



WINGSPREAD

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'Greatest Generation' pilots tour JBSA-Randolph



Capt. David Clementi, 435th Fighter Training Squadron chief of weapons, shows a T 38 Talon to World War II veterans Sept. 25 at Joint Base San Antonio Randolph.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nadine Barclay

Wounded Warriors to compete, page 4



Photo by Staff Sgt. Larry E. Reid Jr.

Thunderbirds to perform at air show, page 6



Courtesy graphic

Fire Prevention Week, page 11

COMMENTARY

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic violence can strike anyone

By 2nd Lt. Daniel Mikolajczyk
359th Mental Health intern

What would you say if I told you that domestic violence happens at comparable rates for men and women?

You would probably disagree with the assertion, perhaps vehemently so. You would have a good reason to disagree, because domestic violence is a subject almost universally presented to the public as a male perpetrated crime.

The homepage of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence features opinion papers solely focusing on the plight of women. The only picture of a man on the homepage is under the headline "No More 'It's None of My Business,'" a campaign designed to increase reporting of domestic violence suspicions.

A quick search of "domestic violence" online yields nearly unanimous results focusing on domestic violence against women. Even the congressional funding source for domestic violence programs is covered under the "Violence Against Women Act," though the programs funded through it cover men, women and children of all ages. Male domestic violence is a crime that goes silently into the night and that should give us all pause.

How do we know we have a problem?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found in its National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey that 28.2 percent of men experienced physical intimate partner violence in their lifetime, while 5.3 percent had this experience just in the past year.

This means that an estimated 31.9 million men have experienced physical intimate partner violence, compared to an estimated 39.2 million women. This data suggests that men find themselves to be victims of domestic violence alarmingly more often than our psyches will allow us to believe.

To think that there are more male victims of domestic violence than there are residents of Texas is a sobering reality. It also brings us to a very important question: Why the silence?

The first thing we can look at is where we tend to get our information from. Crime statistics are easier to find through common means, and using crime statistics does support that roughly 85 percent of perpetrators in domestic violence crimes are committed by men. Additionally, crime statistics show much higher prevalence of sexual violence, severe violence and intimate partner homicide as perpetrated by men against women.

These statistics paint a broad stroke and make domestic violence appear to be disproportionately carried out by men, but I caution you that they are very misleading.

What research has suggested is that men are far less likely to report their victimization (30 percent vs. 62 percent), and they are far less likely to report incidents to the police (8 percent vs. 22 percent). Even knowing this, one important thing to discuss is how little police involvement tends to help male victims.

The 1985 National Survey Family Violence Survey found that male respondents who called the police about

a domestic violence incident saw zero percent of their female perpetrators arrested or even threatened with arrest, while over 44 percent of women who called police after a domestic violence incident saw their perpetrator taken into custody. In fact, 12.1 percent of those males who summoned police after they were victimized ended up in getting arrested by the responding officers.

It would make sense then that crime statistics on domestic violence skew towards women as victims, as men are not reporting their abuse and are getting far less support when they choose to.

There needs to be a national discussion about domestic violence and recent events like the Ray Rice, Greg Hardy and Ray McDonald cases in the National Football League have at least jump started one.

What this conversation has lacked thus far is a voice for our male victims, a population dealing with domestic violence in a much more silent and forgotten way.

With Domestic Violence Awareness Month happening this month, let us all take a moment to think of those silent victims and remember to look for the same warning signs in our male coworkers and families as we do for our other counterparts.

If you or your loved ones have experienced domestic violence and want more information, please do not hesitate to call your local Family Advocacy Program office. To contact the JBSA-Randolph Family Advocacy Program office, call 652-6308.

