

LACKLAND

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Recognizing rank for civilian Defenders



Photo by Benjamin Faske

Sgt. John Rady, 802nd Security Forces Squadron shift supervisor, oversees Senior Airman Michael Raynes, 802nd SFS craftsmen, during ID checks at the Selfridge gate Jan. 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. **See story page 8**

LEADERS EAT LAST

By Brig. Gen. Robert Miller

Director, Education and Training, Defense Health Agency
and Commandant, Medical Education and Training Campus

I recently read a book by the author Simon Sinek entitled “Leaders Eat Last” and as you might expect, the title is based on the military tradition of serving food to the most junior before the most senior.

The motivation behind this simple act, which often just happens, is based on a servant leadership approach. Military leaders expect to eat last based on their willingness to put the needs of others above their own. It doesn’t stop with food.

I would suggest that great leaders at all levels (military and civilian) truly care about those they have the privilege to lead. This got me thinking about why we exist at the Medical Education Training Campus and our mission and vision statement, which must evolve with the environment for maximum relevance.

Does METC exist solely for the benefits of co-location and consolidation, which ultimately saves money and fulfills Base Realignment and Closure law?

Although I appreciate the importance of these benefits, I would hope that is not the ‘final answer.’ An even more important question involves why each of us chooses to serve and for those in uniform, potentially lay down your life to complete the mission. For me, the answer was best summed up during my deployment to Iraq in 2006.

We are all a part of something much bigger than any one person, and we are often successful because of one thing ... trust. Warriors trust that those fighting beside them will not leave them behind regardless of how dire the situation may be. If injured, our warfighters also trust that medics will be there to save their lives and do everything possible so they can return home to their loved ones. That’s what we do. That’s our culture.

I would argue that medics are the ultimate servant leaders whose reason for being is the needs of their patient. This applies to all members of the medical team from the emergency room to the logistics warehouse. That means the METC mission is not just teaching and knowing your craft, which is important.

METC is also about something more,



Brig. Gen. Robert Miller

something more we can be proud of and make clear to all. METC is about our services’ storied culture of service (eating last) that everyone trusts when they go into harm’s way. METC is directly responsible for transmitting this culture to future generations of medics that will serve in a variety of disciplines anywhere our nation trusts them to serve. That gets me back to the answer to my original question, why does METC exist.

We exist to train medics from all services to complete their military mission and to serve. Our service culture can’t be switched off like a light or left on the tarmac. No, it stays with us long after our military service. It stays for a lifetime. That is why it is important for us to understand that we are actually educating future servant leaders for a lifetime of service. That service is not only to our nation while in uniform, but ideally even after taking off the cloth of our country in service to wherever you may call home.

This final point is why I believe it is critical to develop academic affiliations with other institutions of higher learning that may allow our graduates to walk away with degrees and certifications that will allow them to practice their craft in the civilian world at some future date.

This expertise is much needed throughout our country and is another reason why METC exists, even if not ap-

preciated by all at present. We can do both and are working hard to make this vision a reality. More on that topic in a future article.

In summary, I believe our mission is clear ... to “train the world’s finest medics, corpsmen and technicians,” but we need a new vision statement, one that sees a little farther and a little more clearly. That is the following: “train for the mission ... educate for a lifetime of service” to our nation, her people, and the communities we call home.

That is who we are and why we exist, our culture, both at METC and at the Defense Health Agency Education and Training Directorate as this noble task applies to both officers and enlisted. We eat last together, like the family we are.

Although I understand we have problems to solve and are lacking staff in certain critical areas, it is the challenge we have been given. This is not a competition between services or siblings, although it may feel like that at times.

To be honest, I often think about how much easier this would be to accomplish if we were doing this in a deployed setting where trust is ever present.

So there you have it. The key to the success of our organization gets back to one thing ... trust in our services’ storied culture of service.

We must instill trust in those we have the privilege of supporting and those we are training, because we care and believe in our mission and vision. Be proud of what you do, your culture, and your role in the process of creating future servant leaders. Getting back to the book that resulted in my writing this article, be inspired to “always eat last” and having the privilege to serve.

When asked what you do at METC be proud to state that at METC, we “Train for the mission ... educate for a lifetime!”

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NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY 2015 SUMMER STEM PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW

Applications for the 2015 Naval Academy Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Summer Program opened Jan. 5, at <http://www.usna.edu/admissions/STEM>.

Session dates include June 1 through 6 for rising ninth graders; June 8 through 13 for rising 10th graders; and June 15 through 19 for rising 11th graders.

This annual summer program is designed to expose young people to STEM concepts and technologies and to encourage ninth through 11th graders to pursue a course of study in engineering and technology throughout high school, college and beyond.

The aim is to integrate STEM-focused concepts across the curriculum and pave the way for students to succeed academically in mathematics and science and help put them on a path towards successful STEM careers. An effective and practical way to stimulate student interest in STEM is to show how mathematics and science are applied to create exciting technologies.

The 2015 STEM program showcases the latest in technological advances in a wide variety of science and engineering topics to include energy and light, infrastructure, transportation, cybersecurity, environmental challenges, flight and fluids, automation, simulation and modeling, biometrics and robotics.

Students participate in project-based modules using a hands-on, real-world approach to solving design and analysis problems at the Naval Academy's world-class laboratory facilities. This unique learning environment promotes engineering "habits of mind" such as critical thinking, optimization, innovation, creativity and team work. It exposes students to a problem-based environment outside the traditional classroom.

The Summer STEM Program is a great start to a student's career in science and engineering.

