A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING

LACKLAND TALESPINNER

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, TEXAS • Vol. 71 No. 48 • December 5, 2014

Gen. Rand receives 502nd ABW immersion

Photo by Senior Airman Lynsie Nichols

Vernalynne Carter (right), clothing department section chief at the Air Force Clothing Initial Issue, shows Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, AETC command chief master sergeant, a portion of the uniform alteration process Nov. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The AETC commander, command chief master sergenat and their spouses were provided a 502nd Air Base Wing immersion tour at JBSA-Randolph, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston locations Nov. 20 – 21. The 502nd ABW is responsible for installation support across all JBSA locations.

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Excellence...

Why it's important-now more than ever

By Chief Master Sgt. Brian LaBounty
314 Airlift Wing Command Chief, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

Would you agree there is an opportunity for Airmen of all ranks to improve their individual performance?

If so, how does one become better or even excellent as an Airman? I say "Just do it!" I could stop there, as I believe the Nike slogan is brilliant and applicable to almost any situation. However, for the sake of discussion, let me amplify.

Many times as human beings, who happen to be Airmen, we decide to better ourselves in some capacity. Perhaps it's the realization that one needs to lose weight, improve on physical fitness, or be better educated. Maybe it's a desire to be promoted and the subsequent recognition that to achieve that goal, a study regimen must be applied.

Whatever the case, talking about it, though a logical start is not enough. Action must be taken. We must "just do it!"

The challenge in this is that although we may have the best of intentions, follow through does not always occur. Airmen get tired for myriad of reasons, whether it's tied to operations tempo, family related requirements or because they're human beings.

Additionally, doing what we know, or perhaps have always done, is easier than stretching ourselves or stepping out of our comfort zones. In essence, striving to improve one's self is work. I submit, however, that it is absolutely worth doing!

For many years in my enlisted career, our nation has been at war. Throughout this period I have witnessed the following manpower-mission dynamics: more than enough manpower to accomplish the mission, doing more with less, less with less and finally doing what we have to do with what we have.

Regardless the characterization, one thing is seemingly constant: resources, whether manifested in money or manpower, are finite. Because of this, it is imperative that each individual member of team Air Force is the best he and she can be. Teams are undeniably important, but are in fact, comprised of individuals.

As the Air Force draws down to the lowest manpower level in its 67, year existence, dependence on and confidence in the Airmen that remain is paramount. Additionally, integrity, service and excellence, in word and deed, are more critical now than they have ever been.

As the institution evolves, so too must its Airmen. This evolution causes stress that can be good or bad depending on an individual's ability to adapt. The domains of comprehensive Airmen fitness (mental, physical, social and spiritual) provide a solid foundation to anchor during periods of turbulence.

If Airmen strive to better themselves across the domains, they will logically be more prepared to deal with adversity, as well as manage the rigors of daily duties.

Adherence to our core values is critical. Of the three, the one I latch on to the most is excellence. This is not intended to imply the other two are less important, rather that to me if an Airman earnestly practices "Excellence in all," integrity is likely present with service as the foundation. I contend that one can possess integrity and place service before self without necessarily being excellent.

Words alone will not likely produce an excellent Airman, but they can communicate a common focus and when consistently demonstrated, maximize trust.

Our Airman's Creed inspires camaraderie by capturing who we are or should strive to be: a wingman, leader and warrior.

I personally witnessed 591 Airmen swell with pride as they emphatically recited the words "and I will NOT fail!" at a recent Basic Military Training graduation.

The unfortunate reality is we sometimes do fail: on PT tests, to meet standards, to be good wingmen, to be excellent. Therefore we must continuously strive to be better, or else our creed and core values become hollow.

Collectively, we are the best Air Force in the world. To retain that title, we must focus on deliberate development, innovation and adherence to established standards. We must also recognize that leadership begins with the individual, who then, when the opportunity presents itself, leads others.

Along the way, we will get tired. In those moments, lean on one another, practice the tenets of comprehensive Airman fitness and live our core values and creed. Focus and application will make the individual better, strengthen the team,and preserve the legacy of those who have gone before us. It won't always be easy, but in periods of uncertainty, just do it!

After all, who joined the United States Air Force to be average?

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 502nd Air Base Wing. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are U.S. Air Force photos.

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

News in Brief

AIR FORCE ANNOUNCES OTS NON-RATED SELECTION BOARD RESULTS

A total of 495 men and women from across America have earned an opportunity to become Air Force leaders following their selection for an officer's commission, officials announced Nov. 25.

Air Force Recruiting Service officials considered 495 applications as part of the Officer Training School Non-Rated Selection Board 14OT04. With the board's selection rate of 32.53 percent, 161 applicants were selected to serve as U.S. Air Force officers. Of the 161 selected, 100 enlisted members earned the chance to attend OTS and trade their stripes for gold bars as second lieutenants.

See the list of selectees online, http://www.aetc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123432450.

As part of the selection process, board members review both objective and subjective factors.

Three Air Force colonels review every application. The selection process is similar to an Air Force officer promotion board. No single factor leads to an individual's selection or non-selection, according to OTS selection officials.

Candidates selected can expect to attend Basic Officer Training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in 2015.

For more information concerning OTS and the application process, active-duty members can view requirement and eligibility fact sheets on the Air Force Portal or speak to a local career advisor; civilians should contact the nearest Air Force recruiter.

AFA OUTSTANDING AF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE

Air Force officials are accepting nominations for the Air Force Association Outstanding Air Force Civilian Employee of the Year.

Each year, the AFA recognizes Air Force civilian employees for outstanding achievement in four categories:

- Civilian Wage Employee (all federal wage system employees)
- Civilian Program Specialist (GS-1 through GS-11)
- Civilian Program Manager (GS-12 and GS-13)
- Civilian Senior Program Manager (GS-14 and GS-15)

Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their major command, combatant command, field operating agency

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Reserve unit breaks the ice on new Air Force inspection program

By Capt. Cris Medina
433rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Photo by Capt. Cris Medina

Col. William Whittenberger Jr., 433rd Airlift Wing commander, radios in his groups' observation at one of the eight stations during Operation Ice Breaker at Camp Bramble on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

In the pre-dawn calm of a November morning, 433rd Airlift Wing members gathered outside building 828, donning personal protective gear and preparing for transport to fictitious "Camp Bramble" to initiate Operation Ice Breaker.

Operation Ice Breaker marks the start of the newly revamped Air Force inspection system aimed at giving more power to wing commanders.

