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A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING – JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON



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**NCO SELECTED FOR SCIENTIST COMMISSION**

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**RAISING A MILITARY WORKING DOG**

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## Senior leaders hold town hall for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston community

By Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart  
Army North Public Affairs

Senior leaders from Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston held a town hall meeting Jan. 21 – one of three scheduled that week – at Evans Theater to give the latest updates to the community on continuing changes, cutbacks and improvements coming for the installation in 2014.

Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, the commanding general for U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and senior Army commander for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, opened the session by introducing Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, and reiterating to the audience that it was no surprise to anyone that as the Department of Defense is going through some budget cuts, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston will feel it as well.

“We need your input on how these changes are affecting you,” Wiggins said. “It’s not an easy road ahead, but we can get through this working together.”

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, followed and was joined by his fellow commanders and several subject matter experts to allow those attending and the greater community to ask them questions on upcoming changes and to get the most up-to-date information on those programs which will be adjusted as a result of the budget reductions which began last year.

“In 2013, we had to reduce and adjust installation support and



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart

Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins (left), Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis senior Army commander and U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commanding general, greets Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander during the JBSA-FSH town hall at the Evans Theater Jan. 21.

services across JBSA,” LaBrutta said. “There is going to continue to be reductions in dollars for the future. The fiscal year 2014 budget slows readiness decline but does not undo sequestration or allow full-spectrum readiness recovery.”

He went on to explain that although there will be funding cuts; the news isn’t as bad as originally projected.

The initial projections called for a 41 percent cut, or approximately \$100 million, but under the new budget agreement, the anticipated cut has been reduced to approximately 10 to 15 percent.

Among the topics presented that evening were base security and

the phased implementation plan for all entry and access control points, the recently opened visitor control centers, library closures, standardizing of custodial services to “basic” levels and further reducing grounds maintenance.

LaBrutta had those individuals who oversee security for the base and medical operations at Brooke Army Medical Center speak to the attendees as well.

Matt Barido, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Security Forces director, and BAMC Commander Col. Kyle Campbell spoke about their respective areas of concern, including

**See TOWN HALL, P9**

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# Commitment it turns a person into a professional

By Sgt. Lee Ezzell  
Army North Public Affairs

On a crisp Saturday morning in early January at the massive ski lodge-style building that is the home of the Warrior and Family Support Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III – decked out in his uniform with medals across his chest and stripes running up his sleeves – sits in an arm chair.

He is deep in conversation with a wounded warrior sitting in a wheelchair dressed in a windbreaker and tattered blue jeans, his right leg elevated and bound in bandages. Chandler, a pad on his lap, periodically jots down notes as the young warrior speaks.

This was one of several informal one-on-one meetings the SMA had that day. His commitment to Soldiers drives him to make time in his busy schedule to listen to what they have to say.

That Saturday, Jan. 4, was also the day of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, one of the biggest

recruiting events the Army conducts each year. By the time Chandler arrived at the WFSC, he had already been going non-stop for almost two days, shaking hands with coordinators and coaches, greeting players and parents, and speaking with supporters and promoters.

For Chandler, it's a personal commitment to the Soldiers who make up the Army. His commitment is even deeper for those warriors who have sacrificed their own health and well-being in service to the nation.

Chandler, who views commitment as a trait that every person, particularly Soldiers, should demonstrate, explains that he re-learned what commitment really means from Judith Markelz, director of the Warrior and Family Support Center.

Markelz is not someone the casual observer would immediately think of as an example to top military brass. A grandmother with no uniformed experience, she carries herself with a drive that belies her small frame. She often jokes about her



Photo by Sgt. Lee Ezzell

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III speaks with the Armstead family Jan. 4 at the Warrior and Family Support Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston prior to serving breakfast to them and other wounded warriors and their families. Chandler said he views WFSC director Judith Markelz as someone who exemplifies commitment.

own disregard of pomp and customs, but is well known throughout the San Antonio community

and beyond as a person who gets things done.

Markelz leads her staff and team of volunteers in

setting the standard for how the military cares for its wounded warriors and their families. This example revolves around their seemingly simple, but often challenging, mission of providing a place of comfort and escape from the sterile and frequently stressful environment confronting those receiving treatment.

She explained that from the beginning she and her team have had only one goal and focus.

“Take care of the wounded warriors and their families,” Markelz said. “We aren’t here as fundraisers or tour guides. We’re here to make sure service members and their families have a place to call their own. And that is what we’ll do as long as I am here.”

Markelz was humble about her role as the “leader” of the WFSC. She laughed at the idea that the sergeant major of the Army viewed her as a prime example of committed leadership.

“I make sure everyone here knows our respon-

See CHANDLER, P17

## CHIEFchat: CMSAF talks about force management, EPRs

By Staff Sgt. Devon Suits  
Air Force News Service

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody addressed upcoming changes to enlisted performance reports and effects of force management during his second worldwide CHIEFchat at the Defense Media

Activity at Fort George G. Meade, Md. Jan. 9.

CHIEFchat is a recurring initiative, designed to give Airmen around the world a direct connection to the chief master sergeant of the Air Force. The chief received questions via video message, social media outlets and from members of a

studio audience.

An Airman, via a video message, asked how the upcoming changes to the enlisted performance reports will affect Airmen in the future.

As you look at it today, with the current enlisted evaluation system we wouldn't have to get too deep into a discussion

before we understand how inflated the system is, Cody said.

“That’s why (Air Force Chief of Staff) Gen. (Mark) Welsh directed the senior enlisted leadership of our Air Force to look at this and make recommendations to transform the enlisted evaluation into something that, first and

foremost, values performance,” Cody said.

According to the chief, rating Airmen as threes, fours and fives will be a thing of the past.

“We’re not even looking at those numbers fields in the future.” Cody said. “We’re looking at

See CHIEFCHAT, P19



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## News Briefs

### Basura Bash 2014

The 4th Annual Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Basura Bash will be held at Salado Creek Park from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 22, with volunteer check in at 8 a.m. and a safety briefing at 8:45 a.m. The annual cleanup of Salado Creek is held in conjunction with the city-wide cleanup effort for the tributaries of the San Antonio River. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves, hats and sunscreen. People can bring their own cleanup gear, such as waders, trashgrabbers, nets, etc. All participants under 18 must have a parent or guardian onsite and drop-offs will not be allowed. All participants must have a military ID or CAC and sign a waiver to participate. Volunteers can register online at <http://www.basurabash.org>. For more information, call 652-0181.

### BAMC Behavioral Health Seeks Dog Team

The Department of Behavioral Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center is looking for a qualified and dynamic dog team (dog and owner) to aid in the department's health care mission. They will help provide animal assisted therapy/animal assisted activities to the patients on the inpatient psychiatric ward. Interested owners must be able to present all necessary certification documents at the time of interview. The team's certification must be issued by a licensed evaluator applying a nationally recognized curriculum and must meet several criteria. Contact BAMC Behavioral Medicine, at 916-1011 or 916-2096 to set up the required interview.

### School Safety Tracker App

In an effort to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for students and staff, the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District has introduced the FSHISD Safety Tracker App. The app, available for iPhones and Android devices, allows users to submit safety concerns they might have with the district and our schools. Users can submit text messages, images, or video and the submissions can be anonymous if desired. School administrators will

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

# MICC welcomes new command sergeant major

By Daniel P. Elkins  
MICC Public Affairs Office

Members of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command welcomed their new command sergeant major during an assumption of responsibility ceremony Jan. 16 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen E. Bowens comes to the MICC from 1st Recruiting Brigade at Fort Meade, Md., where he served as the brigade's command sergeant major.

Bowens replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, who was reassigned in December 2013 to the 21st Theater Sustainment Command in Germany. Headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, MICC officials chose to conduct the ceremony at Fort Bliss, where more than 100 MICC members are participating in the 2014 Operational Contract Support Joint Exercise.

"Our Army has entrusted us with this tremendous responsibility

to provide Army commands, installations and activities with responsive contracting solutions and oversight – and in turn we have an obligation to our Army and the nation to do so in a responsible manner and be accountable for all our actions – individually and collectively," Bowens said.

"We have a sacred obligation to those who have gone before us. We fulfill this obligation by setting and enforcing high standards – standards only the best of the best can meet – so that we, too, can maintain the trust of the American people and the continued viability of the all-volunteer Army."

Bowens, a native of Saint Stephens, S.C., enlisted in the Army in June 1989 as an armor crewman. He served in armor battalions and an armor cavalry regiment before entering the recruiting military occupational specialty in 1997.

Following recruiting duty, his assignments included senior instructor



Photo by Shirley Herwig

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Bowens (left) accepts the noncommissioned officer's sword from Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Gabbert (right) as swordbearer Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Carter looks on during the MICC assumption of responsibility ceremony Jan. 16 at Fort Bliss, Texas. Gabbert is MICC commanding general and Carter is assigned to the 412th Contracting Support Brigade.

and division chief at the Recruiting and Retention School, first sergeant at the battalion level, and sergeant major for the Soldier Support Institute at Fort Jackson, S.C. He served as the command sergeant major at the battalion level prior to the recruiting brigade.

Bowens is a gradu-

ate of all of the Army NCO Education System courses, including the Sergeants Major Academy class of 57. He also holds a Master of Business Administration in Project Management from Columbia Southern University and MBA in Human Resource Management from Trident University.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters, and Glen E. Morrell Ring and Medallion. He is authorized to wear the Air Assault Badge.

## Small bat colony found at JBSA-Lackland basic training dorm

By Nathan Simmons  
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

A San Antonio-area bat control contractor assisted Joint Base San Antonio officials in determining that a small colony of bats is hibernating in the exterior walls of the large brick dormitory building belonging to the 331st Training Squadron at JBSA-Lackland.

The colony is made up of about 500 to 600 Mexican free-tailed bats.

Mexican free-tailed bats are common to Texas and the San Antonio area and are widely-regarded as the most abundant mammal in North America. Large roosts of more than 10,000 bats are commonplace.

The investigation into possible bat roosting was launched when bats were observed by trainees in four areas within the building during the past few weeks.

While the bats were found to be nesting in the exterior walls of the building, they most likely entered the living quarters through windows that were left open overnight during unseasonably warm weather in early January.

