. AF ISR Airmen find those targets, whether individuals or countries, who are working actively in the cyber realm to damage the U.S.

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Straight Talk Line

For current, automated information during a natural disaster, crisis or emergency, call your local Straight Talk line.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston: 466-4630
JBSA-Lackland: 671-6397
JBSA-Randolph: 652-7469

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Deadline for story submissions is noon Thursday the week prior to publication.

News in Brief

Compiled by Mike Joseph, JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

MONDAY

FEDERAL BENEFITS OPEN SEASON

Federal benefits open season for Air Force civilian employees begins Monday and continues through Dec. 9.

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Fair for Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland employees and retirees takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday at Arnold Hall Community Center. Representatives from several health benefits carriers will provide information and answer questions.

For more information on the fair, contact Melba Viera at 671-1648 or Richard Matthews at 671-0717.

TUESDAY

HOLIDAY MAIL DELIVERY DEADLINE

Military Postal Service Agency officials recommend parcel post packages for service members overseas be mailed by Tuesday for delivery by the holidays. Officials at MPSA, an extension of the U.S. Postal Service, have published a chart at http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/xmas.htm that shows deadlines for various mailing options, broken down by the APO/FPO/DPO numbers of various destinations.

USPS is also offering a discount on its largest Priority Mail Flat Rate. The price includes a discount for military mail being sent to APO/FPO/DPO destinations worldwide. Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes are available free at local post offices, or can be ordered from USPS online at http://www.usps.com.

INFORMATIONAL

ONLINE TUTORING AVAILABLE

All kindergarten through grade 12 students in eligible military families can access http://www.tutor.com/military, an official Department of Defense tutoring program.

The site provides expert tutoring in all core school subjects at no cost to military families.

Students work one-on-one with a live tutor online for help from homework to essay writing. A student and tutor work together in a secure and anonymous online classroom that features an interactive whiteboard, file sharing and instant messaging.

All call recognizes Airmen, prepares wing for cuts

Photo by Staff Sgt. Marissa Tucker

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing commander, acknowledges members of Joint Base San Antonio who led the Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign during an all call Oct. 31 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. During the event, the general informed members of the wing about things changes may see in the near future.

By Staff Sgt. Marissa Tucker
502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing commander, held an all call to discuss recent events and the way ahead for the wing Oct. 31 at the Bob Hope Theater.

After recognizing several members of the wing for their outstanding efforts to support the Air Force Assistance Fund, the general began to discuss budgetary issues and the unavoidable affect they may have on members of Joint Base San Antonio.

In the past, leadership was able to operate and continue on the basis that a certain amount of funds would be guaranteed for the following year.

Currently, the budget for future operations is unknown due to sequestration, which forces JBSA leadership to take a hard look at operating costs across to board to ensure the mission is carried out, first and foremost.

LaBrutta stressed the importance of realigning the funding of several programs to ensure JBSA remains mission ready,"I cannot have a catastrophic failure of infrastructure; the mission will not occur," he said.

Members of JBSA-Lackland were eager to help come up with solutions to some of the issues the base population may see in the near future, such as reduced hours and possibe closures at some force support facilities. LaBrutta applauded their efforts and plans to create forums for base members to discuss ways to help lessen the effect of sequestration around JBSA.

"We're going to continue to provide the best service with what we have," LaBrutta said.

JBSA Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

JBSA SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE
808-SARC(7272)

DOD SAFE HELPLINE
(877) 995-5247

JBSA CRISIS HOTLINE
367-1213

JBSA DUTY CHAPLAIN
365-6420

BMT HONORS

Congratulations to the following 63 Airmen for being honor graduates among the 634 Air Force basic military trainees who graduated today:

320th Training Squadron
–Flight 649
Tyler Dudley
Jon Lambert
Caleb Schaafsma
Flight 650
Bryce Semonian
Jama Simpson

321st Training Squadron
–Flight 651
Andrew Case
Wesley Escalante
Bryan Jones
David Lesak III
Jacob Miller
–Flight 652
J. Ballesteros-Delgado Jr.
Jared Barrie
Nicholas Barron
Gregory Engle
Javier Hernandez
Colton Kauffman
Trey Lytle
Patrick Wright
–Flight 659
Remington Aalbers
Michael Bishop
Gregory Hernandez
Ryan Mathews
Gregory Ulm
–Flight 660
Carlos Arroyo
Jonathan Carroll
Connor Dodge
David Schwenk

322nd Training Squadron
–Flight 661
Alex Beattie
Christopher Felix
Daniel Gardner
Terrance Hagan
Christopher Harrington
Andrew Hibbard
Alonzo Mercado
Gregory Rojas
Kolter Sokeland
Liam Vining
Charlie Wilson
–Flight 662
Antigany Dehner
Shelby Moderow
Kendra Ward

323rd Training Squadron
–Flight 655
Keanu Crouch
Corey Locke
–Flight 656
Lauren Brewer
Julie Jones
Genevieve McGeary
Hannah Moccia
Tabitha Mynatt
Mary Walker
Diaundra Wiggins

324th Training Squadron
–Flight 653
Matthew Henry
Collin Lewis
Zachary Lutes
Zackary Prine
Flight 654
Mario Adame
Ryan Boop
Dylan Shaffer

326th Training Squadron
–Flight 657
Michael Kemmer
Nathan Waters
Eric Watkevich
Flight 658
Joseph Long
James Roberts