The program, which was established under Program Action Directive 13-01 and beta tested by U. S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, aims to empower wing commanders to run their wing's inspection system. By doing this, each commander will be able to focus on improving mission effectiveness, balancing resources and risks without the existing peaks and valleys of preparing for inspections.

According to a July 2013 article by the Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs office, the goal of the new system is to make inspections a non-event, part of the daily battle rhythm of continuous improvement.

The main objective for Col. William Whittenberger Jr., 433rd AW commander, who led the first group on the ability to survive and operate

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AFCEC cultivates Air Force, Singapore partnership

By Shannon Carabajal
AFCEC Public Affairs

As the United States shifts its strategic military focus to the Pacific, the Air Force is working with the Singapore Ministry of Defence to develop and improve air base technologies vital to the military mission of both nations.

In addition to military benefits for each country, a strong partnership with Singapore is critical to the stability and security of the entire region, said Joe Sciabica, Air Force Civil Engineer Center director.

"Singapore has a solid strategic alliance and relationship with the U.S. Capitalizing on that relationship, working together and learning from each other strengthens the defense of both countries and promotes peace throughout the Pacific," he said.

A group of Air Force senior leaders, including Sciabica; Dr. Mikel Miller, Air Force Research Lab Sensors Directorate senior scientist for position, navigation and timing; and Wesley Martin, Air Force International Affairs Office international agreements specialist, visited the country in October. Discussions during the visit mostly focused on airfield damage repair and air base beddown in today's threat environment.

Singapore plans to relocate its air base and its defense leaders are looking for help from the Air Force about how to design and build a secure, sustainable installation. For the AFCEC team, building an air base from scratch amidst current military threats is an intriguing problem. AFCEC plans to host a workshop early next year to continue the discussions.

"There is a neat opportunity here; we can learn a lot from each other if we collaborate on the bed-down of a new mission capability," Sciabica said.

The trip to Singapore allowed Sciabica to continue fostering relationships he started in 2008 as the director of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO RECEIVES CHECK FROM CPS ENERGY

Photo by Albert Cantu

Garrick Williams (left), director of Joint Base San Antonio Energy Solutions for CPS Energy, presents an oversized check for $78,389 to Col. Mark Lee, deputy commander for JBSA and vice commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing at the 502nd ABW conference room Monday at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. The wing, CPS Energy's largest customer, received the check for participating in a demand response program by the utility. The demand response program's objective is for the customer to reduce its power demand load during an event to earn the rebate. In 2014, increased their contracted kilowatt amount to 995 kW up from 2013, when they contracted approximately 611 kW. From June 1-Sept. 30, JBSA reduced their load across 15 sites on 10 different occasions during CPS Energy's peak demand times. They reduced their consumption by raising temperature set points, turning off hot water pumps and reducing unnecessary lighting. The rebate check amount reflected a total reduction of 1,170 kW. This is the second year all JBSA locations participated in the demand response program.

JBSA-LACKLAND THANKSGIVING

Photo by Staff Sgt. Marissa Garner

Members of the local community and Air Force basic military trainees receive out-processing instructions before departing for Thanksgiving dinner during Operation Homecooking Nov. 27 at the Pfingston Recruit and Family In-processing Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Operation Home Cooking, a more than 30 year tradition of the 37th Training Wing, allows members of the local community to welcome basic trainees into their homes for Thanksgiving.

Photo by Leslie Finstein

Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Gaither, right, 37th Training Support Squadron superintendent, serves Thanksgiving meals to patrons Nov. 27 at the Training Annex Dining Facility, Joint Base San Antonio Lackland. Senior leaders from across JBSA-Lackland served meals to active duty, retirees and dependents alongside the 502nd Force Support Squadron dining facility staff throughout the day on Thanksgiving.

GEN. RAND VISITS 502ND AIR BASE WING

Photo by Benjamin Faske

Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command, arrives at the Gateway Club for lunch and breakout sessions Nov. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Photo by Benjamin Faske

Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Senior Airman Ainsely Davis share a dance during a visit to Band of the West Nov. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Photo by Joel Martinez

Caleb Schaefer, 502nd Trainer Development Squadron, briefs Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command, Nov. 20 on the T-45 Goshawk cockpit operations trainer at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The AETC commander and his wife, Kim, along with Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, AETC command chief master sergeant, and his wife, Alice, were provided a 502nd Air Base Wing immersion tour at JBSA-Randolph, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Nov. 20 and 21. The 502nd ABW is responsible for installation support across all JBSA locations.

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phase of the exercise, was measuring wing readiness.

"The overall purpose of the ice breaker was to confirm 433rd Airlift Wing readiness, capabilities and to train to proficiency when deficiencies were noted," Whittenberger said.

In a high-tempo global-readiness environment, Whittenberger emphasized the wing's mission-readiness goals.

"The 433rd has to assure to a combatant commander that the person we are sending to the area of responsibility is ready. This (exercise) is the stepping-off point to assure that," he said.

Lt. Col. Fred McMahon, 433rd Airlift Wing Inspector General, Inspections and Readiness director, also emphasized the importance of mission readiness and the transition from the old operation readiness exercise to the new Air Force Inspection System.

"Our goals were to meet the commander's expectations, identify efficiencies and areas of non-compliance." McMahon said.

The wing plans to conduct more training and inspection exercises in the near future to continue to prepare members for deployment requirements.

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or direct reporting unit for applicable suspense dates and additional information regarding nomination procedures.

Each MAJCOM, COCOM, FOA and DRU may nominate one person for each category.

Completed nomination packages are due to the Air Force Personnel Center by Jan. 8.

For more information on Air Force recognition programs and other personnel issues, visit https://mypers.af.mil/.

Be Responsible!
Seat Belts Save Lives! Buckle Up And Wear Yours!

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What you need to know about the Privacy Act of 1974

By Bobby White
502nd Communications Squadron

Protecting personal information is necessary to deter fraudulent individuals from stealing someone else's identity.

Do you know what the Privacy Act of 1974 protects? According to Air Force Instruction 33-332, The Air Force Privacy and Civil Liberties Program, the Privacy Act establishes a code of fair information practice that governs the collection, maintenance, use and dissemination of personally identifiable information (PII) about individuals that is maintained in systems of records by federal agencies.

The AFI states that a system of records is a group of records under the control of an agency from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some identifier assigned to the individual. The Privacy Act prohibits the disclosure of information from a system of records absent the written consent of the subject individual, unless the disclosure is pursuant to one of twelve statutory exceptions.

The Act also provides individuals with a means by which to seek access to and amend their records (the Freedom of Information Act) and sets forth various agency record-keeping requirements.

