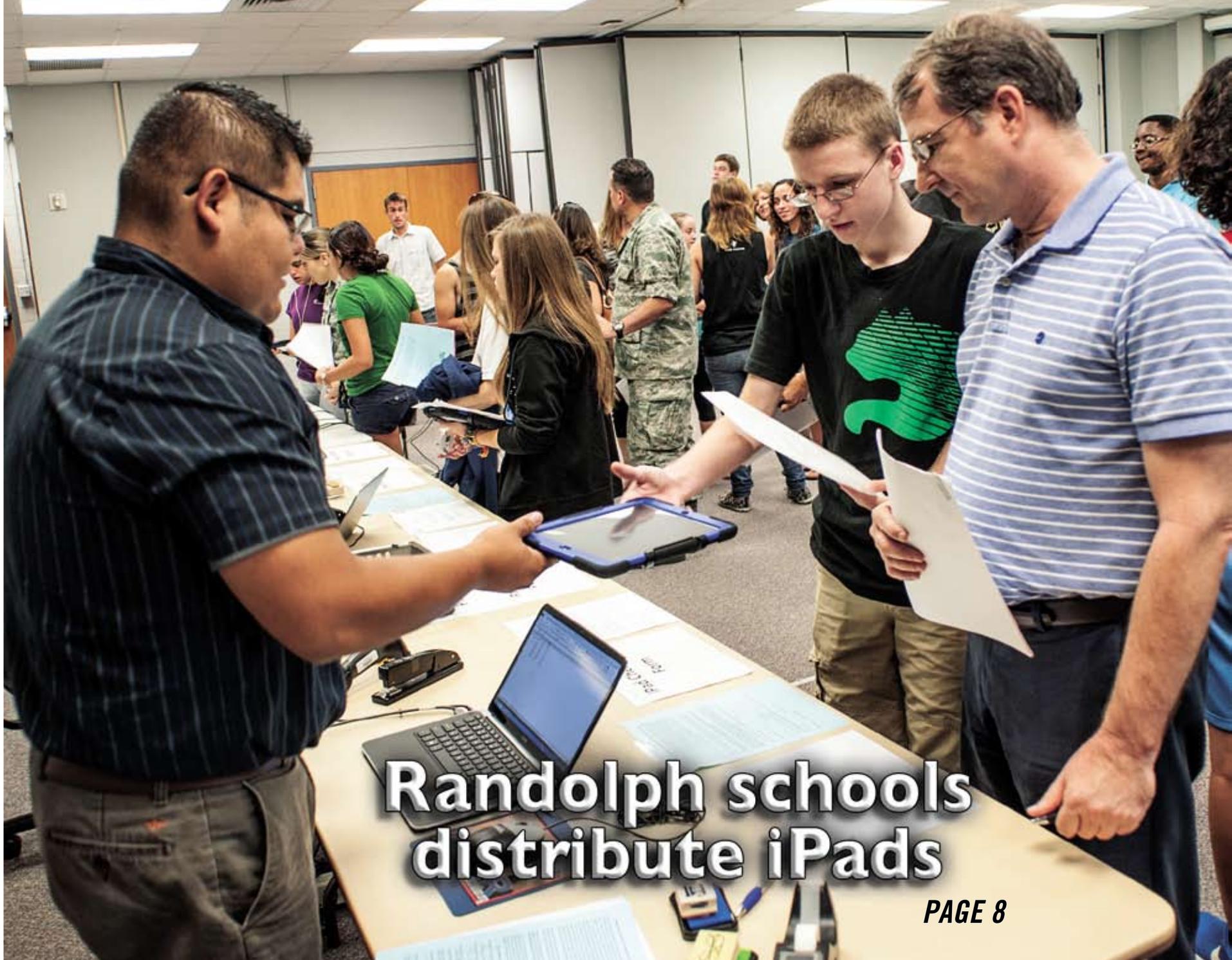




WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 35 • SEPTEMBER 5, 2014



Randolph schools distribute iPads

PAGE 8

INSIDE: LABRUTTA SHARES WISDOM, P3 ... POLITICAL ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS, P8 ... HONORING LBJ, P9

COMMENTARY

Can we ask too much of Airmen who refuse to fail?

By Gary Boyd

Air Education and Training Command
Command historian

Leadership comes with a cost to those being led. It is incumbent upon Air Force leaders to ensure planning, resources and military necessity are equal to the sacrifices being exacted on our people. Never was that balance so strained as on Black Thursday, Oct. 14, 1943.