Since finding the bats, JBSA officials have ordered the windows remain closed and, to ensure the bats have no access to the living quarters, civil engineers

have aggressively been working to seal the interior of the building and installed mesh covers over all interior vents while checking ceiling tiles and doors.

As a further precaution, officials have established a nighttime manned watch of all interior living quarters to ensure that no bat makes it inside the dormitory without being detected while trainees are sleeping.

"We're taking every precaution to ensure that the bats don't reenter the living quarters; if one does make it in, we'll be able to detect it before it comes into contact with a trainee," said Brent Boller, JBSA spokesman.

Boller said the next step in the process involves sealing the exterior of the building in a way that allows bats to

See BATS, P17

## HOUSTON ASTROS PLAYERS VISIT CENTER FOR THE INTREPID



Army Maj. Owen Hill, Center for the Intrepid research director is all smiles while meeting with current Astros players – second basemen Jose Altuve, starting pitcher Mark Appel, and former Astros player Art Howe -- during their visit to the Center for the Intrepid on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 22. The players, along with team president Reid Ryan and the Astros' announcer Bill Brown, also signed autographs and baseballs for wounded service members and staff at the center.



**Photos by Robert Shields**

Army Maj. Will Lyles (center), a former collegiate baseball player and wounded warrior, talks with Houston Astros starting pitcher Mark Appel (left) second baseman Jose Altuve during their visit to the Center for the Intrepid Jan. 22.

# 502nd Air Base Wing honors its best at annual awards banquet

By Airman 1st Class Krystal M. Jeffers  
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, recognized 32 nominees at the 502nd ABW Annual Awards Banquet at JBSA-Lackland's Gateway Club.

Individual category winners are:

- Junior Enlisted Member of the Year: Airman 1st Class Corey Linder, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron

- NCO of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Latoria Ellis, 502nd Contracting Squadron

- Senior Enlisted Member of the Year: Master Sgt. Ruben Lerma, 502nd Communications Squadron

- First Sergeant of the Year: Master Sgt. De'Lisa Harris, 902nd Security Forces Squadron

- Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Robert Carter, 502nd Comptrollers Squadron

- Honor Guard Junior Enlisted Member of the Year: Airman 1st Class James Gianotti, 690th Network Support Squadron

- Honor Guard NCO Member of the Year: Staff Sgt. Desmond Darden, 902nd Force Support Squadron

- Civilian Non-Supervisory of the Year in Category I: Nathan Woodard, 502nd Force Support Squadron

- Civilian Non-Supervisory of the Year in Category II: Jacquelyn Christilles, 502nd Security Forces and Logistic Support Group, Judge Advocate

- Civilian Supervisory of the Year in Category I: Jennifer Martinez, 802nd Force Support Squadron

- Civilian Supervisory of the Year in Category II: Scott Ruiz, 502nd Security Forces and Logistic Support Group



Photo by Airman 1st Class Krystal M. Jeffers

Some of the individual award winners at the 502nd Air Base Wing Annual Awards Banquet at JBSA-Lackland's Gateway Club include (from left) Scott Ruiz, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group; Jacquelyn Christilles, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group Judge Advocate; Nathan Woodard, 502nd Force Support Squadron; Jennifer Martinez, 802nd FSS; Staff Sgt. Desmond Darden, 902nd FSS; Airman 1st Class Corey Linder, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman 1st Class James Gianotti, 690th Network Support Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Latoria Ellis, 502nd Contracting Squadron; and Master Sgt. Ruben Lerma, 502nd Communications Squadron.

## News Briefs

### Continued from P3

receive notification of the submissions and will review all tips entered through the system. Directions for download can be found on the district's website at <http://www.fshisd.net>.

### Hip and Knee Replacements

The San Antonio Military Medical Center Orthopedic Service announces that hip and knee replacements are available to all TRICARE beneficiaries, including patients over the age of 65. Ask your primary care provider for a referral to the orthopedic clinic at SAMMC if you are a candidate for hip or knee replacement surgery. For more information, call 916-6386.

### Security And Policy Review

Members of the 502nd Air Base Wing preparing a speech or document for public release on defense-related subjects must contact the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston public affairs office at 221-1099. The appropriate authorities must review material relating to the plans, policies, programs or operations of the Department of Defense or U.S. Government before presentation or publication. For JBSA-Lackland, call 671-2908 and for JBSA-Randolph, call 652-4410.

### Straight Talk Line

For current, automated information during a natural disaster, crisis or emergency, call the local Straight Talk Line at 466-4630 for Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, 671-6397 at JBSA-Lackland or 652-7469 at JBSA-Randolph.

### Commander's Action Line

The Commander's Action Line exists to address issues that have not been resolved through the chain of command or an appropriate agency and also give feedback and recognize outstanding people and units. Give a point of contact name and telephone number or email address. To submit an Action Line comment, email the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston public affairs office at [usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.fsh-public-affairs-office@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.fsh-public-affairs-office@mail.mil); JBSA-Lackland at [502abw.paola.inbox@us.af.mil](mailto:502abw.paola.inbox@us.af.mil) and at [randolphpublicaffairs@us.af.mil](mailto:randolphpublicaffairs@us.af.mil).

# Wounded Soldier hopes to 'pay it forward' as doctor

By Elaine Sanchez  
Brooke Army Medical Center  
Public Affairs

It took a devastating loss in Afghanistan for an Army officer to find his new calling.

Maj. Will Lyles, a bilateral amputee, is prepping night and day so he can ace the entry exams for medical school and become a doctor.

It's a path this athlete and Special Forces Soldier never would have dreamed of just a few years earlier.

"I feel like being a doctor would allow me to continue to serve in the best possible way," said Lyles, who had just stepped off a treadmill at the Center for the Intrepid.

"It's my way of paying it forward after countless nurses, doctors and case managers [from Brooke Army Medical Center] worked so tirelessly to help me."

From an early age, Lyles said he aspired to be a professional baseball player. He secured a baseball scholarship to Virginia Military Institute, but a shoulder injury put a swift end to that dream.

After college, Lyles decided a military career would put him on the right track. He joined the Army in 2003, and deployed twice to Iraq as an infantry officer.

Always striving for excellence, Lyles was accepted into the Special Forces Qualification Course in March 2009. "I wanted to work with the best of the best – the 1 percent of the 1 percent," he said.

After graduation in

April 2010, Lyles was assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, N.C., and soon deployed to Afghanistan.

That summer, Lyles and his unit were en route to a key leader engagement in an Afghan village when they came under heavy insurgent fire in the outskirts of town. Lyles headed up a hill to assess the situation. It wasn't until he was moving back down that he stepped on an improvised explosive device.

The moment, he said, was strangely surreal. He looked down at his mangled legs and shouted for a medic while fighting to stay calm. "I kept thinking, 'Don't freak out. Don't freak out.' But at the same time I'm also thinking, 'I'm going to die.'"

Fearing the worst, the father of four thought of his children and his family, and felt a "desperate calm" wash over him.

Moments later, the medevac arrived and he blacked out. He had lost his left leg above the knee and his right just below, suffered burns on his lower body and broke his femur and hand.

In Germany, he became critically ill from an infection in his right leg. He was flown to BAMC, where it took the removal of his knee and the bottom of his femur before the infection finally broke.

"I felt very fortunate to be alive," he said.

Finally stable, this avid athlete and elite Soldier now had to come to terms with his future as a bilat-

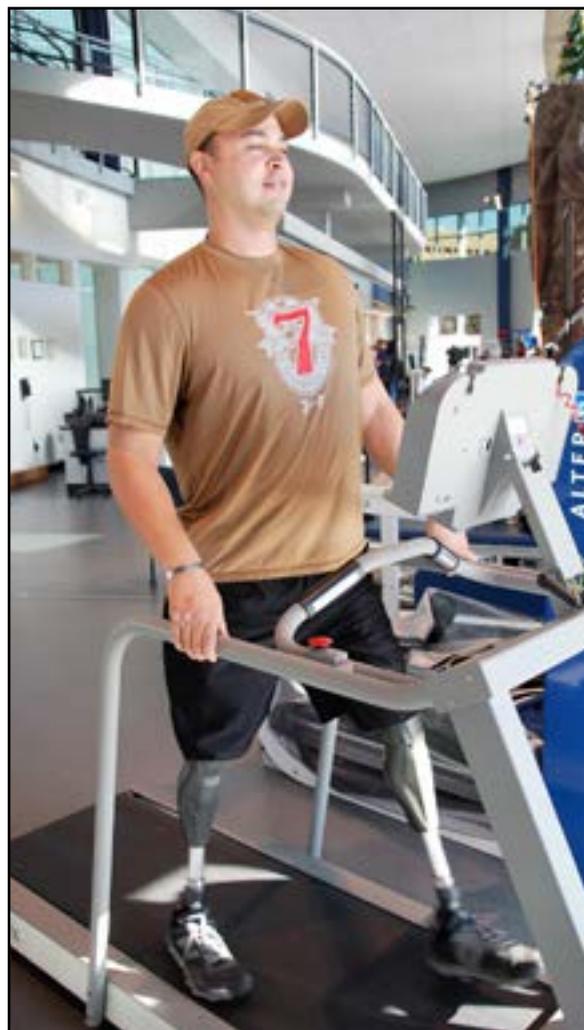


Photo by Robert Shields

Army Maj. Will Lyles walks on a treadmill at the Center for the Intrepid Jan. 15. Lyles, who was injured in Afghanistan in 2010, is hoping to "pay it forward" by becoming a doctor.

eral above the knee amputee.

"It was a big adjustment at first," he said. "I remember lying in bed thinking 'I'm going to have to be dependent on others for the rest of my life.' That was huge for someone as independent as me."

As he recovered in the hospital, Lyles began to receive a steady stream of visits from other wounded service members. He watched them stride in on prosthetic legs, and felt a glimmer of hope for his future.

"These guys were driving, running, living their lives independently," he said.

"Their visits helped me reach a turning point," he added. "I could either feel sorry for myself or move on. I decided to move on."

As an outpatient, Lyles' persistence was tested daily as he underwent treatment at the CFI, BAMC's state-of-the-art rehabilitation center.