And even though AFI 33-332 doesn't pertain to personal social networks websites, all personal information entered on those sites is protected under the Privacy Act of 1974 and all applicable laws. Nevertheless, think twice before submitting personal information to these sites. You don't know who is watching or who will hack into that computer system to gain information.

In addition, be careful when sending Privacy Act material electronically or storing this vital information on any computer. When sending personal information electronically, protect it from unauthorized disclosure, loss and alteration. When using government equipment, fully understand the correct way to transmit personal information.

When sending an email containing Privacy Act/PII, it must be encrypted, have the acronym that stands for "For Official Use Only" at the beginning of the subject line and include the official Privacy Act statement at the beginning of the email.

In addition, the Privacy Act statement cannot be indiscriminately applied to all e-mails. It must only be included when transmitting PII required to be protected For Official Use Only purposes.

Make sure that everyone in the email has an official need to know, then sign and encrypt the email before you send it.

According to AFI 33-332, sending unencrypted e-mails containing Privacy Act information to distribution, group or non ".mil" email addresses is strictly prohibited. This is how a majority of Personally Identifiable Information breaches are caused.

Also, do not send Privacy Act information to distribution lists or group email addresses unless each member has an official need to know. Official e-mails containing Privacy Act information must be digitally signed and encrypted before sending.

Finally, don't store Privacy Act material on your computer or network shared drives unless it's protected from unauthorized disclosure, loss and alteration. The best way is to ensure that the document is password protected and only those who have a need to know that information have the password.

Protecting personal information is your responsibility. You will be held accountable if you don't take all the necessary precautions to protect personal information.

For more information, contact the Joint Base San Antonio Privacy Act Office at 466-3642 or usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-cs-foia-pa-workflow@mail.mil.

DIAMOND SHARP

Airman 1st Class Cyrus Duncan

Unit: *453rd Electronic Warfare Squadron*
Duty title: Electronic Warfare Signals Analyst
Time in service: 2 years, 3 months
Hometown: Bloomfield, Mo.

"Airmen 1st Class Cyrus Duncan, assigned to the 453rd Electronic Warfare Squadron, exemplifies Air Force core values and is a model Airman. Duncan hit the ground running; processing 26 percent of the work on a 16-person team since arriving on station. His outstanding work led to six national database updates, protecting 2,300 Combat Air Force and Special Operation Forces aircraft. Demonstrating traits of a young, competent leader, Duncan manned the dorm representative position for Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Security Hill dormitories, ensuring the quality of life for 70 Airmen. Duncan makes time to volunteer within and outside of the Air Force. He helped to raise $24,000 for 600 local families during the First Sergeant's Operation Warmheart Campaign. Additionally, Duncan regularly volunteers his time at the San Antonio Food Bank, Adopt-A-Highway and Habitat for Humanity. As the squadron sponsor coordinator, he enabled the smooth transition of Airman arriving from technical school and guaranteed positive impressions of Joint Base San Antonio and the United State Air Force. Duncan is Diamond Sharp and a stellar role model for all junior Airmen."

– Master Sgt. Nicole Merrill
453rd EWS, First Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Justin Smith

Unit: *93rd Intelligence Squadron*
Duty title: Cryptologic Language Analyst
Time in service: 7 years, 8 months
Hometown: Rapid City, S.D.

"Staff Sgt. Justin Smith served as an operations leader within his branch. He also directed a joint service acquisition team where he oversaw the actions of more than 10 personnel in support of a cryptologic mission transfer overseas. As manager of the 543rd Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group motorcycle safety program, he ensured the safety of more than 50 riders across four separate squadrons by providing necessary training that reduced vehicle mishaps to zero. Smith is also pursuing his bachelor's degree in international business. Recently he completed a three-credit-hour course in addition to a 3 credit-hour College Level Examination Program test while maintaining a 3.7 grade point average and accomplishing more than 50 percent of the total degree requirements. Finally, given his years of honor guard experience, Smith was hand-picked as the color guard NCO in charge for the 25th Air Force redesignation ceremony, where he led his team in a time-honored tradition and the inauguration of a new numbered air force."

– Senior Master Sgt. Darrell Harmon
93rd IS, First Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Jessica Brazionis

Unit: *59th Medical Support Squadron*
Duty title: Information Systems Technician
Time in service: 6 years, 10 months
Hometown: Seattle

"Staff Sgt. Jessica Brazionis is a great example of how an NCO, especially a staff sergeant should conduct themselves at all times. She is the epitome of genuine professional and a proven leader. She provides great mentorship to our young Airmen in the unit and a go-to NCO for squadron leadership."

– Master Sgt. De'Lisa Harris,
59th MDSS, First Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Ashely Manz

Unit: *3rd Combat Camera Squadron*
Duty title: Aerial Combat Broadcast Journalist
Time in service: 7 years, 8 months
Hometown: Harlingen, Texas

"Staff Sgt. Ashley Manz demonstrates strong leadership and professionalism in all she does. She produced an Inter-American Air Forces Academy mission video culminating in 150 man-hours. This video bolstered multinational ties, influencing recruitment of 240 students from 22 allied nations a year. Also, Manz coordinated five aerial temporary duty assignments that culminated in six Airmen logging 98.1 flight hours during 22 sorties on five separate aircraft which highlighted some of the critical missions the Air Force conducts today. Lastly, she performed outside of her primary Air Force Specialty Code by documenting 748 photos of a historic F-16 and P-51 aerial flight. This led to a cover photo of Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Talespinner newspaper that reached an audience of more than 100,000 military members. Manz is without a doubt a vital part to the success of the 3rd Combat Camera Squadron."

–Tech. Sgt. Rico Sison
3rd CTCS, Additional Duty First Sergeant

Airman 1st Class Luis Salcedo Mazara

Unit: *502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron*
Duty title: Logistics Planner
Time in service: 1 year, 7 months
Hometown: Hinesville, Ga.

"Airman 1st Class Luis Salcedo verified and accounted for the deployment of 540 members, supporting 37 contingency locations worldwide. During this time, he partnered with Air Force Medical Operations Agency and deployed three C-17's filled with $12 million of life saving medical equipment and supplies to help fight the Ebola epidemic in Africa. He also executed two Army South deployment exercises, moving 16 pallets and 32 passengers within the prescribed timelines, showcasing the installation's deployment machine. As an Air Force ambassador, he was the guest speaker at Woodlawn Elementary School and briefed 180 children about core values and the Air Force mission. Furthermore, he was the squadron point of contact for the San Antonio Battered Women and Children clothing drive that collected 20,000 items of clothing. Lastly, he led multiple physical training sessions and was a key member of the squadron's Rambler 120 triathlon team which came in ninth place out of 31 teams. Salcedo has unparalleled enthusiasm and an out-in-front leadership style that projects the attributes of today's model Airman. He is our Diamond Sharp."

