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WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

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JBSA cleans up for spring

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COMMENTARY

Knowledge is power! Are you fully energized?

By Senior Master Sgt. Chas Buterbaugh
318th Cyberspace Operations Group

Knowledge is power! How many times have you heard people say that? For me it's been hundreds of times between the quotes, speeches, billboards and movies everywhere. Now anyone who knows me will confirm that I can be a pretty slow learner and depending on who you ask they will tell you that I still have a long way to go, but in my own defense, I also know that I've come a long way.

When I was 16 years old my mind was made up; I didn't like school, I was joining the military and swore I would never take another class again when I graduated the following year. Funny thing is the more I fought against studying, taking tests and taking college courses, the more I did those very things I swore off years ago. I soon found out that basic training was just one more cram session mixed with gym class, housekeeping and camping on steroids. I can still hear my training instructors yelp, "What are you looking at? Get your nose in that Airmen's Manual." Guess what, time to study.

Finally, after six weeks I had graduated… no more studying, sitting in classrooms, finally. I was wrong again.

From the minute I joined the Air Force it has been one non-stop classroom and it never stops. Not one year has gone by that I wasn't studying career development courses, promotion fitness examination, (yes us old farts carried PFEs not professional development guides), promotion material, attending professional military education. For the longest time I didn't take advantage of the knowledge I learned and had access to. Luckily one of my mentors thumped me on the head and forced me to look at all the things I learned and the advantages the Air Force had given me. I took a step back and decided the time was right.

When I first joined after high school I had zero intention of ever pursuing formal education again, but because it has been given to me so freely through tuition assistance, the GI Bill, professional organization scholarships and myriad other programs available, I finally broke down (others would say got smart). So, I decided to power up. At the 10-year point of my career I decided it was about time to use those programs and begin my college journey. Twelve long years later, the kid who hated school so much that he joined the Air Force to get away from it completed his master of science degree with distinction. Crazy right?

I never truly realized the power an education could provide me both in uniform and out. When you take time to learn, you improve yourself, you improve your organization and, believe it or not, you improve others around you as well. By powering up and expanding your personal knowledge, you share that knowledge with others, improving their approach to looking at things. When it comes to knowledge, the Air Force is also one big power plant. So I ask you, are you powering up? Are you fully energized?

In a time when the Department Of Defense is trying to have their dollars go farther, they are looking at every measure they can to cut budgets and reduce spending. If you think tuition assistance will be there in its current state forever, you may be fooling yourself.

If you sit back until later in your career to take advantage of these programs, with force shaping there may not be a later. I was fortunate I had time, and did not wait too long before using these programs to improve myself and open additional doors for myself both as a military member and in the civilian sector.

It is a simple equation; By educating yourself, you expand your options. With a Community College of the Air Force associate degree, technical school training and four or six years of military experience, you immediately have an advantage over someone who has none.

If you have a bachelor's degree you put yourself one rung on the ladder above that group. Finally, with a master's degree, American Census data has shown you can earn close to 20 percent more each year than those with a bachelor's degree depending on your field of study. With a Doctorate, you may change your tax bracket. Keep in mind you can also earn multiple certifications thereby setting you up for future success.

The best news in this article is that right now you can get a professional certification, associate, bachelor's, master's or perhaps a doctoral degree free. Yes 100 percent. How many of you have stood in line for free game tickets, free Starbucks or buy one get one free deals? That may only have hours or maybe months of pay-off. Why would you not want to take advantage of a free education that will have a life-long pay-off?

Whether you have been in two years or 22 years now is the time! Power up while you can, because eventually the Air Force power plant may cut its output and you could be left low on knowledge and even shorter on power!

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph pool hours

Center pool (next to the Parr Club) - 652-2060
Open today through Sept. 1
Monday, Wednesday and Saturday – Open swim, 1-8 p.m.
Tuesday – Closed
Sunday – Open swim, 1-6 p.m.
Water aerobic classes: Monday and Wednesday, 10-11 a.m.