Black Thursday is the popular name for the Second Schweinfurt raid by the 8th Air Force. It was a deep penetration strike into the heart of the Third Reich that was hoped to deliver a crippling blow to the German ball bearing industry – most of which was in and around the central German city of Schweinfurt. Strategically, the raid seemed like a tremendous idea – if it could work.

Unfortunately, Schweinfurt lay well beyond the range of escort fighters in October 1943. Additionally, the 8th AF had already hit Schweinfurt once. The Germans had thus intelligently confirmed to themselves that the clustered ball bearing industry needed to be dispersed around their occupied territories, which they had begun to do in earnest by the late autumn.

Then there was the truly alarming aspect: a bombing mission into the heart of Germany would incur a substantial risk to the 8th AF and very high casualties in the bomber force. It would give the Luftwaffe hours of warning and allow the defense fighters to concentrate all along the route of the mission.

It would allow even obsolete Luftwaffe aircraft a chance to participate with no friendly fighters there to intervene. And they could

land, refuel and rearm and intercept the bombers again

Thus, a second strike on Schweinfurt in October 1943 was not a great idea at all. It had a limited shelf life which passed with the first mission the previous August, or until at least the bombers could be escorted there and back by friendly fighters.

The decision to return again to Schweinfurt was fraught with danger and the Airmen who participated in it, against all odds and peril, are some of the giants of our heritage. Unlike the tidal wave Ploesti attack, which had its own strategic blunders and staggering losses, there would be no Medals of Honor in the Second Schweinfurt raid.

There were scores of Airmen who doubtless deserved the honor, but it was a day where astounding heroism was asked of every crewman, and it became almost impossible to highlight any one crew's action when B-17s had been strewn all over central Europe.

During the arduous mission, perhaps no better example of living the core values was Staff Sgt. Winston Toomey, a farm boy from Porter County, S.D.

Assigned to the 407th Bomb Squadron, 92nd Bomb Group, Toomey was a "togglie," a newly created crew position where a highly trained enlisted gunner could take over as a bombardier in B-17s.

Since the groups released their bomb loads as a team over the target, a togglie would follow the lead aircraft and drop the bombs and man nose gun positions.

On Black Thursday, Toomey was badly wounded by flak, but refused to leave his crew position. So many had been



Courtesy photo

Members of the 8th Air Force bomb the ball bearing factories in Schweinfurt, Germany, Oct. 14, 1943, also known as Black Thursday.

sacrificed for the opportunity to destroy the ball bearing factories that he felt obligated to stay to the bitter end. He dropped the bombs with the rest of the group and was later found dead still clutching his bomb release control. For his selflessness, integrity and excellence in his duties, he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

Of the 291 bombers dispatched to Schweinfurt, 60 were lost outright, 17 were damaged beyond repair and a staggering 121 required battle damage repair. An unbelievable 590 Airmen were killed and another 65 captured that day. All who survived bore scars of war that remained almost unbearable the rest of their lives.

Commentator Andy Rooney believed that the war of almost certain death waged by the early 8th AF was the most excruciating sacrifice of World War II. Yet, on this blackest of Air Force days, the bombing accuracy of Airmen in crisis was among the very best of the war. They devastated the factories in

and around Schweinfurt – though the time had passed when this would have had a telling impact.

Their sacrifice was not in vain. In fighting against the incredible odds, the bombers destroyed dozens of fighters, and the Luftwaffe had begun to lose more than 15 percent of its overall strength every month, even without escort fighters. The Luftwaffe, even on a day that Americans thought a disaster at the time, had already been effectively broken.

Black Thursday was one of the mistakes that Airmen, through their valor and sacrifice, made into something quite different in the longer arc of history. What a remarkable legacy they left us – a wise leader will take heed of the lessons of Black Thursday.

Airmen truly live by the creed of "I will not fail," and will follow you to hell and back even if wisdom failed their leaders. We must never be too zealous in pursuing a strategy no longer consistent with reality.

ON THE COVER

Jose Lopez (left), Randolph Field Independent School District technology department representative, issues an iPad to Ethan Chappel (center), Randolph High School sophomore, as George Chappel, Ethan's father, looks on. For the complete story, see page 8.
Photo by Melissa Peterson

WINGSPREAD

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502nd commander shares wisdom with NCOs

By Senior Airman Krystal Jeffers

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, kicked off the monthly JBSA-Lackland 5/6 meeting with his “words of wisdom” or “maxims” Aug. 20 at the Gateway Club at JBSA-Lackland.

LaBrutta covered topics such as formal training, Community College of the Air Force degrees, professional military education, job performance, establishing goals and action plans, creating a work/life balance, the new enlisted evaluation system and setting the standard rather than settling at the standard.

