



# TALESPINNER

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, TEXAS • Vol. 72 No. 9 • March 6, 2015



## Training to save lives

Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis

Maj. Scott Trexler, center, instructor, and Maj. Christopher Synder, right, general surgeon and student in the Emergency War Surgery Course, practice surgical procedures at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Feb. 11. The purpose of the Emergency War Surgery Course is to give deploying surgeons some of the basic trauma skills they will need when they deploy downrange. **See story page 7.**

# Don't underestimate the importance of sacrifices

By Chief Master Sgt. Matthew Lusson  
6th Air Mobility Wing command chief, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

As I was reviewing some enlisted performance reports and decorations, I started contemplating a huge event in my life that occurred almost 20 years ago.

In April of 1995, I asked my then-girlfriend Tiffani, a fellow Airman at the time, to be my wife, for better or worse. We were married later that year and along our journey these past 20 years, we have seen many places, been blessed with two wonderful children and made many friends.

What really got me thinking though, were the numerous sacrifices that my wife and two children have made.

Throughout the journey, my kids have been asked to change schools six times, each time giving up old friends to make new ones. Some of those transitions were easy, but some have been difficult. The resiliency they have shown each and every time though, inspires me. In some instances, they have actually been the ones itching to move, long before I ever was.

My wife has been asked to give up two different jobs along the way as well, not really ever getting the opportunity to start a career.

Additionally, my family has had to deal with me missing many birthdays, anniversaries, etc. due to my temporary



Photo by Daren Reehl

Airmen returning from a deployment usually find their permanent duty station a welcome sight, but they and their families may find that adjusting to life after deployment can be challenging. The Air Force has programs to help Airmen and their families deal with these changes and other aspects of their return.

duties and deployments.

We, as service members, raise our right hand and solemnly swear to defend the United States, against all enemies foreign and domestic. We signed on the dotted line vowing to give our lives in its defense, if needed, but nowhere on

that contract does it say that our families should do the same.

Whether you have a wife, husband, partner, children or simply family back in your home town, we all have someone, somewhere along the journey with us that didn't sign that contract. They endure the ups and downs, the uncertainties of deployments and the joy of reuniting with one another after those separations.

My family has sacrificed so much over these years to allow me to do what I love, which is taking care of our Airmen. I cannot say "thank you" enough or rewind time to make up for those missed birthdays and anniversaries. I don't think any of us would change a thing, but I simply wanted to let them know how much they are loved and appreciated and that I understand the sacrifices they have made.

Two things I ask: First, don't ever underestimate how much the support and sacrifice of our families means to our success. Second, please ensure you go home tonight and thank those that you love, give them a call if they are not here with you, or give them a big hug if they are.

I can think of no greater thing than serving in the world's greatest Air Force alongside the world's greatest Airmen, but without my family and their support and sacrifices, none of it would have been possible. We all look forward to seeing where the journey continues to take us.

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

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ATTENTION ALL PERSONNEL

The 59th Medical Wing Commander regrets to announce the death of Master Sgt. Sheilah Player, assigned to 59th Medical Operations Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, who passed away Feb. 12. To settle the estate of the deceased, Capt. Evan Smith, assigned to 59th Medical Operations Squadron, JBSA-Lackland, has been appointed as summary courts officer. Anyone having a claim for or against the estate of Player should call 292-5647 or email [evan.smith.4@us.af.mil](mailto:evan.smith.4@us.af.mil).

### FIT BLUE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Fit Blue research study is enrolling active duty personnel who are overweight.

Fit Blue is a tailored weight loss program for active duty members and is based on the successful evidence-based weight loss program, called Look AHEAD that was used with civilians.

The Fit Blue study will compare outcomes from two groups; one group will receive a 12-month phone-based intensive counselor-initiated weight loss intervention and the other group will receive a 12-month phone-based self-paced weight loss intervention.

Researchers are enrolling more than 200 active duty military personnel stationed at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland who wish to lose weight and keep it off. Participants who qualify for the study will receive free tools and support to help them lose weight.

The Fit Blue weight loss study is the result of a partnership between the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center.

To learn more, go to: <http://www.uthsc.edu/fitblue> or call the study team at 1-855-FIT-NOW.

### TXDOT, JBSA PARTNER ON TRAVEL OPTIONS STUDY

The Texas Department of Transportation and Joint Base San Antonio have partnered on a study of employee commute preferences to better understand regional congestion patterns. The Active Travel Demand Management Travel Options Study is sponsored by TxDOT to promote travel option programs to employers, employees and other stakeholders along the most congested corridors in the San Antonio area. The goal is to describe the benefits, both for employers and employees, of alternative scheduling such as telecommuting, flextime, compressed work weeks, and ridesharing options such as

See NEWS IN BRIEF Page 11

## Air Force secretary:

# Sequestration harms Air Force readiness

By Terri Moon Cronk  
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

The Air Force's readiness edge could slip away if sequestration is not lifted permanently, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James told members of a Senate panel Feb. 25 at a fiscal year 2016 defense appropriations in Washington, D.C.

Appearing with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, James said sequestration "threatens everything" if the law to force budget cuts is not lifted.

The Air Force is under duress, James told the panel.

"Your Air Force is unquestionably the best on the planet, but we are strained," she said. "We are the best because our men and women who execute the mission each and every day are doing the very best job possible. But we mustn't take this for granted."

The Air Force secretary said her priorities are taking care of people, striking the right balance in preparing for today's and tomorrow's national security challenges, and making every dollar count.

During her travels to 60 bases and 12 foreign countries last year, James said, airmen have told her their biggest concern is downsizing the force.

Today's Air Force is the smallest it's been since it was established in 1947, and the average aircraft is 27 years old, the secretary said.

"This is at a time when the demand for our Air Force services is absolutely going through the roof," she added.

"We are working to meet the combatant commanders' most urgent needs," James said. "But a budget



Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force

trajectory that results in sequestration will not allow us to sustain this pace. We will either break or we won't be able to execute the Defense Strategic Guidance if we are returned to sequestration."

The Air Force instead needs to modestly upsize, James said, with a total force of 492,000 active duty, National Guard and reserve troops to execute the defense strategy.

Such an increase would help relieve operational strain, deployment and bolster the force's nuclear enterprise, the secretary said. A force plus-up, she added, would also increase the cyber teams the Air Force is trying to build and "shore up" existing undermanned fields, such as maintenance.

The Air Force strives to make ev-

ery dollar count, James said, adding that the service is progressing in numerous areas, including cutting headquarters by 20 percent, mostly in personnel. The service also is proposing to retire A-10 Thunderbolt "Warthog" aircraft, and will ask for another round of base closures, she said.

But if sequestration returns in fiscal year 2016, she said, "The choices will be more dire," and "very important systems would perhaps have to be shelved."

Cutting force structure would risk that the Air Force becomes too small to accomplish its missions, Welsh told the Senate panel.

And reducing Air Force research and development costs to save money would hurt future readiness, he said.

"The option of not modernizing isn't an option at all," the general said. "Air forces that fall behind the technology curve fail," Welsh added. "And joint forces without the full breadth of air space and cyber capabilities that modern air power brings will lose."

If funding remains at Budget Control Act levels, the Air Force's short-term readiness recovery will stall, he said.

"Our long-term infrastructure investment that we're trying to start will remain a dream. We'll be forced to recommend dramatic fleet reductions. Our modernization programs will be delayed again, allowing our adversaries to further close the capability gap," Welsh said.

"The casualties will be Air Force readiness and capability well into the future," the general said.

## Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Members of the public, military members, Department of Defense civilian and contractor employees may report suspicious activity concerning fraud, waste or abuse and employee or management misconduct.

Report suspected FWA to your local inspector general, the 502nd Air Base Wing IG or the DOD FWA Hotline.