It was there, surrounded by his comrades, that he strengthened his body and

learned to walk on prosthetic legs. Today, he walks briskly on a treadmill while discussing his military career without a misstep.

With his physical recovery on track, Lyles began to consider his future and how he could make the biggest difference. He thought back on the four years of care he'd received here and how much it meant to him.

"From the medics in the battlefield to doctors and nurses in every level facility along the way, they all had a profound effect on me," he said. "I decided I could do great things as a doctor."

He pictures himself walking into a fellow amputee's room as a physician, his presence serving as a silent affirmation that anything is possible. "I can let them know that they have a lot to offer," he said. "They can be productive citizens and achieve great things."

In preparation, Lyles has been gaining real-world experience by shadowing orthopedic surgeons at BAMC. Next, he plans to medically retire and work with retired Army Col. John Holcomb, former commander of the Institute of Surgical Research, at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, where he'll continue to strengthen his application for medical school.

"I'm determined to chase down this dream," Lyles said. "The phenomenal help I received medically and personally after my injury... I'm so grateful and now want to pass on that care to others."

# U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research NCO selected for clinical laboratory scientist commission

By Steven Galvan

U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Public Affairs

Sgt. Victor Gaines, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Directed Energy Group of the ocular trauma task area at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, has been selected for a commission as a clinical laboratory scientist.

Gaines received his commission this month after attending the Basic Officer Leadership Course at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

"I am excited about being selected for a commission," he said. "I believe I was selected because I take care of Soldiers and know my job."

Gaines has been in the Army for seven years and at the institute for two years.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from the University of Texas at San Antonio, as well as a medical technology certification.

"I am very excited to apply my knowledge to my work," Gaines said.

"I love being a non-commissioned officer and I will miss the direct development of Soldiers."

Growing up as an Army "brat," Gaines knew that he would



Photo by Steven Galvan

Sgt. Victor Gaines removes an aluminum membrane between the driver and driven section of the shock tube after a burst. Gaines has been selected for a commission as a clinical laboratory scientist.

join the Army.

"It's a family tradition," he said. "My stepdad, both grandfathers and my uncle served in the Army."

Gaines will receive orders to his first assignment as a commissioned officer this month and will continue working on his current and long-term goals.

"My short-term goal is to finish my master's degree and my long-term goal is to retire from the Army," he said.

Gaines insists on giving all the credit for completing this milestone in his

Army career to his family.

"They supported me the first two times that I was put on the order of merit list. They encouraged me to put in my packet again this year"

The OML means he meets requirements for selection and can be selected if selected applicants cannot fulfill commission obligations.

Gaines provides the same advice for anyone seeking to earn a direct commission in the Army.

"Don't give up if you're not selected," he said.

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**3 x 9.75 AD**

## TOWN HALL from P1

taking questions after briefing their portion of the meeting.

Several questions were asked about specific situations which community members have encountered or wanted to know more about, such as proper reporting for suspicious activities, registering guests to the installation when they visit, resolving appointment issues in the medical system for those who work for one service but live in another area, and even ways to reduce the number of missed or late appointments,

which Campbell said was a big priority for him. "Each no show affects three people," Campbell emphasized. "This is a serious issue."

LaBrutta said while they have their priorities of issues to address, each question and topic will be given due attention and looked into accordingly.

"Safety and security are our top priorities," he said. "However, we have to think differently ... to think outside the box. We have to go back to the way we used to do things."

Wiggins reiterated what

LaBrutta explained. "The way we did business in the past, at least the past 13 years, is not how we're going to solve the future of our services," Wiggins said.

Both Wiggins and LaBrutta explained the importance of town halls. "Bottom line, town halls are all about getting after issues and being informative. And one thing that is true about the leadership team here on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, we're all about getting after tough issues and putting out information – that is what's key."



Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, commanding general, Army North, and senior Army commander for Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, addresses a concern during a town hall meeting Jan. 21 at Evans Theater, one of several held at the various locations under JBSA.

**Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart**

# Fostering Heroes:

## Raising a military working dog

By Leslie Finstein  
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

Always watching with sharp eyes, sharp ears and all senses in tune; protecting our nation on the front-lines of Afghanistan, in our airports, on our streets and in our backyards; these warriors are fierce, powerful, highly trained and ready for action.

But before they can serve our nation, they have to stop being so darned cuddly and definitely get housebroken.

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, the same goes for raising a Belgian Malinois to be a military working dog.

For Dr. Stewart Hilliard, Perry “Shawn” Geurin and the breeding program team at the 341st Training Squadron on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, every day is devoted to breeding and raising America’s next generations of four-legged heroes.

The Department of Defense hired Hilliard in 1998 to start the military working dog breeding program in April of that year at then Lackland Air Force Base.

Hilliard’s background in breeding and raising dogs combined with his doctorate in behavioral neuroscience, “a fancy way of saying animal learning” said Hilliard, made him the perfect candidate to lead the program and why he’s been in the job ever since.

Why start a military working dog breeding program?

Hilliard, a tall man with salt-and-pepper hair who looks ready to work with the dogs at any time in his working boots, camo pants and layered long-sleeve shirts, said the DOD would purchase MWDs from breeders in Europe where they have at least 100 years of rais-

ing and breeding these working dogs, such as police dogs.

In the late 1990’s, after decades of bringing in dogs from Europe, the DOD saw a need to breed and raise their own in response to the nation’s growing need for dogs.

“Dogs are really surprisingly important to the modern military,” Hilliard said. “We think of this as an age of high technology: Satellites, GPS, computers and technologies of all kinds and it is a surprising fact that dogs, properly trained dogs, especially explosives detecting dogs, are still the single most effective countermeasure against the kinds of things that people use to try to hurt our people”

“A good bomb detector dog is still the most flexible, the most efficient, the most cost effective means for us to find (improvised explosive devices) and things like that.”

Hilliard said that, while the MWD bloodlines and training theories are European in origin, DOD models their breeding program on the way Seeing Eye dogs and similar service dogs are raised.

It’s a community approach. The DOD “essentially leverages volunteer labor to get the dogs raised,” Hilliard said.

“The puppies go through three phases of life and there is a team of people around them every step of the way,” said Geurin, former active duty Navy and Air Force police officer, and now Air Force civilian.

Love for the job and for these dogs permeates the program.

First, the whelping staff works with the mother dogs through the pregnancies and helps with their newborn pups. This team is hands on, 24/7

with the pups through the first six weeks of their lives.

Kimberly Davis, puppy development specialist working at JBSA-Lackland since 2007, has worked in all departments of the military working dog program and now is here in the whelping kennel sitting in her scrubs in the lobby. The nondescript building has a bucket of bleach out front to clean shoes in to prevent germs from reaching the pups. The puppies were visible on the monitors in the corner, playing and sleeping in their kennels.

At this age, 6 weeks, they had been separated from their mothers in anticipation of their fostering that begins the following week.

When asked why she loves her job, Davis pointed to the screens above her.

“They are fun, cute and adorable and they need someone to take care of them,” Davis said.

They are always learning, imprinting and discovering things, Davis said, adding that she gets to experience it all up close.

“There is a lot of work involved too. They need feeding, bathing, sometimes medicating. We have to ensure the health and welfare of these guys.

“There are many rewards to it, I mean, who doesn’t

love puppies?”

Next comes the foster stage, where Geurin is the unit lead.

Foster families have been part of the program since the very beginning and without the fosters, the program could not run, said Hilliard.

Fosters are volunteers who help the DOD raise well-adjusted puppies for military service.

From 6 ½ weeks to 7 months every potential future working dog born in the unit will spend time with a foster family.

After the foster stage, the dogs return to base to begin months of training and testing to become military working dogs.

The goal of the foster program is to socialize the puppies and instill some basic skills like obedience, playing with rubber balls and other toys, playing tug of war, and the building blocks of military



Courtesy Photo  
Military working dog and new mom, Lisa, with her six puppies at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Saturday. The puppies are the WW4 litter which is the 101st litter born at JBSA-Lackland under the Department of Defense military working dog breeding program.

training through weekend courses on the base.

To Hilliard’s surprise, the people who have volunteered to foster the puppies have become very committed to the task.

“Our most productive volunteer has raised 13 or 14 puppies for us,” Hilliard said. “That’s six or seven years of her life with one of our puppies in her home.”

The fosters have become their own community with a (private) Facebook page separate from the official Facebook page for the program.

“It’s like a club,” Hilliard said. “These people are completely committed to this.”

“I think it’s a combination of being devoted to what we do, and thinking (they) are making a valuable contribution to the military, supporting the military, national defense and all



# Joint Base San Antonio

## FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

### Monthly Events

### February

#### Arts & Crafts

##### Save with custom frame special

The JBSA-Lackland Arts & Crafts Center offers a custom frame special saving patrons 30 percent off select frames Feb. 4-14. Frame experts assist patrons in choosing the right materials to best showcase artwork, photograph or mementos. Additionally, custom framing at Arts & Crafts has significant savings compared to off-base competitors. For more information, call 671-2515.

#### Auto Hobby

##### Auto Hobby Shop offers Texas vehicle safety inspections

The JBSA-Lackland Auto Hobby Shop performs Texas vehicle safety inspections for \$14.50 pass or fail. For more information, call 671-3549.

#### Bowling

##### Patrons enjoy great deals at the bowling center

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center offers 51 games and shoe rentals Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy "Red Pin" bowling every Wednesday and Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 221-3683.

##### Sunday bowling fun for the entire family

Families get a bowling lane for an hour, a large pizza, soda and bowling shoes for \$45. This special takes place every Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. For more information, call 221-3863.

##### Patrons watch the Big Game at JBSA Bowling Centers

Catch the "Big Game" and bowl at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center Feb. 2, starting at 5:30 p.m. Patrons will enjoy watching the game on five video screens giving a clear view of the game while bowling. The party includes two hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, wings and a fountain drink for \$18.95 per person. Patrons who choose not to bowl can watch the game in Primo's Lounge on any of their eight TVs or on the new 70-inch screen. For more information, call 671-1234.

Watch the "Big Game" at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Feb. 2 and get unlimited bowling for groups of four people. The cost is \$48 and includes unlimited bowling, free rental shoes, a 16-inch pizza and 20 ounce drink. There will also be lots of giveaways such as T-shirts, bowling balls and bags and much more. For more information, call 652-6271.