ASSISTANCE FUND CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF IN FEBRUARY

The annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicks off Feb. 2 at 78 Air Force and joint bases worldwide, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

The campaign, in its 42nd year, will be conducted for six-week periods through May 1. Most Air Force bases will begin and end their campaigns during one of three

See **NEWS IN BRIEF** Page 4

Air Force senior leadership looks to stabilizing remotely piloted aircraft enterprise

By Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

During a State of the Air Force address held at the Pentagon, Jan 15, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, announced immediate preliminary steps to develop a get-well plan to improve the health of the MQ-1B Predator and MQ-9 Reaper enterprise in light of extensive combatant commander operational needs.

"(Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) operations have been sustained on the shoulders of Airmen responsible for the high demand weapon system, creating sustained stress on the force," James said. "Our combatant commanders expect and demand the unique ISR capabilities that the Air Force provides.

The Air Force surged remotely piloted aircraft operations nine times over the last eight years, flying more than 2,200 sorties in Iraq and Syria in the last four months alone. The service is looking to study the effectiveness and efficiency of the high-demand capability in order to reduce service RPA pilot training and retention issues.

Currently the Air Force is executing 65 combat air patrols, which is above the current steady-state capacity of 55, to provide the warfighter with the air support requested.

With increased operations tempo, expiring active



Photo by Staff Sgt. N.B.

duty service commitments, reductions to the force, the current environment has resulted in projections reflecting more RPA pilots departing the service than the Air Force is able to produce as replacements via the training pipeline. Balancing Air Force ISR capability with finite resources remains a top priority for the Secretary of the Air Force.

"Airmen have delivered time-critical data, prosecuted targets and supported combatant commanders without fail but we cannot sustain this pace indefinitely," James said. "While threats have evolved, the demand for this capability remains constant."

The Air Force is exploring a number of options to increase manning and incentivize career RPA pilots in an effort to stabilize the career field while meeting constant combatant commander ISR demands. Dubbed the "RPA get-well plan," the initiatives launched by the secretary

and Chief of Staff of the Air Force have a goal to provide near-term relief to stressed crews and help build a long-term future for the RPA community.

To sustain RPA pilot manning, the Air Force will temporarily retain a portion of pilots who are on loan from other airframes. Additionally, they will increase Guard and Reserve utilization and seek recently qualified MQ-1/9 pilot volunteers to deploy for 179-days to stressed RPA units.

"The demand signal for this capability and stressors placed on the force continue to trend upward," said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. "We must find a way to provide relief to the force and provide appropriate incentives to retain this critical skill set. Modern ISR has changed the face of warfare with technology requiring wide skill sets that only a combination of our active duty and air reserve

component team give us."

Compensating and incentivizing the RPA force is one of the keys to improving RPA pilot retention.

In the past, policy did not permit the Air Force to offer retention bonuses to RPA pilots who are only qualified to fly unmanned platforms, Department of Defense and Air Force leaders are exploring alternative pay authorities to compensate and incentivize career RPA pilots whose undergraduate RPA pilot training service obligation is expiring. Presently, all actively flying RPA pilots receive monthly assignment incentive pay.

"As our experienced operators near the end of their initial commitment, we are increasing monthly incentive pay to \$1,500 for those RPA pilots while we explore other bonus opportunities," James said. "We want these Airmen who are very much in demand to realize how much we value their experience and leadership."

The measures represent only initial RPA get-well plan initiatives.

"These are short term actions to immediately reduce some of the stress on the force," Welsh said. "We recognize long-term RPA enterprise health is critical to operational mission effectiveness. We must remain committed to retaining our cadre of RPA pilots."

Specific program details will be announced as decisions are finalized.

MILES FOR MESO 5K RUN



Photos by Airman 1st Class Justine Rho

Airmen, family and friends participated in the Miles for Meso 5k Jan. 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The 502nd Contracting Squadron organized the 5k in honor of Senior Airman Shandi Speedy, 502nd CONS contract administrator, and her battle against mesothelioma. Stapleton Park trails were tracked with participants in blue shirts in support of the Airman and mesothelioma research.



Brig. Gen Bob Labrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio Commander, gave opening remarks to the Miles for Meso 5k, Jan. 16, at Stapleton Park, JBSA-Lackland. Speedy was able to attend the 5k through live video, allowing Labrutta and participants to personally greet and show her support.

NEWS IN BRIEF from Page 3

designated periods:

- Feb. 2 through March 13, March 2 through April 10, and March 23 through May 1.

Contributions, which are tax deductible, go to support four different charities:

- The Air Force Aid Society: Provides Airmen and their families worldwide with emergency financial assistance, education assistance and various base-level community-enhancement programs.

- The Air Force Enlisted Village: Supports Teresa Village in Fort Walton Beach, Florida and Bob Hope Village in Shalimar, Florida, near Eglin Air Force Base. The fund provides homes and financial assistance to retired enlisted members' widows and widowers who are 55 and older. It also supports Hawthorn House (in Shalimar) which provides assisted living for residents, including 24-hour

nursing care.

- The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation: Donations support independent and assisted living needs for retired officers and their spouses, widows or widowers and family members. Communities are located in San Antonio.

- The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation: Provides rent and financial assistance to widows and widowers of officer and enlisted retirees in their homes and communities through financial grants of assistance.

For more information about the AF AF affiliated charitable organizations visit www.afassistancefund.org.

For additional information about other personnel issues go to myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

Air Force retirees who do not have a myPers account can request one at www.retirees.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120510-068.pdf.

DOD releases breakdown of Ebola response effort

By Claudette Roulo
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

The Department of Defense released a breakdown of the numbers of DOD personnel involved in the battle to stop the spread of Ebola.