South pool (near Rambler Fitness Center) - 652-2053
Open June 9 through Aug. 14, Monday through Thursday
Swim lessons – 8-11 a.m. and 5-8 p.m.
Lap swimming – 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Day Camp (youth programs) – 1-4 p.m.
Open Saturdays for private pool parties only, closed Friday and Sunday

Season pool passes and swim class registration are available at the Community Services Mall, building 895. For swim class schedule or more information, call 652-5142.

ON THE COVER

Capt. Lauren Hale, Air Force Recruiting Service, trims shrubs May 16 at the AFRS building at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph during JBSA Pride Week. For more photos, see page 8.
Photo by Melissa Peterson

WINGSPREAD

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Make every dollar count: All in, all the time

By Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force
and Gen. Larry O. Spencer
Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force

Last year, in response to budget sequestration, we launched the Every Dollar Counts campaign. Since that launch, your innovative ideas and money-saving efficiency changes saved our Air Force hundreds of millions of dollars during these challenging fiscal times.

From public-private partnerships at base level, to centralized engine repair Air Force wide, your ideas are saving precious resources all across the enterprise. To each Airman who took the time to send in an idea, influence change or create a new efficiency in your shop: thank you – job well done! But we can't stop now, we must do more.

Now is the time to leverage the success of last year's campaign and continue to cultivate a culture of innovation, efficiency, and savings. This letter is our call to action to make every dollar count. Our goal is to take as many of our efficiencies and savings initiatives as possible and multiply them across the entire spectrum of operations. From large scale initiatives, such as implementing cutting-edge energy practices or acquisition process improvements, to base-level actions, such as video teleconferencing and contract review, everything counts.

Our current initiatives are just the beginning. We challenge each of you to develop initiatives in your own areas of expertise. If there was ever a time for "out-of-the-box" ideas, it's now. Each of us must be "all in, all the time" to make this work. There are two programs available to submit your great ideas to increase cost savings across our Air Force. You may submit ideas online to our Airmen Powered by Innovation website at https://ipds.afpc.randolph.af.mil or by contacting your local Air Force Smart Operations for the Twenty-first Century Office. All ideas will be actively processed by the Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force for Business Transformation.

Deborah Lee James

Gen. Larry O. Spencer

As you know, there are consequences of this fiscal climate we cannot change, but we must do our very best to improve the things we can and ensure we are good stewards of every taxpayer dollar. Let's all take ownership – each active duty, Reserve, Guard and civilian Airman – to improve what we can control and to make every dollar count.

For assistance regarding the new API program contact Christine Buchholz at 652-8953 or 652-8954.

NEWS

KEEPING WATCH

Sallie Mae ordered to pay $96.6M for violating troops' rights

Justice Department officials announced an enforcement action May 13 against the nation's largest servicer of federal and private student loans, which was found to be systematically violating the legal rights of U.S. service members.

Sallie Mae, also known as Sallie Mae Bank and Navient Solutions, is ordered to pay $96.6 million in restitution and penalties, officials said, adding that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation also reached a settlement with the companies that addresses allegations of student loan servicing misconduct.

"I commend Attorney General Eric Holder, FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg, and the staff at the Department of Justice and FDIC for taking action to protect student loan borrowers," said Holly Petraeus, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau assistant director, who leads the CFPB's Office of Servicemember Affairs.

"I have been concerned for some time about the way that military personnel are treated by their student loan servicers," Petraeus said in a statement. "The men and women serving this country should receive quality customer service and the legal protections afforded to them. Instead, Sallie Mae gave service members the runaround and denied them the interest-rate reduction required by law. This behavior is unacceptable. And it's particularly troubling from a company that benefits so generously from federal contracts."

The Justice Department's civil rights division has initiated a number of enforcement actions in recent years to pursue those who don't fulfill their legal obligations under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, Petraeus said.