##### Couples enjoy Valentine's Day at bowling center

JBSA-Randolph Bowling center celebrates Valentine's Day with a "Sweetheart Mixed Doubles Tournament" Feb. 9, 1 p.m. The team composition is one male and one female. Sign up in advance at the bowling center. The price is \$30 per couple and doors open at noon. For more information, call 652-6271.

##### Patrons win money while bowling

The JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center's "Colorama" takes place Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. Patrons win money while bowling when they strike on the posted combination of colored pins. The entry fee is \$15 per person with optional side pots available. For more information, call 652-6271.

##### Bowling enthusiasts celebrate Presidents' Day

The JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center celebrates the Presidents' Day weekend Feb. 14-17, with a special bowling rate of \$2.50 (excluding Cosmic Bowling) per game, per person with \$2.35 shoe rental. For more information, call 652-6271.

##### Skylark Bowling Center undergoes improvements

Construction to improve flooring and the ceiling continues during the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center during February leaving partial lanes open to patrons. For more information, call 671-1234.

#### Clubs

##### Celebrate the Big Game at JBSA clubs

JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts a Super Bowl party Feb. 2 starting at 3 p.m. Patrons will enjoy finger foods, watching the game on big-screen TVs and enjoy DJ Doggin' Dave Productions' music throughout the night. For more information, call 645-7034.

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club hosts the best "Big Game" party Feb. 2. The Nite Club opens at 11 a.m. for the tailgate party and closes when the game is over. Gil's Pub opens at 3 p.m. for a private VIP party. There will be great food and beverage specials and lots of giveaways. Customers must be a Randolph club member to win. For more information, call 652-3056.

##### Feast on pre-Valentine's lunch at Gateway Club

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club features a Valentine's lunch buffet Feb. 11, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feast on entrees such as roast beef au jus, chicken breast with wine sauce, cranberry-kissed pork chops and more. Price per person is \$9.95. For more information, call 645-7034.

##### Celebrate Valentine's Day at JBSA clubs

JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club invites customers to celebrate Valentine's Day with a romantic dinner and dance Feb. 14, 5:30-8:30 p.m., featuring music provided by DJ Stevie Mac Dance Machine. The event includes dinner, dessert and Champagne. The price is \$55 for member couples or \$65 for nonmember couples. Dinner for one is \$30 for members or \$35 for nonmembers. Advance reservations are required and may be purchased at the cashier's cage. For more information, call 645-7034.

Customers celebrate with their significant other at the Parr Club Feb. 14, 6 p.m. This romantic evening begins with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. The buffet includes an extensive salad bar, pork scallopini, Chianti braised beef, chicken Francese and more, along with assorted vegetables and side dishes. The dessert bar is available at 9 p.m. with entertainment provided by Texas Chili Peppers 8 p.m. to midnight. For the dinner, dance and brunch package, the price is \$100 per couple for members or \$120 per couple for nonmembers. For dinner and dance only, the price is \$70 per couple for members or \$90 per couple for nonmembers. Reservations are required. For more information, call 652-4864.

##### Gateway Club features Mardi Gras party

Patrons are encouraged to wear their favorite beads to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club Mardi Gras party Feb. 28, 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., in the Lonestar Lounge. Enjoy music by the Show Band from 6-9 p.m. and music played by Doggin' Dave Productions 5-6 p.m. For more information, call 645-7034.

#### Community Programs

##### Harlequin Dinner Theatre presents "Dial 'M' For Murder"

A man married his wife for her money and plans to murder her for the same reason. He arranges for the perfect crime and creates a brilliant alibi for himself. Unfortunately the murderer gets murdered and the victim survives. Dial "M" For Murder runs through March 1 at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. For more information, call 222-9694.

##### Find love with cocktails and theater

The JBSA-Arnold Hall Community Center and Lackland Performing Arts Group present their Valentine's performance Feb. 14 and 15, 7-9 p.m. The cost for the dinner and Valentine's Day themed show is \$20 per person, \$15 for seniors ages 65 and older, \$10 for tech students, and \$5 for children 12 years and younger. Reserved seating and a cash bar are available. For more information, call 671-2619.

# JBSA FSS

## Find treasures at Skylark flea market

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Community Center hosts their quarterly flea market, March 1, 8 a.m. to noon, at the Warhawk Fitness Center parking lot. Enjoy shopping, food and music. Sellers can rent spaces for \$10 and tables for \$5 each. Sign up early as spaces sell fast. For more information, call 671-3191.

## Price matching framing saves patrons money

The JBSA-Randolph Community Services Mall offers framing at discounted rates. Expert framers are available to help pick out that perfect custom frame for any special occasion such as sports awards, special achievements or graduations. In addition, the Community Services Mall will match any off-base price on a comparable custom framing job and customers pay no sales tax. For more information, call 652-5142.

## Wide variety of equipment available for all types of events

The JBSA-Randolph Community Service Mall offers equipment at great prices for all types of events. For more information, call 652-5142 option 2.

## Fitness and Sports

### Patrons enjoy running and biking event

The JBSA-Randolph Fitness Center hosts the Run/Bike/Run Feb. 1, 7 a.m., at Eberle Park. Patrons run a 5K, bike 10 miles and finish with a mile and a half run. For more information, call 652-7263.

### Runners celebrate Valentine's Day with a run/walk

JBSA-Randolph Fitness Center invites all patrons to celebrate Valentine's Day by running or walking a 5K at Eberle Park Feb. 14, 7:30 a.m. For more information, call 652-7263.

### JBSA patrons try to lift 100 tons

Patrons head to JBSA-Rambler Fitness Center Feb. 19 and join the 100-Ton Club. The Club consists of members who have lifted 100 tons of weight on any free weight or plate loaded machine in one day. Stop by the fitness center's front desk and pick up the 100-ton log book to track weights lifted throughout the day. If patrons make it to the goal of 100 tons at some point during the day, they turn in their log book to the front desk and become a member of the Rambler 100-Ton Club. For more information, call 652-7263.

Contestants lift 100 tons in one day using free weight or plate loaded machines at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston on the Medical Education Training Campus Feb. 28 for this all day event. Contestants who complete the 100 ton challenge receive a T-shirt, while supplies last, and become a member of this very prestigious club. For more information, call 808-5709.

### Patrons take part in Mardi Gras Zumba® Fest

Patrons experience the fast paced action of Zumba® on a new level Feb. 22, 10 a.m., at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. For more information, call 221-1234.

## Golf

### Gateway Hills hosts The Big Game Tournament

JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course hosts the 8th Annual Super Bowl Tournament in celebration of the "Big Game." Patrons will participate in this two-person scramble with modified Stableford scoring. The team with the highest point total wins with gross and net prizes awarded. The \$40 entry fee per player includes a commemorative hat, lunch, beverages and prizes. Does not include green fees and cart. For more information, call 671-3466.

### Golfers invited to scramble

Golfers are invited to play in the monthly "Warrior Four-Person Scramble" Feb. 7, with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start time, at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. The scramble includes 18 holes of golf, dinner, gift certificates for the winners of the longest drive and the closest to the pin and for first, second and third place. For more information, call 222-9386.

### Patrons celebrate Presidents' Day with golf

The JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course hosts a Presidents Day Golf Tournament Feb. 17. The tee times are 7-9 a.m. and the entry fee is \$10, plus green fees and cart rental. For more information, call 652-4570.

### Golfers improve swing

The JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course offers golfers the opportunity to improve their game and lower their scores. Golfers can make appointments with Brian Cannon or Charles Bishop for golf lessons. For more information, call 652-4653.

**IDOL FACTOR**  
GOT TALENT?  
YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE

**CASH MONEY**

Participants are needed for the 2014 Idol Factor singing competition that begins in April and pays out prize money to the top three singers in JBSA.

For more information and a registration packet, go to [www.randolphhs.com](http://www.randolphhs.com), or contact Steve Knorrhead, JBSA Community Programs, at (210) 257-7358 (stephen.knorrhead@us.af.mil).

### Golf Course available for special events

The JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course offers special event packages for retirements, promotions, weddings and sports outings. For more information, call Corita at 652-4852.

## Information, Tickets and Travel

### Information, Tickets and Travel offers trips to casino

The JBSA-Randolph Information, Tickets and Travel offers several trips to the Grand Casino Coshatta in Kinder, La., throughout the year. Trips are scheduled for March 18-19, May 13-14 and July 15-16. Each trip includes round-trip motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, a voucher for \$23 from the casino and tour guide. The bus departs at 7:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 9:30 p.m. the next day. Cost is \$60 for double occupancy or \$120 for single occupancy. Sign-up deadline is two weeks prior to trip date and payment is required at sign up. For more information, call 652-5142, option 1.

### Find magical discounts for Sherwood Forest Faire

JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel offers discounted tickets to the Sherwood Forest Faire located in McDade, Texas, running weekends Feb. 8 through March 30. The whimsical faire takes patrons back to days of jousting and sword fighting with sights, old-time food and shopping for crafts from over 130 different artisans. For more information, call 671-7111.

**1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GATEWAY CUP**  
Earn points at each event & accumulate the most to be named the 2014 Gateway Cup Champion!

New Year's Tournament January 19 • Individual \$10 entry fee	GHGC Ryder Cup September 27-28 • Individual \$10 entry fee (by invitation only for the Top 24 Players in the Gateway Cup standings)
Super Bowl Scramble February 2 • 2-Person \$40 entry fee	GHGC Breast Cancer Tournament October 19 • Individual \$10 entry fee
March Madness Match Play March 1-30 • Individual \$10 entry fee per round	GHGC Turkey Shoot November 22-23 • Individual \$10 entry fee
GHGC Masters • April 26-27 • Individual \$10 entry fee	Gateway Cup Championship December 15-16 • Individual \$10 entry fee • March double points
4, 6, 6 Tournament May 24 • 2-Person \$10 entry fee	
GHGC US Open • June 14-15 • Individual \$10 entry fee	
GHGC Open Championship • July 23-26 • Individual \$10 entry fee	
GHGC PGA Championship • August 9-10 • Individual \$10 entry fee	

**J FORCE**  
COMMUNITY

**F U**  
COMMUNITY

### Book travel online via Information, Tickets and Travel's one-stop shop

The Force Support Squadron's Information, Tickets and Travel office has a website catering to the military community's travel planning needs: <http://www.jbsatravel.com>. It's a one-stop location for booking air, hotel and car rental arrangements online. For more information regarding vacation packages and cruises fill out a travel request online and a leisure travel agent will contact you with all the information to make your vacation dreams a reality. For more information, visit <http://www.jbsatravel.com> or call 671-3133.