WINGSPREAD

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta

502nd Air Base Wing/JBSA Commander

Todd G. White

502nd ABW/JBSA Public Affairs Director

Marilyn C. Holliday

JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs Chief

Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Photojournalist Journeyman

Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

Photojournalist Journeyman

Robert Goetz, David DeKunder

Staff Writers

Maggie Armstrong

Graphic Designer

Wingspread Office

1150 5th Street East

JBSA-Randolph, Texas 78150

Phone: 210-652-4410

Wingspread email

randolphpublicaffairs@us.af.mil

Wingspread Advertisement Office

EN Communities

P.O. Box 2171

San Antonio, Texas 78297

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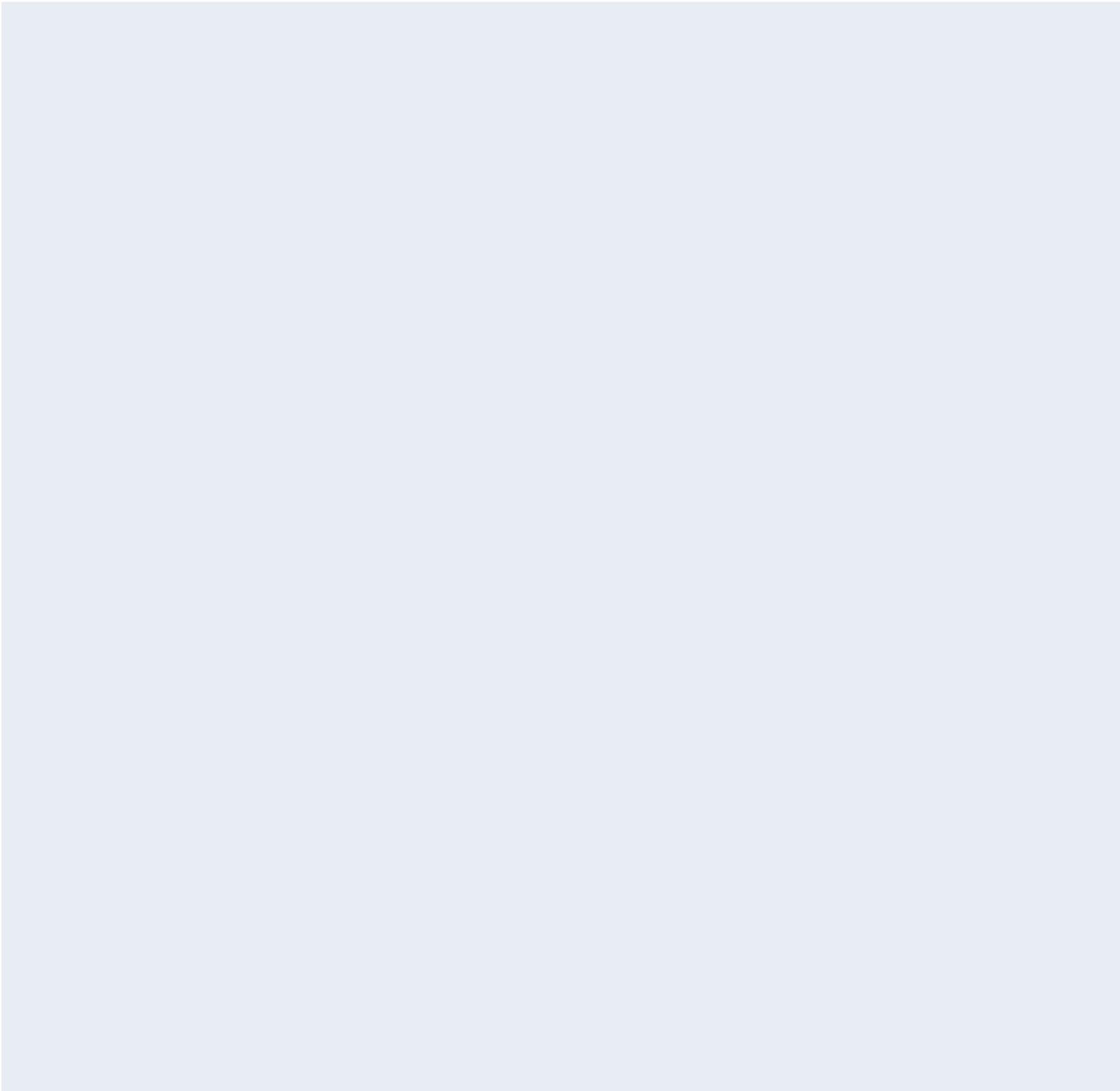
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Joint Base San Antonio to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- The Taj Mahal, building 100, at JBSA-Randolph will be lit with purple light at night during the month of October.
- "I Can, We Can:" hand-painted art display 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 19 at the JBSA-Randolph main clinic.
- **Information blitz:** Domestic Violence Awareness information booth 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 19 at the JBSA-Randolph main clinic.
- **5K Domestic Violence Awareness Run/Walk and Shelter Drive:** Bring donations of baby wipes and new underwear for children to the run/walk 7:15 a.m. Oct. 24 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.



NEWS

Sports event to provide instruction, competition for Wounded Warriors

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

A program based at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph is expanding competitive and recreational opportunities for Wounded Warriors, starting with a special sports event next week at JBASA-Lackland.

Air Force Personnel Center's Air Force Wounded Warrior Program, which provides personalized care, services and advocacy for total force seriously wounded, ill and injured recovering service members, will conduct its first Adaptive and Rehabilitative Sports Event 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Medina Annex Fitness Center and Skylark Aquatic Center.

The event will consist of morning clinics dedicated to instruction in wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, swimming and yoga, followed by afternoon competitions.

Marsha Gonzales, AFW2 Warrior and Survivor Care Division deputy chief, said the event is the start of a series of three-month cycles that will provide members of the 59th Medical Wing's Airman Medical Transition Unit at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center and other Wounded Warriors with instruction on a variety of sports and competitive opportunities.

"This kick-off event will be the start of a three-month period when Air Force Services facilities involved will offer adaptive and rehabilitative sports times so that the Warriors will be able to continue with what they learn," she said. "At the end of the three months, there will be a day devoted to competition for Warriors in the local area.

"When the first three months are up, we will adjust the sports based on the needs of the warrior community and will start a new cycle," Gonzales said.

The A&R sports community program events will be preceded by training for fitness center staff members at the Medina Annex Fitness Center and the Skylark Aquatic Center at JBASA-Lackland, where swimming instruction and competition will take place, Kari Miller, AFW2 community programs coordinator, said.