"I applaud their actions, which have put millions of dollars back in the pockets of service members," she added.

The enforcement action should serve as warning not only to the student loan servicing industry, but also to all institutions that provide or service loans to the military, Petraeus said.

"Federal agencies will be vigilant about holding all financial institutions accountable for providing the protections that our service members have earned through their selfless service to our nation," she added.

A 2012 CFPB report found that service members faced serious hurdles in accessing their student loan benefits, including the provisions of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act that cap the interest rate on pre-existing student loans and other consumer credit products at 6 percent while the service member is on active duty, CFPB officials said. Servicers were not providing them with clear and accurate information about their loan repayment options.

The CFPB heard from military borrowers, including those in combat zones, who were denied interest-rate protections because they failed to resubmit unnecessary paperwork. These kinds of obstacles prevent service members from taking advantage of the full range of protections they have earned through their service to this country, officials said.

The CFPB has partnered with the Defense Department to create better awareness of the rights and options for service member student loan borrowers. A CFPB guide for service members who have student loans contains clear information on the various ways student loans can be repaid.

Officials noted that the CFPB began accepting student loan complaints in March 2012, and added that service members who have an issue with their servicers should submit a complaint to the CFPB.

To submit a complaint, consumers can:

- Go online at http://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint;
- Call the toll-free phone number at 855-411-CFPB (2372) or TTY/TDD phone number at 855-729-CFPB (2372);
- Fax the CFPB at 855-237-2392; or
- Mail a letter to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, P.O. Box 4503, Iowa City, IA 52244

Additionally, through "Ask CFP," or by calling 855-411-CFPB (2372), consumers can get clear, unbiased answers to their questions, officials said.

Local base legal assistance offices can help service members submit claims to the CFPB and in dealing with their loan servicing companies. Service members on Joint Base San Antonio -Fort Sam Houston can call 808-0169; on JBSA-Lackland call 671-3362/3393; and on JBSA-Randolph call 652-6781.

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Joint Risks on 'Critical Days of Sum

By 2nd Lt. Luke Nimmo
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Summer is almost upon us and once again the Air Force 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign will be in effect from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, this year's theme is: 'Double checks, not second thoughts.'

To many, summer time is vacation time; where military members and families spend their off time swimming, boating, taking family vacations, playing sports and participating in various high-risk activities.

Despite summer being known for celebration and recreation, there's an underlying danger that comes from bad choices.

"Driving long hours and more miles than your body has energy for, drowning during a water sport activity or suffering from dehydration and sunburn during recreational sports, are just a few of the dangers people tend to overlook during the largest vacation period," Tech. Sgt. Travis Yates from the 502nd Air Base Wing Safety Office at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, said.

According to the Air Force Safety Center officials, summer historically sees an increase in off-duty injuries and fatalities. Many of these accidents occur from reckless driving, sport injuries, heat-related injuries, water sport accidents and more.

There were 321 injuries throughout Air Education and Training Command in the 2013 Critical Days of Summer season, one of which resulted in a death from a motorcycle accident. Throughout the Air Force, 21 Airmen died during the 2013 summer months.

Some measures the safety offices recommend are:

- Drink plenty of water.
- Apply sun screen to protect skin from harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun.
- Keep a close eye on children and pets during all outdoor activities.
- Be prepared for unintended fires while using grills, smokers, campfires or any other source of heat for cooking or leisure.
- Be aware of high outdoor temperatures and plan accordingly for longer outdoor activities.
- Wear the proper safety equipment appropriate for high-risk activities.

"Remember, personal safety is the responsibility of each individual and is a vital part of all activities, both on- and off-duty," said Yates. "Use your situational awareness, common sense and the wingman concept to have an accident-free summer."

JBSA has one phone number for facility repair requests

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio has one telephone number for people at all locations to call when their facilities require maintenance or repairs.

Effective May 16, JBSA's customer service number, 671-5555, is located at JBSA-Lackland.