### Travel Europe on 11-day dream tour

JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel offers an 11-day dream group tour March 9-19. Travelers tour London, Paris, Lucerne, Venice, Verise and Rome. Rates start at \$3,500 per person and include airfare. Additional discounts are available. For more information, call 671-7111.

### Summer European travel packages available

JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel offers a variety of unique packages to European destinations through Trafalgar Tours. The "Italian Scene" features an 11-day trip starting at \$3,500 per person. The "Spanish Experience" features a 10-day excursion starting at \$3,000 per person. The "Greek Island Explorer" is an 11-day trip starting at \$3,800 per person. The "European Experience" is a 15-day tour starting at \$4,300 per person. Payment plans are available. For more information, call 671-7111.

### Discount tickets offered to customers

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ticket Office located in the Sam Houston Community Center sells discount tickets. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 808-1378.

## Library

### Patrons compete in Valentine's Day coloring contest

The JBSA-Randolph Library hosts a Valentine's Day coloring contest Feb. 1-15. Stop by the library to pick up a coloring sheet, color it and return it to the library by Feb. 15 for a chance to win. Two age groups are encouraged to participate, 5 and younger and 6 to 10 years of age. One winner will be picked from each age group. For more information, call 652-5578 or 652-2617.

### Children's Story Time entertains and teaches

The JBSA-Randolph Library offers "Story Time" at 10 a.m. every Wednesday. It is a great opportunity for children to listen to wonderful stories and participate in a simple craft. "Story Time" also allows children to interact with other young children and to start building their social skills. "Story Time" themes and dates are Feb. 5, Olympics; Feb. 12, Valentine's Day; Feb. 19, Dental Health, with a representative from the dental clinic stopping by with a presentation and Feb. 26, Self Esteem. For more information, call 652-5578 or 652-2617.

### Library holds federal job workshop

The JBSA-Lackland Library and Military & Family Readiness Center hosts an Interview Tips and Tricks workshop Feb. 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Patrons learn the basics of how to apply for federal jobs in this course. For more information, call 671-3610.

### Special Valentine's Story Time

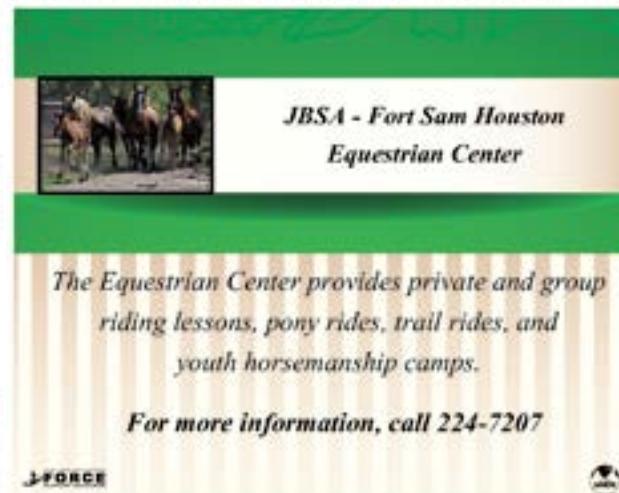
Families are invited to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library to celebrate Valentine's Day and the joy of reading with children Feb. 8, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Special stories and crafts will be the heart of the program. For more information, call 221-4702.

### Next level gaming fun

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library hosts its monthly gaming day Feb. 14, 5:30-7 p.m. Gamers can choose from Xbox, Wii, PS3 and classic board games. For more information, call 221-4702.

### Story Time is a hit with preschoolers

Stories, crafts and songs are all part of the weekly story time every Thursday, 10 a.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library. This month's story time dates are Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27. For more information, call 221-4702.



**JBSA - Fort Sam Houston  
Equestrian Center**

*The Equestrian Center provides private and group riding lessons, pony rides, trail rides, and youth horsemanship camps.*

**For more information, call 224-7207**

J-FORCE

## Military & Family Readiness Center

### Spouses take part in pre-deployment resiliency training

Pre-deployment resiliency training is Feb. 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center and is specifically helpful for those families getting ready for a deployment. For more information, call 221-9079.

### Members learn resume techniques

The JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center teaches techniques that assist members in preparing a non-federal style resume Feb. 5, 9:30-11 a.m. For more information, call 652-5321.

### Bundles for babies available

The JBSA-Randolph Military and Family Readiness Center hosts "Bundles for Babies" Feb. 7, 8:30 a.m. to noon. This program is an Air Force Aid Society program for active-duty members of any rank, DOD employees, NAF employees and their spouses who are expecting a baby. Active-duty Air Force attendees receive a "bundle" of baby supplies at the conclusion of the workshop. For more information, call 652-5321.

### Teaching as a second career

Military members who are separating and interested in pursuing teaching as a second career are invited to a workshop at the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center Feb. 7, 1-3 p.m. A Texas state coordinator focuses on eligibility requirements, job availability, finding and certification through Troops for Teachers. For more information, call 671-3722.

### Parents learn special education basics

The JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center holds a "Top 10 Basics of Special Education" workshop Feb. 11, noon to 1:30 p.m. This course covers special education laws, processes and the difference between Individualized Education Program and the 504 Plan. For more information, call 671-3722.

### Patrons learn about survivor benefit planning

The JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center helps the service member and spouse become familiar with the options and advantages of a survivor benefit plan Feb. 18, 8-9:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. For more information, call 652-3633.

### Class teaches spouses re-integration skills

The JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center hosts "Open Arms," a workshop for spouses of returning military members Feb. 19, 1-2 p.m. The class offers solutions to the various challenges specific to reuniting couples and families and provides resiliency skills and resources. For more information, call 652-5321.

### Patrons enjoy family dance

This semi-formal dance provides an opportunity for Exceptional Family Member Program families to express their love for one another and have fun in a less stressful social setting. Come out Feb. 13, 3-7 p.m., to the Military & Family Readiness Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and enjoy dinner, pampering, a photo booth and different types of dance. Registration must be submitted to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston EFMP office. Limited spaces are available so register now. There is no cost for military families who are enrolled in EFMP to participate in this event. For more information, call 221-2962.

### Family Life Program offer classes to patrons

During February, the Family Life Program is offering multiple classes covering parenting skills, relationship enhancement and general life skills. Classes are offered at multiple locations throughout JBSA. For more information, call 221-0349.

## Classes scheduled to celebrate Military Saves Month

During February, the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center offers multiple classes covering first time car buyers, home buyers, planning for college and financial basics. For a complete list of classes, dates and times, call 652-5321.

## Financial readiness is important for everyone

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center offers service members and their families classes to help them face uncertain financial times. Available classes include: credit and debt management, budgeting, saving and investing, consumer awareness and more. Registration is required for all classes. For information on dates and times or to register, call 221-2380 or 221-2418.

## Outdoor Recreation

### Patrons sell and purchase at the flea market

The JBSA-Randolph Outdoor Recreation hosts a flea market at the Randolph Clinic parking lot for both seller's and buyers, Feb. 15, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost to rent a space is \$15 and includes one six-foot long table. Sign up early since spaces and tables go fast. The selling of firearms, animals, arts and crafts, food items and beverages is not permissible. For more information, call 652-5142, option 2.

### Patrons get free night

The JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake offers patrons a great deal on bungalows during February. Patrons stay two nights and get the third night free. Each bungalow is equipped with a microwave, refrigerator and sink, a full-size bed, bunk beds (sleeps four but customers need to bring their own linens), air conditioning, heating and a bathroom with a hot shower. For more information, call 830-994-3576.

### Park cabanas rent for half price

During February the JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake rents park cabanas for \$22.50 per night, Monday through Thursday. Patrons are encouraged to enjoy the great outdoors without all the hassle associated with camping out. The park cabanas have one bedroom with a queen bed, sleeper sofa and two bunk beds, a bathroom shower, toilet and sink. The small kitchenette includes a refrigerator, stove, microwave and basic cooking utensils. Linens for beds are provided but towels and toiletries are not provided. For more information, call 830-964-3576.

### Archery Range open for shooting

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Archery Range is open Thursday-Monday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Targets range from 10-60 yards and the cost is \$3 for a daily pass or \$20 for an annual pass. For more information, call 295-7577.

## Youth Programs

### Register for youth sports

Registration for JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs Spring sports is Feb. 1-28. All youth must have a current annual physical, current immunizations and sports registration form on file. The price for t-ball is \$60, 5-6 years of age (must be 5 by March 15) and is coed. The price for coach pitch is \$70

for ages 7-8 and the cost for both baseball and softball is \$70 for 9-18 years old. For more information, call 652-3298.

### Middle School Teen Center offers babysitting course

The next babysitting course begins Feb. 3. The classes meet every Monday and Wednesday at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Middle School Teen Center from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Each month consists of seven different classes with a graduation at the end of the course. The cost for the course is \$35. For more information, call 221-3630.

### Register for First Steps soccer

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs holds First Steps soccer registration Feb. 3-7. The fee is \$35 per child. Parents are required to participate with their child as an extension of the instructor. Sessions meet one hour per week for six weeks. A current physical and immunization record are required at time of registration. For more information, call 671-2388.

### Open forum for teens to talk

This open forum is geared towards teens discussing relevant topics with staff. The event discussion is Feb. 4, 4:15-5 p.m., at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs. For more information, call 221-4488 or 221-4492.

### Become a provider with Family Child Care

JBSA-Lackland Family Child Care holds a new child care provider candidate orientation class Feb. 4-6. Individuals interested in caring for children in their own home and earning extra income can receive all start-up materials and training provided by FCC. Providers are needed to care for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, school-age children and children with special needs during evenings, weekends, swing and midnight shifts, extended duty hours and for the expanded child care program. For more information, call 671-3376 or 671-3379.