Top BMT Airman
Michael Kemmer
326th TRS, Flight 657

Most Physically Fit
–Male Airmen
Mahdi Aitouslimane
321st TRS, Flight 651
Brandon Lewis
320th TRS, Flight 649
Tanner Russell
321st TRS, Flight 651
–Female Airmen
Valenzuela Diaz
322nd TRS, Flight 662
Kaylee Herring
323rd TRS, Flight 656
Alexandria Moton
322nd TRS, Flight 662
–Male Flights
320th TRS, Flight 649
321st TRS, Flight 652
326th TRS, Flight 658
–Female Flights
323rd TRS, Flight 656
320th TRS, Flight 650
322nd TRS, Flight 662

Top Academic Flights
322nd TRS, Flight 661
323rd TRS, Flight 656
326th TRS, Flight 657
321st TRS, Flight 652
323rd TRS, Flight 655
321st TRS, Flight 659
320th TRS, Flight 649

AROUND JBSA-LACKLAND

Tree planting honors fallen Airmen

Photos by Staff Sgt. Marissa Tucker

Members of security forces at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland planted and dedicated eight trees Nov. 1 at Headquarters Air Force Security Forces Center, in memory of eight Security Forces Airmen killed in action in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The Hartford Group Insurance Company, provided the trees and supplies and also had employees come out and assist with the installation. Under each of the eight trees lies a brick with a different defender's name, rank and operation they were supporting when they were killed.

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their attending parent(s).

As we merge onto the highway, the supporting police officers stop traffic and render a salute themselves as the body and flags pass. We see drivers stopping along the roadway, some getting out of their vehicles to give respect.

On the flip side, we also see a number of drivers that sadly recognize the funeral procession and drive past (or try and cut through) our convoys oblivious to the unintentional disrespect their actions portray.

As we turn into JBSA-Randolph, any sound previously heard is now overcome by deafening silence at the sight of the impressive Taj Mahal. The towering American Flag hangs crisp at half-staff.

If not already, the lumps in our throats are joined by a rush of water we hope our eyelids can contain like a dam.

As we neared the roundabout, what were uniforms in the distance now turns to faces of civilians and military extending respect to the deceased.

While curbside participation has noticeably diminished over the past several convoys, those that make the journey make the moment; hands extended in prayer, in a salute or covering their hearts.

Further to the flight line, entire units are seen; stopping work and taking the time to stand along the roadway and pay personal respect to a fallen uniformed comrade.

Upon arrival at the passenger terminal, a full honor guard in service dress awaits with flight line personnel at attention and the aircraft ready to receive. The attending officers snap a salute, the casket is delivered and orders given to the pilot to safely transport the deceased to his final resting place.

As the aircraft doors close, we each depart our separate ways. The memory of what transpired forever engraved in our hearts and minds.

On behalf of the families of the deceased, thank you to all that participate as the visual of those standing curbside goes without words.

To those that could walk away from their work to render a sign of respect, thank you. To the Patriot Guard, police officers guiding our safe travel and to the local residents who continue to recognize the level of service our young men and women in uniform give daily, bless you. To those that participated, you are admired.

For those that didn't participate, regrettably there will be other opportunities. For those that drove by, tried to pass or break the convoy, we hope you reach a better understanding of the pride behind showing respect and take a different course of action.

While I do not wish a return of the circumstance that renders such events, should it occur, please join me curbside as we share our personal obligation of respect.

(Editor's note: Tullgren is also a retired Air Force veteran and Air Force Personnel Center civil servant.)

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN POINTS OF CONTACT

The 2013 Combined Federal Campaign runs through Jan. 15, 2014.

The following is a list of points of contact for Joint Base San Antonio:

502 Air Base Wing:
1st Lt. Amanda McGowin
221-4321
Alternate:
Master Sgt. Mason Wilson
671-6705

502nd Mission Support Group:
Manny Henning
221-1844
Alternate:
Duane Dunkley
221-2207

802nd MSG:
1st Lt. Brandon Langel
671-2528
Alternate:
Master Sgt. Robert Brinson
671-5511

902nd MSG:
Matt Borden
652-3797
Alternate:
Master Sgt. Ennis Fowler
652-6915
Alternate:
Master Sgt. Shawn Waghorn
652-3088

AF ISRA from Page 2

As a contested domain, cyberspace requires specialized ISR operations to defend Air Force networks and leverage cyberspace as a unique intelligence source. Cyber operations, in turn, feed ISR Airmen intelligence on enemy locations and targets.

One operation supports the other and creates a synergy that improves the nation's defensive and offensive capabilities. Intelligence resulting from cyber ISR operations will continue to increase, driving operations in air, space, and cyberspace.

Today, the AF ISR Agency continues to partner closely with the 24th Air Force at Port San Antonio to establish the Secretary of Defense-directed Cyber Mission Force. The force creates 1,264 Airmen positions focused on cyber operations and cyber ISR.

Cyber Mission Force teams will defend Department Of Defense networks and also provide offensive, defensive and ISR operational capabilities to meet combatant command joint warfighting needs. Approximately 50 percent of these new positions will be cyber ISR Airmen from the AF ISR Agency.

As the lead element for the Cyber Mission Force, the 24th Air Force will gain the other 50 percent. As the Air Force component to U.S. Cyber Command, the 24th AF extends, operates and defends the Air Force portion of the DOD network, as well as providing full spectrum capabilities for the joint warfighter in, through and from cyberspace.