“The efforts, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development, involve 2,367 DOD personnel,” said Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren. “Most of those personnel – 2,174 – are based in Monrovia, Liberia’s capital city. The remaining 193 personnel are Marine Corps members and port operations personnel operating in Dakar, Senegal.”

U.S. military personnel are not involved in treating patients with Ebola, defense officials have said. Their role in the fight is to provide logistical support and training for health care workers, to test medical samples and to construct Ebola treatment units. Since training began Oct. 27, 2014, the 40-person Army and Air Force team has trained 1,539 health care workers.

The department’s efforts in Liberia also include a 25-bed hospital in Monrovia and 10 Ebola treatment units located throughout the country.

Construction of all but two of the Ebola treatment units is now complete, Warren said. Initially, the treatment units were all intended to have capacities of 100 patients each, but as conditions on the ground changed, the final seven units were built to hold 50 patients each.

Since opening on Nov. 7, 2014, the

hospital – known as Monrovia Medical Unit and located near Roberts International Airport – has treated 14 patients and is currently treating one, Warren said. The hospital is staffed by U.S. Public Health Service personnel and is intended to treat medical personnel exposed to the Ebola virus.

In addition to the hospital, a mobile lab began operating in Greenville, Liberia, Dec. 25, 2014 bringing the total number of mobile labs in Liberia to six.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel earlier approved an extension of a review of the 45-day monitoring plan for personnel who have traveled to Ebola-affected areas, Warren said.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior military leaders wanted to examine two complete controlled monitoring cycles before producing a comprehensive review of the program, the colonel said. A report of their findings is due to the defense secretary by Jan. 30, he added.

About 450 personnel are undergoing controlled monitoring at four bases in the United States and one in Germany.

As of Jan. 5, DOD has contributed \$384.9 million to the Ebola response efforts. Operation United Assistance – the military’s logistical, training and engineering effort – totals \$312.3 million, cooperative threat reduction measures – biosurveillance and biosecurity – total \$47 million, and research and development – vaccine research – totals \$25.6 million.

James: New acquisition initiative aims to cut costs

By Jim Garamone
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James announced a new initiative designed to help the Air Force partner with industry, encourage innovation and drive down the cost of systems.

James announced the Bending the Cost Curve program at the Atlantic Council in Washington D.C., Jan. 14. She called it a targeted initiative that can be accomplished within current Air Force budget programs.

The initiative aims to improve dialogue with industry, “so we can better understand how processes, procedures, and some of the choices we make can inadvertently contribute to rising costs, the stifling of innovation and slow processes,” she said.

It is different than past initiatives in that the Air Force is looking at very specific, albeit large, programs, James said. Bending the Cost Curve is about specifics and not generalities, she said.

The initiative has three focus areas – enhance, expand and improve, James said.

Enhance looks for the Air Force to better interact with industry throughout the acquisition lifecycle, she said. Expand, James added, seeks to increase competition among traditional and non-traditional industry partners to drive down costs and to increase innovation.

“Improve means we need to carefully examine our own internal processes and develop mechanisms to drive down costs and to speed up our acquisitions,” she said.

The Air Force is launching a cost capability analysis program, James said.

“Here’s our thinking: We think that by gathering data from a range of sources, it should be possible to identify instances where small changes in capability have large impact on cost,” James said. “This, in turn, should mean that the Air Force can develop much more affordable weapon systems.”

For example, she said, if the Air Force has a requirement for a jet to fly 500 mph, but can achieve significant cost savings by amending this to 450 mph, officials may use the information to make tradeoffs in how it develops the request for proposals and evaluation factors. The service may choose to modify requirements.

The Air Force looked at this before, but there was no way to incorporate industry, James said. Now there is and the service is aiming this effort at four programs. They are the T-X jet trainer, the long-range stand-off weapon, the Multi-Adaptive Podded System and the Space-Based Infrared System follow-on. The Air Force selected these programs “because they represent a range of use cases and segments of industry,” James said.

“We’re two years away from the T-X request for proposal, and our new process will allow us to directly engage industry as we develop an understanding of how to best evaluate our objective and threshold requirements,” the secretary said.

The other programs are at different acquisition stages and this will give the Air Force “a powerful comparative for learning the nuances of how to best engage industry around requirements,” she said.

Expanding competition is focused on PlugFest Plus, James said. A PlugFest is a specialized industry event where companies collaborate and demonstrate their existing capabilities in live demonstrations for government customers. However, there is no contracting aspect to a PlugFest.

“Under our new PlugFest Plus approach, we will put in place a mechanism whereby a vendor could walk away with a contract just a few weeks after an event,” James said. “We accomplish this by combining these industry events with an Army acquisition model, which minimizes barriers for companies to participate.”

The first PlugFest Plus was set for Tuesday, at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. “We’ve decided to demonstrate this strategy with the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System – a system that produces intelligence

information from data collected by a variety of sensors,” she said. “If this event proves successful, we will take steps to evolve the process to other Air Force applications.”

The Air Force needs to improve internal processes, James said. In conversations with industry about Bending the Cost Curve, “the number one recommendation from corporate CIOs was that the Air Force should establish a business analytics capability,” she said. “The Air Force needs to get an enterprise view of our information technology spending so that we can understand tradeoffs and make wise future investment decisions.”

This is not the case today, and James announced the Air Force is standing up an Information Technology Business Analytics Office.

With this capability, if the Air Force wants a new database to do something “we will have a business case, empirical data and metrics to back that decision up,” she said. “What we’re really after here is a data-driven approach to spending.”