### Baseball registration begins

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs conducts baseball registration Feb. 4-20 for children ages 5-12. The fee is \$50 per child. A current sports physical is due at time of registration. Parents may sign up 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., weekdays during the registration period. For more information, call 671-2388.

### Children sharpen basketball skills during clinic

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs in partnership with the African American Heritage Committee hosts the Annual Youth Basketball Clinic at the youth center Feb. 6. The two clinics offered cater to specific age groups: ages 5-9, 4:30-6 p.m. and ages 10-15, 6-7:30 p.m. Each clinic focuses on player development. The cost to attend is one canned food item for donation to a local food bank. Register early. For more information, call 671-2388.

### Youth take part in Black History program

Youth enrolled in the after-school program showcase their talents in observance of Black History month Feb. 7, 4-5:30 p.m. The event takes place at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston School Age Services Program. For more information, call 221-4488 or 221-4492.

### JBSA pre-teens and teens celebrate Valentines' Day

Pre-teens are invited to celebrate Valentines' Day early at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs Feb. 7, 6-9 p.m. The cost is \$3 for members or \$5 for nonmembers. For more information, call 652-3298 or 652-2088 for more information.

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs invites teens to a dance in celebration of Valentine's Day Feb. 7, 8-11 p.m. The evening includes dancing to music by a disc jockey, games and prizes. The cost to attend is \$4 per member or \$5 per nonmember. For more information, call 671-2388.

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs hosts the Rad Red Dance for pre-teens ages 9-12 Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m. The evening includes dancing to music by a disc jockey, games and prizes. The cost to attend is \$4 per member or \$5 per nonmember. For more information, call 671-2388.

### Patrons register for spring break camp

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs hosts a spring break camp March 10-14, 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. This program is open to youth K-6th grade (ages 5-12 years old). Fees are based on total family income and all required paperwork must be on file (pay stubs and shot records are required). Registration takes place Feb. 17-28 during regular business hours. For more information, call 652-3298 or 652-2088.

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs offers camps to children of DOD personnel with the following dates: Feb. 14, register by Feb. 3; and Spring Break Camp, March 10-14, register by Feb. 24. Cost is based on household income. Registrations after due dates incur a \$15 late fee. For more information, call 671-2388.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston spring break camp registration is Feb. 17 through March 10. The camp runs March 10-14 and is open to youth K-12 grade. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-5151.

### Parents get a night off

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs and the Lackland Child Development Program hold Give Parents a Break/Parents' Night Out Feb. 21, 1-5 p.m. The fee is \$15 per child. Fees may be waived with a Give Parents a Break referral. Advance registration is required. For more information, call 671-2388 for YP or 671-1072 for the CDP.



[HTTP://WWW.RANDOLPHFSS.COM](http://www.randolphfss.com)  
[HTTP://WWW.LACKLANDFSS.COM](http://www.lacklandfss.com)  
[HTTP://WWW.FORTSAMMWR.COM](http://www.fortsammwr.com)



Photo by Leslie Finstein

Foster families receive all the supplies they need from the program while raising their puppies including food, toys, crates, leashes and collars. The program works closely with foster families to ensure that they and their puppies receive lots of support.

### MWD from P10

that,” Hilliard said. “It’s (their) patriotic thing to do.

“And some people just love having puppies around.”

Anyone living within two hours’ drive of the base is eligible to apply.

After a family/individual passes all the necessary requirements, including a home visit by Geurin they get to play a part in raising a hero.

The goal is to ensure puppy safety and that their family life is supportive of raising a puppy, i.e. having no more than 3 other dogs/pets and no children under the age of 5.

Fosters then become part of the “breeding program family” and Geurin and his team are there every step of the way.

“I always have my ‘bat-phone’ on,” Geurin said. “My job is to guide them through those months of fostering.”

The fosters also lean on each other for advice and play dates. Their Facebook group, comprised of more than 100 former and current fosters, built a community to help them serve their country through this program.

Marie Takeshita, a foster

since 2011 and Air Force master sergeant working at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center as an operating technician, has fostered four dogs of her own and “babysat” dozens of them.

The puppies can’t leave the local area so if a foster has to go away, there are plenty of past fosters who volunteer to babysit.

“We have a great support network, the fosters are never alone,” Takeshita said.

“It’s very rewarding to know that the dog that I helped foster and grow, and learn a little bit of the basic obedience training, is going to go out there and save people’s lives,” Takeshita said.

The opportunity to serve the nation and support the military was a common theme among the fosters. What was also common was the use of the word family to describe the community of people who raise, foster and train these dogs.

A community of people forged around a common purpose: raising the next generation of American military working dogs, four legged heroes who are on the front lines every day.

### **Basic qualifications for fostering a military working dog:**

- Must live within two hours of Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland
- Must have no more than three personal dogs in the household
- Must not have any children in the household under 5 years of age

**Other qualifications are discussed with applicants in consultation with the foster coordinator and breeding program staff.**

**If interested and can dedicate 5 1/2 months to foster a puppy, please send an email to [MWD.Foster@us.af.mil](mailto:MWD.Foster@us.af.mil).**



Photo by Leslie Finstein

Puppies from the TT4 and UU4 litters take a nap while waiting to meet their foster families at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

**6 x 4.75 AD**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart

Judith Markelz, director of the Warrior and Family Support Center, expresses her deepest thanks to those wounded warriors, families and guests who attended the open house Dec. 4 2013, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the WFSC. "The work we do here involves working directly with wounded warriors and their family members who are in need of reassurance, who are in need of love, who are in need of a place to go where they can feel like they've come home," Markelz said of the WFSC's mission, which has remained unchanged.

## **CHANDLER from P2**

sibility is to help the warrior and their family recover," she said when asked how she manages to keep 10 paid staff members and countless volunteers on track and focused on their jobs. "If there is any confusion on that responsibility, then they are free to go somewhere else. It's as simple as that."

Using the example Markelz has demonstrated, Chandler said he looks for that same commitment in himself and in the Soldiers he is charged with leading.

"Over and over again, she's been there for every

person that walks through the door. She's willing to do whatever needs to take place to make a person's life better," Chandler explained. "To see what Judith has done for the past 10 years I have to take a step back and say, 'OK, do I demonstrate the same level of commitment, care and concern for Soldiers that she does?'"

For Chandler, Markelz is a prime example of what commitment in leadership truly means.

But as another leader in the military, Command Sgt. Maj Hu Rhodes, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp

Bullis senior Army enlisted leader, pointed out, commitment is not a trait that only gets developed once a person is placed in a leadership position.

"Commitment is expected from all, from the newest private to the most senior general," Rhodes said.

Chandler echoed this idea in that he expects

all Army personnel – enlisted, officer, and civilian – to remember they are in the profession of arms, a profession which requires commitment to fellow Soldiers their unit, the Army, and the nation.

"The American people expect us to do our duty," Chandler said. And that requires commitment.

## **BATS from P3**

exit but not return. That process is estimated to be complete in late February.

As a final precaution, all basic training dormitory buildings are being inspected to be certain that bats aren't roosting elsewhere.

None of the trainees have reported being bitten or scratched by the bats and rabies test results have come back negative for one of the bats captured from the

dormitory building.

However, Lt. Col. Brad Winterton, 559th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Public Health Flight commander, said the Air Force has implemented protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, immunizing those trainees who, after close consideration, were determined to be at risk for exposure to the bats.

"We work hand in glove with our civilian col-

leagues at both the local, state and national levels," Winterton said.

"Contacts at the state health department and the CDC were engaged once we understood the breadth of the situation. Questionnaire templates from the CDC helped us focus quickly on making a good assessment of exactly which trainees were at risk."

The 205 trainees who have begun the vaccination process will be finished with the series

by Monday.

Rabies is not contagious person-to-person, and the rabies vaccine is 100 percent effective when given prior to the onset of symptoms.

Joint Base San Antonio officials do not consider this a public health emergency, but are exercising an abundance of caution.

*(Editor's note: The 502nd Air Base Wing/ Joint Base San Antonio Public Affairs office contributed to this article.)*

# AF uniform policy update:

## Welcome back morale T-shirts, badges, limitless athletic shoes

By Staff Sgt. David Salanitri  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

The Air Force updated the policy governing uniform wear Jan. 17, with a goal of not financially burdening Airmen.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III approved several updates to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Dress and Appearance, with many of the changes coming directly from Airmen.

During the past year, Welsh prompted Airmen to make their voice heard through the “Every Dollar Counts” campaign, held last spring, and suggestions made directly to him during base visits or comments to the uniform survey board itself.

“The policy changes revolve around three

areas,” said Col. Patrick Doherty, Director of Air Force Services who has oversight of the uniforms and awards and recognition branch. “The first area of policy changes is focused on heritage, team building, esprit de corps and unit pride.

The second is recognizing and valuing Airmen’s experiences, qualifications and job performance, allowing Airmen to wear what they have earned. The last area is a group of common sense approach inputs from Airmen in the field that senior leaders thought were great ideas.”

There are dozens of updates to the AFI, including the following:

Morale T-shirts/patches representing individual squadrons that were worn in the past to

increase unit pride are now authorized to wear on Fridays. Squadron color T-shirts may be worn with the Airman Battle Uniform or flight suit when in-garrison or on-station during unit temporary duty assignments and contingency deployments.

Shirts must be one color throughout the squadron, and may have only a small squadron patch over the left chest. Wing commanders can authorize personnel from different units to wear the same color T-shirts to facilitate esprit de corps and team building.

For example, maintainers, life support personnel and flight doctors are allowed to wear the color T-shirt of the flying squadron they support. Also authorized is

the in-garrison Friday wear of morale patches and nametags that have tasteful nicknames or call signs on flight suits. Unit commanders have approval authority for morale patches and nametag naming conventions.

Earned Air Force and other services’ badges are authorized to wear, but only the command insignia pin is mandatory. This reverses a previous decision to prohibit wear of qualification badges and various patches on ABUs, to eliminate the need to remove and replace badges for deployment or permanent change of duty station moves.

In recent years, Airmen deployed to Afghanistan wore the Operation Enduring Freedom camouflage pattern.

The OCP is flame retardant, treated with insect repellent and also used by the Army. Following this evolution, the ABU has become primarily an in-garrison uniform, according to Air Force senior leaders.