The ISR Agency provides the 24th AF the same decision advantage for its missions in cyberspace that we have for the other component numbered air forces in air and space. The growth coming in Air Force Cyber ISR balances today's ISR portfolio and will allow us to operate as needed in all domains – air, ground, space and cyberspace.

Innovation is central to effective ISR and cyber operations. During the last decade the Air Force gained platforms and sensors to meet the demands of counterinsurgency operations. The next decade will be marked with innovation in cross-domain, all-source ISR operations in air, space and cyberspace.

The AF ISR Agency, 24th Air Force and its mission partners are ready for the challenge.

JBSA receives rebate from CPS Energy

By Mike Joseph
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio, CPS Energy's largest customer, will receive a five-figure check this month for its participation in a demand response program by the utility.

Col. William Eger, 802nd Mission Support Group commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Donaldo Puller, 802nd MSG superintendent, accepted an oversized check for $40,066 from CPS Energy officials Garrick Williams, JBSA energy solutions director, and Yvonne Haecker, JBSA account manager on behalf of JBSA during a presentation Monday at JBSA-Lackland.

The demand response program's objective is for the customer to reduce its power demand load during an event to earn the rebate. JBSA received 15 notifications between June and September to curtail load from CPS. On the day of each event, CPS notified JBSA energy officials at 1 p.m. to reduce energy usage from 3-6 p.m.

JBSA averaged 598 kilowatts of reduction for the 15 events after signing an agreement with CPS to reduce 600KW per event.

The rebate, $67 per average kilowatts reduced, will be applied to JBSA operations and maintenance. Along with the check, JBSA also generated $2,000 in energy savings by participating in the program.

This is the first year all JBSA locations participated in the demand response program, said Ruben Ramos, JBSA-Randolph energy manager. JBSA-Randolph has been in the program for the past three years.

"This is a win-win situation for JBSA and CPS," Ramos said. "JBSA saves energy and gets paid for it."

Ramos said JBSA had some challenges implementing the demand response on each location.

"Each location has different systems, so they applied load curtailment in their own way," he said.

At JBSA-Lackland, limiting chiller demand and air handle unit fan speed reset functions were used on building 1530. The building load was also reduced by shutting down warehouse reset fans. All reduction techniques were done manually by JBSA personnel.

At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the chiller that provides cooling for buildings 2840 and 2841 was shut down. Johnson Controls, which has an energy savings performance contract with JBSA, implemented the action manually.

At JBSA-Randolph, its energy management control system used a software program to perform demand rolling on most of its buildings. The software program controls air handle units and variable frequency drives to limit power consumption. The software is set up to run automatically when a curtail notification is received from CPS.

Photo by Joshua Rodriguez

Participating in the presentation were (from left to right), John Enyeart, JBSA energy utility team chief; Chief Master Sgt. Donaldo Puller, 802nd Mission Support Group superintendent; Col. William Eger, 802nd MSG commander; Garrick Williams, CPS Energy's JBSA energy solutions director; Yvonne Haecker, CPS Energy's JBSA account manager; and Andy Hinojosa, 802nd Civil Engineering Squadron base energy manager.

JBSA just completed Energy Action Month in October, an annual national campaign to save natural resources with conservation measures through energy awareness. JBSA military members and civilians were also encouraged to take action in meeting energy goals in order to complete the every day mission.

Courtesy photo

In a photo taken before his death, Marine Lance Cpl. Colton Rusk plays with his military working dog Eli.

MWD monument

One family's story of connection, remembrance

By Mike Joseph
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

The mother of a fallen Marine dog handler knows first hand about the bond between a handler and their battlefield teammate.

Part of a large crowd gathered at the new national monument dedicated to U.S. Military Working Dog teams Oct. 28 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Kathy Rusk struggled with her emotions following its unveiling.

"This means a lot," she said as tears began to flow. "It's very emotional."

Eli, a black Labrador retriever, was the best friend, constant companion, bunkmate and chow pal of their son, Marine Lance Cpl. Colton Rusk.

The specially-trained Lab had located improvised explosive devices on Dec. 6, 2010, in Helmand province, Afghanistan, when Taliban gunfire hit the young Marine handler just after he had secured Eli to his leash.

All of Eli's explosive-finding skills couldn't stop the three Taliban bullets from taking his 20-year-old handler's life. Eli instinctively crawled atop his slain handler when he fell to the ground.

"It had given me some comfort knowing Colton wasn't alone over there," Kathy Rusk said in February 2011 when they became the second family to adopt the dog of a fallen service member.

"He'd call home and everything was about Eli and how Eli thought everything was his."

Now stands a national monument that recognizes military working dogs and handlers, a quest started in 2001 by John Burnam, a Vietnam scout dog handler and author of two books on military working dogs.

"This is a great day for Joint Base San Antonio and the Department of Defense," said Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander. "To the working dog members and the dogs in the audience, this is your day. I'm so glad Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland could be the home of this monument."

The Department of Defense Military Working Dog program, the world's largest training center for military dogs and handlers, has been based at JBSA-Lackland since 1958. The DOD Military Working Dog Veterinary Service and the Holland Working Dog Hospital, the largest for military working dogs, are also located on JBSA-Lackland.