502 ABW/IG FWA Hotline 808-1000, <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/fwa.asp>

DOD Hotline 800-424-9098, <http://www.dodig.mil/hotline>

# Spring forward safely: stay seen with reflective belt, clothing

By Jewell Hicks  
Joint Base San Antonio Safety Office

It's that time of the year again ... Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday.

This shift in time moves one hour of daylight from the evening into the morning hours. Many of you will now be traveling to work during the hours of darkness, which increases the risk for people driving, as well as for people walking or jogging.

It's important for drivers to pay special attention to the path ahead and expect the unexpected. Pedestrians and joggers need to assess the risk as well and have situational awareness of their surroundings also.

On all Joint Base San Antonio locations, pedestrians and joggers should be familiar with reflective equipment requirements for ensuring their safety during the hours of decreased visibility.

Pedestrians should use paths or sidewalks along roadways, walk facing oncoming traffic when paths or sidewalks are not available and wear reflective outer garments during periods of darkness or reduced visibility, according to Department of Defense Instruction 6055.4, DOD Traffic Safety Program, which is applicable to all services.

The instruction also requires the use of applicable fluorescent or reflective personal protective equipment by all DOD personnel exposed to traffic hazards as part of their assigned duties, such as marching troops, police, firefighters, emergency medical services, road construction crews, electricians or telephone repair personnel working on outside overhead lines.

Each of the military services also has specific guidance related to pedestrian safety and the wear of reflective materials during limited hours of visibility.

According to Army Regulation 310-85, personnel running and not in formation are required to wear a reflective outer garment and or equip-

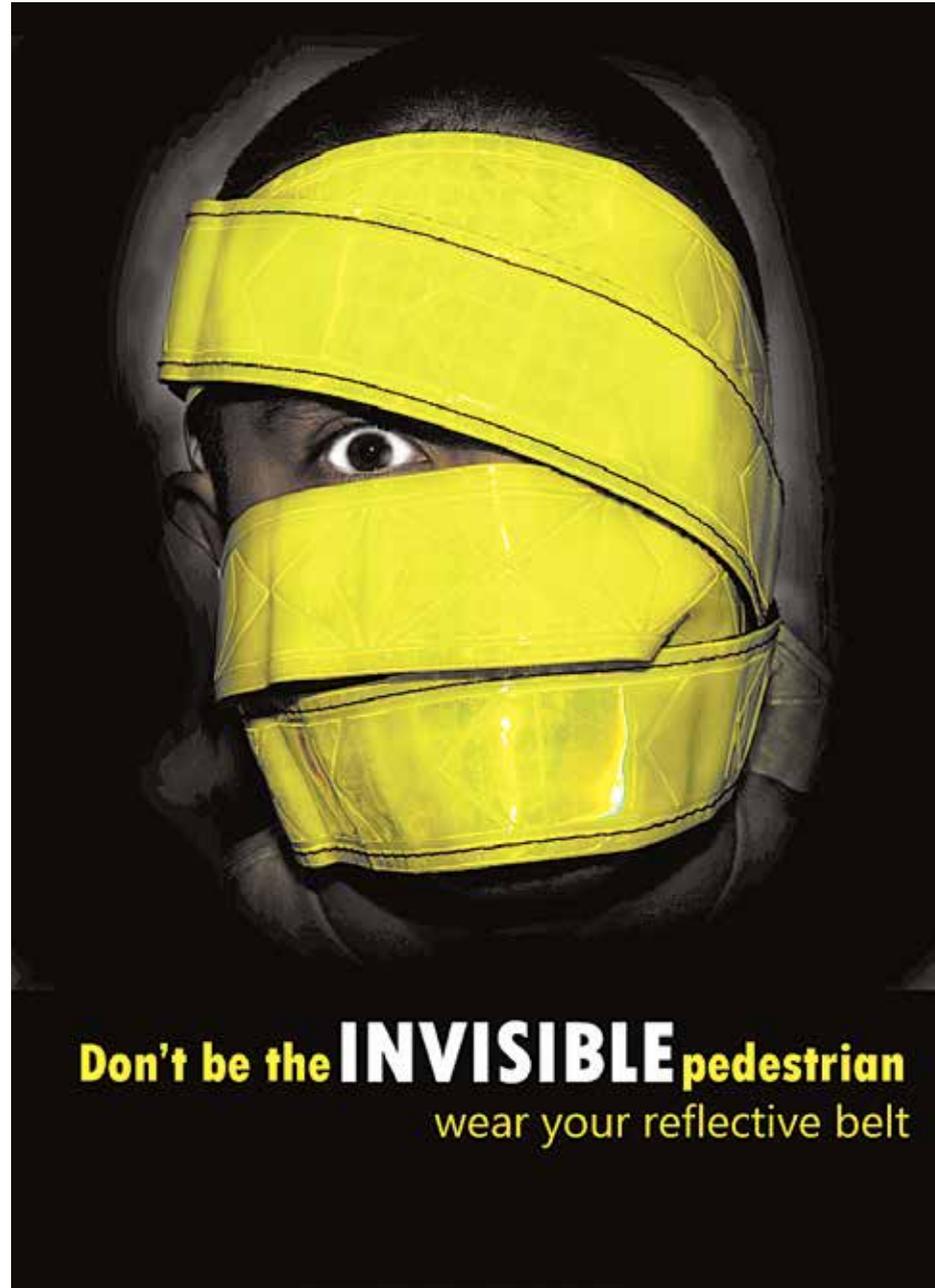


Photo illustration by Senior Airman Schelli Jones

During hours of darkness and limited visibility, military members in uniform, as well as Department of Defense civilian employees, who are in a paid duty status, are required to wear a reflective belt. Wearing reflective gear provides increased visibility to others.

ment during hours of limited visibility. The regulation further states that fluorescent or reflective PPE will be provided to and used by all personnel

who are exposed to traffic hazards as part of their assigned duties; for example, marching, running, and jogging troops (not in formation).

In Air Force Instruction 91-207, the rules for individuals jogging, running or walking on roadways at night or in inclement weather (e.g., fog, rain, sleet, snow, etc.) is to wear clothing/accessories containing retro-reflective properties visible from the front and back. All individuals who are exposed to traffic hazards as part of their assigned duties shall wear a highly visible outer garment during the day and outer garment containing retro-reflective material at night.

Operational Navy Instruction 5100.12J stresses that at night or in periods of reduced visibility, personnel are encouraged to wear brightly colored, fluorescent or other reflective garments when running, jogging, walking or traveling near roadways.

The DOD and all individual service guidance also prohibit the use of portable headphones, earphones, cellular phones, iPods or other listening and entertaining devices (other than hearing aids) while walking, jogging, running, bicycling, skating or skateboarding on roadways. In accordance with service regulations, headsets and personal stereos are prohibited when wearing physical fitness uniforms at all times.

During the hours of darkness – whether as a result of the hour we moved forward on the clock or just during the regular hours of limited visibility – it is critical for pedestrians and joggers to wear clothing or accessories for ensuring you are as visible as possible to vehicle operators.

The choice you make whether driving or walking does matter and may save your life or the life of someone else. Stay seen and stay safe.