“The increased wear of the ABU in-garrison, coupled with Airmen’s long-term desires to wear the qualification badges and the command insignia they have earned, makes authorized wear on the ABU a logical step,” said Lt. Gen. Sam Cox, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services.

A list and examples of all newly approved badges authorized for wear on the ABU is located in Attachment 5 of AFI 36-2903.

The Air Force physi-

cal training uniform no longer has color restrictions for athletic shoes. Airmen are now also authorized to wear black socks with their athletic shoes.

Cell phones no longer have to be black, as long as they’re not worn on the uniform or attached to a purse.

Changes came directly from the field and major commands, Cox said.

“The changes are the result of months of the Chief of Staff listening to what Airmen had to say about ABUs and other uniform wear policies,” Cox said.

Airmen can expect to find the optional badges on the AAFES website by mid-July to early August. The commander’s insignia pin will be mandatory once the cloth pins go on sale at AAFES.

### Did you know?

#### Active shooter incidents can be prevented

By Robert P. Vickers  
902nd Security Forces Squadron

Columbine High School shooting: 12 murdered, 24 injured; Virginia Tech shooting: 32 murdered, 17 injured; Fort Hood shooting: 13 murdered, 30 injured; Aurora, Colo., theater shooting: 12 murdered, 70 injured; Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting: 27 murdered; Washington Navy Yard shooting: 12 murdered and three injured.

Each of these active shooter incidents and countless others all have something in common. They all involved a perpetrator that did not just snap and randomly start shooting people. Each of the perpetrators progressed through a series of steps that required a personal grievance – the idea that only violence could solve that grievance. They researched and planned their attacks. They prepared for their attacks and they overcame whatever security measures were in place and initiated their attack. These steps are called the “path to intended violence” and virtually each step is accompanied with observable behaviors that could have stopped the attacks.

The path to violence can be interrupted and the threat of an attack diminished or eliminated through effective strategies.

Extensive research in targeted violence has shown there are many courses of action that can be employed to prevent these terrible acts from occurring. The first effective course of action for commanders and leaders to recognize already exists within their unit, which is creating a safe and secure working environment.

As a commander or leader, ask yourself these questions; do your personnel not only know but fully understand your unit policy on acceptable and unacceptable behavior? Are they fully aware of your support for reporting incidents of inappropriate behavior, regardless of how minor they perceive the incident to be? Do they know who and how they can report infractions or concerning behavior without fear of repercussions or ridicule? Clearly articulating your commander’s policy regarding workplace conduct regarding acceptable and unacceptable behavior can and does greatly reduce the chances of an active shooter incident occurring within your organization. There are a multitude of other effective strategies that can be employed by unit commanders and through consultation with the security forces squadron.

For more information, contact security forces at 652-5600 or send an email to robert.vickers.1@us.af.mil.

#### AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL VISITS JBSA



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carwile

Col. Steven Caberto, 559th Medical Group commander, briefs Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Travis (second from left), U.S. Air Force surgeon general, and 59th Medical Wing senior leaders on a proposed plan for the new Reid Clinic Jan. 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Travis oversees all Air Force medical practices, assets and plans in order to ensure medical personnel have the best training and equipment to provide optimal services to patients.

## CHIEFCHAT from P2

whether you fit into this word picture; does this word picture describe you as an Airman and your performance?”

Airmen will start to see the evolution of the enlisted evaluation system once the new feedback form, or Airman Comprehensive Assessment, is released, Cody said.

The new assessment will force supervisors to get to know their subordinates by asking deeper questions about finances, relationships and other things that can impact an Airman's career.

“Most people are used to being told they are the best, even though they know they really aren't the best,” Cody said.

“We're going to have to do a good job of working through that emotional response and reaction to it and realizing this is for the good of all.”

The change in EPRs wasn't the only topic on Airmen's minds. Under the current force management actions, some Airmen lost the opportunity to retrain in a new career field. An Airman asked the chief via social media when these cross training opportunities will open up again.

“We suspended (cross training), but not totally. There are still Airmen retraining but they are retraining into career fields that aren't taking those reductions,” Cody said. “We will look at it again this summer... when we start to put together (the list) for fiscal year 2015 retraining opportunities.”

With a lot of things changing in the Air Force, an Airman in the audience asked Cody his advice on how current and future supervisors should handle these changes.

“We have to know our people,” Cody said. “If

you really want to be a good supervisor you have to know about the people you are supervising. You have to know what's important to them, what their goals and aspirations are. You have to know what's going on in their lives to the degree that you can support them, understand them and appreciate them.

“The more you know about your people, the more they will know you care about them and the more they will care about what they are doing.”

Furthermore, Cody said, because of the current force management actions, it is critical that supervisors spend time with their Airmen to ensure they are not alone in this process.

Closing this session of CHIEFchat, Cody answered a question on what Airmen should say to people who have questions about joining the



Photo by Senior Airman Jette Carr

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody answers a question from an Airman, via a video message, during his second worldwide CHIEFchat Jan. 9 at the Defense Media Activity, Fort Meade, Md. Cody addressed upcoming changes to enlisted performance reports and effects of force management.

Air Force.

Changes in Air Force benefits and entitlements are expected due to Department of Defense budget constraints, the chief said.

“However, it's still going to be an exceptional environment to be part of,” he added. “All those benefits, all those entitlements, they may slow

but they're still going to be really good, and you would be hard pressed to find anything comparable outside our Air Force.

“This is the world's greatest Air Force because of the men and women that serve and while we go through this significant force reduction... it's still going to be the world's greatest Air

Force,” Cody said.

“There is still going to be a lot of men and women out there that want to come in and serve their nation.”

Airmen can join the conversation with the chief master sergeant of the Air Force by following him on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/cmsafcody>.



### Patient Recognition Day

Brooke Army Medical Center will host a Patient Recognition Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the San Antonio Military Medical Center medical mall. All beneficiaries are invited. Event features health-care information booths, mobile relaxation stations and remarks by BAMC commander Col. Kyle D. Campbell.

### Warrior Four-Person Scramble

Feb. 7, 12:30 p.m. shot gun start, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. The scramble includes 18 holes of golf, dinner, gift certificates for the winners of the longest drive and the closest to the pin and for first, second and third place. Call 222-9386.

### Career Employment Event

The Department of the Navy Office of Civilian Human Resources will hold a career employment event for wounded service members 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, building 3639. Register at the SFAC or call 916-

9252 for more information.

### Child Safety Seat Inspection

Feb. 20, 1-3 p.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Fire Department. Children must be present for proper weight and height measurements. Registration required, call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

### Mardi Gras Zumba Fest

Feb. 22, 10 a.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Call 221-1234.

### Teen Poetry Slam

This event will be a showcase for teens that have created poems associated with awareness of teen dating violence, 6-9 p.m. Feb. 22 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military and Family Readiness Center. Call 292-5967.

### Black History Month Celebration

The Joint Base San Antonio Collect Protestant Gospel Service will host a Black History Month celebration 1-3 p.m., Feb. 23 at the Evans Theater, building 1396. Call 488-1639.

### Harlequin Dinner Theatre Presents "Dial 'M' For Murder"

A man has married his wife for her money and now plans to murder her for the same reason. He arranges for the perfect crime and creates a brilliant alibi for himself.

Unfortunately, the murderer gets murdered and the victim survives. "Dial 'M' For Murder" runs now through March 1, at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Call 222-9694 for more information.

### New Squadron Commanders and First Sergeants

JBSA Family Advocacy Program is required to provide new squadron commanders and first sergeants a desk side briefing within 90 days of their arrival or assumption of command per DD 6400.1, even if temporary or as an additional duty. The briefing includes information on FAP services/classes to assist them in promoting mission and family readiness. Call 292-5967 for an appointment or for more information.

### Computer Lab

The computer lab is available 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday at Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-2705 or 221-2418.

### How We Roll

Monday through Friday, 9-11 a.m. at Fitness Center on the Medical Education and Training Campus, the "How We Roll" program provides parents and strollers use of the indoor track. Mondays from 9-10 a.m., a fitness trainer is available for assistance and instruction. Call 808-5709.

### Fitness on Request Kiosk

The Fitness Center on the Medical Education and Training Campus hosts an innovative group fitness system including free virtual classes ranging from 20 to 60 minutes. Call 808-5709.

### Belly Dancing Class

Learn the art of belly dancing 6 p.m. Wednesdays at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The class is free and open to all DOD ID cardholders. Call 221-1234.

### World Climb Tower Challenge

Sign up at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center for the World Climb Tower Challenge. Call 221-1234.

### JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ticket Office

The ticket office located in the Sam Houston Community Center, building 1395, Chaffee Road, is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Call 808-1378.

### SKIESUnlimited Classes

SKIESUnlimited classes for children ages 18 months to 18 years include Tae Kwon Do, private piano lessons, creative dance and ballet/tap. Call 221-3381 for dates and times.

### Youth Tumbling Classes

Classes are taught by a certified tumbling instructor who will work with youth in floor exercises and

tumbling. Classes are held Thursday from 4:15-5 p.m. for ages 6-18 and Friday 9-9:45 a.m. or 9:45-10:30 a.m. for ages 3-5. Classes will be held at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Middle School Teen Center, building 2515. Call 221-3381.

### Private Drum Lessons

The instructor has 47 years experience on drums and is excited to teach everyone to play the drums. Must be 4-foot 5-inches tall. Classes take place Monday and times range from 4:30-7:15 p.m. Call 221-3381.

### Equipment Rentals

The Outdoor Equipment Center has all the items needed for a backyard party, unit organizational day, or weekend getaway. Rental items include canoes, boats, campers, camping equipment, outdoor games, barbecue pits and more. Call 221-5225.

### Horseback Riding Lessons

The Equestrian Center offers both private and group lessons for Western and English style. Therapeutic riding lessons are also available and taught by certified instructors. Horses, saddles and tack for lessons will be provided if needed. Patrons must be at least 7 years old. Call 224-7207.

### Theater Arts Program

Children, ages 4 and up, can

take the stage after a long day at school in the Theater Arts Program at School Age Services, building 1705. The cost is \$80 for a month of biweekly classes. Classes are 4-5 p.m. for ages 4-6; 5-6 p.m. for ages 7-10; and 6-7 p.m. for ages 11 and up. Call 221-3381.