"That is the only number all JBSA customers will have to remember for customer service during and after duty hours," Deborah Gonzalez, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron requirements chief, said. "The phones will automatically transfer to our after-duty service call at 4:30 p.m. each weekday and on weekends and holidays."

Customers who call the new number are directed to press the appropriate number for the location they are calling – 1 for JBSA-Lackland, 2 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and 3 for JBSA-Randolph, Gonzalez said.

"Initially, all calls will be directed to the original customer service representatives that sat at your location," she said. "Once all customer service representatives are familiar with answering calls from all of JBSA, the phone directory will be removed and anyone answering the phone will be able to help you."

The response process will not change, Gonzalez said. "An emergency will be dispatched immediately," she said. "We will have telephonic contact with all our shop superintendents as well as our section chiefs."

Anyone can call the customer service number to report an emergency situation, Gonzalez said, but only facility managers are authorized to place other service calls.

"We are usually the first call people make when they're trying to find out whom or what shop in civil engineering to call for a specific issue they may have," she said.

JBSA locations receive a combined total of some 5,300 customer service requests per month, Gonzalez said.

Most of the requests are for minor maintenance and repairs; problems including stopped-up toilets, no air conditioning, leaks in the ceiling and ants in rooms.

Each location has its own maintenance staff, including carpenters, plumbers and electricians, to handle minor issues, Antonio Matos, 502nd CES project management team chief, said. For construction projects that are more expensive or complex, a bid process is required.

Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Prevention, Response

To report a sexual assault, call the 24/7 Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Hotline at 808-7272 or the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247.

Tech Expo

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Annual Technology Expo takes place 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. June 4 at Mitchell Hall on JBSA-Lackland. All with base access are invited to attend. For more information, contact Marissa Perez at 210-671-3200.

JBSA-Randolph cleans up for Pride Week

Photo by Joel Martinez

Gary Derksen trims tree branches at Air Education and Training Command Headquarters May 15 during Joint Base San Antonio Pride Week at JBSA-Randolph.

Staff Sgt. Nelly Hensley, NCOIC of Military Justice, trims hedges around the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Taj building May 9 during JBSA Pride Week.

Photo by Melissa Peterson

Photo by Joel Martinez

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph personnel rake leaves at the Air Force Personnel Center May 12 during JBSA Pride Week at JBSA-Randolph.

Photo by Melissa Peterson

Air Force members of the Air Force Recruiting Service remove weeds and prepare to spread mulch May 16 during the Joint Base San Antonio Pride Week at JBSA-Randolph.

AETC-based office supports AF medical training mission

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Photos by Airman 1st Class Kenna Jackson

From left: Maya Machacon, Air Force Medical Modeling and Simulation Training curriculum specialist; Ruben Garza, AFMMAST program deputy chief and administrator; Senior Master Sgt. Juan Rodriguez, AFMMAST program manager; and Doug Howard, AFMMAST chief of curriculum, exercise their medical training through simulation with a dummy May 9 at AFMMAST program training room, building 671 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Medical education in the Air Force experienced a transformation six years ago with the establishment of Air Force Medical Modeling and Simulation Training.

Based at Air Education and Training Command, the AFMMAST Central Program Office is the hub of that initiative.

"The central program office is responsible for the assessment, development and execution of medical modeling and simulation processes to facilitate training across the Air Force enterprise," Col. (Dr.) Meletios Fotinos, AFFMAST CPO medical modernization chief, said.

"We're the organization that provides cradle-to-grave support to enhance education and training for all aspects of health care," he said.

The AFMMAST mission – "to develop and use advanced learning technologies and methodologies to improve medical education and training for health care teams and patients, for the purpose of improving health care outcomes" – is carried out at simulation centers throughout the Air Force, including the 59th Medical Wing Simulation Center at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, and the JBSA-Camp Bullis Medical Readiness Training Center.