One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service. It takes five minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



**BMT HONORS**

Congratulations to the following 66 Airmen for being selected as honor graduates among the 667 Air Force basic military trainees who graduated today:

**321st Training Squadron**

*-Flight 129*  
Tyler Dervin  
Casey Martin

*-Flight 130*  
Sharae Hall  
Ashley Kim  
Emily Walsh

**322nd Training Squadron**

*-Flight 125*  
Christian Cavender  
Eric Ruiz-Castro  
Harrington Sauer  
Daniel Taylor  
Daniel Vandevort  
Marvin Weinrick

*-Flight 126*  
Johnathan Dodd  
Joshua Doyle  
Daniel James  
Donovan Klein  
Gage Weil

*-Flight 133*  
Brandon Butler  
David Hernandez  
John Noe  
Austin Potter

*-Flight 134*  
Samuel Lingle

**323rd Training Squadron**

*-Flight 127*  
Edgar Cedillo  
Shondiin Czosek  
Zachery Lorincz  
Mitchell Mossman  
Devin Painter  
Jared Persian  
Cameron Philips  
Dean Rosser

*-Flight 128*  
Dakota Ennis  
Charles Kepich Jr  
Joshua Olsen  
Samuel Price  
William Winstead IV

*-Flight 131*  
Grant Henson  
Andrew Langness  
John Nidever  
Moshe Paul

*-Flight 132*  
Joshua Carrico  
Michael Florenco  
Francisco Garcia  
Patrick Griffin  
Adalberto Mercado

*-Flight 135*  
Gregory Adams  
Jonathon Anthony  
Wesley Garnes II  
Jake Kealohi  
Zakiy Powell  
Seth Stadtmueller  
John Stewart  
Joseph Travaglini  
Douglas Whitaker

*-Flight 136*  
Stacy Ade  
Emily Gottlick  
Eleni Hernandez  
Samantha Moudry

**331st Training Squadron**

*-Flight 123*  
Darren Apiag II  
Jacob Brewer  
Timothy Fletcher  
Sean Oatman  
Josiah Vandecruze

*-Flight 124*  
Alydia Ball  
Miranda Boehm  
Lisa Hadley  
Kelly Martin  
Whitney Wysocki

**Top BMT Airman**  
Cameron Philips  
323rd TRS, FLT 127

**Most Physically Fit**

*-Female Airmen*  
Nicole Stickel  
321st TRS, Flight 130  
Kelcey Dumas  
323rd TRS, Flight 136  
Miranda Boehm  
331st TRS, Flight 124  
Cornell Emily  
331st TRS, Flight 124

*-Male Airmen*  
Monte Wilson  
331st TRS, Flight 123  
Francisco Garcia  
323rd TRS, Flight 132  
James Schulty  
321st TRS, Flight 129  
Trevor Kabala  
322nd TRS, Flight 134

*-Female Flights*  
323rd TRS, Flight 136  
331st TRS, Flight 124  
321st TRS, Flight 130

*-Male Flights*  
322nd TRS, Flight 134  
322nd TRS, Flight 125  
323rd TRS, Flight 135  
331st TRS, Flight 123  
322nd TRS, Flight 133  
322nd TRS, Flight 126  
323rd TRS, Flight 127  
323rd TRS, Flight 128  
323rd TRS, Flight 131  
323rd TRS, Flight 132  
321st TRS, Flight 129

**Top Academic Flights**  
323rd TRS, Flight 127  
323rd TRS, Flight 128  
322nd TRS, Flight 125  
321st TRS, Flight 129  
322nd TRS, Flight 133  
321st TRS, Flight 130  
322nd TRS, Flight 126  
323rd TRS, Flight 131  
323rd TRS, Flight 135  
331st TRS, Flight 124  
323rd TRS, Flight 132  
322nd TRS, Flight 134  
331st TRS, Flight 123  
323rd TRS, Flight 136



courtesy graphic



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

# JBSA honors the beginning of military aviation

By Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer  
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Service members and civilians from Joint Base San Antonio gathered at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston MacArthur Parade Field March 2, to observe the 105th anniversary of military aviation.

In 1910, then Army Lt. Benjamin Foulois became the first person to make a military flight, from a military facility, of a government owned plane flown by a military-trained pilot.

In December 1909, Lt. Foulois was sent to San Antonio from Washington, D.C., to assemble a new aircraft, Signal Corps Number One, and learn how to fly. After 54 minutes of instruction from Wilbur Wright and a few hours as a passenger, Foulois, having never flown solo or attempted a landing, taught himself to fly.

Through trial and error, attention to detail, great personal risk and a steadfast devotion to duty; military aviation was born.

"An aviator, in their heart, is birthed from the very beginning," Army Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, Army North commander and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis senior commander, said. "He is the guy out with a red wagon, when everyone else was afraid to get in and go down the steep hill; he



Photo by Johnny Saldivar

Col. David S. Drichta, 12th Operations Group commander, addresses the crowd March 2 during an annual ceremony held at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston parade grounds.

was the first one to raise his hand and get in it and ride it all the way down to the bottom. If he didn't make it, he brought in his older brother to fix the wheels he broke and he jumped back in and did it again. That is the Foulois that we are here to learn about today."

Foulois was able to fly the 30-horse power two-propeller biplane a total of seven and a half minutes, and attained a height of 200 feet, circling the field at a speed of 30 mph.

"To me when you read about the pioneers of aviation, one thing I realize is how far we have come," Wiggins said. "The expectation that it is safer to fly in an air plane than it is to drive in a car is due to the people right here in this audience and the people you serve with and for every day. The people we should remember today are those that picked up the challenge and mantle of responsibility and marched on after Foulois, and took aviation to where it is today."

The innovations in flying training and flight safety made by Foulois still affect how the Air Force operates today.

"Today, the 12th Flying Training Wing is the source of America's air power, we train the instructor pilots that go out and train the rest of the pilots in the Air Force," Col. David Drichta, 12th Operations Group commander at JBSA-Randolph, said. "We also have the initial pipeline for remotely piloted aircraft as well as introduction to fighter fundamentals. That source of America's air power is the execution today of what happened on this day back in 1910 with Lieutenant Foulois. If you look back at the birth of aviation, we have instruction from 105 years ago continuing here in the rich tradition of San Antonio and military aviation. We come from a long line of people who have been doing this before us, and we will continue to take the fight into the future."

The ceremony was concluded with a wreath laying to honor the accomplishments of Foulois and his eight-man team, and to remember the beginning of San Antonio's military aviation heritage.

"In the spirit of what happened here, I want to congratulate each and every one of you and thank you for continuing to recognize and celebrate the history of aviation," Wiggins said. "It has been an honor for me to stand here today and be a part of this tradition."

## 27 pay dates for civilians in 2015

By Janis El Shabazz  
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Civilian employees will have 27 pay dates in 2015 vice the usual 26, so some employees might need to adjust their Thrift Savings Plan contribution elections to receive the maximum agency matching contributions for 2015.

The Internal Revenue Code imposes a limit each year on the amount that an employee can contribute annually to a tax deferred retirement plan like TSP. The maximum 2015 contribution amount for traditional or Roth TSP is \$18,000 and the maximum amount for 2015 catch-up contributions is \$6,000.

Catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions and are separate from regular



Courtesy graphic

TSP contributions.

To be eligible to make catch-up contributions, you must be at least age 50

in the year the contributions are made, must be in a pay status, and must be scheduled to reach the elective deferral limit for regular TSP contributions during the calendar year.

For those who are eligible, catch-up contributions provide a way for individuals to secure their retirement, especially for those who begin investing later in their careers.

"If employees under the Federal Employees Retirement System wish to receive the maximum matching contributions for 2015, they must ensure they do not reach the \$18,000 contribution limit before the last pay day of the year because TSP contributions stop when an employee's contributions reach the annual maximum limit," said Erica Cathro, AFPC Human Resources Specialist.

Air Force civilians can adjust TSP elections through the Employee Benefits Information System.

For more information about this topic, to include viewing the TSP and Catch-Up Contributions Chart and other personnel programs, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>. To access EBIS, select the link under the 'I would like to' section and log into the site with the social security number and EBIS personal identification number.

New users who do not have a PIN must click the 'new user' option to create one. Employees who have forgotten their PIN can reset it by providing six pieces of previously established information. After answering the security questions select the "forgot login" link and enter the requested information.

For more information on other personnel programs go to myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil>. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can find instructions to create an account at [www.retirees.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120510-068.pdf](http://www.retirees.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120510-068.pdf).