– Master Sgt. Reginald Williams II
502nd LRS, First Sergeant

Airman Jan Michael Bunda

Unit: *502nd Contracting Squadron*
Duty title: Contract Administrator
Time in service: 1 year
Hometown: Imperial, Calif.

"Airman Jan Michael Bunda serves as a contract administrator for the 502nd Contracting Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. His superior drive and dedication are noticed by both his leadership and peers on a daily basis. Bunda recently completed a rigorous 180-hour Federal Acquisition Regulation course graduating with an impressive 95 percent, which set a solid foundation for his Contracting career. He has applied his learned skills in contracting fundamentals through contract negotiations, resulting in $12,000 in government savings. Bunda is also actively pursuing a professional acquisition certification through the Defense Acquisition University and is only one course shy of ascertaining this goal. Despite a lack of operational experience, he expertly manages eight contracts valued at $120,000, supporting four mission partners. Bunda is involved in the community and recently supported a local church during the San Antonio "Thanksgiving Basket Give Away," where he helped supply 218 baskets to local families and homeless vets for the upcoming holidays. It is for these reasons and the scope of his impact that Bunda is truly 'Diamond Sharp.'"

– Master Sgt. David Cowan
502nd CONS, First Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Juan Carlos Isales

Unit: *502nd Operations Support Squadron*
Duty title: Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor
Time in service: 5 years, 3 months
Hometown: Carolina, Puerto Rico

"Staff Sgt. Juan Carlos Isales has been serving as an Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor for the past three months. His work ethic, professionalism and thirst for knowledge are unmatched. As shift supervisor, he ensures his crew operates at optimum level and all Airmen are training on a continuous basis. When he's not working, Isales is active in the community. He enjoys volunteering at the local church and San Antonio Food Bank. Isales has dedicated more than 65 hours of off-duty time building tables and chairs, collecting non-perishable items and feeding the less fortunate members in the local area. Not only does he set the standards for his peers, he's a leader in the United States Air Force."

– Master Sgt. Roland Thomas
502nd OSS, First Sergeant

DIAMOND SHARP

Senior Airman Ty Brown

Unit: *743rd Intelligence Support Squadron*
Duty title: Air Force Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System Administrator
Time in service: 2 years, 3 months
Hometown: Bakersfield, Calif.

Senior Airman Ty Brown leads by example through Airmanship and professionalism in all he does. Brown skillfully connected the first F-16 Block 50s to Air Force Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System in support of Noble Eagle. He prepped new top secret/sensitive compartmented information Storage Area Network by configuring 200 virtual drives to be accessed over eight network links, making it possible to build the $4 million Western Continental U.S. Enterprise Service Desk domain. For his unit, Brown directed 97 physical training sessions, greatly contributing to the units 98 percent pass rate for 84 members. He also trained five Airman on 72 tasks that increased the work center's mission readiness from 8 percent to 75 percent. In addition, Brown selflessly devoted 24-hour support, for four days, to a fellow Airman who had been involved in a serious car accident. He provided the unit with updates and assisted the family while the Airman was in the hospital. Brown is a significant asset to the 743rd Intelligence Support Squadron and holds a promising career in the Air Force.

– Master Sgt. Eric Chandler
743rd ISS, First Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Dominic Holley

Unit: *802nd Force Support Squadron*
Duty title: NCO in charge Adverse Actions
Time in service: 9 years
Hometown: San Antonio

"Staff Sgt. Dominic Holley serves as NCO-in-charge, Adverse Action for Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland supporting 11,700 Airmen on the Air Force's largest continental U.S. Military Personnel Section. He is committed to providing outstanding service to 117 commanders and first sergeants across seven wings, preserving the sensitivity of more than 231 records. His efforts generated a 91 percent positive feedback rating while ensuring 100 percent accuracy of the Military Personnel Data System and securing personal identifiable information. Additionally, he tracked six line-of-duty determination AF level cases ensuring timely notification to dependents' survivors of more than $1 million. Totally dedicated to the community, Holley led a 30-man team for the American Heart Association walk, which raised $600,000 for ongoing heart research and awareness. Furthermore, he briefed three First Term Airman Center classes on personnel programs, contributing to the development of 63 future leaders across Joint Base San Antonio. It is for these reasons and his profound impact that Holley is truly 'Diamond Sharp.'"

– Master Sgt. Christopher Booth
802nd FSS, First Sergeant

Senior Airman Kaitlyn Eastman

Unit: *690th Network Support Squadron*
Duty title: Admin Support
Time in service: 2 years, 9 months
Hometown: Cedar Falls, Iowa

"Senior Airman Kaitlyn Eastman is the epitome of what an Airman represents in the United States Air Force and one of the most dedicated and driven Airmen in the 690th Network Support Squadron. Eastman was selected, despite not having any administrative or personnel background, to lead the commander support staff, responsible for 300 personnel at four geographically separated units. Driven by initiative, she quickly identified eight neglected personnel programs and within two months, she corrected every deficiency. She tackled the records management program and immediately recognized critical deficiencies that placed the program in a failing status. She developed a corrective action plan, executed the plan and built safeguards to prevent future reoccurrences. She designed an enlisted performance evaluation and decoration tracking system and by building rapport with our geographically separated units, she reduced the number of late reports from 18 to zero in just 30 days after her arrival to the office. This system was adopted and benchmarked by the 690th Cyber Operations Group executive team. Eastman also orchestrated team exercises during wingman stand-down day. She developed scenarios and led group discussions, reinforcing Air Force core values in 45 Airmen. As vice president of the squadron booster club, she led five fundraisers, raising more than $1,000 for squadron morale events. Finally, she successfully organized a unit picnic, building camaraderie between 150 military, civilian and contract personnel. She is truly deserving of the "Diamond Sharp" Award."

– Master Sgt. Mario Carmona
690th NSS, Additional Duty First Sergeant

PARTNERSHIP from Page 3

Force Base, Ohio. Back then, AFRL managed the full life-cycle of air base systems, including everything needed to create a functioning base and build efficient, effective infrastructure. Sciabica first visited the country to identify how the nations could collaborate in those areas. He quickly learned Singapore was a well-educated country, sharing many common goals and interests with the U.S.

"They have some of the best educated scientists and engineers in the world," he said.

The partnership flourished as the countries started working together in several areas including persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance technologies and techniques, cognitive sciences and munitions. The mission of managing the full life-cycle of air base systems now belongs to the AFCEC Readiness Directorate's Research and Acquisition Division at Tyndall Aire Force Base, Fla. As Sciabica moved from the AFRL to AFCEC, the responsibility of nurturing the U.S.-Singapore relationship moved with him.