“We have a new enlisted evaluation system, transformation happening all over the place, a new organization and sequestration,” LaBrutta said. “My advice to you is to stop worrying about those things and start focusing. We have a new enlisted evaluation system and it is about time. Learn about it; find out what it is and what it means to you and the people you lead because you are leaders. You are the ones who will talk to the Airmen when they have questions and help them understand and not worry. The new system is good for you, for your people and for the U.S. Air Force.

“Performance is your highest priority and that’s where the new evaluation system comes in: It is going to be performance based,” the commander continued. “If you are a high performer in your organization, it is going



Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, speaks during the Aug. 20 JBSA-Lackland 5/6 meeting at the Gateway Club at JBSA-Lackland. LaBrutta covered a range of topics including his expectations of the NCO corps, the importance of Community College of the Air Force and professional military education, job performance, the new evaluation system, how to maintain a life/work balance and setting the standard vs. settling for the standard.

Photo by Senior Airman Krystal Jeffers

to be recognized and put into your record, and you will progress in the AirForce. Know what your job is, be the technical experts we expect you to be, be subject matter experts and people like me will make sure to set you up for success. Every day, make the commitment to excellence and make every day count.”

After the meeting, the Airmen gave glowing reviews and many spoke of the new things they learned.

“He hit home with a lot of the things he said,” said Tech. Sgt. Ricky Penuelaz, 59th Medical Wing NCO in charge of Reid Laboratory. “My favorite part was

See 5/6 MEETING P5

NEWS

New 502nd ISG commander returns home to make a difference

By Senior Airman Lysie Nichols
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Public Affairs

The new 502nd Installation Support Group commander's No. 1 goal is straightforward: Improve communication within Joint Base San Antonio.

"(I want to) help the ISG reach maturity with everybody in the 502nd Air Base Wing understanding what we are, what we do and also the processes that we have," Col. Alexander Smith, 502nd ISG commander, said.

"Having grown up in this area, I want to make sure the decisions I make support the needs of the military but also take into account the concerns of the local area where possible," Smith said.

Smith comes from a military background. He was born at Tachikawa Air Base, Tokyo, Japan, but was raised in San Antonio where his father retired from the Air Force in 1976 and the family settled here. Smith later graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1985 and received a Bachelor of Arts and Mathematics from the University of

Texas at Austin.

This current assignment is not Smith's first time back home since joining the military. He was stationed at then Lackland Air Force Base November 2007 through June 2009 as the network operations division chief, communications directorate for the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency.

"The biggest change (I've seen since my last assignment) is the joint 502nd ABW," he said. "When I was leaving, it hadn't fully stood up yet. The consolidation of the organization as a result of that change has been big."

One of the differences about JBSA from other bases is that it is one installation but with different locations that have histories, expectations and missions that are somewhat different, Smith explained.

"How we are functioned within the 502 ABW is unique," he said. "There are three support groups and each of us is responsible for non-overlapping functional areas. To have a group that specifically

focusses on certain functions is unique."

Smith hopes that communication awareness will help him achieve his goals of providing the best support.

"(I want to) communicate an understanding of not just how things are supposed to work in theory, but what the reality is and the challenges that the organization faces whether it be because of geography, manning or the environment," he said.

The 502nd ISG commander knows this is a job that cannot be done alone.

"This is a team effort, I need to rely on the whole team to ensure that we are successful," he said. "We have a lot of folks who have experience and expertise, so listening and relying on those who deal with these issues every day is important."

Returning home for this assignment means a lot to Smith.

"I'm excited about being here, I think I've been blessed to have been given this opportunity because not everybody gets to go home to do something important."

Smith took over command of the 502nd



Photo by Benjamin Faske

Col. Alexander Smith

502nd Installation Support Group commander

ISG from Col. William Eger in a ceremony July 11 at JBSA-Lackland. His last duty assignment was chief of joint information in the environment division for the Air Force Cyberspace Operations directorate at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Joint Base San Antonio Combined Federal Campaign gets underway

By Steve Elliott
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

The San Antonio Area Combined Federal Campaign began Monday and is in full swing, with military members and federal civilians being asked to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate by making a donation to their favorite charity.

The Combined Federal Campaign is the once-a-year workplace campaign available to federal employees which eliminates year-round on-the-job solicitations, while allowing employees a convenient way to give to the charitable organizations of their choice. The San Antonio area campaign is made up of 160 local military and federal organizations with more than 66,000 employees.

It is also the only authorized solicitation of federal employees in their workplaces. The Office of Personnel Management regulates the CFC and provides guidance and oversight to the local campaigns. The OPM is accountable for assuring federal employees

that their designations are honored and distributed to the charitable organizations of their choice and maintains strict eligibility and public accountability criteria that all participating CFC charities must meet.