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<http://twitter.com/JBSALackland>



E-mail us at: [Lackland.jbsa@gmail.com](mailto:Lackland.jbsa@gmail.com)

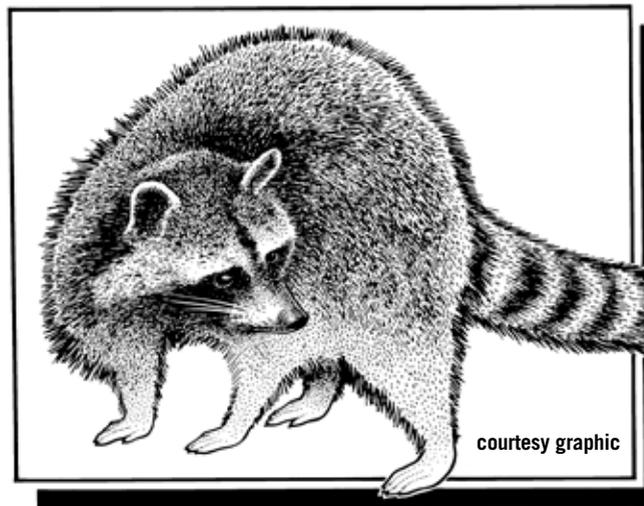
# Controlling stray animals on Joint Base San Antonio

By Brian A. Desormeaux  
502nd Civil Engineer Squadron

The 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron works hard to insure the base population and visitors have a memorable experience while working or visiting Joint Base San Antonio.

One task they are assigned is the control of stray and roaming animals within the confines of JBSA perimeter fencing.

The members of the 502nd Civil Engineer Operations Flight understand that all animals should be treated in a humane nature. When trapping animals for removal, they use live traps and try to ensure not only the safety of the



courtesy graphic

base population, but the safety of the animal as well.

It is difficult to mitigate the presence of stray and roaming

animals when they have found a food source being replenished by base residents or visitors. Refrain from feeding any animal that does not belong to you or that is running wild on JBSA. This is for your safety and the safety of the animal.

Many of these animals may be diseased or pest-ridden and require medical care or just a better living situation. Contact with these animals can become a negative experience for both the animal and the person.

If stray or roaming animals are seen on any JBSA location, call the 502nd CES customer support line at 671-5555 to report the location and type of animal.

## Multi-service life-saving training course prepares medics for combat operations

By Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis  
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

Surgeons and nurses from the U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy underwent a three-day training course at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Feb. 10-12, 2015 to prepare for the various perils they may face in a deployed environment.

The Emergency War Surgery Course has been conducted at Wilford Hall since it was established in 2004. Wilford Hall is the only location that hosts the course, which is mandatory for general or orthopedic surgeons and is optional for nurses.

"The purpose of the Emergency War Surgery Course is to give deploying surgeons

some of the basic trauma skills they will need when they deploy downrange," said U.S. Army Col. (Dr.) John Garr, commander of the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute.

Sherrilee Demmer, 59th Medical Wing Trauma Education and Injury Prevention coordinator, explained how the Emergency War Surgery Course was formulated.

"The Department of Health Affairs formed a combat surgery committee composed of members from all the branches of service to decide on what deploying members needed to know," said Demmer.

Trauma coordinators from all services went to forward operating bases in theater to

collect data," Demmer said. "They then attended the Emergency War Surgery Course and started making performance improvements based on the data."

Although surgeons are required to attend the courses within two years of a deployment, the course is optional but highly recommended for nurses. Feedback has shown that there are substantial differences in the readiness and capabilities for nurses who attend the course.

"Early on we were hearing from people downrange that it was sometimes taking six weeks for the nurses to get up to speed," said Demmer. "The nurse that comes through this

course is way up to speed compared to the nurse who does not."

Another benefit of having a single tri-service course with standardized curriculum is the opportunity to explain how each service differs in a deployed environment. Students received instruction on medical joint operations and ways in which they could better assist each other, which will ultimately increase patient care.

"It is important to have specialized training because the types of situations, patients and injuries these surgeons and nurses will encounter are much different from those seen in the civilian sector," said Garr.

"In the end it's all about the wounded troop," Demmer said. "From the beginning, the focus of the course was to provide doctors and nurses with the best training possible so they can take care of the patient; that remains our focus today."

# DIAMOND SHARP

**Airman 1st Class Ashley Mikaio**

**Unit:** 3rd Combat Camera Squadron

**Duty title:** Combat broadcaster

**Time in service:** 9 months

**Hometown:** Surprise, Ariz.



"Airman 1st Class Ashley Mikaio displayed the highest levels of motivation and professionalism during her involvement during the 'Ability to Survive and Operate Training Exercise Scorpion Lens 15,' conducted at North Auxiliary Airfield, S. C. Despite being in the 3rd Combat Camera Squadron only two months, Mikaio expertly became M4 and M9 weapons qualified so she could be an exercise team participant. She showed outstanding followership when her team leadership recommended her for a mock Secretary of Defense visit in which she translated into a superb effort documenting exercise scenario parameters. Her video documentation of the exercise's reconnaissance and patrol missions helped lead to the creation of a 30-minute mission production chronicling the entire exercise. Mikaio is a shining example of today's driven and dedicated Airman."

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

**Airman First Class Cory Grodi**

**Unit:** 502nd Contracting Squadron

**Duty title:** Contract administrator

**Time in service:** 1 year

**Hometown:** Gainesville, Ga.



"Airman 1st Class Cory Grodi, assigned to the 502nd Contracting Squadron, exemplifies the Air Force Core Values and is an outstanding Airman. He established a solid contracting foundation by completing the 5-level career development course eight months ahead of schedule and finishing a Harvard business course. Grodi has quickly risen to a key member of the Simplified Acquisition Team and has processed more than \$1 million in contract actions, with an astounding 100 percent on-time award rate. He has proven a keen leadership capability, which was displayed by bridging a three week leadership gap, where he led four Airmen to ensure workload execution. Additionally, Grodi has been elected secretary of Airman's Voice, ensuring that junior enlisted members are heard at all levels of leadership. He continues to impress by serving in the local community, which includes: serving lunches to more than 200 students at Lackland Elementary School; organizing mentorship sessions for 20 elementary students monthly; and leading a San Antonio Contracting Conference in the Pledge of Allegiance attended by 4,000 contractors. Finally, Grodi embodies the Wingman concept by guiding three Airmen in his off duty time in physical training to ensure the unit remains fit to fight. It is for these reasons and the scope of his impact that Grodi is truly 'Diamond Sharp.'"

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

**Tech Sgt. Jason S. Baer**

**Unit:** Air Force Lifecycle Management Center

**Duty title:** RF Transmission systems technician

**Time in service:** 5 years, 3 months

**Hometown:** Dillsburg, Pa.



"Tech. Sgt. Jason Baer is a motivated and selfless member of our Air Force team. Baer was recently selected ahead of seven peers as Non Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Information Assurance Technical Assistance Center where he immediately implemented process improvements throughout the work center. In just a few weeks' time, he reduced production support workflow backlog 75 percent by optimizing coordination efforts between four work centers, assuring completion of 101 depot maintenance actions and certifying the operability of \$3.3M in Air Force supply assets. Additionally, he developed and employed a work center Preventative Maintenance Inspection program that enforced routine inspections of 650 communications assets, increasing the survivability of Air Force's \$10M, Type -1 test beds. Furthermore, Baer managed the Assistance Center's Help Desk, rectifying 25 communications security trouble tickets and cementing mission security across seven major commands and three Department of Defense agencies. His can-do attitude, drive and attention to detail directly contributed to his work center receiving zero write-ups during a recent Unit Effectiveness Inspection."