It is also achieved through the Computer Based Air Force Medical Training System, an immersive trainer that presents interactive 3D serious games for learning and practicing battlefield medicine.

Fotinos called the CPO the "integration unit" that brings expertise to enhance the learning experience. It provides guidance on simulation center operations, training, acquisition of equipment and support on any technical issues; its areas of responsibility comprise resource management, logistics, operations, information technology, research and development, and curriculum development.

A stethoscope and blood pressure calibrator are used to ascertain a dummy patient's pulse for a resuscitation attempt May 9 during a simulation of an AFMMAST class in progress at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

"We've grown to 47 contract professionals at 21 sites around the globe," Ruben Garza, AFMMAST CPO medical modernization administrator, said. Seven of those contractors are assigned to the CPO along with Fotinos, Garza and Senior Master Sgt. Juan Rodriguez, medical modernization manager.

The central program office oversees funding, contracting and procurement of equipment, Garza said. AFMMAST has $42 million in its simulation equipment inventory and a budget of $3.5 million per year for purchases.

"Oversight is necessary to ensure taxpayers' money is appropriately spent to support training objectives," Fotinos said.

Garza said one of AFMMAST's focus areas is readiness; the others are taking care of people and cost-effective training.

"We're training our medics to better take care of our war fighters and beneficiaries," Fotinos said. "We strive to provide the best service to meet the mission at the lowest cost."

He said modeling and simulations provide opportunities to train medics to treat patients and mitigate risks, both downrange and in garrison.

Rodriguez said medical training, whether it's done at simulation centers or through 3-D gaming, "prepares people to be more comfortable."

"It's just practice, constant muscle awareness," Garza said.

Fotinos said AFMMAST was stood up at the direction of the Air Force surgeon general "to lay the foundation to enhance education and training capabilities for the future.

"The initial effort was to inventory existing equipment and develop a standardized process to ensure cost-effective, training objective-driven equipment purchases," he said. "In addition, the AFMMAST program strived to develop standardized processes to systematically identify training requirements and training tools to address these gaps."

Fotinos said education and training is in a transformational era because technological advances "have opened up training to include computer-based training, interactive virtual environments and self-assessment tools to measure an individual's progress in reaching a goal.

"Medical modeling and simulation training tools allow us to provide a variety of training modalities to engage users in the acquisition of knowledge, the development of psychomotor skills to perform tasks and the ability to effectively communicate in team settings in providing integrated care to our patients," he said. "In addition, modeling and simulation allows us to develop training to focus on high-risk, low-volume conditions in which teams can practice so they can respond more effectively when they occur in the 'real world.'"

More information on AFMMAST and training courses that are available can be found at http://www.afmmast.mil.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

Asian heritage festival
In recognition of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, a festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Center. All with base access are invited to attend. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Gabriel Svetcos at 925-705-5262.

SafeTALK Brief
A safeTALK suicide alertness training will take place 1-4 p.m. June 12 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Chapel Annex. The training will enable attendees to:
• Move beyond tendencies to miss, dismiss or avoid suicide
• Identify people who have thoughts of suicide
• Apply the TALK steps – Tell, Ask, Listen and Keep Safe – to connect a person with suicidal thoughts to suicide first-aid intervention caregivers
For reservations, call Charles Hasberry Jr. at 652-6781 or send an email to charles.hasberry.1@us.af.mil. For more information, visit http://www.livingworks.net.

Road repair work schedule changes
The construction of South Gate Road begins June 9 and will finish by Sept. 15. Signs will be posted and a temporary entry and alternate road will be constructed for vehicles to enter Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph at South Gate. Signs will notify drivers of the construction and re-route through the temporary South Gate entry. For more information, call Joseph Domeier at 652-1312.

Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips

Carbon monoxide or CO is a colorless and odorless gas. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine, such as a furnace, heater or generator, is not working or vented properly. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal.

Learn what you can do to protect your family from the dangers of CO

• Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of CO.
• Install CO alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home.
• Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
• Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of debris.
• Remove vehicles from the garage immediately after starting.