"The staff will learn the basic rules of popular adaptive sports like sitting volleyball and apply their training learning to lead the practices for the Joint Service Wounded Warriors," she said.

Miller said the Wounded Warrior program already conducts large A&R camps nationwide that introduce Warriors to a range of activities and sports from music therapy, yoga and art therapy to basketball, volleyball, swimming and cycling.

However, the upcoming A&R sports event and three-month cycles will provide continuity for the Wounded Warriors in the JBASA community and allow them to progress more quickly in their chosen sports and offer training opportunities for events such as the Warrior Games and Paralympics, Miller said.

"It's a much-needed program," she said. "Because



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nadine Barclay

Wounded Warriors leave the starting blocks at the start of the men's 100-meter race April 8, 2014, during the 2014 Air Force Team Trials at Rancho High School, Las Vegas, Nev.

it's an ongoing program, it will always be there. It will allow warriors to figure out if they want recreation or a more competitive outlet, and give those who are competitive a place to practice their craft. It also builds camaraderie and reaffirms that we heal together faster."

Miller said another advantage of the A&R cycles is that they are tailored to the wants and needs of the Wounded Warriors.

"We will help facilitate programs that meet the needs and interests," she said. "AFW2 wants to put the warriors in the best situation possible to get them off the couch. You want to serve the population you have and empower them to win in their recovery."

Miller, a former Army sergeant who excelled as a member of the U.S. Paralympics Women's Sitting Volleyball National Team, said the event is open to all Wounded Warriors, regardless of their service.

"It's for all wounded, ill and injured who have common access card access," she said. "We're trying to make sure there is something for them to

come home to – to have a place where they can work out, train and compete. We also want them to be able to share what they're going through with other Warriors and get involved in our AFW2 mentorship program."

The A&R sports event is part of the AFW2's Warrior CARE initiative, Tony Jasso, AFW2 Outreach, Communications and Adaptive and Rehabilitative Sports Warrior Care Division section lead, said.

"CARE stands for Caregiver, Adaptive and Rehabilitative Sports; Recovering Airmen Mentorship Program, and Employment and Career Services," he said. "These events are the first of their kind and demonstrate AFW2's innovative way to holistically approach and serve our Air Force Wounded Warriors.

"Warriors will get connected to others in recovery trying this event for the first time and get access to individualized services that will establish new recovery goals and provide an entirely new support system," Jasso said. "Most importantly, warriors can join a family all aimed toward one goal: getting better together."

JBSA to participate in Proud Week Fall Cleanup Oct. 7-9

By David DeKunder

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Groups of volunteers will bring brooms, trash bags, rakes and gloves to help clean and spruce up Joint Base San Antonio for the annual Proud Week Fall Cleanup Oct. 7-9.

Volunteers from mission partners, tenant units, organizations and agencies at all three JBSA locations, including JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph, are participating in the cleanup, Chief Master Sgt. Katie McCool, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Group superintendent, said.

McCool said the volunteers who will be helping to clean up areas at JBSA locations include active-duty members and their families, along with Department of Defense civilians.

JBSA members participating in the cleanup will be picking up trash, fallen tree limbs, brush and old furniture at buildings, facilities and recreational and park areas, McCool said. Also, cleanup volunteers will be sweeping sidewalks and curbs and cleaning fields, streets, parking lots and work, storage and warehouse areas.

"Taking pride in where you live and work is everyone's responsibility," McCool said. "Proud Week gives us an opportunity to pause from our daily operations and focus on maintaining a high beautification standard throughout JBSA. Our installation is the largest joint base in the Department of Defense, and we receive visitors from

across our Air Force and entire nation weekly. Our bases' appearances are a reflection of all us and we want to put our best image forward."

Antony Person, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron chief of operations flight, said the squadron will provide tools and accessories to volunteers for the cleanup on a first-come, first-serve basis at JBSA locations. Tools and accessories being provided by the 502nd CES include rakes, brooms, trimmers, trash bags, wheel barrows, gloves and safety goggles.

Tools and accessories can be picked up at the following 502nd CES locations: building 4197 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; building 5495 at JBSA-Lackland; and building 891 at JBSA-Randolph. The squadron store locations open at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers are required to sign out for any tools or accessories they will use.

Person said trash that is collected should be taken to collection points at designated dumpsters at JBSA locations. For any large debris that volunteers are unable to transport safely to designated dumpsters, the 502nd CES will provide curbside service to pick those items up.

Any items or debris that is set aside for pickup by members of the 502nd CES should be placed at curbs for easy access, Person said. Any items, trash or debris should not be placed in streets.

JBSA organizations, tenant units, agencies and mission partners that need curbside service during the cleanup can contact the 502nd CES at 671-5555, 671-2288 or 671-2289.



Thunderbird show combines precision airmanship, F-16's performance capability

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The United States Air Force Demonstration Squadron's performance at the 2015 Joint Base San Antonio Air Show and Open House, its first in San Antonio since the Lackland AirFest five years ago, promises another showcase of the precision airmanship of Air Force pilots and the performance capability of the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Better known as the Thunderbirds, the demonstration squadron, which was activated 62 years ago as the 3600th Air Demonstration Unit at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., will headline the JBSA air show Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at JBSA-Randolph.