– **Master Sgt. Eric Rascoe**  
AFLCMC/Det 6, First Sergeant,

**Staff Sgt. Shannon Ouimet-Amaro**

**Unit:** 319th Training Squadron

**Duty title:** Military training instructor

**Time in service:** 7 years, 11 months

**Hometown:** Wills Point, Texas



"Staff Sgt. Shannon Ouimet-Amaro is a Military Training Instructor assigned to the 319th Training Squadron's Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training site. As a cadre member, she is responsible for providing trainees with simulated deployment scenario operations to include base defense, combative training, post-attack response and chemical attack exercises. Ouimet-Amaro is not only a solid performer on duty, she also spends countless hours volunteering with multiple organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, as well as serving as vice president of the Gay-Straight Alliance of Military in San Antonio. She recently completed her second Community College of the Air Force degree in education and management while pursuing a bachelor of science degree in computer information systems. Ouimet-Amaro is a true asset to the squadron; she is undoubtedly an unsung hero in her work center and I wholeheartedly believe she deserves recognition as this month's Diamond Sharp Award recipient."

– **Master Sgt. Nathan Pigza**  
319th TRS, First Sergeant

**Senior Airman Zabel Valenzuela**

**Unit:** 59th Radiology Squadron

**Duty title:** Diagnostic imaging technologist

**Time in service:** 3 years

**Hometown:** El Paso, Texas



"Senior Airman Zabel Valenzuela serves as a diagnostic imaging technologist for Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center. His attention to detail and service before self were vital to the success of the revamping of the diagnostic imaging Flight quality control. There he oversaw the program; conducting 90 daily log checks and ensuring accuracy of more than 1,200 films. During this time, he noticed a discrepancy in personnel accountability which was affecting adequate work production. He then created a personnel tracking system that increased accountability and doubled work production. Leading the way both at work and in the community, he led a team for the Air Force Sergeants Association food drive, sorting 1,000 pounds of non-perishable foods. Their efforts provided food for 35 local residents. Valenzuela manages all these things while earning nine credit hours making him eligible for his Community College of the Air Force degree in Radiological Sciences as well as his National Registry as a radiological technologist. He continuously displays impeccable military bearing and a professional image on and off duty. He has a positive attitude and is constantly seeking out opportunities for self-improvement and community outreach. It is for these reasons and the scope of his impact that Valenzuela is truly 'Diamond Sharp.'"

– **Master Sgt. Marco Cerros**  
59th Medical Operations Group, First Sergeant

**Tech. Sgt. Melissa Solis**

**Unit:** 59th Dental Squadron

**Duty title:** NCO in charge,

Dunn records and reception

**Time in service:** 17 years, 9 months

**Hometown:** San Antonio, Texas



"Tech. Sgt. Melissa Solis is a phenomenal NCO whose leadership reaches across the 59th Dental Squadron and directly impacts 125 officers, enlisted and civilian personnel. As the Dunn Clinic NCO in charge of records and reception at the Department of Defense's largest dental organization, Solis's management and oversight of six critical Air Force-level programs has been vital to the entire 59th Dental Group's success. Her keen supervision of these vital Air Force processes has propelled the group to a 98 percent dental readiness rating for five wings and sustained an impressive four-day patient access to care rate. Solis is the consummate professional and is truly deserving of recognition at this and all levels."

– **Master Sgt. Jason Fitts**  
59th Dental Group, First Sergeant



# DIAMOND SHARP

DIAMOND SHARPS FROM Page 8 

Tech. Sgt. Jamie Kienholz

**Unit:** 802nd Force Support Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio Airman Leadership School

**Duty title:** Airman Leadership School NCO in charge

**Time in service:** 14 years

**Hometown:** Fairfield, Texas



"Tech. Sgt. Jamie Kienholz serves as the NCO in charge for the Joint Base San Antonio Airman Leadership School. Her attention to detail is second to none and she is the 'go-to' person when it comes to enlisted professional military education. She always displays the highest standards of dress and appearance and lives by the Core Values and the Airman's Creed. She stepped up to streamline the Airman Leadership School registrar process and has increased student attendance by 20 percent ensuring Joint Base San Antonio senior airmen are ready to promote to NCOs and become our leaders of tomorrow. It is for these reasons and the scope of her impact that Kienholz is truly 'Diamond Sharp.'"

– **Master Sgt. Christopher Booth**

802nd FSS, First Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Jane Smith

**Unit:** 59th Medical Support Squadron

**Duty title:** NCO in charge, Reid Clinic Outpatient Records

**Time in service:** 7 years, 6 months

**Hometown:** Verona, N.Y.



"Staff Sgt. Jane Smith displays the perfect image of an NCO and exceeds every expectation placed before her. She is a profound supervisor that truly believes in taking care of her Airmen. Smith is without a doubt one of the best NCOs I have seen to date."

– **Master Sgt. De'Lisa Harris**

59th MDSS, First Sergeant

## FOSTER A PUPPY

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

Potential foster families need:

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

**CALL 671-3686**

# Why Air Force Smart Operations?

By 1st Lt. Jose R. Davis

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Confucius once said that in order for a man to move a mountain he must first begin by carrying away its small stones. Now, if one is to imagine the Air Force as that giant mountain, how does an Airman begin trying to move it? That is, if someone wants to effect change across the Air Force, how does he or she go about doing so?

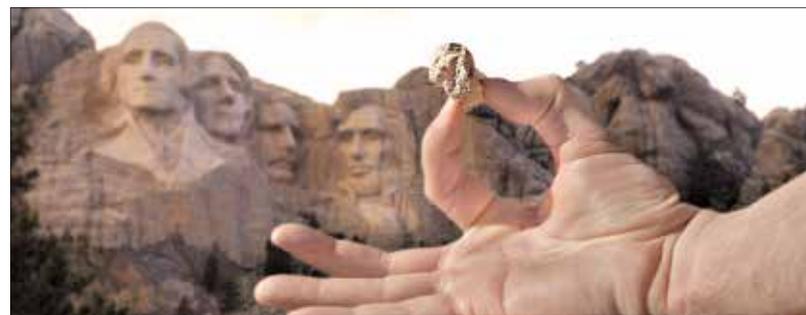
It begins by carrying away the small stones. That is the point of Air Force Smart Operations – or AFSSO.

In November 2005, then –Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynn unveiled the tenets of AFSSO in a Letter to Airmen emphasizing the need to eliminate waste engendered by antiquated processes and encouraging Airmen to develop new practices that significantly increase the Air Force's combat capabilities. The vision was that continuous process improvement (another term for AFSSO) would be in the DNA of every Airman.

"Many folks see AFSSO as only a program. They're wrong," said Jerardo A. Perez, Deputy Director of Studies, Analysis and Assessment Headquarters for Air Education and Training Command. "In its simplest form, AFSSO is a deliberate recipe for solving today's challenges or enhancing current operations."

AFSSO is not just another program; nor is it an amalgamated rehash of previous cost-saving efforts. The underlying principles that guide AFSSO are universal. AFSSO is a culture and a mindset for improving the Air Force by making small changes to processes, just like moving a mountain one small stone at a time.

"Everything we do, whether at home or at work, is made up of processes," said Charles Wyatt, Headquarters AETC's AFSSO master process officer. "At least 90 percent of those processes contain waste that can be removed by applying the AFSSO continu-



Graphic by 1st Lt. Jose R. Davis

To move a mountain, one must first begin by carrying away its small stones. In the same sense, Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century, or AFSSO21, is a mindset that focuses on eliminating waste and continually improving processes at the grassroots level. For some, AFSSO21 gives Airmen tools at their level to make a difference and move the Air Force into a better direction.

ous process improvement tools. However, sadly too many people insist on performing their duties the same old way they learned them many years ago when money, manpower and equipment were much more abundant."

But in today's resource-constrained environment, people must innovate and apply AFSSO tools to help close those resource gaps.

"So, when faced with limited resources such as the recent sequestration in the spring of 2013, the first question most leaders asked their Airmen was, 'What should we stop doing?' When the question should be, 'If we remove as much waste from our process as possible, how much of our mission can we still achieve given current resources?'"