Burnam's diligence now pays tribute and honors military working dogs of all wars through the national monument. He said the monument would make certain that military working dogs will never be forgotten again, as they were in Vietnam.

"As a scout dog handler in Vietnam I experienced first hand how valuable these dogs are at saving Soldiers' lives," Burnam said. "Yet despite their value, when we pulled out of Vietnam, the dogs were left behind. They were heroes and they were left to die.

"As a nation we owe our war dogs a tremendous debt of gratitude," he said. "Their selfless service, loyalty and sacrifices to our country must never be forgotten. The U.S. Military Working Dog Teams National Monument is a treasure for us all to ensure they are honored and remembered forever."

The monument's main granite pedestal features the U.S. military's four prominent working dog breeds since World War II: Doberman Pinscher, German Shepherd, Labrador Retriever and Belgian Malinois.

A nine-foot-tall bronze dog handler represents all U.S. military dog handlers who served in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the war on terrorism. Another design feature is the "Not Forgotten Fountain," a fully functional bronze dog and handler water fountain that epitomizes the bond between dog and handler.

Kathy Rusk and her family identify with that bond.

"We have Eli and the comfort he gives us," Kathy Rusk said. "The dog handlers from Vietnam never had that and it breaks my heart (for them).

"They (Vietnam dog handlers) had to leave their dog knowing they'd never see them again," she said. "They have this to remember them forever. It's just amazing."

Civilians and their dogs wishing to visit the monument located on the Southeast corner of the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland parade field must report to the Luke East Visitors Control Center to be issued a four hour pass following a criminal history check. Call 671-2254 for more information.

These are a sample of the images that create the montage of photos etched into the face of the MWD wall.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

» Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.

» When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.

» Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.

» Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.

» While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.

Have a safe extended weekend

By Jewell Hicks
502nd Air Base Wing Safety Officer

Monday is Veterans Day – a holiday to commemorate the thousands of combat veterans who fought in the service of our country.

As you enjoy the extended weekend and participate in activities honoring America's veterans, keep in mind that it is also that time of the season where our risk management techniques will be tested even more.

Here are some reminders to consider – not just for this Veterans Day, but for the months ahead:

• The end of Daylight Saving Time means longer hours of darkness. Wear reflective material and bright colors when performing night time activities such as running or walking around traffic. Remember that you may have the right of way to cross a street, but the vehicle operator has to give you that right of way! If you're a vehicle operator, watch out for pedestrians – particularly children.

• The wearing of portable headphones, earphones, cellular phones, iPods or other listening and entertainment devices while walking, jogging, running, bicycling, skating or skateboarding on installation roadways is prohibited (Reference para 3.6.6, AFI 91-207, Traffic Safety Program).

• Decreasing temperatures and San Antonio's humid climate causes fog and condensation on vehicle window surfaces. Ensure you have a clear field of vision before beginning a drive. Also, slow down and drive with appropriate lights (fog lights or low beams) to help lower the risk.

• Automobile and motorcycle mishaps continue to be the top killer of military personnel with excessive speed, fatigue, and alcohol as major contributing factors. The failure to use seatbelts have resulted in vehicle ejection fatalities during otherwise survivable accidents.

• AFI 91-202, (AETC Sup), para 1.6.13.8, requires military personnel under the age of 26 to receive a pre-departure safety briefing before they depart on leave. The briefing is documented on the AETC Form 29B, Pre-Departure Safety Briefing.

The moment you take to remind someone to consider the risk of planned activities may make a difference in that person's or his family's life forever. Have a safe extended weekend!

MISSION THANKSGIVING

San Antonio families can open their homes to JBSA students, trainees

Looking to share the bounty of your Thanksgiving table this year by setting a couple of extra places for Soldiers or Airmen far from home?

Thousands of students assigned to the Army Medical Department Center and School and Air Force basic trainees and students are away from home for the first time during the holidays.

Thanks to a pair of Joint Base San Antonio programs – Mission Thanksgiving and Operation Homecooking – San Antonio residents can share their family traditions and welcome two service members into their homes for the holiday meal.

On the Army side, Mission Thanksgiving offers the chance for families to welcome two Soldiers to their home for Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 28. Those interested can call 221-3218 from 8-11:30 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday or send an email to usarmy.jbsa.medcom-ameddcs.mbx.mission-thanksgiving@mail.mil.

At Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Operation Homecooking, now in its 38th year, gives local families the opportunity to welcome two trainees or students into their homes for the holiday meal. To participate, call 671-5453/5454/3701 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Nov. 27. Families without a reservation cannot show up on Thanksgiving Day to obtain service members.

Hosts must pick them up at the Basic Military Training Reception Center, building 7246. All basic trainees and students must be back to their respective squadrons by 7 p.m. Thanksgiving night.

(Source: Joint Base San Antonio public affairs)

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S MILITARY

Celebrate America's Military Events

U.S. Military Veterans Parade & Wreath Laying – Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Downtown San Antonio, 300 Alamo Plaza. Free and open to the public. Visit http://usmvpa.com.

Military City, USA "Thank You" Run – Saturday, 11:30 a.m., from VFW Post 76 through downtown, past The Alamo to Milam Park for a post celebration and award ceremony. Open to the public. Visit http://www.athleteguild.com/running/san-antonio-tx/2013-asa-knights-of-columbus-5k-runwalk.