A unit of Air Combat Command, the Thunderbirds have performed for more than 280 million people in all 50 states and nearly 60 foreign countries.

Capt. Sara Harper, Thunderbirds public affairs officer, said the demonstration squadron's threefold mission is to "recruit the next generation of Airmen into the Air Force, represent the nearly 700,000 active, Guard and Reserve members serving in the military and bridge the gap between the Air Force and the public."

The most notable changes in the Thunderbirds' performance since the Lackland AirFest will be "the people and the music," Harper said.

See THUNDERBIRDS P13



Photo by Staff Sgt. Larry E. Reid Jr.

The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron "Thunderbirds" fly a diamond formation during a recent performance.

The public is invited to join us at the

**Joint Base
San Antonio
2015
Air Show**



**Oct. 31 and Nov. 1
at JBSA-Randolph**

featuring the Air Force Thunderbirds,
U.S. Army Golden Knights and the Air Force Wings of Blue

For complete details, visit us at <http://www.jbsa.mil>;

<http://www.facebook.com/JBSARandolph>

or follow us at <http://www.twitter.com/JBSARandolph>

Heart Link educates spouses on military lifestyle, Air Force culture

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

A program first developed in 1999 to help first-time Air Force spouses learn more about the service and their installation continues to provide those spouses with a sense of belonging and enhance mission readiness.

Heart Link is a one-day orientation session that focuses on the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocol, resources and services.

"Heart Link educates new spouses on the military lifestyle and culture," Savannah Lohn, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center community readiness consultant, said. "It provides them with a unique experience to learn the Air Force mission. Spouses are able to meet and network with other spouses, see the honor guard in action, take a tour of the Taj Mahal and receive their own Heart Link coin."

Heart Link, which is held quarterly, is geared to first-time Air Force spouses, but JBSA sessions are open to spouses of any service who would like to attend, Criselda Guerrero-Smith, JBSA-Randolph M&FRC community readiness consultant, said.

The most recent JBSA-Randolph session, Sept. 10 at the M&FRC, opened with an introduction by Lohn and a presentation by the JBSA Honor Guard, whose members discussed their mission and duties.

Lt. Col. Jason Campbell, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group deputy commander, discussed the history, mission and unique qualities of JBSA and Lohn and Smith addressed the topics "Air Force Life" and "Understanding the Military Process."

"'Air Force Life' encompasses protocol, customs and courtesies, acronyms and the Air Force structure," Lohn said. "'Understanding the Military Process' covers benefits and entitlements, including the ID card, finance, leave and earnings statements, medical and dental programs, Servicemembers Group Life Insurance, post-service benefits and community support."

Spouses also took a tour of the Taj Mahal and the 12th Flying Training Wing headquarters and engaged in a painting activity. Heart Link concluded with an overview of the Air Force's health care benefits by a TRICARE representative.



Photo by Joel Martinez

Lt. Col. Jason Campbell, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group deputy commander, briefs Air Force spouses on the 502nd SFLSG mission during a Heart Link briefing Sept. 10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

In addition, first-time spouses benefited by the presence of spouses who are more familiar with the Air Force lifestyle and traditions, Lohn said.

"Senior spouses provide a wealth of personal experience that enables new spouses to learn and grow," she said.

Mandy Jenkins, whose husband is an Air Force second lieutenant, said attending Heart Link gave her "a feel for everything."

"I learned a lot about JBSA," she said. "I also learned from all the people who have experience here. Just talking to people helped me."

Jenkins said Heart Link gave her "a general idea of what to expect" and showed her what volunteer and educational opportunities were available.

"It's important that you learn as much as you can about a new place," she said. "It sets the tone

for the time you spend there."

Another spouse, Sylvia Ramos, president of the JBSA-Randolph Enlisted Spouses' Club, called Heart Link "a good program that informs newcomers who aren't familiar with military life."

Ramos, who is retired from Air Force Personnel Center and whose husband is a retired Navy senior chief petty officer, said she wanted to inform spouses that the enlisted spouses' club is also available to help them.

Lohn said the spouses who attended Heart Link felt "empowered."

"They loved the tour and found Heart Link informative," she said. "The hope is that they feel a part of the Air Force family and are better able to support their service member."

For more information on Heart Link, call 652-5321.

National Night Out aims to bring JBSA-Randolph community together

By Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Community members and local law enforcement members have the opportunity to come together for National Night Out, a neighborhood drug and crime prevention event, 6-8 p.m. Oct. 6 at the North Park Median immediately north of the Parr Club at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

"National Night Out was created to reduce crime and increase drug prevention awareness throughout our community," Tech. Sgt. Mark Fox, 902nd Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of police services, said. "It's a great way for our local security forces members to interact with base residents positively and this event aims to strengthen the trust between residents and defenders."

The highlights of this year's events will include McGruff the Crime Dog and Sparky the Fire Dog, performances from the Randolph High School marching band, a fire truck display, a tasting demonstration and a military working dog demonstration.