Similar efforts in the private sector have yielded 25 percent cost savings or more, James said.

Bending the Cost Curve will require the Air Force to be strategically agile, she said.

“All of this will be hard – but it’s worth the effort because we are the best Air Force on the planet and we must keep it that way,” James said.



JANUARY 2015

Program Note

We have one movie screen, one movie per show time. Doors open 30 *minutes* prior to each show time.

LACKLAND GATEWAY THEATER SCHEDULE

Friday	6 p.m.	The Hobbit: The Battle of the 5 Armies (3D)	Sunday	Noon	The Hobbit: Battle of the 5 Armies (3D)
Saturday	Noon	Night at the Museum: The Secret of the Tomb		3 p.m.	Night at the Museum: The Secret of the Tomb
	3 p.m.	The Hobbit: Battle of the 5 Armies (3D)		4 p.m.	The Hobbit: Battle of the 5 Armies (3D)
	6 p.m.	Imitation Game			

Movie Line: 671-3985 or view schedules at: <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/>

BMT HONORS

Congratulations to the following 44 Airmen for being selected as honor graduates among the 441 Air Force basic military trainees who graduated today:

320th Training Squadron*-Flight 069*

Terence Greenhill
Drew Hart
Darius Jones
Drake Katter
Dylan Katter
Micah Manning
Derek Salazar
Sawyer Schmidt
Tyler Stanford

-Flight 070

Macy McMullen

321st Training Squadron*-Flight 071*

Kamron Ball

Joshua Paul

-Flight 072

Collin Carter
Justice Choat
Trenton Doucet
Max Gaines
Ryan Mckellar
Jayce Primeau
Jordan Vince

326th Training Squadron*-Flight 075*

Jovannie Carbone
Robert Cintron
Samuel Lupica

-Flight 076

Jonathan Sheaffer

-Flight 077

Raven Cariaga
Phillip Justus
Timothy Schmidt
Benjamin Slenker

Michael Stradford
Jeffery Wells

-Flight 078

Kayla Gonzalez
Sarah Kirksey
Emeliana Punahele
Rachel Radlick
Micale Ward

331st Training Squadron*-Flight 073*

Brian Fitzgerald
Zachary Pinson
Charles Rowan
Ryan Wentzel

-Flight 074

Darian Henderson
Cameron Kushner
Joseph Lyon
Joshua Snyder
Jacob Trimble
Kyle Yaklin

Top BMT Airman

Ryan Mckellar
321st TRS, FLT 072

Most Physically Fit*-Female Airmen*

Kristen Petit
326th TRS, Flight 078
Heather Stock
326th TRS, Flight 078
Desire Pochard
326th TRS, Flight 078
Regina Palmiter
326th TRS, Flight 078

-Male Airmen

Aaron Mays
321st TRS, Flight 071
Daniel Kolk
331st TRS, Flight 074
William Galvin
326th TRS, Flight 077
Jonathan Williams
331st TRS, Flight 073

-Female Flights

326th TRS, Flight 078
320th TRS, Flight 070

-Male Flights

326th TRS, Flight 075
320th TRS, Flight 069
331st TRS, Flight 073
326th TRS, Flight 076
326th TRS, Flight 077
321st TRS, Flight 072
331st TRS, Flight 074
321st TRS, Flight 071

Top Academic Flights

326th TRS, Flight 076
321st TRS, Flight 072
326th TRS, Flight 075
331st TRS, Flight 074
321st TRS, Flight 071
320th TRS, Flight 069
326th TRS, Flight 077
320th TRS, Flight 070
331st TRS, Flight 073
326th TRS, Flight 078



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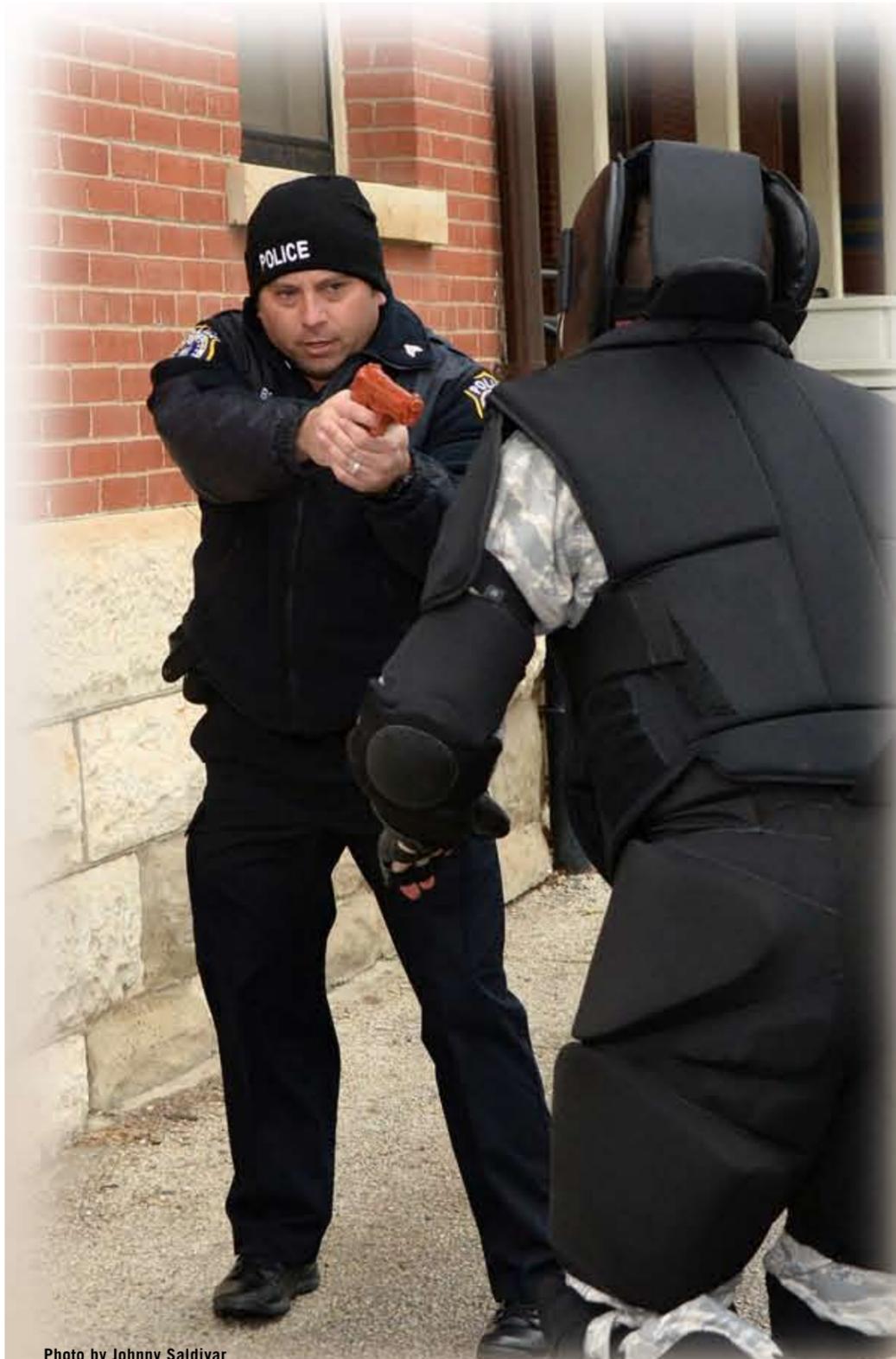