San Antonio Symphony Veterans Day Concert "Salute to Service" – Sunday, 7-9 p.m., Majestic Theater, 224 E. Houston St. Free and open to the public, reservation and ticket required. Call 554-1090 or visit http://www.sasymphony.org.

Veterans Day Ceremony – Monday, 9:30-11 a.m. at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Free and open to the public. Call 210-820-3891 or visit http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftsamhouston.

Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Commemorative Ceremony – Monday, 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the San Antonio National Cemetery, 517 Paso Hondo St. Free and open to the public. Call 336-3903 or visit http://www.bcbsatx.com.

Spurs Veterans Day Game – Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the AT&T Center. San Antonio Spurs vs. Washington Wizards. Discounted tickets available for military in uniform. Call 444-5618 or visit http://www.spurs.com.

For more information on CAM, visit http://www.celebrateamericasmilitary.com.

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is on

Share your JBSA-Lackland photos by tagging us @JBSALackland

Instagram

Affordable Care Act has little effect on TRICARE beneficiaries

TRICARE

By Jerilyn Quintanilla
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is now in effect. The new law has some military members, retirees and TRICARE beneficiaries wondering how it will affect them.

For most TRICARE beneficiaries, it won't have any effect.

Beneficiaries who receive benefits under any TRICARE program meet the minimum essential coverage under the Affordable Care Act. This includes: TRICARE Prime, Prime Remote and Standard; TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Young Adult, TRICARE Retired Reserve, the Continued Health Care Benefit Program, Veterans Health Care Program, VA Civilian Health and Medical Program and Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program.

However, in order for these TRICARE programs to qualify as minimum essential coverage, eligible members must be enrolled and be in good standing.

There are two groups of TRICARE beneficiaries who do not meet the minimum essential coverage requirement - those getting care for line-of-duty only related conditions and direct care only beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries and retirees not enrolled in any of these health care coverage plans, employer based plans, or Medicare must seek coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace or visit the VA health care website at http://www.va.gov.health for coverage options.

At the beginning of the year, TRICARE beneficiaries will receive a notification letter from the Department of Defense detailing the sponsor and dependents who had minimum essential coverage during the previous year. This information is also sent to the Internal Revenue Service and can be used when filing taxes.

For more information visit http://www.tricare.mil.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by Mike Joseph, JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

FRIDAY

VETERANS STAND DOWN

The 16th annual Veterans Stand Down by the National Veterans Outreach Program is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 611 N. Flores Street.

The event offers homeless and low income veterans access to free services such as temporary shelter, showers, haircuts, meals, clothing, hygiene care kits, medical examinations and immunizations. They also offer access to other services.

For more information, contact Gissel Acevedo at 223-4088.

SATURDAY

CHIEFS CHEERLEADER CLINIC AT EXCHANGE

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Exchange will sponsor a Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders for a cheer clinic from 9-11 a.m. at Arnold Hall Community Center.

The free event is open to all military members and Department of Defense dependents ages 3-18 years.

To register, email Cathy Kimbrell at kimbrellc@aafes.com or call 674-6465.

The Chiefs' cheerleaders will also be at the JBSA-Lackland Exchange from 3-4:30 p.m.

VETERANS DAY WEEKEND PERFORMANCE

The Air Force Band of the West's Horizon Sax Quartet will perform a free concert from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rolling Oaks Mall, which is located at Loop 1604 and Nacogdoches Road, in conjunction with Veterans Day weekend.

For additional information, visit http://www.bandofthewest.af.mil.

FEAST OF THE HEART RUN

The Raul Jimenez Thanksgiving Dinner organizers will hold its annual Feast of the Heart 5K run/walk at 9 a.m. Saturday at Traders Village, 9333 SW Loop 410. Registration begins on the day of the race at 7:30 a.m.

Visit https://www.rauljimenezdinner.com for more information.

MONDAY

OPERATION WEDDING GOWN

Operation Wedding Gown, which is Brides Across America's national mission to give away free wedding gowns to military brides, will be held at Impression Bridal Store, which is located at 602 NW Loop 410, Ste. 107.

To qualify, brides or their fiancé must be serving in the military and is either deployed, have a future deployment or have been deployed within the last five years to Iraq, Afghanistan, Middle East, Korea or Japan. Brides must pre-register for the event and bring proper identification along with deployment papers on the day of the event.

For additional information, visit http://www.impressionbridalstore.com.

NOV. 16

ANNUAL CHIEFS' GATHERING

The 29th annual Chiefs' Gathering will be from 6-10 p.m. at Texas Pride Barbecue, which is located at 2980 E. Loop 1604.

The event is open to active duty and retired service members of all branches E-9 or an E-9 select and their spouses. The cost is $15 per person.

The reservation deadline is Friday. Pre-payment and reservations can be mailed to Randolph Chiefs' Group, P.O. Box 371, Randolph AFB, TX 78148-0371.

Contact Chief Master Sgt. Perry McLaurin at 410-4296 or retired Chief Master Sgt. Autumn Willhoite at 565-2423.

NOV. 19

CUSTOMER SUPPLY TRAINING

The 802nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's Equipment Accountability Element conducts three classes the third Tuesday each month in the second floor conference room of building 5160.

The classes and start times are: Block I General Supply Training, 8 a.m.; Block II Bench Stock Training, 8:45 a.m.; and Block III Equipment Custodian Supplemental/Refresher Training, 9:30 a.m.