Fact – More than 150 people in the U.S. die every year from accidental non-fire related CO poisoning.

Image courtesy of U.S. Fire Administration

Information provided by the U.S. Fire Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Administration, http://www.usfa.fema.gov

JBSA-Randolph Chapel Regular Schedule

PROTESTANT

Sunday

8:15 a.m. service, Main Chapel

11 a.m. service, Religious Activity Center (building 975)

CATHOLIC

Monday-Thursday

11:30 a.m. daily Mass, Main Chapel

Saturday

5:30 p.m. Mass, Main Chapel

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Mass, Religious Activity Center (building 975)

11:30 a.m. Mass, Main Chapel

AETC selects JBSA-Randolph legal office as tops in command

Photo by Melissa Peterson

From left: Staff Sgt. Nelly Hensley, NCO in charge of Military Justice, and Tech. Sgt. Jason Brown, NCO in charge of the legal office, assist 2nd Lt. Donald Kidwell and 2nd Lt. Cody Shilling May 8 with the process of executing a will.

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Six months into 2012, members of the 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph looked at ways they could improve their performance in 2013.

The JBSA-Randolph legal team learned May 2 that the strides it made last year following that self-examination had not gone unnoticed outside its office. It was selected as the 2013 Air Education and Training Command Outstanding Legal Office of the Year in the small office category.

"It's humbling, because if you look across JBSA, everybody's doing a great job," Maj. Elvis Santiago, 502nd SFLSGJA deputy staff judge advocate, said. "We have to do more with less, but we've improved in every area. It's a testament to everyone in our office."

The 502nd SFLSG legal office in 2013 resolved "to be part of the larger mission of the Air Force," Santiago said, and demonstrated its commitment by assisting the JBSA-Lackland legal team during the height of the military training instructor trials.

The legal office typically handles four or five courts-martial per year, he said, but last year that number rose to 19.

"We provided assistance to JBSA-Lackland due to the surge in MTI cases," Santiago said. "That was part of an Air Force effort to hold everyone accountable for their actions."

The legal office met other objectives as well, extending its outreach to the surrounding community, streamlining the will preparation process, creating a continuing legal education program and increasing the volume of its legal opinions; in addition, staff members earned several individual awards at the command, base, wing and group levels.

Streamlining the will preparation process for beneficiaries resulted in much-improved productivity, Santiago said.

"We streamlined a process that used to take about three hours," he said. "Now we can get everybody out in 45 minutes to an hour. We produced 147 wills per attorney; that's 178 percent better than

See LEGAL OFFICE P13

Chaplain recruiters invite priests to 'Come Be With Us'

By Tech. Sgt. Hillary Stonemetz
Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

Roman Catholic priests who are interested in becoming Air Force chaplains can learn more about this career opportunity through the "Come Be With Us" tour sponsored by Air Force Recruiting Service.

The tour is the first step in the recruiting process which provides an opportunity for priests and chaplain recruiters to meet face-to-face to discuss chaplain requirements in operational and deployed environments. The chaplains also address issues such as military lifestyle and physical training requirements. Tours are held twice a year at Creech and Nellis Air Force Bases in Nevada. Each tour hosts 10 to 12 priests from around the country.

"Roman Catholic priests typically have no military background, so it's a four-day familiarization tour for them to come and learn about military expectations and how pastoral ministry takes place in the military," said Father John Kinney, AFRS Chaplain Corps Accessions director.

Even though the tour has been successful, with an average of 70 percent of participants joining the Air Force, there is still a shortage of Catholic chaplains.

"There are currently 53 Catholic chaplains providing religious support to more than 190,000 Catholic Airmen and their families," Kinney said. "That is down from 205 Catholic chaplains 25 years ago. Within the next three months, five Catholic chaplains will be retiring. The Air Force needs 120 Catholic chaplains to meet the needs of Catholics in the Air Force."