Photo by Johnny Saldivar
Police Sergeant Steven Bostic (left), 502nd Security Forces Squadron desk sergeant, participates in use of force training with Tech. Sgt. Steven Kaun, 502nd Security Forces Squadron training NCO, Jan. 14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.



Photo by Johnny Saldivar
Airman 1st Class Shawna Grocott briefs Tech. Sgt. William Graham and Police Lieutenant Richard Coon, all assigned to 902nd Security Forces Squadron, Jan. 14, 2015 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



Photo by Benjamin Faske
Police Sgt. John Rady, 802nd Security Forces Squadron shift supervisor, and Senior Airman Michael Raynes, 802nd SFS craftsmen, check IDs at the Selfridge Gate Jan. 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

JBSA civilian police officers now wearing insignias to display rank

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Department of the Air Force civilian police officers attired in dark blue uniforms are a common sight at Joint Base San Antonio locations, but some are now wearing oak leaf, bar and chevron insignia that distinguish them by their rank and are comparable with the rank insignia of their military counterparts.

Last month, in compliance with a decision by Headquarters Air Force, Department of the Air Force civilian police and guards at JBSA started wearing commensurate military-type rank based on their general schedule pay grade.

Insignia are worn by civilian police officers at the GS-7 level and above, while entry-level officers at the GS-5 and GS-6 levels, who make up the majority of the JBSA civilian police force, continue to wear no insignia. JBSA's law enforcement component under the leadership of the 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group comprises the 502nd Security Forces Squad-

ron at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the 802nd SFS at JBSA-Lackland and the 902nd SFS at JBSA-Randolph.

Bryan Gillespie, 502nd SFS director, said the Air Force implemented commensurate rank for several reasons.

"As in the military, visual rank systems aid in establishing an immediate chain of command that is vital in emergency operations and also aids efficient operations of the unit," he said. "Also, as a common practice, police departments have used rank insignia since the 1800s, so inclusion of rank within the Department of Air Force police follows tradition."

Civilians at the GS-7 and GS-8 levels, designated as corporals and sergeants, respectively, wear chevron insignia, while those at the GS-9, GS-10 and GS-11 levels wear single silver bars. These individuals typically serve as superintendents, and shift and section supervisors.

At the GS-11 and GS-12 levels, civilian police officers who serve as deputy chiefs and assistant operations officers wear double silver bars commensurate with rank insignia of an Air Force

captain; at the GS-12 level and above, civilians who are directors or deputy directors wear the gold and silver oak leaf cluster insignia similar to those of majors and lieutenant colonels.

Alberto Jorge-Sanchez, 502nd SFLSG Group Support Staff director, said the Air Force has used military-type rank for civilian police and guards in the past, but to a limited degree.

"The only rank insignia authorized were corporal for GS-7 and sergeant for GS-8," he said. "There was no rank insignia for GS-9 through GS-14. These grades were given title bars in lieu of rank."

Richard Coon, 902nd SFS assistant operations officer, said the new regulations establish a "clear line of authority."

"It separates you from your troops through the echelon of rank," he said.

Coon said it also provides a visual cue for members of the base community.

"When I'm on site, people will know I'm a supervisor, whether they're civilians or military members," he said.

Gillespie said the insignia allow civilian of-

ficers to be "more accurately recognized for their positions, experience and authority as leaders within the squadron."

"The ranks also help our members to establish their position and experience when operating with outside agencies," he said.

Police Sgt. Travis Cooper, 802nd SFS supervisory police officer, said the wear of rank "is a longtime military tradition that establishes a structure and identifies leadership roles within the unit."

"Young Airmen and less experienced civilian officers can go to their NCOs or civilian officers in a supervisory position to obtain the proper mentorship and guidance as needed and see the rank that identifies their supervisors," he said.