In 2013, despite sequestration and civilian furloughs, the contributions of Joint Base San Antonio members totaled \$4,062,234, making San Antonio the sixth largest CFC campaign in the world. For 2014, the goal has been set at \$4.6 million.

"As with all CFC campaigns, the overall goal is to ensure that all eligible military and federal employees are given the opportunity to make a pledge to the charity or charities of their choice," said Rick Robel, CFC director for the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County. "While the monetary target this year is \$4.6 million, we will continue to focus on efforts to ensure 100 percent of the personnel are contacted. If done properly, the overall amount raised will take care of itself."

"For 2014, we are excited to include an on-line payroll deduction pledge option for all military and DOD civilians through myPay. This option allows employees to make their pledge directly with Defense Finance and Accounting Services, thus eliminating the need for paper pledge forms."

Rick Robel

CFC director for the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County



See CFC P9

5/6 MEETING from P3 —————

how he made it personable, made it so that you can relate and how he brought the energy.”

“He had a lot of good points and lessons in leadership,” added Tech. Sgt. Mark Velasquez, 37th Training Group commander’s group executive NCO and 5/6 president.

With the new changes to the enlisted evaluation system, which is based on a one to five rating system, some of the Airmen had questions.

“I came here hoping to learn about the new evaluation system and the general covered it really well,” Tech. Sgt. Angela Gibson, 59th Medical Operations Squadron assistant NCO in charge, said. “He said that people need to not worry and focus on their job performance. There were worries that it will make it harder to promote, but he said if you are already doing your job right, are going above and beyond and are setting yourself up for success, then you are going to make it. It is not as bad as it seems; we really do need a new system because not everybody is a five.”

One Airman had sent a question to the general before the meeting,

which he answered during the forum: What did the commander think of the NCO corps today?

“I think you are the best trained, the best educated and the best war fighters that we ever had. But I have concerns,” LaBrutta said. “Do you really value what you are doing? Do you value the U.S. Air Force and each other as much as you should? It is really hard to stay focused in this world of technology. Concentration and attention spans are getting shorter.”

“Technology has its place, but I think it is getting in the way because you are not getting out among your people as much as you should. All the problems we have in the Air Force right now – sexual assault and suicide – are people and human issues. We cannot get to the root cause and fix it without face-to-face interaction.”

Speaking about the difference between NCOs today and years ago, LaBrutta expressed his belief that letting services like base cleanup and beautification become contracted services instead of enlisted duties took away that sense of ownership and pride in

the base that used to exist.

“Airmen, NCOs and officers walk by trash today, but I would have been chewed up and spit out when I was an (enlisted) Airman if I had done that. This facility, the grounds around it, this base, is ours. How can we get together to solve (big) issues when we ignore (little) ones like trash?”

Velasquez, the Airman who sent in the question, said, “He did a really good job of answering the question. He spoke about how this next generation is a lot smarter than the previous one, but we have become a little more complacent, less cognizant to issues in our work areas, and less involved with our Airmen because of technology.”

“I wanted to hear what he expects from us so that I may pass it on to my Airmen,” Penuelaz said. “He emphasized that we are responsible for being better leaders and training up our Airmen.”

“My favorite part was his honesty,” Gibson said. “He said it’s how it is and people need to adjust to the changes or get out. I am going to take this information now and pass it on to my troops.”

JBSA 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.

Know the do's and don'ts before scheduling an event

By Maj. Airon Mothershed

Air Force Recruiting Service Staff Judge Advocate

Editor's note: In recent weeks we've received several photos and stories relating to booster club events and other similar activities. Unfortunately, we have not been able to publish some of these submissions because the event did not follow Department of Defense guidelines. This article provides the rules that booster clubs must follow.

A private organization is a self-sustaining special interest group (i.e., the chiefs' group, a unit booster club, etc.) formed by individuals acting outside the scope of their official duties. The following are some important rules to which private organizations must adhere:

A booster club may not use the seal, logo or insignia of the Department of Defense, their squadron or any military organization on their letterhead, correspondence or in its title. Booster clubs must not use official Air Force letterhead in sending out any of its correspondence. This means that recruiting squadron booster clubs cannot use their squadron number in their name, the words "recruiting squadron" or the abbreviation "RCS."

That means any RCS booster club with a name along the lines of "375th RCS Booster Club" is unlawful. However, mascots can be lawfully incorporated in the name. So, if the 375th RCS was also known as the Panthers, the booster club could rename itself as the "Team Panthers Booster Club."

Booster clubs are also not authorized to sell alcoholic beverages.