### Home Child Care Providers Needed

Family Child Care on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston is looking for family members interested in providing licensed child care in their homes. Providers can earn additional income at home, full or part time. Call 221-3828.

### Parent Central Customer Service

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Parent Central assists walk-in patrons from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parent Central is located in building 2797, on Fort Sam Houston. Call 221-4871.

### School Liaison Office

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston School Liaison Office can assist patrons in registration, provide information about the local school system and community, educate parents on school policies, procedures, programs and schedules and home schooling. Visit <http://www.fortsammwr.com/youth/slo.html> or call 221-2214.

## Department of Defense releases new religious accommodation instruction

By Cheryl Pellerin  
American Forces Press Service

The Department of Defense released a new instruction Jan. 22 that details its updated policy on making religious accommodations requested by service members, said Pentagon spokesman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nathan J. Christensen.

A DOD instruction implements a policy or prescribes the manner or plan of action used to carry out a policy, operate a program or activity, and assign responsibilities.

"The new policy states that military departments

will accommodate religious requests of service members," Christensen said, "unless a request would have an adverse effect on military readiness, mission accomplishment, unit cohesion and good order and discipline."

When a service member requests such an accommodation, he added, department officials balance the need of the service member against the need to accomplish the military mission.

Such a request is denied only if an official determines that mission accomplishment

needs outweigh the need of the service member, Christensen said.

Requests to accommodate religious practices will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, the spokesman noted.

"Each request must be considered based on its unique facts, the nature of the requested religious accommodation, the effect of approval or denial on the service member's exercise of religion, and the effect of approval or denial on mission accomplishment, including unit cohesion," he added.

Immediate commanders may resolve religious

accommodation requests that don't require a waiver of military department or service policies that address wearing of military uniforms and religious apparel, grooming, appearance or body-art standards.

Accommodation requests that require a waiver will be forwarded to the respective military department for determination.

Christensen said that factors used to determine if religious apparel interferes with military duties include whether the item:

- Impairs the safe and effective operation of

weapons, military equipment or machinery;

- Poses a health or safety hazard to the service member wearing the religious apparel;

- Interferes with the wear or function of special or protective clothing or equipment such as helmets, flak jackets, flight suits, camouflaged uniforms, protective masks, wet suits and crash and rescue equipment; or

- Otherwise impairs the accomplishment of the military mission.

The spokesman said department officials believe the new instruction will enhance command-

ers' and supervisors' ability to promote the climate needed to maintain good order and discipline, and will reduce the instances and perception of discrimination toward those whose religious expressions are less familiar to the command.

"The Department of Defense places a high value on the rights of members of the military services to observe the tenets of their respective religions and the rights of others to their own religious beliefs," Christensen said, "including the right to hold no beliefs."

# OUTSIDE THE GATE

## Military Spouse Symposium

The Military Officers Association of America will hold a professional development conference for all military spouses 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at The Pearl, 303 Pearl Parkway. The conference will include a military spouse and policy panel, resume writing and LinkedIn for military spouses, tips on how to dress for success and market yourself to potential employers. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.moaa.org/spousesymposium/>.

## Warrant Officer Association Meeting

The Lone Star Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association will meet at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Longhorn Cafe, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard

warrant officers and family members of current or retired warrant officers are invited. Call 413-1965 for more information.

## Teacher Study Pass for SeaWorld

SeaWorld® San Antonio is offering a free Adult Fun Card to all active, employed and certified Kindergarten through 12 grade school instructors in the state of Texas. The Teacher Study Pass is a 2014 Fun Card that allows unlimited admission to SeaWorld San Antonio now through the end of the year. Teachers can pre-register for a 2014 Adult Fun Card at <http://www.SeaWorld-Parks.com/Teachers> until May 31. Teachers can also purchase up to six additional Fun Cards discounted at \$5 off.

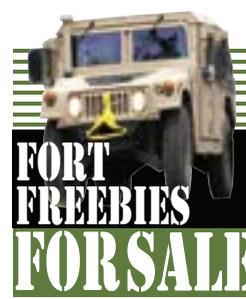
## Women's Survivor Group

A women's survivor group has been created for women who have experienced sexual trauma. The goal is to increase survivors' understanding to their response to victimization and the impact on

their lives. The group offers a safe, open atmosphere for discussion and support to facilitate understanding of sexual victimization and the healing process. The group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays at the Rape Crisis Center group room at 7500 U.S. Highway 90 West, Building 2, Suite 201. Call 521-7273 for more information.

## Teen Survivors Group

A teen survivors' group has been created for teens who have been victims of sexual trauma. The group's goal is to help teens learn and talk about sexual abuse in a safe environment and help survivors connect to others who have been in similar situations. Females from 13 to 17 years of age who are currently attending individual psychotherapy are encouraged to attend. A therapist's recommendation is required. The group meets from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Rape Crisis Center group room at 7500 U.S. Highway 90 West, Building 2, Suite 201. Call 521-7273 for more information.



**FOR SALE:** Four P265/65R18 Goodyear Wrangler MS truck tires, \$110 each; portable dog kennel, 6 feet tall, 10 feet long with gate, \$250. Call 915-539-3505.

**FOR SALE:** Set of two German beer glasses, half liter, \$8; ladies Stapf Tyrolian Alps Sweater, burgundy with silver buttons, size small, \$40; ladies Austrian Tyrol green wool jacket, size small, \$60. Call 495-2296.

## CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### PROTESTANT SERVICES

#### Sundays

#### Main Post (Gift) Chapel

Building 2200, 1605 Wilson Way  
8 and 11 a.m. - Traditional

#### Dodd Field Chapel

Building 1721, 5584 Dodd Blvd.  
8:30 a.m. - Samoan  
10:30 a.m. - Gospel

#### Army Medical Department

#### Regimental Chapel

Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.  
9:20 a.m. - 32nd Medical Brigade  
Contemporary Service  
11 a.m. - Contemporary "Cross-roads"

#### Brooke Army Medical

#### Center Chapel

Building 3600,  
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.  
10 a.m. - Traditional

### CATHOLIC SERVICES

#### Daily Mass

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel  
Building 3600,  
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.  
11:05 a.m., Monday through Friday  
Main Post (Gift) Chapel

Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way  
11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday

#### Saturday

#### Main Post (Gift) Chapel

4:45 p.m. - Reconciliation  
5:30 p.m. - Evening Mass

#### Sunday

8 a.m. - Morning Mass, AMEDD  
8:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC  
9:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, MPC  
11:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC  
12:30 p.m. - Morning Mass, DFC

### JEWISH SERVICES

8 p.m. - Jewish Worship,  
Friday, MPC  
8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat,  
Friday, MPC

### ISLAMIC SERVICE

1:15 p.m. - Jumma, Friday,  
AMEDD

### LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES

1 p.m. - LDS Worship, Sunday,  
AMEDD

### BUDDHIST SERVICES

1 p.m. - Buddhist Services,  
Sunday, AMEDD

*For worship opportunities of faith groups not listed here,  
please visit the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Chaplain's website at  
<http://www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain>.*

# Watch out for tax scams as filing season opens

By **Lea Crusberg**  
IRS Media Relations

With the start of the 2014 tax season opening today, the Internal Revenue Service urged taxpayers to be aware that tax-related scams using the IRS name proliferate during this time of year.

Tax scams can take many forms, with perpetrators posing as the IRS in everything from e-mail refund schemes to phone impersonators. The IRS warned taxpayers to be vigilant of any unexpected communication that is purportedly from the IRS at the start of tax season.

The IRS encourages taxpayers to be on the lookout for phone and email scams that use the IRS as a lure. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information.

This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels.

The IRS also does not ask for personal identification numbers (PINs), passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. Recipients should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the message. Instead, forward the e-mail to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

Additional information on how to report phishing scams involving the IRS is available on the genuine IRS website at <http://www.IRS.gov>.

In addition, the IRS continues to aggressively expand its efforts to protect and prevent refund fraud involving identity theft as well as work with federal, state and

local officials to pursue the perpetrators of this fraud.

The IRS offers several suggestions for taxpayers to help protect themselves against scams and identity theft:

- Don't carry your Social Security card or any documents that include your Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.

- Don't give a business your SSN or ITIN just because they ask. Give it only when required.

- Protect your financial information.

- Check your credit report every 12 months.

- Secure personal information in your home.

- Protect your personal computers by using firewalls and anti-spam/virus software, updating security patches and changing passwords for Internet accounts.

- Don't give personal information over the phone, through the mail or on the Internet unless you have initiated the contact and are sure of the recipient.

For more information, see the special identity theft section on <http://www.IRS.gov> and IRS Fact Sheet 2014-1, titled "IRS Combats Identity Theft and Refund Fraud on Many Fronts."

Taxpayers also should be very careful when choosing a tax preparer. While most preparers provide excellent service to their clients, a few unscrupulous return preparers file false and fraudulent tax returns and ultimately defraud their clients. It is important to know that even if someone else prepares your return, you are ultimately responsible for all the information on the tax return.

## Weekly Weather Watch

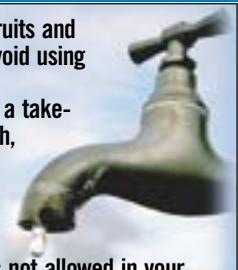
	Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5
San Antonio Texas	77° AM Clouds/PM Sun	74° Few Showers	58° Cloudy	53° Cloudy	55° Rain	47° Partly Cloudy
Kabul Afghanistan	55° Mostly Sunny	47° Rain/Show	44° Rain/Snow	45° Rain/Snow	39° Partly Cloudy	44° Mostly Sunny

(Source: The Weather Channel at [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com))

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. Throw trimmings and peelings from fruits and vegetables into your yard compost to avoid using the garbage disposal.
2. When you have ice left in a cup from a take-out restaurant, don't throw it in the trash, dump it on a plant instead.
3. Have a plumber reroute your "grey water" to trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer. Check with your city codes and if this is not allowed in your area, start a movement to get that changed.
4. Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it warms up or runs, use this water to flush toilets or water plants.
5. When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you later.

(Compiled by 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron)



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**CLASS  
6X9.75 2**

**6 x 4.75 AD**

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