Jorge-Sanchez called commensurate rank "a sign of inclusiveness within the Department of Defense and security forces family and a tremendous morale booster within JBSA."

"Civilian police officers operate in an environment conducive to the use of military-type rank," he said. "The nature of their work requires easy

identification of key civilian police leaders within security forces squadrons and also provides a common framework when working jointly with our civilian counterparts during incidents and emergencies."

Col. Michael Gimbrone, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group commander, said the Air Force's decision on commensurate rank has "many far-reaching benefits."

"Air Force-wide, it serves as a way of standardizing the appearance of the police force from base to base and it provides a visible connection between our civilian and military defenders," he said. "For the members of the JBSA community, seeing military-type rank helps provide a common understanding of the level of responsibility assigned to any individual member. For the DAF police and guards themselves, it facilitates their interaction with members of the base community and with members of civilian police agencies, along with instilling a sense of pride that goes along with earning the privilege of pinning on and wearing the rank insignia."

LOCAL BRIEFS

SATURDAY

POLAR BEAR 5K

Registration begins at 7 a.m. at Pfingston Reception Center building. 6330). Cost is \$10. Call 671-3026.

MONDAY

NEW CLASSES AT FREEDOM CHAPEL

Freedom Chapel will be offering three new women's studies on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings starting Monday. For childcare reservations or details, email lacklandsistersinchrist@gmail.com.

JAN. 30

AETC ANNUAL AWARDS

Headquarters Air Education and Training Command Annual Awards Luncheon at The International Ballroom, Parr Club JBSA-Randolph. Dress is as follows:

Military: uniform of the day
Military nominee: service dress
Civilian: casual
Civilian nominee: business suit, pant/shirt/dress.

RSVP by Jan. 23. For additional information, call 652-2263 or 652-8026.

JAN 31

GOSPEL CONCERT

The African American Heritage Committee will host a gospel concert at the Gateway Chapel at 6 p.m. Call 671-4906 for details.

FEB. 2

WILFORD HALL AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER OPENING CEREMONY

Chief Master Sgt. Wilson, dental career field manager, will be the guest speaker for the opening of the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at 3 p.m. Call 671-9894 for additional information.

CDC READING

Volunteers are needed to participate to read at the Joint Base San Antonio- Lackland Child Development Centers from 9- 10 a.m. Contact 977-4995 for additional information.

FEB. 6

6TH ANNUAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE BASKETBALL CLINIC

Ages 5-9 (60 maximum) 4:30 – 6 p.m. Ages 10-15 (60 maximum) 6 – 7:30 p.m. Camp registration runs through Feb. 5.

For details and to register, contact JBSA-Lackland youth

programs at 671-2611/2388.

FEB. 21

BASURA BASH

The fifth annual Joint Base San Antonio- Fort Sam Houston Basura Bash will be held at Salado Creek Park from 9 a.m. to noon with volunteer check in at 8 a.m. and safety briefings at 8:45 a.m. The annual cleanup of Salado Creek is held in conjunction with the city-wide cleanup effort for the tributaries of the San Antonio River. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves, hat and sunscreen and can bring their own cleanup gear, such as waders, trash-grabbers, nets, etc.

Trash bags will be provided. All participants under 18 must have a parent or guardian onsite and drop offs will not be allowed. All participants must have an ID or CAC and sign a waiver to participate. Community service vouchers will be available.

Volunteers can register online at <http://www.basurabash.org>. Call 388-2067.

INFORMATIONAL

The below rates apply to dining

facilities not using the a la carte pricing system: Slagel, Rocco, B5107, B5105, Medical Readiness DFAC, and all BMT facilities.

Breakfast = \$3.45

Lunch = \$5.55

Dinner = \$4.85

In addition, Meals-Ready-to-Eat and flight meals are priced at \$5.55 each. For information on dining facilities to include hours, contact information and address, visit <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/library/diningfacilities.asp>

THE JBSA-LACKLAND GATEWAY

THEATER IS NOW OPEN

For information on upcoming movie dates and times call the movie line at 671-3985 or view the schedules online at <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres>

Rock-n-Roll into the New Year During January, patrons are invited to sing favorite karaoke songs along with OMG sounds every Thursday, 6-10 p.m., in the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center's Primo's Lounge.

For additional information, call 671-1234.

THERE IS SOMETHING FISHY AROUND HERE

The San Antonio Aquarium is open and JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel has discount tickets.

Experience this unique hands on attraction with exhibits low enough for children of all ages to reach out and touch stingrays, a variety of sharks, starfish, reptiles and more. This is an interactive, educational experience.

For additional information, call 671-3059.

SEE THE SPURS WORK THEIR MAGIC

Spurs 2015 game tickets are now on sale at JBSA Information, Tickets and Travel offices.

Save on tickets plus pay no TicketMaster fees. Come by the offices to get the tickets without the fees or go to <http://www.spurs.com/lacklandit> and use the promo code LACKLAND, <http://www.spurs.com/fortsamhoustonit> and use the promo code FORTSAM or <http://www.spurs.com/randolphit> and use the promo code RANDOLPH.

For additional information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 671-3059 and JBSA-Randolph at 652-5142.

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.

—REFUGEE 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 Sat. 5:00 p.m. Sun. 11:00 a.m.

Reconciliation Sat. 4:00 – 4:45 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.

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

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

Military health system readies for challenges of changing world

By Health.mil Staff

A well-honed and organized system to support a national military strategy and the ability to deploy anywhere around the globe at a moment's notice are key drivers for the Military Health System.

With 9.5 million beneficiaries, more than 360 medical clinics and 380,000 participating providers, MHS is an integral component that sustains a global fighting force.

"Our goal is to 'skate where the puck will be,'" said Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, borrowing a quote from former hockey great Wayne Gretzky. "We need to keep our warfighters healthy in all dimensions: mind, body

and spirit. We need to be able to repair our war fighter when ill or injured; we need to be able to care for the families of war fighters when they are deployed. We have performed well, but we need to position ourselves to be stronger, better and more relevant for the future."

Woodson's remarks came during a Brookings Institution event in Washington, D.C., where he gave attendees an overview of MHS.

As he oversees an annual budget exceeding \$50 billion, Woodson said the MHS is a global public health system, in addition to being an education and training system which includes an accredited university with a medical school and graduate programs,

as well as medical and enlisted officer training platforms. The MHS produces more than 20,000 graduates each year.

"We have young people who are doing some amazing things as a result of the education they are receiving at the facilities such as the Medical Education and Training Center in San Antonio."

Woodson spoke about how the MHS is working to build upon the successes it has attained over the past 13 years by modernizing the agency's management with an enterprise focus, defining global health engagement requirements, and investing in and expanding its strategic partnerships.

Woodson also stated, as the MHS works to ensure that it will be an efficient, high-performing, reliable orga-

nization, they will seek to manage costs to increase value and develop personnel who will become leaders in the 21st century and beyond.

"We have more sub-specialization. Baby boomers are getting older and need more care. We also have more competition among health care providers. We're looking to produce better care at lower costs; that's what we're working towards. That's 'skating to where the puck will be,'" Woodson said.



Tax center to assist junior military taxpayers, offer new self-serve tax computer lab program

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center opens Feb. 2 and runs through April 15. The Lackland VITA Center will provide free tax preparation and e-filing of both federal and state income tax returns for junior military taxpayers and dependents of all deployed members.

Due to a low number of volunteers, the Lackland VITA Center will only offer limited services this year. The center will offer one-on-one tax return preparation appointments for active duty, Reserve and National Guard

members in the grades of E1 to E5 and O1 to O2 and their dependents. In addition, appointments will be available for the spouse of any deployed member, regardless of rank.

The Lackland VITA Center will also debut its new self-serve tax preparation computer lab called "Tax Lab." Active duty, Reserve and National Guard members and their dependents as well as retirees and their dependents can prepare their own tax returns at the Tax Lab at self-service computer terminals with a trained tax preparer available to answer ques-

tions. Under this new program, eligible beneficiaries can come to the Tax Lab, sit down at one of its many self-serve computer terminals and use popular tax preparation services like Military One Source, the IRS' freefile program, or any other tax preparation services available online. Although tax volunteers will not prepare a client's return, volunteers will answer tax questions and assist anyone using the self-serve terminals.

If you traditionally prepare your own taxes, or are just filing for the first time, the self-serve terminals are

an excellent way to take ownership of your finances while still having a tax volunteer help maximize your return. While many tax preparation programs – like Military One Source – are free for military members, clients interested in using the self-serve terminals must have their own access to a tax preparation service; the tax center does not provide access.

Appointments will be available to E1-E5 and O1-O2, their dependents and the spouse of any deployed military member Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Thursday from noon to 6:30. Beginning Monday, qualified individuals may call the Tax Center at 671-1001 to schedule appointments for one-on-one tax return

See **TAX CENTER** Page 12

National Blood Donor Month:

Roll up a sleeve, help patients in need

January is National Blood Donor Month, and the Armed Services Blood Program is encouraging all service members to make a resolution to give blood regularly in 2015.

National Blood Donor Month recognizes the importance of giving blood and platelets while honoring those who roll up a sleeve to help patients in need.

"We couldn't save lives without our donors," said Army Lt. Col. Jason Corley, the program's deputy director



Courtesy graphic

of operations in Washington,

D.C. "As a program, we have saved thousands of lives this year and that happened because of our donor's support. They are the 'silent heroes.'"

Unpredictable winter weather can result in blood drive cancellations, and seasonal illnesses, like the flu, may cause some donors to be unable to make or keep blood donation appointments.

Individuals of all blood types are needed. With a shelf life of 42 days, red blood cells must be constantly replenished to

maintain an adequate supply for patients. All blood collected by the ASBP directly supports ill or injured service members, retirees and their families worldwide – whenever and wherever they need it the most.

"For more than 40 years, National Blood Donor Month has given hope to those who may have otherwise faced very adverse health risks," Corley said. "However, with advances in medical technology and research, people are now getting

the blood they need and as a result, now experience a better quality of life."

For more information, call the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center located in building 140 on Harney Road at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston at 295-4989 or the JBSA-Lackland Blood Donor Center located at 2200 Bergquist Drive, Suite 1 at 292-8100.

(Source: Military Health System and Defense Health Agency staff)

TAX CENTER from Page 11

preparation. Any unfilled appointments will be made available on a space available basis to current military members, regardless of rank, and their dependents starting Feb. 9.

The Tax Lab will be available for walk-in self-service tax preparation Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. The self-serve computer terminals are open on a walk-in basis to all eligible beneficiaries.

If you have an appointment, please bring all tax documents. If you are married and filing jointly, both married members will need to sign (unless you have a power of attorney). Bring all relevant tax documents (including last year's tax return), an official photo ID for each taxpayer and a Social Security card for each payer and dependent. Bring a cancelled check if you would like your refund deposited directly into your bank account.