Representatives from the 902nd Security Forces Squadron, the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron and 502nd Air Base Wing safety office will be on hand to educate attendees on crime, drug and fire prevention.

"Events like National Night Out are essential for

the community and security forces members," Senior Airman Joseph Yates, 902nd SFS unit training manager, said. "These events build a strong foundation with the local residents that show we care and in return community members provide information for security matters by policing their own neighborhoods. We're very fortunate here at JBSA-Randolph to have garnered a strong relationship with our community."

Though only one night, the main principles of National Night Out are applicable to daily life.

"The overall goal is to strengthen our community," Fox said. "The best way to do this is to take the opportunity to get to know your neighbors. Doing this on a daily basis sends a message to criminals that we stand together and will fight back to prevent any criminal activity taking place in our community."

The atmosphere surrounding the JBSA-Randolph NNO event is part of what Fox says has caused it to grow and become more popular each year.

"Our goal is to build upon the foundation we've built from previous events," he said. "In the 32 years since its creation, National Night Out has grown up to 38 million neighbors and more than 16,000 communities nation-wide and JBSA-Randolph is no exception to that growth."

For more information about this year's JBSA-Randolph National Night Out, call 652-1645.



Photo by Johnny Saldivar

Dan Flores (right), Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Fire Emergency Services captain, hands out fire prevention education pamphlets Oct. 7, 2014, during "National Night Out" at JBSA-Randolph.

Driving around Washington Circle safely

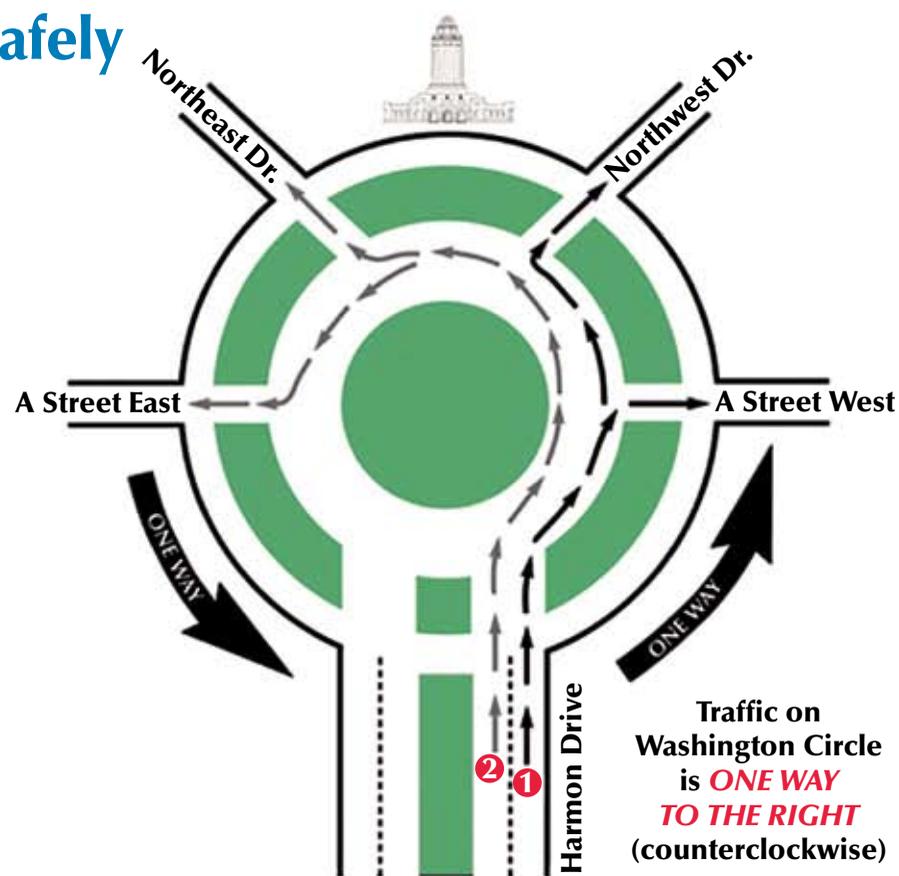
Base safety and security officials want people to be aware of the procedures for driving in and out of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Washington Circle.

Officials want to ensure motorists know which lanes they should be in when entering and exiting the circle.

The biggest safety issue occurs when vehicles try to directly exit the circle from the left lane instead of moving to the right lane in advance of their exit turn. Officials urge people to drive defensively and use caution in and around Washington Circle.

TRAFFIC RULES FOR WASHINGTON CIRCLE

- Traffic entering the circle must yield to traffic already in the circle.
- When entering the circle:
 - 1 If you are exiting at the first or second exit, stay in the outside lane or right lane.
 - 2 If you are exiting at the third exit or beyond, use the inside or left lane until ready to exit
- If two vehicles are side by side, the vehicle in the outside lane has the right of way.
- All traffic must signal for turns when exiting the circle.





Pilots from 'Greatest Generation' tour JBSA-Randolph

Capt. David Clementi, 435th Fighter Training Squadron chief of weapons, shows a T-38 Talon to World War II veterans Sept. 25 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The group was made up of individuals who graduated as pilots from 1942-1945 or entered pre-flight training in any of the Army Air Corps training commands.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

959th Medical Group team wins 2015 EMT Rodeo

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Plew

27th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

After two days running through intense scenarios in the eastern New Mexico desert, a team from the 959th Medical Group captured first place in the 2015 Annual Emergency Medical Technician Rodeo Sept. 17-18 at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

Besting 20 other teams of elite emergency medical technicians from 22 installations across the Air Force, the medics from Joint Base San Antonio convened at Cannon for two days of innovative, high-octane competition.

During this, the rodeo's eighth consecutive year, evaluators required all contenders to execute their lifesaving mission under greater pressure, stricter guidelines and more austere conditions than ever before. Featuring 19 categories of competition, each team demonstrated accurate techniques and effective implementation.

Winning the competition was a career high for many on the 959th MDG team, who were all observed under the critical eye of expert evaluators.

"Even after they announced Joint Base San Antonio, we were all in shock! It's one thing to accomplish a personal goal, but to be a part of the best team in the Air Force was the highlight of my Air



Courtesy photo

From left, Senior Airman John Van Dam, Senior Airman Ernesto Ramirez-Garcia, Tech. Sgt. Warren Williamson, Senior Airman Lindsey Hawkins, and Senior Airman Bradley Gorman pose with their first-place trophies from the 2015 Annual EMT Rodeo.

Force career thus far," said Senior Airman Lindsey Hawkins, 959th Medical Operations Squadron.

Other members of the five-man team included Tech. Sgt. Warren Williamson, Senior Airman Bradley Gorman and Senior Airman Ernesto Ramirez-Garcia, 959th Inpatient Operations Squadron; and Senior Airman John Van Dam, 959th MDOS. Williamson served as the team leader.

Teamwork was the key to the team's success, Van Dam explained.

"Our team was successful because of

our communication with one another. We established our roles in the beginning and stuck to those roles throughout the challenge," he said.

In order to accommodate more than double the number of competitors this year, planners split the rodeo into two alternating days, with events occurring simultaneously at nearby Melrose Air Force Range and the Cannon Clinic.

One of the most unique aspects of the competition was the commando challenge – a vigorous, interactive, scenario-based obstacle course during which competitors

put multiple skills to the test.

"By far, the commando challenge was the best part of the competition. It was a very realistic deployment setting which challenged us both mentally and physically. Even completely exhausted, we had to apply lifesaving skills to assure the safety of ourselves as well as our patients," Hawkins said.

The EMT Rodeo gave the 959th MDG techs the opportunity to hone their craft as members of the 59th Medical Wing, whose primary mission is medical readiness and the development of warrior medics.

"Competing in the EMT Rodeo has helped me pinpoint weaknesses and what I can do to improve on those skills," Van Dam said.

"This was an experience of a lifetime and I couldn't be more proud to be a part of such an awesome team," Hawkins added.

Medics from the 959th MDG, working alongside their Army counterparts at the San Antonio Military Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, provide first-class health care to more than 240,000 beneficiaries in the San Antonio area. The group is part of the 59th MDW headquartered at JBSA-Lackland.

(With contributions from the 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs Office.)

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph AAFES Fuel Station does not have super unleaded gasoline while maintenance and sustainment repairs are made on the fuel tank. Unleaded fuel is still available.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

Hispanic Heritage luncheon

The Joint Base San Antonio Hispanic Heritage Committee hosts the 2015 Hispanic Heritage Luncheon 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Gateway Club at JBSA-Lackland. The cost is \$15. R.S.V. P. by today by calling 218-1682.

Joint Base San Antonio Halloween Trick-Or-Treating Hours

Halloween ghouls and ghosts will soon roam base neighborhoods for sweet treats. For the safety of the trick-or-treaters and their families, participants are asked to conduct their candy conquests during specific hours. Trick-or-treating hours at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston are 5-8 p.m. Oct. 31; at JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph, the hours are 5-8 p.m. Oct. 29. Please keep an eye on your witches and goblins and have a safe Halloween night.

Airmen Powered By Innovation

Have an innovative idea for efficiencies and increase cost savings across the Air Force? You

can submit your ideas online to the Airmen Powered by Innovation website at <https://ipds.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or through the Air Force Portal.

Your ideas should describe, in sufficient detail, the current method, proposed method, expected benefits and cost of implementation to support the idea. The API website provides tools that can help refine and enhance potential submissions. Submitters can query previously submitted API ideas, search to see if an idea has been submitted already, see what ideas have been approved and check status.

Once the idea is submitted, an API Idea Cell analyst will review the idea. Depending on the content, the idea will be categorized and processed. If necessary, the API Idea Cell may contact you to request more information.

Submitters can ask their local Manpower Office for assistance with documentation of process improvement ideas to ensure fact-based proposals.

For assistance, contact the 802nd Force Support Squadron Manpower Office at 652-8953 or 652-8954.

JBSA Sexual Assault Prevention, Response

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



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.

Submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.