"I think commanders would be really surprised to see how much waste their mission processes currently have and once removed, how efficient they can become without having to 'stop doing' anything," Wyatt added.

While there was relief from sequestration for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, the Budget Control Act of 2011 is still law and remains in effect for FY 2016. Without relief from the BCA, the Air Force will once again be forced to operate at decreased budget levels. If or when that happens, AFSSO should be the first toolbox rolled out for Airmen to find ways to deal with any coming resource constraints while also increasing efficiencies

across the service.

"Now more than ever, we have to work a problem, solve it and move on to the next one," said Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, Air Education and Training Command vice commander. "I'm a big fan of AFSSO. It's a process on how to think and do real analysis in solving problems versus answering a suspense.

"A long time ago, someone told me we never have enough time to do something right the first time, but we always have the time to do it right the second time – that's something I don't want us to do. Innovative Airmen power the Air Force and AFSSO tools help Airmen avoid doing just that," Patrick said.

Recently, an AFSSO event was held for AETC chaplains and chaplain assistants to help establish means for improving chaplain engagement with Airmen throughout the command. The event focused on how the chaplain corps should move from a chapel-based commitment to a unit-based engagement with Airmen, specifically during times of budget and personnel cuts. Addressing this challenge is a continuous process that's just begun.

AFSSO has had varying successes since its inception in 2006, Wyatt said. However, a way to test AFSSO's claims is simply to try them.

Contact your nearest manpower office or the AETC MPO at [aetc.afso21.workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:aetc.afso21.workflow@us.af.mil) to schedule training.

## LOCAL BRIEFS

### SATURDAY

#### LACKLAND THRIFT SHOP BAG SALE

The Lackland Thrift Shop, located in the One Stop, building 5460, will have a \$5 Bag Sale Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will be closed Tuesday through Thursday for Spring Break. For additional information, call 671-3608 or email [thriftshop@lacklandosc.org](mailto:thriftshop@lacklandosc.org)

#### CHIEF'S 5K

Run begins at 8 a.m. at the Pfingston Reception Center, building 6330, March 7. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and is \$10. Call 671-3026.

### MARCH 13

#### IAAFA'S 72ND ANNIVERSARY 5K

Event begins at 7:30 a.m. at the IAAFA Circle of Flags at the corner of Carswell and Selfridge, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Registration is \$10 before Tuesday, \$15 after. For additional information, call 671-0215.

### MARCH 15

#### SOLDIERS' 5K/10K RUN

Check in is at 7:30 a.m., race

begins at Texas A&M-San Antonio, One University Way, San Antonio, at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$30 online and \$35 day of the race. To register online, visit <http://www.alamoausa.org/> or. For details, email [oursoldiers-run@gmail.com](mailto:oursoldiers-run@gmail.com) or call 385-8248.

### MARCH 19

#### 2ND ANNUAL SAN ANTONIO MILITARY HIRING FAIR AND VETERANS' INFORMATION VILLAGE

The San Antonio Military Hiring Fair and Veterans' Information Village is a multi-faceted event combining a hiring fair, support services, education and information offerings for veterans and eligible family members. Event is at Freedom Expo Hall A, 3201 E. Houston St., San Antonio, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For additional information, call 259-9867.

### MARCH 20

#### 42ND FREEDOM FLYER REUNION AND 18TH ANNUAL POW/MIA SYMPOSIUM

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph 560th Flying Training Squadron will host the 42nd Freedom Flyer Reunion and the 18th Annual Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Symposium, March 20. The following events will take place

to honor the 195 Air Force POW throughout the fellow services held during the Vietnam War:

Squadron open house and artifact dedication - 9 a.m. in Hangar 12

Wreath-laying ceremony and Missing-Man flyby - 12:15 p.m. in Washington Circle

18th Annual POW/MIA Symposium - 1:30 p.m. in the Fleenor Auditorium

### INFORMATIONAL

#### DINING FACILITIES PRICE CHANGE

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 additional information on dining facilities to include hours, contact information and address, visit <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/library/diningfacilities.asp>

#### THE LACKLAND GATEWAY THEATER IS OPEN

For 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/Lackland-AFB>.

#### THERE IS SOMETHING FISHY AROUND HERE

The San Antonio Aquarium is now open and JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel has discount tickets. Experience this attraction that has exhibits low enough for children of all ages to reach out and touch stingrays. See a variety of sharks, starfish, reptiles and more. It is an interactive, educational experience for all. Call for additional information 671-3059.

#### SEE THE SPURS WORK THEIR MAGIC

Spurs 2015 game tickets are on sale at Joint Base San Antonio ITT offices. Come by the offices to get the tickets without the fees or go to <http://www.spurs.com/lacklanditt> and use the promo code LACKLAND, <http://www.spurs.com/fortsamhoustonitt> and use the promo code FORTSAM or <http://www.spurs.com/randolphitt> and use the promo code RANDOLPH. Call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 671-3059 and JBSA-Randolph at 652-5142.

#### VEHICLE INSPECTIONS AVAILABLE

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Auto Hobby Shop performs Texas vehicle safety inspection for \$7, pass or fail. Call 671-3549.

#### NEW CLASSES AT FREEDOM CHAPEL

Three new women's studies are being offered at the Freedom Chapel Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings. For childcare reservations or details, email [lacklandsistersin-christ@gmail.com](mailto:lacklandsistersin-christ@gmail.com).

#### VANPOOL SEEKS NEW DRIVERS

The vanpool is actively seeking new drivers. Vanpool departs from Randolph Park & Ride at IH-35 and Loop 410 at 5:45 a.m. and drops riders off at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center and the Defense Language Institute at JBSA-Lackland.

Contact vanpool coordinator, at [mary.hokana@us.af.mil](mailto:mary.hokana@us.af.mil) for details.

#### PROFESSIONAL FRAMING AVAILABLE

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Frame Shop professionals are available to assist patrons in making the best selection to frame personal items. Call 652-5142 for more information.

## CHAPEL SERVICES

### —PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICES

#### Freedom Chapel – Building 1528

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

#### LITURGICAL SERVICE

#### Airman Memorial Chapel – Building 5432

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### New BMT Reception Center – Building 6330

Sun. 7:30 a.m. (Rm. 175)

#### SEVENTH - DAY ADVENTIST

#### Gateway Chapel – Building 6300

Sat. 12:30 p.m.

#### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

#### New BMT Reception Center – Building 6330

Sun. 7:30 a.m. (Rm. 112)

### —ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

#### Airmen Memorial Chapel – Building 5432

Sun. 9:30 a.m.

### —WICCA

#### New BMT Reception Center – Building 6330

Sun. 9:00 – 11:00 (Auditorium)

#### Freedom Chapel – Building 1528

Wicca Open Circle 1st Tues. 6 – 7 p.m.

### —REFUGE STUDENT CENTER

#### Building 9122 (Tech Training & TDY Students)

Wednesday 6 – 8 p.m.

Thursday 6 – 8 p.m.

Friday 6 – 11 p.m.

Saturday 12 – 9 p.m.

Sunday 11 – 5 p.m.

### —JEWISH

#### Airmen Memorial Chapel – Building 5432

Sabbath & Kiddush Fri. 4:30 p.m.

Religious Education Sun. 1:30 p.m.

### —ROMAN CATHOLIC

#### Freedom Chapel – Building 1528

Religious Education Sun. 9:00 a.m.

Mass 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.