During the visit, Singapore Minister for Defence Dr. Ng Eng Hen presented Sciabica with the Singapore Defence Technology Distinguished Fellowship. The award recognizes him for his "hands-on approach" in promoting defense technology cooperation between the U.S. and Singapore.

"Through (Sciabica's) active and unwavering support, collaboration roadmaps were established across a broad spectrum of technology areas including power and energy, cognitive sciences and munitions. Several joint projects have been established during his tenure that will bring value to the Air Forces of both countries while strengthening the foundation for future cooperation," the citation reads.

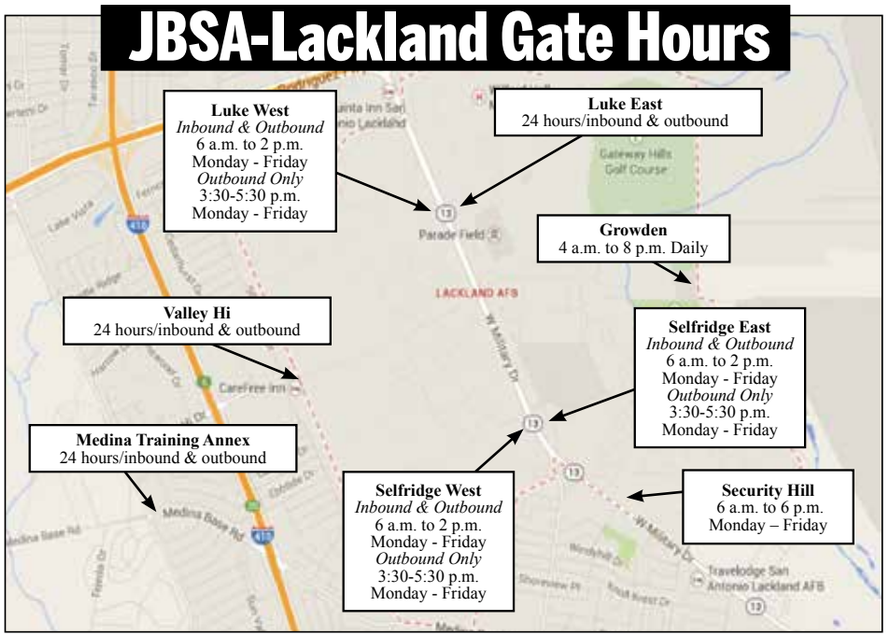
Sciabica and Miller also met with the next generation of Singaporean scientists and engineers by visiting a local high school focused on science, technology, engineering and math. The two shared stories about overcoming challenges and learning from failure, something Sciabica said is key to success in a STEM-focused career.

"If you go this path in life, it's all about change. Through that, through the process of discovery, through persistent work and research, you're going to be changing the status quo. That's the opportunity," he said.

Photo courtesy of Singapore Ministry of Defense

Singapore Minister for Defence Dr. Ng Eng Hen (left) presents the Singapore Defence Technology Distinguished Fellowship to Air Force Civil Engineer Center Director Joe Sciabica. The fellowship recognizes Sciabica's work in promoting defense technology cooperation between the U.S. and Singapore.

JBSA-Lackland Gate Hours



BMT HONORS

Congratulations to the following 35 Airmen for being selected as honor graduates among the 357 Air Force basic military trainees who graduated today:

322nd Training Squadron

–Flight 017
Andrew Childress
Michael Ferraro
Alfredo Fields
Tyler Harrington
Kyle Kupiec

–Flight 018
Ashley Adkins
Angelica Figueroa
Jennifer Lovenguth
Gerrilyn Smith

326th Training Squadron

–Flight 013
Jacob Adams
Thomas Browne
John Mullins
Jeremy Swaw
Logan Wolthuizen

–Flight 014
Carry Franklin
Carolyn Melrose
Lisa Savino
Allison Smith
Sarah Sommer
Cierra Taylor

–Flight 015
Kyle Brink
Efrain Gonzalez
Ian Rouleau
Christopher Walk
Walter Wheeler

–Flight 016
Devin Fate
Jalen Medina
Ryan Swift

331st Training Squadron

–Flight 011
Jonathan Boggs
Erik Kemppainen
Troy Serad
Bryan Vargas

–Flight 012
Dominique Johnson
Jirah Lackings
Blaine Rivers

Top BMT Airman
Jeremy Swaw
326th TRS, Flight 013

Most Physically Fit

–Female Airmen
Elizabeth Kuc
322nd TRS, Flight 018
Kirby Laird
322nd TRS, Flight 018
Chantel Hogsed
326th TRS, Flight 014
Rayisha Smith
322nd TRS, Flight 018

–Male Airmen
Christopher Grant
326th TRS, Flight 015
Efrain Gonzalez
326th TRS, Flight 015
Justin Hall
331st TRS, Flight 011
Conner Lipsey
326th TRS, Flight 015

–Female Flights
322nd TRS, Flight 018
326th TRS, Flight 014

–Male Flights
326th TRS, Flight 015
331st TRS, Flight 012
331st TRS, Flight 011
322nd TRS, Flight 017
326th TRS, Flight 016
326th TRS, Flight 013

Top Academic Flights
326th TRS, Flight 013
326th TRS, Flight 016
326th TRS, Flight 015
322nd TRS, Flight 018
331st TRS, Flight 011
322nd TRS, Flight 017
326th TRS, Flight 014
331st TRS, Flight 012

FOSTER a PUPPY

The Department of Defense dog breeding program needs families to foster puppies for three months.

Potential foster families need:

- **time and patience to raise a puppy age 12 weeks to six months,**
- **a stimulating and safe home environment, and**
- **a desire to help raise a military working dog.**

Call 671-3686

Local Briefs

FRIDAY

CFC FUNDRAISING EVENT

The 559th Medical Group is hosting a Combined Federal Campaign fundraising event from 2-4 p.m. at the Gateway Hills Golf Course at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

For additional information, contact 671-9425.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Joint Base San Antonio Hearts Apart Holiday Party is from 6-8:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center. This event is for families of deployed or geographically separated from their service member. RSVP by Monday. JBSA-Randolph, call 652-5321, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-2418, JBSA-Lackland, call 671-3722.