Due to IRS rules, the tax center will not prepare some of the more complex tax returns during one-on-one consultations. Since tax preparation can take anywhere from



Courtesy photo

30 minutes to a few hours, arrange for child care during your appointment.

Note that a few necessary tax documents may not be available until on or after the tax center's opening day, so be sure you have all relevant documents before coming.

Some documents to look for and remember are: W-2s, mortgage statements, inter-

est statements, tuition statements, receipts for charitable contributions, education expenses and unreimbursed travel expenses. If you're not sure whether an expense is deductible or not, bring it in. Certain uniform expenses may be deductible. If you moved last year and didn't get reimbursed fully, bring in those receipts.

The Lackland VITA Center and Tax Lab will be located in Room 041 in the basement of the 37th Training Wing headquarters building 2484, located at 1701 Kenly Ave (across the street from the Gateway Club and adjacent to the parade field).

Finally, here are some military-specific tips that may apply to you:

For those deploying, it may be helpful to designate someone to represent you on a federal tax matter. To do this, fill out and sign IRS Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative and provide it to the person you want to file your taxes. Forms can be downloaded at <http://www.irs.gov>.

For U.S. Armed Forces personnel serving in a combat zone, the IRS automatically extends the deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing a claim for a refund and taking other actions related to federal income tax.

Members may apply for a deferral of taxes owed if they can show that their ability to pay taxes was adversely affected by their military service.

Members who prefer to self-prepare and e-file taxes may do so at <http://www.militaryonresource.com>.

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is on



Share your JBSA-Lackland photos with us by tagging us @JBSALackland

Warhawks men's basketball forward looks to be a force for the team

By Jose T. Garza III
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

Senior Airman Ryan Johnson, 93rd Intelligence Squadron signals intelligence analyst, remembers his father taking him to his first basketball game – the Seattle SuperSonics against the Indiana Pacers – when he was in second grade. As a fan of the SuperSonics, Johnson watched Gary Payton throw half court alley-oops to Shawn Kemp in the mid-90s, and he even had posters plastered all over his wall.

“They seemed like best friends on the court and I always looked up to that,” the Washington State native said. “I thought it was cool that two guys could get along so well and play with a real flare and passion.”

Before joining the Air Force, the signals intelligence analyst displayed his passion for hoops as a basketball player at three high schools in three states and three colleges in three states. After graduating O’Fallon Township High School in O’Fallon, Ill., Johnson played a year of Division II basketball at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho, and later received a scholarship at Corban University in Salem, Ore.

Johnson originally hoped to parlay his love for sports into a career as a sports reporter. However, the basketball player decided to take a different career path to be a part of something that is “bigger than myself.”

Following a one-year tenure on the University of South Florida practice squad, he decided to follow in the footsteps of Brig. Gen. James Johnson, Air Force Recruiting Services commander at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph and Johnson’s father, and join the Air Force in 2011.

Johnson still competes in the sport he’s been involved in since he was 6 years old. He is a forward on the JBSA-Lackland Warhawks varsity basketball team.



Photo by Airman1st Class Justine Rho

Senior Airman Ryan Johnson, 93rd Intelligence Squadron signals intelligence analyst, is a member of the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Warhawks varsity basketball team. Before joining the Air Force in 2011, Johnson played college basketball at three different schools.

Johnson said his role on the team is to use his tall frame to score points in the paint.

“I am one of the bigger guys so expectations are for me to be a force down as opposed to being an outside shooter,” the 6-foot-5-inch forward said.

Before being assigned to JBSA-Lackland, Johnson’s was stationed at Misawa Air Base, Japan, where he played on the base’s varsity basketball team for 3½ years.

He witnessed how people from a different country viewed the sport he loves. As a member of the Misawa varsity basketball team, Johnson played against Japanese university

and high school basketball teams. He recalled how much the Japanese youth looked up to American basketball players.

“They always wanted to talk to us about the Miami Heat and Kobe Bryant,” Johnson elaborated. “One of the funniest things I remembered was that one of the kids said their favorite player was Mario Chalmers (Miami Heat guard), and we expected him to say LeBron James. It was neat to see how global basketball is and how welcoming other cultures are of us.”

Johnson discovered the Japanese’s philosophy of team basketball was way different than the

American way.

He and three of his Misawa teammates tried out for a Japanese pro expansion team during a scrimmage game, and despite contributing 32 points and 10 rebounds, Johnson said he did not make the team because the expansion team officials were only interested in players who could only shoot 3-pointers.

As a forward on the Warhawks, he is on a team that appreciates his diverse skill set.

Warhawks coach Calvin Conliffe called Johnson an asset because of his size and ability to spread the floor with his shooting ability.

“He’s one of our top shooters and can play in the post as well,” the coach said. “He’s had a rather smooth transition to our team. Most new guys would be afraid to shoot, in efforts to not step on any other offensive players’ toes. However, Ryan is the opposite. He has confidence a player needs to make his mark.”

Moving forward, Johnson hopes to be more vocal on the Warhawks as he earns more tenure on the team. One of his goals is to try out for the All-Air Force Men’s Basketball Team.

To earn a tryout and, hopefully, a spot on the team, Johnson said he has to establish himself in the paint and outmuscle defenders.

“I’m still getting used to playing down low consistently and sitting outside the arc wanting to shoot 3-pointers,” Johnson said. “I have to have a little more patience setting myself in the low post and allowing the team to get me the ball.”

Johnson and the Warhawks are scheduled to compete in the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ranger Jam Tournament Jan. 31. The team will also host a round-robin set of regular season games against Fort Hood, Texas, and Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, Feb. 8 and 9 at the Chaparral Fitness Center. The games are tentatively set for 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on both days.