### —BUDDHIST

#### 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	<a href="http://www.lacklandesc.org">http://www.lacklandesc.org</a>
Force Support Squadron	<a href="http://www.lacklandfss.com">http://www.lacklandfss.com</a>
Lackland ISD	<a href="http://www.lacklandisd.net">http://www.lacklandisd.net</a>
Officers' Spouses' Club	<a href="http://www.lacklandosc.org">http://www.lacklandosc.org</a>
JBSA Public website	<a href="http://www.jbsa.af.mil">http://www.jbsa.af.mil</a>
My Air Force Life	<a href="http://www.MyAirForcelife.com">http://www.MyAirForcelife.com</a>

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

# WHA spouses making a difference

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Carwile  
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

We know the men and women of the U.S. military strive to make a difference for our country and the world. America also knows these service members could not do it without the support of caring families and friends behind them.

But what about those family members from the 59th Medical Wing who want to make a difference of their own? The Wilford Hall Auxiliary has the solution.

Like most spouses clubs in the military, the WHA hosts several annual events, social activities, and playgroups for children. The core purpose of the club, however, is to give spouses a chance to work collectively to support the local community.

"We are committed to positively impacting the San Antonio military community through the support of various service projects and monetary donations," said Sara Teepe, WHA president.

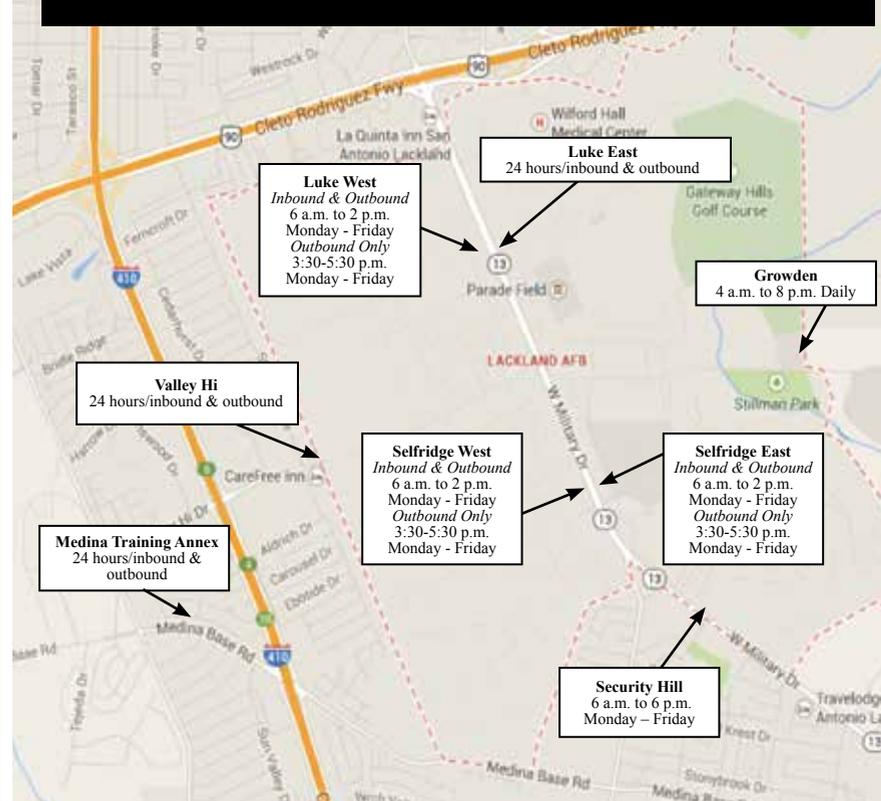
The WHA supports organizations like the Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports Camp for veterans with disabilities and the Fisher House, which provides temporary lodging for families of injured service members receiving medical care.

WHA members help children of deployed military personnel go to summer camps, and spend countless hours preparing and mailing care packages to parents of children in the neonatal intensive care unit at the nearby San Antonio Military Medical Center. The WHA also funds the Wilford Hall chaplains' monthly "Bagel Givebacks" program. The program provides free coffee and bagels to members of the 59th MDW in appreciation for their work.

"If we focus our efforts on military community impact, the Wilford Hall Auxiliary will continue to succeed by doing its best to support the men and women of the 59th Medical Wing, our military families and wounded warriors, and even our deployed members," said Teepe. "That is our mission."

For additional information on the WHA, visit <http://www.wilfordhallauxiliary.com> or <http://www.meetup.com/wilford-hall-auxiliary>. Email [membership-wha@gmail.com](mailto:membership-wha@gmail.com) for membership information or to submit questions.

## JBSA-Lackland Gate Hours



### NEWS IN BRIEF from Page 3

carpooling, vanpooling and using public transportation. The project team will document strategies already in place, and provide recommendations and a framework for the travel options that will work best for employees. The commuter survey portion of this study is a means of understanding individual commute patterns, such as how long it takes and how individuals go about meeting their travel needs on a daily basis. As congestion increases in the San Antonio metro area, the TxDOT and JBSA are interested in learning about what other options you might be interested in. Input from customers is the foundation of the study and will also let us know how we can better support our employees. The survey is anonymous and only takes a few minutes to provide valuable feedback. The survey link is <http://tinyurl.com/JBSAcommute>. For more information, call 652-3477 or 652-5307.

(Source: 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron)

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



# AF Security Forces Academy graduates pipeline Combat Arms Instructors



Photo by Airman First Class Justine Rho

Airmen 1st Class Tyler Rouillard, Tyler Alexander and Ricardo Lugo, graduate from the 343rd Training Squadron Combat Arms Instructor Apprentice Course, Feb. 24, at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland. These Airmen were hand picked out of about 200 volunteer applicants; they had the highest test scores, zero derogatory comments, high progress checks, were recommended by their flight chief and instructors and stood out in a series of three interviews.

By Airman First Class Justine Rho  
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

The 343rd Security Forces Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland graduated three Airmen from the Combat Arms Instructor Apprentice Course Feb. 24, directly following their completion of the Security Forces Apprentice Course.

Airman 1st Class Tyler Alexander, Ricardo Lugo and Tyler Rouillard were chosen from about 200 applicants interested in the opportunity to go through the CAI Apprentice Course directly after the completion of their initial SF technical school.

The Airmen were pipelined into the course in accordance to a trial in the process of prolonging the service of Airmen as CAIs; previously, Airmen were retrained into the career field after meeting certain prerequisites, such as promotion to senior airman or staff Sergeant, said Chief Master Sgt. Tamala Hartz, 343rd TRS chief enlisted manager.

The trial directive came from Brig. Gen. Allen J. Jameson, director of Security Forces, to AF Security

Forces Career Manager Chief Master Sgt. Stephen White and then to Hartz.

Prior to this trial, AF Security Forces Airmen were trained as defenders before having the opportunity to retrain into either "shreds," or career fields, as combat arms instructors or military working dog handlers, explained Hartz. The Airmen's time in either shred is reduced due to the change of duty to special education identifiers, SEIs, as soon as they promote to technical Sergeant.

The process in identifying the three pipeline Airmen involved the agreement and understanding of leadership directive and the attention of the team at the 343rd TRS Security Forces Academy.

"The process of choosing the right Airmen was rigorous," said Tech. Sgt. Rebeca Archuleta, Air Education and Training Command training manager at the 343rd TRS. "We wanted to select the best personnel with the highest test scores, zero derogatory comments, high progress checks and the recommendations from their flight chief and instructors. Airmen, soon to graduate the SF apprentice course, were given the opportunity to volunteer for this trial."

After looking through about 200 ap-

plications and checking student records, three sets of interviews were held to narrow down the numbers to the final applicants. Hartz, Archuleta and Tech. Sgt. Dustin Walker, USAF CAI Apprentice Course chief, conducted the face-to-face interviews with the Airmen.

"We asked the Airmen problem solving, time management, and resiliency questions," Hartz said. "The three Airmen that we chose had amazing stories with life events that displayed resiliency and maturity. Their stories in conjunction with all the other factors made them finalists."

Such high standards of qualification were set because the three Airmen will face challenges, Archuleta said. The Airmen must complete AF Career Development Courses as Security Forces cops and then complete the CDCs for CAI, while performing on the job training in both career fields.