If Air Force personnel participate in a booster club event, they may only do so on their personal time and in their personal capacity. Air Force members cannot be in uniform when soliciting donations or participating in a fundraising event.

In addition, members may not participate while in duty status, therefore, if it's during the work day, members must be on leave to participate.

Air Force members may not use government resources (e.g., funds, equipment, vehicles, supplies, postage) in support of a booster club event or campaign. The only exception is that Air Force members may use government email to let other members of the booster club know about the event. The email should be written in language that does not lead one to believe the Air Force, the group or the squadron is endorsing the event.

Emails about booster club activities should not be sent out by supervisors, first sergeants, commanders, etc. Otherwise, a perception may be made that participation by unit members is mandatory.

Air Force members may not personally solicit funds or other support for a booster club from their subordinates or from any "prohibited source." Prohibited sources include Air Force contractors or businesses that the Air Force does business with.

Participation in booster club events is voluntary and

must always remain so. Individuals in leadership positions cannot mandate participation.

Booster clubs can only do two fundraisers per quarter.

Booster clubs may solicit off-base and in local communities for its own purpose – i.e., to support the unofficial unit functions so long as booster club members clearly indicate that any donations are to the booster club, as a private organization, and not to the Air Force. The booster club should also make clear to donors that recognition for donations may not be made publicly.

Booster clubs cannot hold a fundraiser, wherein a prime parking spot is auctioned off or contributing members are allowed to wear civilian clothing to work (instead of their uniforms).

Booster clubs may send letters to local businesses asking for donations, however, the letters must be carefully written. The AFRS Judge Advocate office has a template of an authorized donation letter. For an electronic copy, contact Master Sgt. Ines Fret-Caraballo at 565-4734.

If a booster club plans to fundraise on a base, be aware that such fundraising can only occur after base officials have approved the event and ensured the event will take place away from the workplace. (Typically the base FSS has an individual in charge of approving events, and that individual will assist in providing the paperwork that must be completed prior to approval.)

2015 Verne Orr award nominees sought

By Janis El Shabazz

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Air Force Personnel Center officials are now accepting nominations for the 2015 Air Force Association Verne Orr Award through Jan. 7, 2015.

The Air Force Association established this award in honor of former Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr to recognize mission-oriented unit accomplishments and achievements that used personnel to their full potential in order to accomplish the mission.

Nominations are open to all Air Force units and organizations regardless of size.

Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their major command, combatant command, field operating agency or direct reporting unit for applicable suspense dates and additional information regarding nomination procedures.

Each MAJCOM, COCOM, FOA and DRU may submit only one nomination.

For more information on Air Force recognition programs and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>. To read more about the Verne Orr award, select "search all components" from the drop down menu and enter "12603" in the search window.

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Active-duty Airmen restricted from political activities

By Jacquelyn M. Christilles

502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group
Judge Advocate Office

It is hard to miss when the political season is in full swing. Signs dot front yards and media is riddled with commercials.

Active duty military personnel and Department of Defense civilian employees are encouraged to carry out the obligations of citizenship by exercising their Constitutional right to vote. As employees of the federal government however, there are certain restrictions on political activities.

For active duty personnel, the general rule is that a member may not participate in "partisan political activities." That rule prohibits pretty much anything but mere attendance at fundraisers, rallies and conventions. Of course, members should not attend in uniform.

The rules also prohibit publishing political articles, letters or endorsements. When it comes to social media, these rules still apply. In short, a member can "like" something or someone on social media or express his or her views on a subject, but is prohibited from sharing the item with others or



indicating DOD endorsement.

Finally, members are permitted to display appropriate bumper stickers, but large partisan political signs are not allowed. Material on a bumper sticker or in a social media post that violates the Uniform Code of Military Justice or service regulation is still subject to disciplinary action. That means steer clear of messages that show contempt for public officials, release sensitive information, or

contain unprofessional material that is prejudicial to good order and discipline under the UCMJ.

The above list of prohibitions is not exhaustive, in fact there is an entire DOD directive on this subject, so be mindful of political activities and check with your local legal office when in doubt.

Political activities for DOD civilian employees are regulated by a number of sources including a federal law called the Hatch Act. DOD civilian employees, except SES employees, are allowed to volunteer with a political campaign or political organization while in their personal capacities.

These employees are however, prohibited from soliciting or receiving political contributions.

As with many restrictions on use of the federal workplace, federal employees may never engage in political activities while on-duty or in a federal building. This means that employees may not send or forward political emails or post political messages to social media while in a federal building (including when off-duty), even if the employee is using his or her personal smartphone, tablet or computer.

For more information, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph can call the local legal office at 652-6781.

Randolph Field ISD issues iPads to students, classrooms

By Alex Salinas

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The Randolph Field Independent School District received about 1,000 iPads for students to use this school year as part of a \$1.7 million Department of Defense educational grant.

Around 600 of the latest model iPads were individually assigned to students in grades 6-12, while the rest were divided among classrooms at Randolph Elementary School. Middle and high school students may take the tablets home, as they would textbooks.

Lance Johnson, Randolph Field ISD superintendent, believes the devices are suitable for 21st-century children.

"Students in our classrooms are digital natives; they're growing up with smartphones in their hands, so now we're trying to reach them on that level," he said. "Teachers, while still the expert (in class), no longer have to be the ultimate vessel of knowledge. The iPads are simply a tool to enhance and engage students' learning experience."

Johnson said assigning tablets is his school district's way of implementing the "one-to-one" initiative, whose purpose is to close the technology gap

between schools and students. Other schools countrywide have done so by offering laptops.

Randolph Field ISD teachers also received tablets in January so they could include them in their curriculum this year.

"We expect a more hands-on, intuitive and impactful learning environment," Mark Malone, Randolph Field ISD secondary schools principal, said. "The iPads won't replace teachers, but enhance how they deliver information to students."

For Deborah Pannabecker, a 10-year Randolph High School science teacher, tablet technology allows students to produce work they couldn't do with pen and paper.

"Apps that let kids make movies, record their voices or create barcodes that can be scanned hyperlinking to other online resources allow them to show us what they really know," she said. "What were once static cardboard poster projects can now become 'living' and interactive."

Network restrictions are in place for students accessing the Internet at school, Johnson said, but they can connect to Wi-Fi hotspots at home if



Photo by Melissa Peterson

desired, although parental supervision is advised.

Any tablet misuse will result in disciplinary action based on students' code of conduct.

The allocation of tablets marks another way in which the educational system is using what's available in the marketplace to improve standards.

"We're not trying to be trendsetters; we're trying to catch up and

discover how children learn and interact in today's world," Johnson said. "We want the iPad to be the most primitive device a kindergartner will know by the time they graduate from high school."

"When our graduates enter college and the workplace, we want them to not only stand out and compete with students next door, but from around the world."

LaBrutta represents JBSA at wreath-laying ceremony for LBJ

By Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Each year on Aug. 27, a wreath is placed at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park on the gravesite of former President Lyndon B. Johnson in observance of his birthday.

The event is a long-standing tradition sponsored by the National Historical Park service that includes an Air Force senior officer, while honoring the only U.S. president born and raised in Texas.

“It is my distinct pleasure and honor to represent the members of our armed forces and in particular, the men and women of Joint Base San Antonio, as we pay special tribute to one of our nation’s foremost leaders, President Lyndon B. Johnson,” Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, said. “One hundred and six years ago, a visionary who led our nation, who was determined to build ‘a great society’ was born here, our only president born and raised in the great state of Texas. Today with this wreath laying ceremony, we not only remember his birth, but celebrate his life, his lasting legacy.”

Johnson was a visionary who focused on ways to make the United States a better place to live, work and raise a family during his time in office.

LaBrutta quoted President Johnson saying, “If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology,” President Johnson said. “We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.”

LaBrutta also stated that, Johnson’s dream of building a better way of life for all Americans was evident in the bills that he championed during his tenure in office regarding urban renewal, education, environmental beautification and conservation. Moreover, he led Congress to the passage of Medicare, Medicaid, additional voting rights and civil rights.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, speaks at the Lyndon B. Johnson birthday observance wreath-laying ceremony Aug. 27 at the LBJ National Historical Park in Johnson City, Texas.

Aaron Hernandez, a 2014 graduate of Texas State University, was also at the event and spoke about the president’s legislative accomplishments.

“Fifty years ago, President Johnson formulated his all-inspiring vision, ‘The Great Society,’” Hernandez said. “As a true Texan, he knew what he wanted to do and how to do it. He truly believed in civil rights for all.”

Hernandez also quoted President Johnson and said, “While emancipation may be a proclamation, it is not

fact until education is blind to color; until employment is unaware of race.”

A short time after that interview, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The following year, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was also enacted. These legislative accomplishments laid the foundation for Johnson’s vision of ‘a better tomorrow.’

“The Great Society did not end with his presidency,” said Hernandez. “The Great Society lives on. It is our job to continue the vision he set before us.”

CFC from P4

There are new ways people can contribute and get information about CFC-approved charities, Robel noted, in addition to the traditional contributions by check and cash. If desired, contributions can also be made anonymously.

For example, there is now a “search charities” tool on the San Antonio Area CFC website at <http://www.cfc-sanantonio.org> that connects to an online database – identical to the printed charity brochure – where donors can review more than 2,900 charities by name, location, category, fundraising rates and more.