Aftercare program reaches out to deceased active-duty Airmen's survivors

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The death of an active-duty Air Force member can leave their survivors feeling isolated from the service their Airman represented with devotion.

A program started five years ago at Dover Air Force Base, Del., addresses the needs of those survivors by providing them with resources, support and information that will help them adjust to life without their loved one.

"Air Force Families Forever is a long-term aftercare program established to provide proactive outreach to family members who have lost a loved one who was, at the time of death, serving on active duty in the Air Force," Wanda Cooper, Air Force Personnel Center community readiness consultant, said. "The AFFF program provides ongoing consultation in supporting families throughout the force, no matter where they are, with support and assistance directly tied to the family's specific needs."

Cooper said the program is managed by AFPC's Airman and Family Sustainment Branch. She indicated that the AFFF program manager provides operational oversight and is tasked with reviewing AFPC casualty morning reports and initial casualty reports on a daily basis for deceased member information.

Family members or other survivors are assigned to the active-duty Airman & Family Readiness Center nearest to where the survivor resides, she said. The base-level A&FRC chief assigns the AFFF respon-

sibility to a staff member best suited to work with survivors.

Other duties of the AFFF program manager include developing and providing detailed operational guidance and training for the installation A&FRC chiefs and staff, assuring quality control by tracking cases, and ensuring outreach is conducted by the assigned A&FRC according to Air Force policy.

"The primary next of kin receives incremental outreach from their local A&FRC AFFF representative within the first year following an active-duty death," Cooper said. "However, surviving family members may request additional assistance, as needed, beyond the one year."

Criselda Guerrero-Smith, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center community readiness consultant, said the AFFF program plays an important role in the lives of survivors.

"We're here as a connection to the Air Force because of their loved one's sacrifice," she said. "If they need anything, we're here. We want the families to know that the Air Force is with them forever."

Guerrero-Smith, who is the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC's



AFFF representative, said the connection may be made with the deceased member's parents, spouse, children or even a friend – whoever is on the Airman's virtual record of emergency data.

"We reach out and see what kind of assistance they need," she said. "Because they are grieving, they may not want to talk to us, so we send them a letter or card. We try to make it as personal as we can."

Communication often takes the form of phone conversations, especially if the survivors do not communicate by email, she said.

Survivors receive additional support and information through a quarterly newsletter and a private Facebook community,

Cooper said.

More than 550 families are enrolled in AFFF active outreach, according to Cooper.

Guerrero-Smith, who has assisted survivors since the program was implemented at JBSA-Randolph two years ago, said AFFF representatives help survivors with any problems they may be facing – such as financial issues – or refer them to the resources they need.

"They appreciate the idea of us being there for them," she said. "We're here and we're not going anywhere."

Fire Prevention Week: Every bedroom needs working smoke alarm

By Anthony Willett

Joint Base San Antonio Fire Emergency Services Fire Prevention Office

Working smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a fire. That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign titled "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep: Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm."

Along with firefighters and safety advocates nationwide, Joint Base San Antonio firefighters are joining forces with the National Fire Protection Association during Fire Prevention Week, Sunday through Oct. 10, to remind JBSA residents about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home and testing them monthly.

According to the latest NFPA research, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire by half. Meanwhile, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with missing or malfunctioning smoke alarms.

Fire Chief Mark Ledford, a 34-year veteran of the Air Force Fire Emergency Services, has seen the positive effects of smoke alarms.

"In a fire, seconds count," Ledford said. "Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at



night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign includes the following smoke alarm messages:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms after 10 years.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound

of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.

According to recent NFPA reports, the death rate was much higher in fires in which a smoke alarm was present but did not operate than it was in fires in which the homes had no smoke alarms.

To learn more about smoke alarms and this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, visit NFPA's Web site at <http://www.firepreventionweek.org>. For fire and life safety questions, contact the operating location fire prevention offices at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 221-2727, JBSA-Lackland at 671-2921 and JBSA-Randolph at 652-6915.

JBSA to host Retiree Appreciation Day Saturday

By Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Retirees will have access to ID card services, a San Antonio Military Medical Center health fair and more during the annual Retiree Appreciation Day to be held Oct. 3 at Blesse Auditorium, building 2841, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

“The goal of Retiree Appreciation Day is to show retirees that they are still an important part of the military

they faithfully served,” said Joe Silvas, 802nd Force Support Squadron retirement services officer. “We also want to keep retirees and their families informed on services available to them in the local community, as well as current legislation that will have an effect on retiree benefits, pay and medical care.”

Retirees will have access to medical care including flu shots and consultation with various SAMMC medical department representatives during Retiree Appreciation Day.

Representatives from multiple base agencies and vendors will also be available during the event to provide information, answer questions one-on-one with participants and display products and offers of interest to the retiree community.

Attendees are encouraged to bring records of service, medical records and their current ID card.

For more information, call the JBSA retiree affairs offices at 221-9004 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 671-2728 for JBSA-Lackland or 652-6880 for JBSA-Randolph.

Randolph school officials break ground on new high school complex

By David DeKunder

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Randolph Field Independent School District officials, students, teachers and staff members gathered at Randolph High School Sept. 24 for the groundbreaking of a new high school campus that will be constructed behind the current high school building.

RFISD school board members broke ground on the new 77,000-square-foot high school complex in the courtyard of the current high school campus, which will be demolished once the new school is completed.

Project plans for the new school include 25 classrooms, five science labs, two computer labs, gymnasium, cafeteria, restrooms and administrative offices. The classrooms will be housed in a two-story 44,000-square-foot building, with the new cafeteria and gymnasium being housed together in a separate 33,000-square-foot building.

Lance Johnson, RFISD superintendent, said construction on the new high school campus will begin in October and should be completed in June 2016.

The cost of the project is being covered by a \$7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which owns the current high school building built in 1962. For the school district to receive the grant, Johnson said the Department of Education stipulated the current high school building be torn down.

Johnson said the new high school complex will benefit students because it will have more classroom space, wider hallways and technology infrastructure upgrades.

“I’m really excited for this groundbreaking ceremony,” Johnson said. “Next year’s seniors (the class of 2017) will be the first to graduate from a brand new



Photo by Melissa Peterson

Randolph Field Independent School District board members break ground for the new high school campus Sept. 24 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

44,000-square-foot building with classroom sizes that are adequate and technology that is 21st century ready. It will prepare you to go the next step in your futures, students.”

Johnson thanked school board and community members who have worked to help get the project started.

“I can’t tell you how proud I am to be part of this process,” he said. “It’s not about anyone but the kids in this district

and we’re going to continue that focus.”

Johnson said the current band hall, athletic facility and fine arts building at the high school campus will remain intact and not be demolished. The athletic facility includes the current gymnasium, weight room and locker rooms.

The current gymnasium, which seats 300 and includes a stage, will be used by athletic teams from Randolph Middle School, which is adjacent to the

high school campus.

In addition, the new gymnasium will have seating capacity for 700 spectators and have a curtain that will split the gym in half, allowing multiple athletic teams to use the facility at the same time. The new cafeteria, which includes a stage, will seat 400 students, exceeding the capacity of the current cafeteria that holds up to 170 students.



12th Flying Training Wing vice commander tours 502nd TDS

Paul Ramsey (left), 502nd Trainer Development Squadron design and development supervisor, briefs Col. Michael Snell (right), 12th Flying Training Wing vice commander, and Col. Michael Gimbrone, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group commander, on the flight training hover tables Monday during Snell's 502nd SFLSG immersion tour at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The 502nd TDS designs, develops, manufactures and maintains training devices for Air Education and Training Command and other major commands. The squadron has provided more than 40 years of training devices to AETC, the Air Force and DOD customers.

Photo by Joel Martinez

THUNDERBIRDS from P6

"As Thunderbirds are assigned to the team for two to three years, none of the 2015 team will have been at the Lackland show in 2010," she said. "The team also works hard to match the show's maneuvers to songs that will most resonate with the audience. The music is constantly evaluated and manipulated to achieve this end."

A Thunderbirds demonstration "begins with the combined efforts of the pilots and maintenance professionals in a choreographed ground show," Harper said.

"During this time, the Thunderbirds start aircraft systems, check their function and communicate pertinent data for the impending show," she said. "With fully mission-capable aircraft, the Thunderbird pilots then take the jets airborne for 30 minutes of inspiring speed, noise and fun."

The demonstration's aircraft passes, music and narration combine "to captivate the audience," Harper said.

"The diamond, the first four aircraft in the formation, fly a myriad of passes intended to show the fly-

ing skill Air Force pilots everywhere have developed through unparalleled training, while the solo pilots, numbers five and six, focus primarily on aircraft performance," she said.

All six aircraft performing together in the Thunderbird Delta formation bring the show to a close, Harper said.

Maj. Curtis Dougherty, Thunderbirds slot pilot, said the crowd experience is the best part of the demonstration squadron's performance.

"The atmosphere around an air show is refreshing," he said. "People are generally super excited to talk about airplanes, air shows, the Air Force and Airmen. They share hopes, dreams and stories. Sharing this experience with the awesome people we meet all over the country makes this mission a joy every day."

The squadron consists of approximately 130 Airmen, including 12 officers and about 120 enlisted professionals, who represent more than 30 career fields, Harper said.

"The Thunderbirds travel roughly 200 days a year, with an air show every weekend," she said.

"Each weekend, roughly 70 individuals travel on the road to support an air show."

The Thunderbirds' performance schedule typically runs from the end of February through October. This year's season concludes Nov. 7-8 at Moody AFB, Ga.

Harper said the team "typically arrives on a Thursday and hits the ground running."

"Team members are getting out into the community and trying to get people excited about the opportunities that the Air Force offers," she said. "There is usually a practice show on Friday and then the air show Saturday and Sunday."

The team leaves the air show location on Monday and returns to its home station at Nellis AFB, Nev.

Originally nicknamed the "Stardusters," the Thunderbirds were assigned to Luke AFB until June 1956, when the team moved to its current home. The Thunderbirds have flown F-84G Thunderjets, F-84F Thunderstreaks, F-100 Super Sabres, F-4E Phantom IIs, T-38 Talons and F-16As.