Some priests who attend the tour may realize that military service is not meant for them, but refer their colleagues to the Air Force.

"After attending a tour, priests often send us names of other priests whom they believe have an interest in the Chaplain Corps ministry so that chaplains can make contact and invite them to the tour," said Chaplain (Maj.) Laserian Nwoga, chaplain recruiter.

"Recruiting Catholic priests can be difficult because first, every priest belongs to their home diocese of ordination or incardination. They have to be released by their bishop to Archbishop Timothy Broglio, the Archbishop for the Military Services in the United States, who then endorses them to the military," he said. "Every priest in the military is on loan from their ordained home diocese. Lastly, they also have to meet the Air Force commissioning requirements."

Because age waivers are no longer being granted by the Air Force,

Courtesy photo

Catholic priests from the "Come Be With Us" program pose with Peterson AFB and Air Force Recruiting Service personnel on the flightline at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

See CHAPLAIN CORPS P13

LEGAL OFFICE from P12

the Air Force average of 53."

In the area of community service, legal office staff members contributed 750 hours, lending a helping hand to organizations such as Haven for Hope and Habitat for Humanity. They also provided outreach to Randolph High School with Constitution Day and Law Day activities, and took advantage of teaching and mentorship opportunities.

"Teaming is one of the four pillars of our office, and we addressed how we could team with the local community to make it a win-win situation," Santiago said.

Last year was also marked by individual awards, including four for Jackie Christilles, AETC Outstanding Civilian Attorney and Civilian Employee of the Year at the JBSA, 502nd Air Base Wing and 502nd SFLSG levels, and Capt. Anna Scott, 502nd ABW Outstanding Young Attorney and 502nd SFLSG Company Grade Officer of the Year. Civilians Marcel Brown and Sarah Browne were cited as "unsung heroes" and Staff Sgt. Jason Brown earned Noncommissioned Officer of the Fourth Quarter for the 502nd SFLSG.

The legal office's evaluation process started when Lt. Col. Katherine Oler became staff judge advocate, Santiago said. Under her leadership, the staff looked at every area to maximize its potential.

Despite its small size, the legal office staff, which is composed of 13 active-duty members and four civilians, is responsible for legal assistance and military justice support for AETC, Air Force Personnel Center, Air Force Recruiting Service and 30 other mission partners, advising commanders on all legal matters and providing trial counsel at JBSA courts-martial. The office's client services range from legal counsel and powers of attorney to will and tax preparation.

CHAPLAIN CORPS from P12

priests who want to become chaplains must also enter active duty prior to their 42nd birthday, which also has made it difficult with priests' recruitment, Nwoga said.

"By eliminating the age waiver, the Air Force gives chaplains the potential for career development," Kinney said. "Chaplains can't be commissioned over the grade of captain and the age limit to stay in the Air Force is 62. The Air Force wants to give them the potential for long-term career development. If they only stay in for five or 10 years, there is no potential for career growth. But if they come in when they are 33 years old, they have the potential to reach the rank of colonel."

Gaining a bishop's approval can take years and the application process can take anywhere from eight to 12 months.

"Part of our job as recruiters is to interact with the bishops to request the release of priests who want to become chaplains in the military," Nwoga said. "Through the tour, we are attracting foreign-born priests who are naturalized U.S. citizens into the Chaplain Corps, which has been a blessing for us. We are recruiting priests from Africa, the Philippines, Vietnam, South America and Poland."

Chaplains perform duties in accordance with their faith tenets while accommodating requests from other faith groups. A Catholic chaplain is a priest for all Catholics and a chaplain for all Airmen and their families. Chaplains also advise leadership on religious, spiritual, ethical, moral and morale issues.

The next "Come Be With Us" tour is scheduled for June 16-20.

For more information about becoming a chaplain, call 800-803-2452 or visit the Air Force Chaplain Corps website at http://www.AIRFORCE.com/chaplain.

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