For information or registration, contact Ray Holland or Eugene Owens at 925-1140 or 671-3801.

DEC. 17

ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT

The San Antonio Military Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center is scheduled for an accreditation site visit Feb. 12, 2014.

Any parties who feel they may have pertinent information regarding the program are encouraged to submit comments by mail to the Commission on Dental Accreditation, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 or by calling 1-800-621-8099, Ext. 4653.

The deadline for receipt of third-party comments by the Commission office is Dec. 17.

INFORMATIONAL

INFLUENZA VACCINES

Influenza vaccines are available in the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center Immunizations Clinic located on the first floor and not in the WHASC atrium. The flu vaccination is mandatory for all active-duty members and WHASC employees.

Service hours are Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THANKSGIVING DAY DINING

Active-duty family members, and retirees and their dependents are authorized to have dinner Thanksgiving Day, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Training Annex dining facility, building 124.

Reservations are required and due by Nov. 22 to Sylvia Longoria at 671-2009/3866.

CHAPEL SERVICES

—PROTESTANT

• Freedom Chapel – building 1528

Contemporary Service	Sun.	9:30 a.m.
Religious Education	Sun.	11 a.m.
Gospel Service	Sun.	12:30 p.m.
Spanish Service	Sun.	3 p.m.
AWANA	Wed.	6 p.m.

• Gateway Chapel – building 6300

Liturgical Service	Sun.	11 a.m.

—DENOMINATIONAL

• BMT Reception Center – building 7246

Church of Christ	Sun.	7:30 a.m.

• Gateway Chapel – building 6300

Seventh-day Adventist	Sat.	12:30 p.m.

• Education Classroom – building 5200 Room 108

Christian Science	Sun.	7:30 a.m.

—PENTECOSTAL RE

• Gateway Chapel – building 6300

Pentecostal RE	Sun.	2:30 p.m.

—ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

• Gateway Chapel – building 6300

Religious Education	Fri.	4 p.m.

—WICCA

• BMT Reception Center – building 7246

Military Open Circle	Sun.	12:30 p.m.

• Freedom Chapel – building 1528

Military Open Circle	First Tues.	6 p.m.

—REFUGE STUDENT CENTER

• building 9122 (Tech Training & TDY Students)

Wednesday Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Thursday	6–8 p.m.
Friday	6–11 p.m.
Saturday	Noon to 9 p.m.
Sunday	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

—THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

• Gateway Chapel – building 6300

Religious Education	Tues.	6:30 p.m.
LDS Institute	Thurs.	6:30 p.m.
LDS Service	Sun.	1 p.m.

—JEWISH

• Gateway Chapel – building 6300

Sabbath & Kiddush	Friday	4:30 p.m.
Religious Education	Sun.	1:30 p.m.

—ROMAN CATHOLIC

• Freedom Chapel – building 1528

Religious Education	Sun.	9 a.m.
Reconciliation	Sun.	10 a.m.
Mass	Sun.	11 a.m.
	Sun.	5 p.m.
Reconciliation	Sun.	4:15 p.m.
Daily Mass Mon, Tue & Thurs		11:30 a.m.

Note: Reconciliation(s) may be scheduled by appointment

—ISLAMIC

• Global Ministry Center – building 7452

Jummah Prayer	Fri.	12:45 – 1:15 p.m.
Religious Education	Sun.	9 a.m.

OTHER FAITH GROUPS

• BMT Reception Center – building 7246

—Buddhist	Sun.	10 a.m.

• Gateway Chapel – building 6300

—Eckankar
First, third & fifth Saturdays 12:30 p.m.

—Baha'i
First, third and fifth Saturdays 11 a.m.

For more details, contact
Freedom Chapel - 671-4208
Gateway Chapel - 671-2911

JBSA-LACKLAND KEY FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCES

Air Force Aid Society	671-3722
Airman & Family Readiness Center	671-3722
Airman's Attic	671-1780
American Red Cross	844-4225
Base Post Office	671-1058
Bowling Center	671-2271
DEERS	800-538-9552
Exceptional Family Member Program	671-3722
Family Child Care	671-3376
Legal Office	671-3362
Library	671-3610
Medical Appointment Line	916-9900
MPF ID Cards	671-6006
Outdoor Recreation	925-5532
TRICARE Info	800-444-5445
Thrift Shop	671-3608

Enlisted Spouses' Club	http://www.lacklandesc.org
Force Support Squadron	http://www.lacklandfss.com
Lackland ISD	http://www.lacklandisd.net
Officers' Spouses' Club	http://www.lacklandosc.org
JBSA Public website	http://www.jbsa.af.mil
My Air Force Life	http://www.MyAirForceLife.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Family Support Events

ALL CLASSES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND EVENTS ARE HELD AT THE AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS CENTER, BUILDING 1249, *UNLESS NOTED BELOW.* CALL AFRC AT 671-3722 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

FRIDAY

▶ AMVETS national service officer available by appointment only. Call 773-354-6131.

MONDAY

▶ The Airman and Family Readiness Center is closed for Veterans Day.

TUESDAY

▶ Pre-separation briefing, mandatory for all members retiring, pre-registration required, 9 a.m. to noon.

▶ Pre-deployment briefing, required for all Airmen preparing for deployment, 802nd Logistics Readiness Squadron IDRC briefing room, 9 a.m., building 5160.