The database can display national, international and local organizations that

have met CFC eligibility requirements. Key elements include: the organization’s new five-digit CFC code, the legal name in parentheses shown if it is “doing business as” under another name, the employer identification number, a 25-word statement of purpose, its administrative and fundraising expense rate and its service categories (taxonomy codes).

Military members and DOD civilians can also make payroll deductions directly from their myPay accounts as well by using the San Antonio Area CFC website’s direct link to the myPay website (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) and instructions on how to contribute.

“For 2014, we are excited to include an on-line payroll deduction pledge option for all military and DOD civilians through myPay,” Robel said. “This option allows employees to make their pledge directly with Defense Finance and Accounting Services, thus eliminating the need for paper pledge forms.”

Donors can contribute to charities that work around the world or right in their backyard. In the San Antonio area, there are 274 participating charities, including six local federations.

“Thanks to the generosity of JBSA contributors in 2013, San Antonio is No. 1 in

Texas and No. 6 out of 184 CFC campaigns worldwide,” Robel said. “The CFC belongs to you – the federal employee. You control where your gift will go.

“You don’t have to go far to find people in need. Many of our family members, friends and neighbors may benefit from the services of charities participating in the CFC,” Robel added. “Whether it’s advances in medicine provided by research, support for our aging parents, wounded warrior care, disaster assistance or the opportunity for a child to participate in after school programs – the CFC enables each of us to truly make a difference.”

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

JBSA-Randolph 2014 Run for Life 5K

A youth and family 5K takes place Saturday at Eberle Park. The event is being held in support of Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month. Register at <http://www.5kRunForLife.com> before Monday to pre-order a shirt.

Munitions offices

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron munitions offices and munitions storage area will be closed to normal business next week to conduct semiannual inventory. Only emergency issues can be honored during this period. Contact 502nd LRS munitions personnel at 652-6780/3361 for any questions or concerns.

Prisoner Of War/Missing In Action week

Three POW/MIA remembrance events will take place on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Sept. 16-18:

- Breakfast: 8-9:30 a.m. Sept. 16 at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club. Contact Tech. Sgt. Nicole Hicks at 665-1647 for ticket costs.
- Remembrance run: 7-9 a.m. Sept. 17 at the JBSA-Randolph Golf Course 5K trail.
- Retreat ceremony: 4-5 p.m. Sept. 18 in front of the JBSA-Randolph Missing Man Monument. Volunteers are needed for 30-minute shifts from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 18. To volunteer, call Airman Raul Reyna at 652-3061. For more information about the week's events, call Tech. Sgt. Barrett Magee at 652-0891.

South Gate construction schedule

The South Gate at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph is open and the schedule details are as follows:

- South Gate hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Friday
- South Gate is open to inbound traffic only 6-8:30 a.m.
- South Gate is open for outbound and inbound traffic from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- High school traffic can depart through the South Gate from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Construction is scheduled to be completed Sept. 15.

When traveling Perimeter Road, don't stop in aircraft approach areas. If there is a traffic delay or back-up, stop prior to the approach zone. The South gate is not accessible from Golf Road due to construction on South Gate, but is accessible from South Perimeter Road near the Combat Arms Range.



Courtesy graphic

Online security depends on strong passwords, limiting personal data

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Safeguarding information stored on Air Force computers is so important that the service mandates annual cyber awareness training through the Advanced Distributed Learning Service.

The information active-duty members and Department of Defense civilians glean from that training is equally relevant to them in their personal lives.

“All military people have to go through cyber security training once a year,” Bob Williams, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military and Family Readiness Cen-

ter community readiness consultant, said. “It’s a great start to learn how to protect government security as well as your own personal security. These are principles you can apply to your own life.”

Resources also abound on the Internet, he said, including the Federal Trade Commission’s <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov>, which explores topics such as identity theft, scam alerts, and privacy and identity.

One of the keys to keeping personally identifiable information secure is creating a strong password for access to the websites of financial institutions, email

See ONLINE SECURITY P13

Cancer survivor finds comfort with dedicated support group

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

When Rita Ambrose retired from the Air Force in 2009, she was given a clean bill of health, but less than two years later, she was facing the fight of her life.

In February 2011, Ambrose, an Air Force Personnel Center human resources specialist, discovered a lump under her right arm during a breast self-exam, which led to a diagnosis of stage-IIA breast cancer at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center and a journey she had not envisioned.

“I thought they would treat me and I’d be done with it,” she said. “I never knew it would be a two-and-a-half to three-year process, but it was already in my lymphatic system.”