SATURDAY

BAND OF THE WEST HOLIDAY IN BLUE CONCERT

The Air Force Band of the West holds its annual Holiday in Blue concert at the Edgewood Independent School District Theatre for the Performing Arts. The first performance is Saturday at 3 p.m. They will also perform at 7 p.m. Dec. 8. Tickets are available at http://www.band ofthewest.af.mil or at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and Randolph Information, Tickets and Tours offices as well as the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston MWR office.

THURSDAY

59TH MDW EDUCATION FAIR

59th Medical Wing, in coordination with the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Education Office, is hosting an Education and Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday in the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center Atrium. Forty colleges and universities will be on-hand. All Airman, dependents and JBSA team members are welcome. For more information, call 292-4308.

DEC. 13

SANTA SHUFFLE 5K

The 737th Training Support Squadron will host the Santa Shuffle 5K, Dec. 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The run begins 8 a.m. from the Pfingston Reception Center. Registration is $10. Call 671-3026 for more information.

THRIFT SHOP SALE

The Lackland Thrift Shop will have $5 bag sales Dec. 13 and 18. The store will also have extended holiday shopping hours until 4 p.m. Dec. 18. Visits from Santa will be announced.

INFORMATIONAL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 502ND ABW ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The 502nd Air Base Wing Annual Awards Committee is looking for 2 proffers and 10 ushers to assist in the annual award ceremony. The event is scheduled for Feb. 6, 2015 at the Lackland Gateway Club. To volunteer, contact 221-1851.

DOD DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN AWARD

Air Force officials are accepting nominations for the 60th Annual Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award. This is the highest award presented to DOD career civilian employees whose careers reflect exceptional devotion to duty and extremely significant contributions of broad scope to the efficiency, economy or other improvements in the operation of the department. Each major command, field operating agency and direct reporting unit may submit only one nomination. Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their MAJCOM, FOA or DRU for applicable suspense dates and nomination procedures. Nominations are due to the Air Force Personnel Center by Feb. 24.

TOYS FOR TOTS DROP OFF SITES NEEDED

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Top III is collecting toys in support of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program and needs units to serve as drop-off sites. Through Dec. 12, the Top III will be collecting new, unwrapped, toys at the Robert D. Gaylor NCO Academy for families that are less fortunate and are looking for units who would like to serve as drop off sites. Interested units can email Master Sgt. Nonika Allen or Tech. Sgt. Carla Milanese.

L.E.A.D SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Robert D. Gaylor NCO Academy L.E.A.D. council is offering a $350 scholarship to the qualifying Airman who writes the best essay. Applicants must be a Joint Base San Antonio enlisted member, or family member of an enlisted member, seeking a degree from a higher learning institution. Essays can be submitted now through Dec. 19. The scholarship will be awarded in January or February 2015. Contact Tech. Sgt. Douglas Greene for further details. All packages will be collected via email.

PUBLICATIONS AND FORMS

The 502nd Communications Squadron has a dedicated team to provide guidance and support to enhance squadrons' publication and forms program. They will assist with the development of supplements to Air Force instructions to local operating instructions. The Pubs/Forms staff can also assist with designing a form for local use or for posting on e-Publishing, as long as there is a prescribed directive for the use of that form. The team can also guide units thought the process of having an overprint on an existing form to fit office requirements. To get a better understanding of what issues the Publications and Forms section can further assist with, please contact them via their organization workflow: usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-cs-pubs-forms-workflow@mail.mil or call 466-7827.

CHAPEL SERVICES

—PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICES

Freedom Chapel – Building 1528

Contemporary Service	Sun.	9:30 a.m.
Religious Education	Sun.	11:00 a.m.
Gospel Service	Sun.	12:30 p.m.
Spanish Service	Sun.	3:00 p.m.

LITURGICAL SERVICE
Airman Memorial Chapel – Building 5432
Sun. 8:00 a.m

CHURCH OF CHRIST
New BMT Reception Center – Building 6330
Sun. 7:30 a.m. (Rm. 175)

SEVENTH - DAY ADVENTIST
Gateway Chapel – Building 6300
Sat. 12:30 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
New BMT Reception Center – Building 6330
Sun. 7:30 a.m. (Rm. 112)

—ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

Airmen Memorial Chapel – Building 5432
Sun. 9:30 a.m.

—WICCA

New BMT Reception Center – Building 6330
Sun. 9:00 – 11:00 (Auditorium)

Freedom Chapel – Building 1528
Wicca Open Circle 1st Tues. 6 – 7 p.m.

—REFUGE STUDENT CENTER

Building 9122 (Tech Training & TDY Students)

Wednesday	6 – 8 p.m.
Thursday	6 – 8 p.m.
Friday	6 – 11 p.m.
Saturday	12 – 9 p.m.
Sunday	11 – 5 p.m.

—JEWISH

Airmen Memorial Chapel – Building 5432

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

—ROMAN CATHOLIC

Freedom Chapel – Building 1528

Religious Education	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
Mass	Sun.	11:00 a.m.
Reconciliation	Sun.	10 a.m. & 4:15 p.m.
Daily Mass	Mon., Tues. & Thur.	11:30 a.m.

Note: Reconciliation(s) may be scheduled by appointment

—ISLAMIC

Global Ministry Center – Building 7452
Jumu'ah Prayer Fri. 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

—BUDDIST

New BMT Reception Center – Building 6330
Sun. 10 a.m. (Rm. 175)

—ECKANKAR

Gateway Chapel – Building 6300
1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays 12:30 p.m.

—BAHA'I

Gateway Chapel – Building 6300
1st, 3rd, and 5th Sun. 11:00 a.m.

—THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Gateway Chapel – Building 6300

Religious Education	Tues.	6:30 p.m.
LDS Institute	Thurs.	6:30 p.m.
LDS Service	Sun.	1:00 p.m.

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

JBSA-LACKLAND KEY FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCES

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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Military & Family Support Events

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

FRIDAY

▶ Federal Resume Process, noon to 2 p.m., Arnold Hall. Review of civilian hiring process; OPM guidance and terminology; navigating USAJOBS; writing tips for federal resume; searching/applying for jobs; using Application Manager to complete application; checking status and rating process.

WEDNESDAY

▶ Veteran's Administrative Benefits briefing, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

▶ Social Security & You, 1-3 p.m.

DEC. 15

▶ Resume writing techniques, noon to 2 p.m., Arnold Hall Community Center. Learn effective resume formats for non-federal jobs and writing techniques.

▶ Interview skills, noon to 2 p.m., Arnold Hall Community Center. Most employers assess a candidate's value within the first 30 seconds of an interview. Learn how to make the right impression.

DEC. 17

▶ Create an effective resume, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Review key elements in the resume writing process, write career objectives and descriptive accomplishment statements and begin to construct a draft resume. Bring job lead and resume, if applicable.