▶ Resume writing, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

▶ AMVETS national service officer available by appointment only. Call 773-354-6131.

WEDNESDAY

▶ Four to Go, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

▶ AWANA Clubs, 6-8 p.m., Freedom Chapel.

▶ AMVETS national service officer available by appointment only. For additional information, call 773-354-6131.

THURSDAY

▶ Pre-separation briefing, mandatory for all members separating voluntarily, pre-registration required, 9 a.m. to noon.

▶ Federal resume process, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

▶ Air Force Basic Military Training spouse and parents' seminar, BMT Reception Center, building 7246, 1 p.m. Call 800-973-7630 or 671-4057 for more information.

▶ AMVETS national service officer available by appointment only. For information, call 773-354-6131.

NOV. 15

▶ Interview with Confidence, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

▶ Troops to Teachers, 1-3 p.m.

▶ AMVETS national service officer available by appointment only. For information, call 773-354-6131.

NOV. 18

▶ Five-day Transition Assistance Program, mandatory pre-separation briefing and Form 2648 are required prerequisites, 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

▶ Family readiness briefing, mandatory for personnel deploying longer than 30 days or going on remote assignments, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

▶ Post-deployment briefing, required for all Airmen returning from deployment, 802nd Logistics Readiness Squadron IDRC briefing room, 2:30 p.m., building 5160.

▶ AMVETS national service officer available by appointment only. Call 773-354-6131.

NOV. 19

▶ Transition Assistance Program, 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

▶ Pre-deployment briefing, required for all Airmen preparing to deploy, 802nd Logistics Readiness Squadron IDRC briefing room, 9 a.m., building 5160.

▶ AMVETS national service officer available by appointment only. For information, call 773-354-6131.

NOV. 20

▶ Transition Assistance Program, 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

▶ AWANA Clubs, 6-8 p.m., Freedom Chapel.

▶ AMVETS national service officer available by appointment only. For information, call 773-354-6131.

NOV. 21

▶ Transition Assistance Program, 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

▶ Air Force Basic Military Training spouse and parents' seminar, BMT Reception Center, building 7246, 1 p.m. Call 800-973-7630 or 671-4057 for more information.

Monthly Meetings

ENLISTED SPOUSES' CLUB

The Lackland Enlisted Spouses' Club meets every third Tuesday of the month at the Balfour Beatty Community Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, visit http://www.lacklandesc.org.

OFFICERS' SPOUSES' CLUB

The Lackland Officers' Spouses' Club meets monthly. For dates and times, or more information, visit http://www.lacklandosc.org.

MILITARY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

The Military Council of Catholic Women meets the first Friday of the month, 9:30 a.m., at Freedom Chapel. For additional information, call 671-4208.

On the web

http://www.lacklandfss.com

Compiled by Mike Joseph, JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

Air Force JAG announces law school programs

From Headquarters,
U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps

Applications for the Funded Legal Education Program and Excess Leave Program are being accepted from Jan. 1 through March 1, 2014. Interested officers are encouraged to compete.

The number of FLEP and ELP applicants selected in any academic year is determined based on the needs of the Air Force.

"Our Air Force missions are constantly changing and commanders deserve to have access to legal advisors with a broad background of military experiences," said Maj. Sean Elameto, chief of the Accessions Branch, Professional Development Directorate, Office of the Judge Advocate General.

"The FLEP and ELP will ensure that we can continue to maintain a corps of officers whose military experience complements their legal training, providing commanders with the highest caliber of legal support."

According to Elameto, Air Force JAGs do more than just provide legal assistance.

In addition to prosecuting and defending clients brought before courts-martial, JAG officers routinely participate in nearly every facet of the Air Force mission, including developing and acquiring weapons systems, ensuring availability of airspace and ranges where those systems are tested and operated, consulting with commanders about how those sys-

tems are employed in armed conflict, and assisting commanders in the day-to-day running of military installations around the world.

"Every facet of every Air Force mission is bound by elements of the law," Elameto said.

The FLEP is a paid legal studies program for active-duty Air Force commissioned officers.

The FLEP is an assignment action and participants receive full pay, allowances and tuition.

FLEP applicants must have between two and six years active duty service (enlisted or commissioned) and must be in pay grades O-3 or below as of the day they begin law school.

The FLEP is subject to tuition limitations, and positions may be limited due to overall funding availability. The Air Force Institute of Technology tuition limit for FY14 is expected to be set at approximately $16,000 per year.

ELP participants do not receive pay and allowances, but remain on active duty for retirement eligibility and benefits purposes. ELP applicants must have between two to 10 years active duty service and must be in the pay grades O-3 to O-1 as of the first day of law school.

Both the FLEP and ELP require attendance at an American Bar Association-approved law school.

Upon graduation and admission to practice law in the highest court of any state, territory of the United States, or a federal court, candidates are eligible for designation as judge advocates.

To be considered for FLEP or ELP, applicants must have completed all application forms, applied to at least one ABA-approved law school, received their Law School Admissions Test results, and completed a Staff Judge Advocate interview by March 1, 2014.

Officers must also provide a letter of conditional release from their current career field. Selection for both programs is competitive.

Applicants meet a selection board in early March and selections are made based on a review of the entire application package using a "whole person" concept. AFI 51-101, Judge Advocate Accession Program, Chapters 2 and 3, discuss the FLEP and ELP.

For more information and application materials, visit http://www.airforce.com/jag, contact your base legal office, or send an email to megan.mallone@pentagon.af.mil or call 800-524-8723.

Commissaries to start scanning IDs Sunday

By Kevin L. Robinson
DeCA Public Affairs

Commissaries will soon begin scanning customers' Department of Defense ID cards at checkouts as the Defense Commissary Agency continues its pursuit to deliver a 21st century benefit.

The commissary at Fort Lee, Va., became the first store to scan ID cards Oct. 22 as the first part of an agency-wide rollout to all stores that begins Sunday and will be completed by mid-January.

Commissary shoppers are used to showing their ID cards to establish their eligibility to use the commissary. By scanning the ID at checkout, DeCA will no longer need to maintain any personal information on customers in its computer systems, such as the system used for customers who write checks.

Scanning will also help improve the commissary benefit for all patrons, according to Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO.

"In addition to verifying customers as authorized commissary patrons, we'll gain information that will give us a better understanding of our patrons, allowing the agency to provide the commissary benefit more effectively and efficiently," Jeu said.

Cross-referenced with other DOD data, the scan data will give DeCA useful information about patron usage, by military service, along with customer demographics that does not identify specific personal data of an individual.

This will eventually help the agency identify shopping needs and preferences – information that is essential in today's retail business environment. It will also allow more accurate reporting to the military services on commissary usage.

The demographic information DeCA will use is strictly limited to: card ID number, rank, military status, branch of service, age, household size and ZIP codes of residence and duty station. DeCA will not be using any personal information such as names, addresses or phone numbers.

"The methods, processes and information we'll use will not compromise our customers' privacy – they can be sure of that," Jeu said. "We're putting technology to work to better understand our customers and ensure the commissary benefit continues to remain relevant to them now and in the future."

For more information on ID card scanning, visit http://www.commissaries.com/documents/contact_deca/faqs/id_card_scanning.cfm.

Connect With Us!

JBSA-Lackland on the social networking scene

Follow us on Twitter at: *http://twitter.com/JBSALackland*

E-mail us at: *Lackland.jbsa@gmail.com*

Follow us on Facebook at: *Lackland-JBSA*

Or just go to our website at: *www.jbsa.af.mil* ***and look for social media.***

Technical sergeant helps raise money for Fisher House

By Jose T. Garza III
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

A 737th Training Support Squadron technical sergeant helped coordinate a fishing tournament that raised $7,600 for the Wilford Hall Fisher House.

Tech. Sgt. Brian Fisher, along with two friends, organized the Fisher House Charity Bass Tournament, held Saturday, at Lake Amistad in Del Rio, Texas.

About 32 teams participated in the tournament.

"We had a lot of good people come out and support our event," Fisher, an instructor supervisor for the Military Training Instructor School, said. "I'm proud more than anything that the event was a success, everybody enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next year's event."

Fisher said he looks to begin planning next year's fishing tournament next month, likely taking place again at Lake Amistad.

"We want to make next year's event bigger than this year, and hopefully, continue beyond."

To find information on how to donate to the Fisher House, visit http://fisherhouse.org for details.

Courtesy Photo

Roughly 32 teams participated in the Fisher House Charity Bass Tournament at Lake Amistad in Del Rio, Texas Saturday. The tournament, which was coordinated by Tech. Sgt. Brian Fisher, 737th Training Support Squadron, raised $7,600.

DID YOU KNOW?

Firearm policy affects carriers across Joint Base San Antonio

By Airman 1st Class Kenna Jackson
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

To ensure the safety of the Joint Base San Antonio community, Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, established a policy Sept. 30, regarding the handling, possession, storage and transportation of privately-owned firearms on all JBSA installations.

The policy states that anyone arriving at any JBSA locations will immediately report to the installation entry controller if in possession of a firearm. If the individual does not reside on a JBSA installation, he or she will be directed to go immediately to the 902nd Security Forces Squadron Armory at JBSA-Randolph, 802nd Security Forces Squadron Armory at JBSA-Lackland or the Base Defense Operations Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to store the firearm, regardless of the duration of the person's stay at the location.

Weapons became available for purchase at JBSA-Randolph Nov. 1 and safety is still top priority, Tonya Yancey, JBSA-Randolph Exchange store manager said. Weapons are not sold at the Exchanges at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston or JBSA-Lackland.

"To uphold the level of safety within the community, the firearm department is mandated to follow a detailed list of rules and regulations before allowing firearms and ammunition to leave the counter," she said.

Along with firearms and ammunition not being an option for purchase the same day, one of the rules states store employees must ensure gun buyers understand federal and state firearms law still apply. Another rule requires store employees to document every weapon purchased, with the name of the buyer and the date of the purchase.

After purchasing weapons, all customers are required to register their firearms with the security forces squadron by filing an Air Force form 1314 (Firearms Registration form) and a DD form 2760 (Qualification to Possess Firearms or Ammunition form). Both forms can be found at http://www.e-publishing.af.mil.

"We are committed to providing the safest possible working and living environment for our people," said Master Sgt. Kerry Thompson, 902nd Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of installation security. "These rules are not for anyone's inconvenience, but rather to ensure safety."

For more information about the privately-owned weapon policy and the Exchange weapons purchase policy, contact the 902nd SFS Armory at 652-4365, 902nd SFS BDOC at 652-5700 or the Exchange firearm counter at 652-2681 ext. 234.