As difficult as that journey has been, Ambrose found solace in the company of friends and family – her 23-year-old twin daughters, her 16-year-old daughter and her 14-year-old son – who provided her with unwavering support and inspired her to later reach out her hand in the same manner.

Nearly three years before Ambrose’s diagnosis, a red flag first appeared when a mammogram revealed “suspicious areas” on her right side believed to be fatty tissue. Because that 2008 X-ray was deemed “current,” Ambrose said, a mammogram was not performed prior to her retirement the next year.

“I should have had that done,” she said. “But since then, I’ve been persistent.”

After the diagnosis of breast cancer, Ambrose, who rose to the rank of senior master sergeant during a career of more than 20 years, endured five months of weekly chemotherapy, six weeks of radiation treatments and 52 weeks of Herceptin therapy, as well as a bilateral mastectomy in October 2011 and reconstructive surgery in February 2013.

When her chemotherapy was completed, Ambrose learned her cancer was actually worse, at stage IIIA, but even closer to stage IV. Because the cancer was so aggressive, she insisted on a bilateral mastectomy, which was performed in October 2011 at a civilian hospital.

“As a patient, you have to be your own advocate,” she said.

The process of dealing with cancer has been an emotional one for Ambrose, but she said she was physically able to sustain the weekly therapy, so she stayed as active as possible and continued to go to work. She also decided the disease would not define her.

“I had to realize cancer was something I had, not who I am,” she said. “You have to take the treatments and go on.”

Faith plays an important role for Ambrose.

“When you see the extent of the disease, it makes you lean on your faith,” she said.

Her wingmen also came through in a big way.



Photo by Melissa Peterson

Retired Master Sgt. Rita Ambrose is a breast cancer survivor. Ambrose, who currently works at the Air Force Personnel Center Civilian Force Integration, beat cancer with the support of her family and friends.

“I have a group of girlfriends who carried me through,” she said. “Some were in the Air Force as well, stationed at other locations with me. Once I was diagnosed, they banded together and were my support group. There was no appointment I had to go to alone.”

For her chemotherapy sessions, Ambrose and her friends would dress in a variety of ways – as pirates and basketball players, for example – and make the experience more playful.

“For me, it took a bad situation and turned it into something that was doable,” she said.

Ambrose’s AFPC co-workers rushed to her side, donating some of their leave to her so she could travel to all her appointments and hospital visits.

“That eased the financial side of being a single parent,” she said.

Ambrose, who continues to take daily medication and goes for treatment every 90 days, is now

reaching out to others who are facing the fights of their lives.

“The support I received made me realize how truly blessed I am,” she said. “God had spared my life for a specific reason.”

An informal group came together for the 2011 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure to support Ambrose during her initial recovery stages. Now she has formed the Circle of Cancer Care, a support group for people diagnosed with life-threatening diseases that meets monthly at the Schertz Public Library.

“Our goals are to provide appointment buddies and limited financial assistance,” she said of the nonprofit organization that had its first gala nearly two years ago.

“I’m here by God’s grace and mercy, and he spared my life in order to help others through their journey and receive as much support as I received,” Ambrose said.

ONLINE SECURITY from P11

services, online merchants and other companies and organizations that store people's PII, Williams said.

"Make sure you have a complicated password," he said. "It's also a good idea to change your password periodically."

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority recommends using a minimum of eight letters and numbers and, if possible, special symbols as well as changing passwords often and not using the same password for multiple accounts.

In addition, people should keep their usernames, passwords and personal identification numbers, or PINs, private and not store this information on their hard drives.

People should be vigilant when submitting PII to websites, making sure the sites are secure and reputable, Williams said. They should avoid emailing PII and should digitally sign and encrypt emails, particularly with sensitive information; they should also be mindful of emails that attempt to solicit PII or email scams such as bogus business opportunities.

Proper handling of emails includes filtering spam, treating attachments with caution, not clicking links, as well as installing antivirus software

and a personal firewall.

Although it is common for people to use their names and post other personal information on social networking sites, Williams discourages such disclosures.

"Don't use your real name when developing a profile for social networking sites," he said. "If you use your real name, a person can take your name and research it on the Internet."

Posting photos is also "not a good idea, especially if you don't know where it's going," Williams said.

"You're exposing yourself to the possibility of identity theft," he said. "Once it's out there, the whole world has access to it."

People using social networking sites should pay close attention to privacy settings, Williams added.

"Be sensitive about who you communicate with," he said. "If you expose too much about yourself, anybody can use that information to rob you."

Active-duty members should be especially careful when using social networking sites, Williams said, especially if they have jobs that require a high security clearance or if they are deployed to high-risk areas.

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