DEC. 18

▶ Exeptional Family Member Program Parent Support Group, noon to 1:30 p.m., JBSA-Lackland Bldg. 3850. Come to share experiences and knowledge with other parents.

DEC. 19

▶ Single parent support group, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., JBSA-Lackland Freedom Chapel, Fellowship Hall. A brown-bag forum for single parents to connect with each other and base resources, pre-registration required, call 671-3722. NOTE: Military and Family Readiness Centers will be closed Dec. 25-26 for Christmas and the Air Education and Training Command Family Day.

ONGOING IN DECEMBER

▶ Newcomer's orientation; mandatory for all new personnel, coordinate with your unit personnel coordinator or commander support element to schedule. Held at the Gateway Club.

▶ Pre-deployment briefings, mandatory for all Airmen scheduled to deploy, go Temporty Duty longer than 30 days, or on a remote assignment, are held Tuesdays 9-9:30 a.m. (sign up starting at 8:30 a.m.), building 5160.

▶ Post-deployment (reunion/reintegration) briefings, mandatory for all Airmen returning from deployment, are held Mondays 2:30-3:30 p.m., building 5160. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend.

▶ Retirement and pre-separation counseling, mandatory for all members retiring or separating, highly encouraged to attend before Transition GPS, pre-registration required, call 671-3722 to get next available date

▶ Transition GPS, 5-day mandatory workshop to separating members, call 671-3722 to get information on available dates.

INFORMATIONAL

▶ Military and Family Life Counselors MFLCs are licensed mental health professionals who provide situational, problem-solving counseling anonymously and confidentially. No written records are kept and it is free to military and family members. MFLCs consult informally with service members and families and identify early signs of stress. Commanders and units can also request a consultation. Call 540-5025 or 540-5030 for adults, 627-0054 or 540-5033 for child and youth.

Monthly Meetings

ENLISTED SPOUSES CLUB

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

OFFICERS SPOUSES CLUB

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

MILITARY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

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

On the web

http://www.lacklandfss.com

The 2014 Combined Federal Campaign continues through Dec. 15.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN POINTS OF CONTACT

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

502nd Air Base Wing:
Master Sgt. Thomas Shockley
Alternates:
Master Sgt. Kerry Thompson, Tech. Sgts. Mark Barnette and Angelica Guerrero, Staff Sgts. Christopher Sutherland, Gary Lund and Henry Roberson.

502nd Force Support Group:
Maj. Steven Parker
802nd Force Support Squadron:
Capt. Linda Aria
502nd Force Support Squadron:
Chris Neubeck

502nd Installation Support Group:
Michael Guzman
502nd Civil Engineering Squadron:
Joseph McCullough

502nd Communication Squadron:
Staff Sgt. Rodney Hill
502nd Operations Support Squadron:
Staff Sgt. Kerry Prado

502nd Security Forces and Logistic Support Group:
Master Sgt. Peter Esparza
902nd Security Forces Squadron:
Master Sgt. Orlando Bowman
502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron:
Tech. Sgt. Joan Dixon-Scott

To access the 2014 San Antonio Area Combined Federal Campaign charitable agency brochure online, visit http://www.cfcsanantonio.org.

JBSA-Lackland deserving Airmen take to the sky

Courtesy photo

The 433rd Airlift Wing incentive flight program is available to all Alamo Wing members as a reward for their outstanding performance. The program gives members an opportunity to broaden their Air Force knowledge of the 433rd Airlift Wing's mission and delivery capabilities of the C-5A. Interested members should contact their supervisors or the 433rd AW public affairs office for more information on the next incentive flight.

By Minnie Jones
433rd Airlfit Squadron

Thirteen outstanding Airmen from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland received an incentive flight Nov. 1 aboard a C-5A Galaxy aircraft sponsored by the 433rd Airlift Wing. This is the first incentive flight in a long while given by the Alamo Wing.

The incentive flight was initiated by the 433rd Operations Group and flown by courtesy of pilots from the 68th Airlift Squadron.

The incentive flight was given to the wing's quarterly award winners and to Airmen that were handpicked by leadership from JBSA-Lackland and the Texas Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing at JBSA-Lackland Kelly Field Annex.

"This flight, to include the valuable training accomplished, allowed a few selected outstanding Airmen a chance to see how the incredible work they do daily positively impacts the accomplishment of just one important mission here at JBSA-Lackland and the 433rd Airlift Wing," said Col. Lee Merkle, 433rd OG commander.

The flight lasted approximately two hours and prior to the flight, Airmen experienced a walk-around inspection and a tour of the inside of the C-5A.

"The incentive flight was great," said Staff Sgt. Eric Martinez, a knowledge operations management specialist. "I appreciated the opportunity and I'm glad the program is around."

During flight, Airmen had an opportunity to watch an in-flight refueling with the 507th Air Refueling Wing from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

"The 433rd Airlift Wing selected Airmen, some of the finest within the wing and base partners on JBSA-Lackland, to experience how their contributions positively impact the accomplishments of our mission to provide the best combat ready forces," Merkle said.

The incentive flight program is available to all Alamo Wing members as a reward for their outstanding performance. The program gives members an opportunity to broaden their Air Force knowledge of the 433rd Airlift Wing's mission and delivery capabilities of the C-5A. Interested members should contact the 433rd AW public affairs office for more information on the next incentive flight.

Members from the 433rd Airlift Wing were: Capt. Robert Orallo, Logistic Readiness Squadron; Master Sgt. Deborah Galbreith, Operation Support Squadron; Master Sgt. Monica Villanueva, Current Operations; Tech. Sgt. Sarah Yarbrough, Maintenance Group; Staff Sgt. Eric Martinez, Airlift Wing; Senior Airman Mychal Hamilton, Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Shawnna Kenney, 356th Airlift Squadron; Senior Airman Elizabeth Kilby, Current Operations; Senior Airman Jonathan Lyle, Logistic Readiness Squadron; Senior Airman Jamie Ortega, Aeromedical Staging Squadron; and Senior Airman Muris Secerbegovic, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Other Airmen from JBSA-Lackland were: Senior Airman Benjamin Gibson, 502nd Air Base Wing and Airman 1st Class Derron Edison, Texas Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing.

Geospatial Integration Office showcases technology to area students

By Roger Gragg
AFCEC Public Affairs

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Geospatial Integration Office gave local students a glimpse at the latest technology used to manage the service's GeoBase program during Alamo Area Geographic Information Systems Day Nov. 14 in San Antonio.

The AFCEC team joined other San Antonio-area GIS professionals to give students and the general public an opportunity to learn about career opportunities and see how GIS technology impacts day-to-day life. Presenters highlighted growing and dynamic technology through presentations, exhibits and hands-on demonstrations.

At the AFCEC booth, students were treated to a wide-range of GIS applications, including a view of orbiting satellites and space debris; river and stream gauges from around the area; force location data and flight plans; and installation diagrams detailing services and utilities near proposed building sites. Visitors to the booth, named most informative at the event, were also able to use the Google Earth flight simulator program and try their hand at the controls.

"It's cool to see all the different ways you can use the maps," said one Smithson Valley student.

More than 375 students attended the event. The first-hand look at state-of-the-art technology encourages them to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education, said Cecilio Martinez, the GIS Day co-planner.

"With presentations on a variety of popular topics including drones and mapping, how GIS can be used to help find Bigfoot, and how GIS is playing a vital role for our armed forces, this year's program exceeded expectation of attendees," Martinez said.

The experience helps students understand there are many opportunities in the field, said teacher Melissa Blohm, who brought 74 students from her pre-advanced placement world geography program at LaVernia High School.

"This event allows the students to see there is more to this than Google Earth. It creates a greater interest in geography and shows them different career fields in GIS and the mapping industry," she said.

The AFCEC GIS program is part of the planning and integration directorate and, as of Oct. 1, is the home of the Air Force GeoBase Office. Scott Ensign, geospatial integration officer at AFCEC, is excited the center has primary responsibility for the growing program.

"The GeoBase program uses GIS technology as a way to manage and visualize infrastructure data, from manhole covers to building floor plans. It is really about utilizing the information we have, connecting it, and making it available to complete the mission," he said.

Joined at the Alamo Area GIS Day by other members of AFCEC's Geo-Integration Office, including Greg Czerniak, Dave Foster, Bill Unsinn, Paul Ulmer and Alex Pineda, Ensign said he enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the students and share his passion for the technology. This was the first year AFCEC participated in the annual event and the team hopes it won't be the last.

"I think it provides a unique insight into a technology, and an industry, that the students might not know exists," Ensign said.

Warhawks look to repeat as Joe Hall Memorial basketball champions

Story and photo by Jose T. Garza III
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

In between practice drills at the Warhawk Fitness Center, the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Warhawks varsity basketball team engages in friendly banter while exhibiting comradeship. Calvin Conliffe, a former Warhawks player and first-year head coach, believes the camaraderie will be essential in their chances to repeat as Joe Hall Memorial basketball champions.

The 39th annual double-elimination tournament, which is named after Tech. Sgt. Joe Hall, an accomplished Warhawks basketball player and coach who passed away from cancer in 1975, takes place Saturday and Sunday at the Warhawk and Chaparral Fitness Centers.

"Everybody wants to succeed," said Conliffe, who took over the head coaching position from Master Sgt. Kenneth Plummer after he moved to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., in the summer. "Everybody is happy and joking around with each other. These guys love playing together."

The camaraderie seems to be clicking so far.

The Warhawks, who compete in the Central U.S. Military Basketball Conference, are 5-3 in military and civilian basketball competition. The team consists of 15 returning players and five new players.

Because of his familiarity with most of the players, Conliffe said the transition from player to coach has been an easy process.

"I was sort of a coach or inside-the-huddle voice to my team during my playing time here at JBSA-Lackland," he said. "The returning players have helped me out a ton, helping me teach the new guys on the roster the offensive and defensive sets that we've implemented."

One of the returning players Conliffe relies on for support and leadership is forward Wendell Thibeaux.

Thibeaux said he leads by example vocally and physically.

"I try to be a leader through my voice and actions," he said. "I don't ask any of my teammates to do anything I wouldn't do for the team and they know that. I practice everyday as if I'm competing for a starting spot and when younger guys see a starter practicing that hard it only makes them want to practice that much harder."

Warhawks forward Wendell Thibeaux works on his jump shot during practice Nov. 20 at the Warhawk Fitness Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The competitiveness is derived from the head coach.

"You see coach on the sidelines in tight situations, and he wants to compete but unfortunately he can't," Thibeaux said. "Seeing him wanting us to win and showing intensity makes us feel that on the court."

Conliffe has plenty of motivation to ensure the team is successful in his first year as Warhawks head coach. He remembered the team ceding a 19-point lead to the Fort Carson, Colo., varsity basketball team before being eliminated from the National U.S. Military Basketball Tournament in April and reminds them of it almost every practice.

"The main thing I told the players (when the team first began practice) was to be ready and focused. My main philosophy is defense because last year, in my opinion, we gave up too many easy baskets.

"I want us to be more physical and to be able share the ball. I want the team to be well rounded, so we really don't have a leading scorer. Our leading scorer can be anybody on any given night."

Conliffe guaranteed JBSA-Lackland patrons that they will see the Warhawks' best effort in the Joe Hall tournament.

"These guys have winning in their DNA," the coach said. "They love the bright lights. The team thrives in front of large crowds and under bright lights, and they are young and passionate.

"You are not going to get bored watching us play. We are going to hustle."

Dental shakes off 'devastating' base finals loss, wins JBSA Intramural Flag Football title

By Jose T. Garza III
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

About a week after the 59th Dental Group lost in "devastating" fashion in the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland finals, the team shook off their anger and won the JBSA Intramural Flag Football title.

Quarterback Ricky Guajardo threw four touchdown passes to lead Dental to a 30-18 victory over the 359th Medical Group from JBSA-Randolph Nov. 19 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to claim its third consecutive JBSA-wide championship.

The JBSA Intramural Flag Football Tournament featured the two finalists from JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph, and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's respective tournaments.

"After the loss, (against the 688th Cyberspace Wing in the base finals Nov. 13), we were angry because we knew we were the best team, and we let the game slip away from us," said Staff Sgt. Brett Manz, 59th DG Endonotics Flight NCO in charge and one of the team's coaches.

"To have an undefeated season then go on to lose the base championship was devastating. We shook it off going into the JBSA tournament, and there was no time to feel sorry for ourselves. We were confident but also humbled going into the tournament, and we were able to win."

Because of the high level of competition, Manz said Dental knew they weren't going to blow teams out, so they had to play their best game and be patient to win the championship.

"All three games were team wins," Manz said. "The ball was spread around on offense, and guys came up with big plays on offense and defense. I'm extremely proud of everyone on our team."

Courtesy Photo

The 59th Dental Group poses with the Joint Base San Antonio Intramural Flag Football trophy Nov. 19 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. The team defeated the 359th Medical Group, 30-18, in the finals of the JBSA-wide tournament.