First and foremost, the candidates are Security Forces Airmen, Walker said. As CAIs, they will conduct weapons training for AF personnel along with maintaining weapons parts accounts, ammunition accounts and other duties involving weapons firing and safety.

"These Airmen had to meet the same level of education and task requirement as those that have been active in the career field," said Hartz. "There was no special attention or additional training for them. We wanted to make sure this was a fair and equitable process."

The three Airmen talk about what's expected of them as they move on as active members of the AF and what they are taking away from each apprentice course.

"After coming out of the course you really have an in depth, 360-degree perspective about what we are going to be doing as combat arms instructors," said Alexander, soon to be stationed at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"Learning about the nomenclature, the ins and outs, of weapons we had the opportunity to gain experience with was very interesting," said Rouillard, CAI at Whiteman Air Force Base.

When asked about any challenges they overcame in the course Lugo, assigned to the 343rd TRS, said he "was intimidated at first. But, our instructors and fellow students didn't treat us as new Airman."

The section on learning how to instruct others allowed the Airmen to step out of their comfort zone, Lugo said.

"As pipeline students into this course we had to present to senior NCOs and that forced me to be comfortable as an instructor," Rouillard said.

"I think success in this trial will show that Airmen have the opportunity to show leadership," Alexander said. "As CAIs we are going to be instructing, not only SF, but also everyone in the military that fires a weapon. This trial is allowing an Airman, that may not have as much experience as an NCO, to give their knowledge."

Before beginning the CAI apprentice course, there were high expectations for the Airmen. And with those expectations they have already begun proving themselves as trial candidates.

Both Lugo and Alexander received distinguished graduate of their CAI Apprentice Course and Alexander also received top instructor for graduating class 15002.

Hartz explains that the trial continues as the Airmen report to their first duty stations. Leadership will report how the Airmen are progressing through their CDCs and OJT.

"These are three amazing Airmen because their story is unique," Hartz said. "We graduate about 4,000 Airmen from the academy every year. These three are going to be different."

## UPCOMING

### VARSITY SOCCER TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Varsity Soccer Team take place at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at the Warhawk Football Field. For details, call 292-7115.

### KING OF THE HILL TOURNEY

Participate in the Gillum Fitness Center's "King of the Hill" basketball tourney at 11:30 a.m. March 13. Sign up no later than noon Thursday. Call 977-2353.

### COMBAT HAPKIDO

Combat Hapkido is a modern form of martial arts adapted from traditional Korean Hapkido. Students learn to engage in numerous unique movements crucial to self-defense and use effective striking from the ground to dominate an attacker. The class starts at 6 p.m. Monday, and costs \$60 per month. For details, call 671-2016.

### SPIN CYCLING

Patrons can cycle their way into a healthier, fit lifestyle during Spin Cycling sessions from 5-6 p.m. Tuesday and at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday. The cost is \$2 per person, per session. Call 671-2016 for details.

### LUNCHTIME WORKOUTS

Pack a lunchtime workout in Total Body Toning class at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There also is a Standup Fighters class at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday at the Gillum Fitness Center. Total Body Toning targets strength and cardiovascular fitness. Students go a few rounds and work a combination of mixed martial arts, basic boxing, Muay Thai and ground defense boxing techniques during Standup Fighters class. The classes are free. Call 977-2353 for details.

# Senior Airman wins Regional Golden Gloves

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

For the first two rounds of the open lightweight championship, it looked as if Senior Airman Kenneth DeJesus-Cruz would regret shelving pro boxing aspirations to return to the All-Air Force Boxing Team for one more opportunity to win at the San Antonio Regional Golden Gloves.

The 9th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron cyber transport technician from Beale Air Force Base, Calif., was blistered with swift combination punches from Luis Carrasco of San Antonio Parks & Recreation.

"It threw me off a little bit," said DeJesus-Cruz, who planned to turn pro following the 2014 San Antonio Regional Golden Gloves. "It had been awhile since I had been a rough fight like that."

The Puerto Rico native and the team trained here at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Before the start of the third round, coach Tech. Sgt. Bobby De Leon, a 90th Missile Security Forces Squadron flight chief at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., gave DeJesus-Cruz two options: win or return home.

DeJesus-Cruz displayed his desire to win by aggressively pounding Carrasco with



Senior Airman Kenneth DeJesus-Cruz, a 9th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron cyber transport technician at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., delivers a right hit to Luis Carrasco of San Antonio Parks & Recreation during the San Antonio Regional Golden Gloves open and novice championships Feb. 21 at the Scottish Rite Auditorium.

rapid combos of his own to earn a 2-1 decision to claim the 132-pound title at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, Feb. 21.

DeJesus-Cruz and the All-Air Force

Boxing Team went 2-2 in the San Antonio Regional Golden Gloves novice and open championships.

When he was announced as the winner, the senior airman pointed up at the sky and said he thanked God that the three-a-day training sessions finally paid off.

"I worked really hard for this," said DeJesus-Cruz, who lost at the Regional Golden Gloves in 2013 and 2014. "I've reached the finals before, but I've never won, so to finally get my hand raised felt pretty good."

He credited the Air Force Boxing program for preparing him for his moment.

"When I'm at home, I work long shifts and spend time with my family so I don't put as much time into training as when I'm here," DeJesus-Cruz explained. "I love this camp because I can focus on boxing and being a better fighter every year."

DeJesus-Cruz' teammate, Senior Airman Kamryn Dungey, a 421st Maintenance Squadron aircraft weapons loader at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, also had good results that night.

He gave the team its second victory with a 3-0 decision against Darrell Thomas of Rios Boxing Club to claim the 152-pound novice welterweight championship.

## 37th TRSS win second consecutive basketball title

By Jose T. Garza III  
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

The 37th Training Support Squadron overcame a sluggish second half start to win its second consecutive Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Intramural Basketball Championship.

The team defeated the 59th Medical Logistics and Readiness Squadron, 61-58, Feb. 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Chaparral Fitness Center.

After being down 26-24 at halftime, the 59th MLRS knocked down four consecutive 3-pointers to gain a 36-26 lead. A short time later, the 37th TRSS responded with an 11-7 run, led by Staff Sgt. Marcus Peters, an instructor who scored the team's 11 points, to narrow the team's deficit to 45-41.

A turnaround jump shot by Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Hutchinson tied the game at 48-48.

Later, a layup from Staff Sgt. Dino

Beharic, a 59th Medical Wing medical administrator, and a put back basket from Hutchinson gave the 37th TRSS its first lead since halftime at 54-52. Hutchinson followed up with a 3-pointer to extend the lead to 57-52.

Staff Sgt. Steffon Jackson, Beharic and Peters clinched the title win, making four of six free throws.

Peters led the team in scoring with 20 points. Tech. Sgt. Stephen Constantin, a 433rd Airlift Wing air medical education technician, and Jackson also scored in double digits with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

37th TRSS coach Senior Airman Chris Howell, combat arms instructor, attributed the second half start to poor defense and the grind of playing three consecutive nights catching up to them.

"Playing three nights in a row is hard," Howell explained. "We realized that we were the defending champions and we had to work really hard to earn the second one. Expe-

rience helped us and our team had a good head, on their shoulders."

The hard road to back-to-back championships was worth it in the end, the coach added.

"Winning consecutive titles is not something everyone does," Howell said. "We had a full season in 2015. In 2014, we didn't because of budget cuts. The second title is much sweeter than the first one."

As the two finalists in the JBSA-Lackland Intramural Basketball Tournament, the 37th TRSS and 59th MLRS advanced to the JBSA-wide Intramural Basketball Tournament.

The two teams competed against the top four teams from JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in a single elimination tournament that started Tuesday at the Medical Education and Training Campus Fitness Center on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The championship game is noon Friday at the AT&T Center, home of the 2015 NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs.