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WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

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JBSA-Randolph clinic provides wide range of services

PAGE 8

Photo by Melissa Peterson

Photo by Scott Ash

New Air Force vice chief of staff, page 3

Photo by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

Exercise ... exercise ... exercise, page 6

Photo by Harold China

Randolph High School Pigskin Preview, page 12

COMMENTARY

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

This is your Air Force

By Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody

"The global vigilance, global reach and global power we provide for our nation and partners around the world would not be possible if not for every single Airman in our Air Force. We simply cannot win the fight without you."

Roll Call! Airpower is not a solo effort. One leader does not win a war; one pilot does not bomb every target; one loadmaster does not supply the entire fight. Airpower has and always will be a team effort and together we are the world's greatest airpower team.

The global vigilance, global reach and global power we provide for our nation and partners around the world would not be possible if not for every single Airman in our Air Force. We simply cannot win the fight without you.

Perhaps nobody knew this better than our 9th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, James Binnicker. Binnicker passed away this March, leaving behind a legacy of leadership that always encouraged and challenged Airmen to shape the future. He wasn't OK with neglect, apathy or simply passing the buck. He demanded action, ownership, innovation and a commitment to professionalism in our chosen Profession of Arms.

This month he'll be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, surrounded by family, friends and Airmen he knew would carry that commitment forward.

We must take on his challenge and commit to do our best. We must, and will, continue to hoist the torch.

Each and every Airman is critical to the projection of airpower and owns a stake in our future success.

It is through your leadership that we create and strengthen partnerships to leverage increased wisdom and perspective. It is you who we count on to effectively and efficiently strengthen our team and accomplish our mission.

It is you who stands in the best position to discover innovative ways to deliver our core competencies: Rapid Global Mobility, Precision Engagement, Global Attack, Air and Space Superiority, Information Superiority and Agile Combat Support.

This is your Air Force. As the emerging global environment continues to evolve, and as the pace of change continues to surge, it is you – our Airmen – who will shape our future.

Chief Binnicker was a powerful change agent, challenging us to be better and aim higher until the day cancer took him from us for good. You have the power to carry his legacy forward, the legacy of all those giants whose shoulders we stand upon today. Your combined intelligence, spirit of innovation and dedication to the mission has always been our greatest source of strength. I encourage you to take an active role in our future.

This is your Air Force. It's our Air Force and it's up to us to do our best and continue forward.

Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.

The public is invited to join us at the

Joint Base San Antonio 2015 Air Show

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

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

For complete details, visit us at
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Air Force welcomes new vice chief of staff

By Tech. Sgt. Dan DeCook
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs
Command Information

The Air Force welcomed an Airman to the rank of four-star general and announced the appointment of the new Air Force vice chief of staff during a ceremony at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington D.C. Aug. 6.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III presided over the ceremony for Gen. David L. Goldfein in front of a crowd of more than 1,000 Airmen and distinguished visitors that included Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, several U.S. ambassadors, current and former members of the 720th Special Tactics Group and first responders from the New York City Fire Department among others.

"General Goldfein knows this isn't a reward, it's a challenge," Welsh said. "He respects the opportunity; he is not intimidated by it, and he also acknowledges the unbelievable privilege it represents. He deserves this promotion, and more importantly, the Air Force deserves his leadership."

As the previous director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, Goldfein assisted the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in fulfilling his responsibilities as the principal military adviser to the president and secretary of Defense. He developed and provided strategic direction, policy guidance and planning focus to the Joint Staff and fostered clear communication among the president, secretary of Defense, unified commands and the services.

With more than 4,200 flying hours since his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1983, Goldfein has flown combat missions in operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Northern Watch, Allied Force and Enduring Freedom.

During the ceremony, Col. J.J. Johnson, the commander of the 720th STG, made several presentations to recognize Goldfein's history with the special operations unit that started nearly two decades ago behind enemy lines.

"For those of you who don't know it, General Goldfein was shot down over Kosovo," Johnson said. "Sixteen years, three months and four days ago (today), a rescue team from the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron went in and brought him back.

Gen. David L. Goldfein (left) is given the oath of office by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Edward "Marty" Dempsey during his promotion ceremony Aug. 6 in Washington, D.C. Goldfein will become the Air Force's 38th vice chief of staff, and most recently served as the director of the Joint Staff.

Photo by Scott Ash

Every year on the anniversary of that day, he sends the unit a bottle of scotch. Today, we want to return the favor."

After thanking those in attendance and remembering the heroes who helped him during his career, Goldfein ended the ceremony with a promise.

"It's not about what we do, but who we are," he said. "My promise to you, with this fourth star, is that I will do my best to be a better man, husband, father and a better officer for the Air Force."

NEWS

Comprehensive Airman Fitness develops life skills

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Nearly four years ago, a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction introduced a paradigm for building and maintaining health, readiness and performance in the armed forces.

Known as Total Force Fitness, it comprises eight domains ranging from physical and environmental to spiritual and social, and views optimal performance as a holistic concept requiring a connection among mind, body, spirit and relationships.

The Air Force has developed its own version of Total Force Fitness called Comprehensive Airman Fitness that provides an integrated framework for seeking fitness in four domains, or pillars: mental, physical, social and spiritual.

"Comprehensive Airman Fitness focuses on developing life skills that Airmen can use throughout their careers and in their lives," Essie Whitworth-Nurse, Joint Base San Antonio resilience and community support coordinator, said. "It provides a framework of cross-functional education and training, activities and programs that play a big role in ensuring that all Airmen stay fit, resilient and force-ready."

Air Force Instruction 90-506, which was released in April 2014 and governs Comprehensive Airman Fitness, notes that CAF is not a stand-alone program or specified training class, but "a cultural shift in how we view and maintain fitness in a more comprehensive manner and enables Airmen to hold each other accountable against Air Force Core Values."

Whitworth-Nurse said CAF incorporates resilience and risk management efforts recommended following the November 2009 mass shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, where an Army major fatally shot 13 people and injured more than 30 others.

CAF, which is designed to enhance the resilience of individuals, families and communities, is now part of the culture at JBSA, where master resilience trainers, or MRTs, and resilience training assistants, or RTAs, deliver individual resiliency skills to Airmen, she said. AFI 90-506 defines resilience as "the ability to withstand, recover and grow in the face of stressors and changing demands."

CAF's education component is managed at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., where the MRT Trainer Course is conducted, Whitworth-Nurse said. Once MRTs complete the two-week course, they return to their installations to train and certify RTAs.

"It's important to get people inside the unit trained so they can deliver training within the unit," she said. "We have at least 70 MRTs at JBSA, but that's not enough. We need one for every 200 people in a unit."

Courtesy graphic

Whitworth-Nurse said JBSA has about 600 RTAs.

"They can only conduct small groups, 10 people or less," she said. "But we have a waiver so they can educate up to 25 people."

JBSA's master resilience trainers and resilience training assistants teach 11 resiliency skills – which include "Count Your Blessings," "Good Listening," "Spiritual Resiliency," "Physical Resiliency" and "Balance Your Thinking" – at locations throughout the installation on a regular basis, Whitworth-Nurse said.

Base- and unit-level training, which addresses everyday stressors, consists of Individual Resilience Skills Training based on the MRT course curriculum, according to AFI 90-506.

Whitworth-Nurse said each active-duty Airman must complete four hours of IRST per calendar year, which "may be conducted in conjunction with or independently of Wingman Days and/or other CAF or resilience activities," AFI 90-506 states.

Resilience training is also included as an eight-hour block during the First Term Airman Course.

In addition to education, CAF has a leadership component, Whitworth-Nurse said.

Installation commanders "are responsible for establishing and executing CAF" in compliance with AFI 90-506 and ensuring that "CAF efforts, activities and emphasis for Airmen and families are implemented locally," according to the instruction.

"All leaders get introduced to CAF at commanders' courses and command chief courses," Whitworth-Nurse said. "They are expected to include resiliency skills in their everyday interaction with Airmen."

Commanders also choose the CAF domain for Wingman Days, she said.

CAF is being added to the curriculum for military training instructors, Whitworth-Nurse said.

"MTIs are certified to be at least resilience training assistants, and some may be master resilience trainers," she said.

Helping agencies such as military and family readiness centers, chaplain services, mental health flights and family advocacy programs also play key roles in Comprehensive Airman Fitness.

"Community readiness consultants at M&FRCs support the lifestyle and culture of Comprehensive Airman Fitness," Criselda Guerrero-Smith, JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center community readiness consultant, said. "Consultants are versed and trained to assist Airmen and their families in various life transitions.

"Whether the situation presents itself as a short-notice permanent change of station, deduction of pay, employment for a spouse or even separating from the military, consultants stand ready to empower and educate our Airmen to be resilient," she said. "Comprehensive Airman Fitness is a lifestyle promoting a proactive approach to life situations and we here at the M&FRC stand ready to assist."

Whitworth-Nurse called CAF "a great initiative" for active-duty members and their families as well as Department of Defense civilians and contractors.

"We want to make sure people have all the tools in their toolbox to cope with life and life's issues," she said. "Resiliency skills help them deal with traumatic events and everyday stressors."

Stage 2 water restrictions implemented across JBSA

By Benjamin Martinez
JBSA Water Conservation Manager

The 10-day average of the Bexar County index well J-17 has dropped below 650 feet mean sea level as of Friday. Stage 2 water restrictions for all Joint Base San Antonio locations is triggered when the J-17 drops below 650 feet.

The J-17 well serves as the official well for recording groundwater elevations in the San Antonio Pool of the Edwards Aquifer, according to the Edwards Aquifer Authority website (http://www.edwardsaquifer.org).

The JBSA Base Civil Engineer declared Stage 2 water restrictions effective immediately, in accordance with the current JBSA Critical Period Management Plan and Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The biological opinion limits JBSA's water draw from the Edwards Aquifer in order to protect eight endangered species which live in the aquifer and its associated springs. These species can only survive when aquifer levels and spring flows are adequately maintained.

The restrictions within Stage 2 facing base residents and personnel are substantial and all must comply with the JBSA Critical Period Management Plan.

All the Stage 1 restrictions in addition to Stage 2 water restrictions are in place:

• Continue practices from Stage 1, except as noted or replaced by Stage 2 rules.

• Landscape watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed only once a week from 7-11 a.m. and 7-11 p.m. on your designated watering day, as determined by your address or facility number.

• Watering with drip irrigation or five-gallon bucket is permitted any day, but only between 7-11 a.m. and 7-11 p.m.

• Watering with a hand-held hose is allowed any time on any day. Use of fountains, waterfalls or other aesthetic water features – outdoors or indoors – is prohibited, unless a variance has been granted for 100 percent non-potable water use.

• Installation of new landscape plantings or turf

See WATER RESTRICTIONS P13

Courtesy graphic

EXERCISE ... EXERCISE ... EXERCISE

JBSA-Randolph units train together

Members from base agencies worked together to resolve a simulated hostage situation and hijacking of a T-1A Jayhawk during an anti-hijacking exercise August 11 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The main goals during the exercise included denying aircraft takeoff, negotiating the safety of the hostage and keeping leaders informed throughout the process. Involving multiple key units such as the 902nd Security Forces Squadron, 12th Flying Training Wing, 359th Medical Group and 502nd Air Base Wing inspection team, contingency planning exercises are held on a regular basis each year to develop clear pathways of communication in the case of an emergency.

Above: Members of the 902nd Security Forces Squadron respond to the simulated "hijacking" of a T-1A Jayhawk aircraft during an exercise Aug. 11 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Left: Senior Airman Mercedes Lacy, 902nd Security Forces Squadron patrolman, captures Capt. Christine Wagner, 99th Flying Training Wing pilot and exercise role player, during the exercise. Bottom: Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Miller, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter and simulated incident commander, updates first responders during an anti-hijacking exercise Aug. 11 at JBSA-Randolph.

Photos by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

Air Force RPA training pipeline set to expand

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The Air Force plans to boost the production of undergraduate remotely piloted aircraft pilots in its ranks by 200 RPA pilots per year within the next two years. Lt. Col. John Stallworth, 558th Flying Training Squadron commander at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, said the Air Force plan will increase the number of RPA pilots that will be trained at JBSA-Randolph from 182 last year to 384 in 2017.

The 558th FTS is the sole source of undergraduate RPA training in the Air Force. The training program is six months for RPA pilots and six weeks for sensor operators, who control the cameras on the remotely piloted aircraft.

RPA crews consist of one pilot and one sensor operator.

"The RPA community is experiencing a manpower challenge and they need more people to help overcome that," Stallworth said. "We are the first program in the training pipeline that produces RPA pilots and we will grow."

Student pilots who graduate from the 558th FTS move on to training in one of the three remotely

See RPA PIPELINE P13

Courtesy photo

An MQ-1B Predator remotely piloted aircraft comes in for a "touch-and-go" during a training mission, May 13, 2013. The MQ-1B Predator is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily for munitions capability to support ground troops and base defense.

359th MDG provides premier service

Members of the 359th Medical Group at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Clinic provide comprehensive health services for about 25,000 eligible beneficiaries in the San Antonio area. The group consists of 367 personnel in eight buildings and averages 8,320 outpatient visits, 38,750 prescriptions, 5,064 lab procedures and 2,000 radiology films per month.

Counterclockwise from left: Capt. Michael Smolka, 359th Medical Group flight surgeon, performs a physical examination on Staff Sgt. Terrence White-Ballard July 29 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Flight Medicine. Staff Sgt. Wayne Burke, 359th MDG prophylaxis technician, performs a dental cleaning on Airman 1st Class Kyle Krizmanich July 29 at the JBSA-Randolph Dental Clinic. Senior Airman Matthew O'Neill, 359th MDG medical technician, performs an eye examination on Airman 1st Class Weslynn Wooten July 29 at JBSA-Randolph Flight Medicine. **ON THE COVER**: Senior Airman Michael Ryan, 359th Medical Group pediatrics medical technician, performs baseline vital signs on 10-month-old Penelope Johnson July 29 at JBSA-Randolph.

Photos by Joel Martinez

AF surgeon general sends message to the Air Force Medical Service

Dear Air Force Medical Professionals:

I am deeply honored to serve the Airmen and families of the world's best Air Force as the 22nd Air Force Surgeon General. I could not be more proud of the outstanding medical professionals with whom I serve – officers, enlisted and civilian Airmen – and those who laid the foundation for today's Air Force Medicine.

Our Air Force faces many challenges that require Airmen, including medical professionals, to be innovative, knowledgeable, adaptive, resilient, and disciplined.

As we enter this crucial time in our history, we must prepare for and strive to deliver our vision of the best patient-centered, full-spectrum care to a rapidly changing and evolving Air Force.

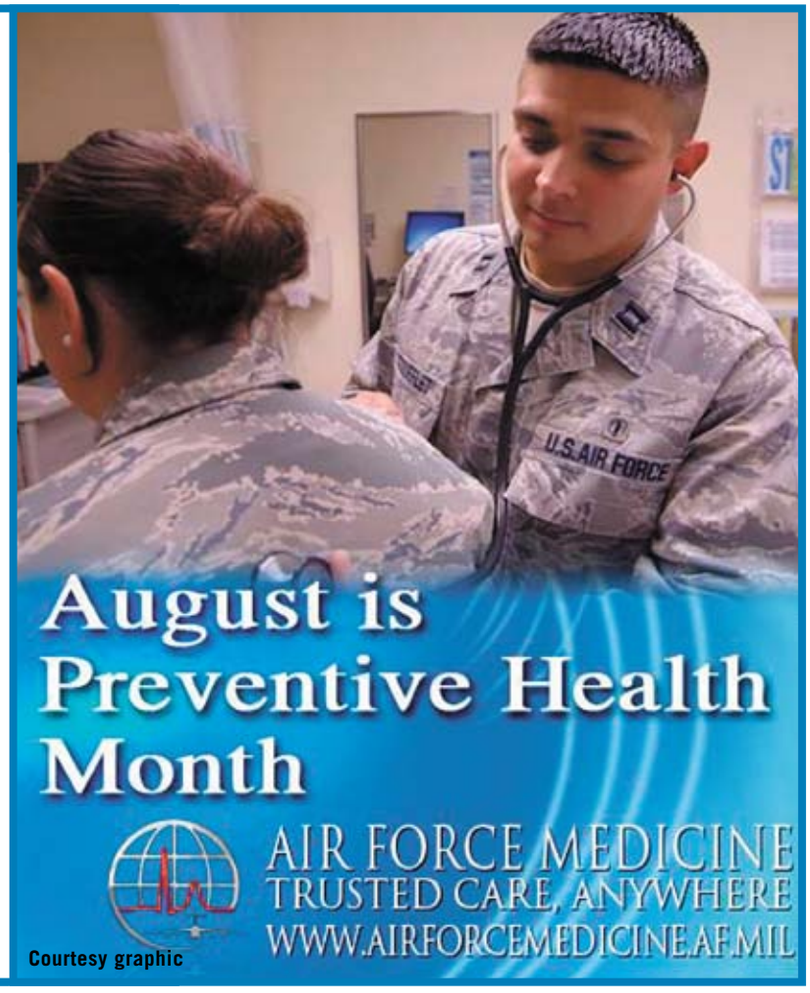
The people we serve place their trust in us every day – from permitting us to treat their wounds to delivering their babies and dispensing medication. That trust is something we must earn every day by keeping our duty to those we serve at the forefront and committing ourselves to Excellence in All We Do.

We have the solemn responsibility to support and enhance the health and performance of Airmen, the Joint Team and their families as we all meet these current and future challenges.

I am excited about working with you as the Air Force Medical Service and the Military Health System continuously adapt our capabilities and performance to meet a dynamic mission.

I thank each of you for the care and support you provide to those we serve – your professionalism, resourcefulness, and expertise make "Trusted Care Anywhere" a reality each and every day.

Lt. Gen. Mark A. Ediger
Air Force Surgeon General



Courtesy graphic

Don't get burned, follow these hot weather safety tips

From Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

With summer in full swing, who doesn't want to be outside, sunbathing, swimming, playing catch on the beach or just barbequing in the backyard?

While summer means fun in the sun, make sure you're not getting too much of a good thing. Avoid the consequences of overexposure to the sun like sunburns, premature aging of the skin, wrinkling, and skin cancer, including melanoma by practicing proper sun protection.

The hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. are the most hazardous for ultraviolet exposure in the continental United States. UV rays are the greatest during the late spring and early summer in North America.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends easy options for sun protection:

Sunscreen

• Use sunscreen with sun protective factor, or SPF, 15 or higher, and both UVA and UVB protection.

• Sunscreen wears off. Put it on again if you stay out in the sun for more than two hours, and after you swim or do things that make you sweat.

• Check the sunscreen's expiration date. Sunscreen without an expiration date has a shelf life of no more than three years, but its shelf life is shorter if it has been exposed to high temperatures.

Clothing

• Wear clothing to protect exposed skin.

• Loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and long pants made from tightly woven fabric offer the best protection from the sun's UV rays.

• A wet T-shirt offers much less UV protection than a dry one.

• Darker colors may offer more protection than lighter colors.

• If wearing this type of clothing isn't practical, at least try to wear a T-shirt or a beach cover-up. Keep in mind that a typical T-shirt has an SPF rating lower than 15, so use other types of protection as well.

Hats

• Wear a hat with a wide brim to shade the face, head, ears, and neck.

• For the most protection, wear a hat with a brim all the way around that shades your face, ears and the back of your neck. A tightly woven fabric, such as canvas, works best to protect your skin from UV rays.

• Avoid straw hats with holes that let sunlight through. A darker hat may offer more UV protection.

• If you wear a baseball cap, you should also protect your ears and the back of your neck by wearing clothing that covers those areas, using sunscreen with at least SPF 15 or by staying in the shade.

Sunglasses

• Sunglasses protect your eyes from UV rays and reduce the risk of cataracts. They also protect the tender skin around your eyes from sun exposure.

• Wear sunglasses that wrap around and block as close to 100 percent of both UVA and UVB rays as possible.

• Sunglasses that block both UVA and UVB rays offer the best protection. Most sunglasses sold in the United States, regardless of cost, meet this standard.

Shade

• Seek shade, especially during midday hours.

• You can reduce your risk of skin damage and skin cancer by seeking shade under an umbrella, tree or other shelter before you need relief from the sun. Your best bet to protect your skin is to use sunscreen or wear protective clothing when you're outside, even when you're in the shade.

For more information, visit http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/prevention.htm or call 800-CDC-INFO.

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.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

Professional Airmen's conference

Airmen and Department of Defense civilians in the San Antonio area are invited to hear senior leaders speak at a series of professional development forums during the annual Professional Airmen's Conference Saturday through Wednesday. The conference is hosted by the Air Force Sergeant's Association and takes place at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio. Speakers include Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh; Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody; Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Global Strike Command; Sloan Gibson, deputy secretary of Veteran Affairs; and a panel of former chief master sergeants of the Air Force. Unit commanders can authorize permissive temporary duty for Airmen to attend the national conference. Details can be found in Air Force Instruction 36-3003, 12.7, Table 7.

Senior non-commissioned officer induction ceremony

Joint Base San Antonio members are invited to attend the senior NCO induction ceremony Aug. 28 at Fort Sam Houston Events Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. The evening begins with a social at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Military member attire is mess dress/semi formal and civilian attire is formal: tuxedo/black tie or evening gown/cocktail dress.

Call 395-0688 or 671-1027 to RSVP by Aug. 21.

American Red Cross

The 359th Medical Group and the American Red Cross staff are looking for dedicated volunteers to serve the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph community within their medical treatment facility. If you have four or more hours a week of available time, consider becoming a Red Cross Volunteer. For more information, call 652-6372 or stop by the patient admin office at the clinic, building 1040, room 1A300.

Officer's Spouses' Club kick off

Join the Officers' Spouses' Club for their annual kick off and special activities coffee from 10 a.m. to noon and 5-7 p.m. Sept. 3 at the Parr Club. It is an event where potential members can come learn about the club and its activities. No reservations are needed for this event.

JBSA 9/11 Remembrance Run

The Robert D. Gaylor NCO Academy hosts the Joint Base San Antonio 9/11 Remembrance Run at the JBSA-Lackland Medina Annex from 7 a.m. to 4:11 p.m. Sept. 11. Registration is free and open until Sept. 4. To register, call 671-3766 or 969-4466. For more information, call 671-8144.

Westover Medical Home opens

The Westover Medical Home on the Northwest side of San Antonio is open.

TRICARE beneficiaries who want to enroll or move to the new Westover location can visit https://www.humanamilitary.com or call 800-444-5445. For beneficiaries age 65 or older, call 808-2721 for more information. People are encouraged to call soon as enrollment opportunities are limited.

Beneficiaries who sign up for care at the new clinic will need to see their provider at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Clinic or the Taylor Burk Clinic at JBSA-Camp Bullis until the clinic opens. The 12,500-square-foot community-based medical home will house 13 board-certified providers with varied backgrounds and a multitude of experience to serve their patients. People will also have the benefits of on-site laboratory capabilities and a drive-through pharmacy. The address is 10010 Rogers Crossing, which is located off State Highway 151 and Westover Hills Boulevard.

Military hospital's surgical care ranks among best in nation

By Elaine Sanchez
BAMC Public Affairs

U.S. Army photo

Surgeons perform a procedure at San Antonio Military Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. SAMMC ranks among the top hospitals in the nation for surgical care, according to a recent report from the American College of Surgeons.

San Antonio Military Medical Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston ranks among the top hospitals in the nation for surgical care, according to a recent report from the American College of Surgeons.

SAMMC, an integrated Army and Air Force medical facility, earned an exemplary or average rating in 180 different surgical quality variables, placing the facility in the upper half of hundreds of esteemed hospitals throughout the nation.

The report is issued by ACS' National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, or NSQIP, a voluntary program that gauges the quality of surgical programs across the nation. The aim is to help surgeons better understand their quality of care compared to similar hospitals with similar patients, according to the program's website.

"The largest and best hospitals in the U.S. are part of this program and our percentages place us in the top half of those hospitals," said Air Force Col. (Dr.) Joseph Brennan, SAMMC Department of Surgery chief.

"We are very proud of that," said Brennan, who is assigned to the 959th Medical Group.

Personnel from the 959th Medical Group working at SAMMC are part of the 59th Medical Wing headquartered at nearby JBSA-Lackland. They work together with their Army counterparts to provide health care to more than 240,000 beneficiaries in the San Antonio region.

Data collection is key to the surgical program's success, Brennan noted. At SAMMC, a surgeon oversees the program and two nurses are dedicated to inputting preoperative through 30-day postoperative data into a secure, web-based platform. ACS analyzes rates of mortality and morbidity, such as pneumonia, surgical site infections, urinary tract infections, sepsis and readmissions.

"Blinded" information is then shared with all participating hospitals, offering a snapshot of how hospitals rank according to surgical outcomes.

This data offers priceless insight, noted Army Maj. (Dr.) George Kallingal, SAMMC surgeon champion for NSQIP. "NSQIP foremost offers us an internal metric to ensure our surgical quality outcomes continue to progress at SAMMC and sets in motion the process of continual analysis and improvement," he said.

SAMMC's surgical outcome data has been increasingly positive over the past three years, Brennan noted, an uptick he attributes directly to SAMMC's care providers and infection control, quality and process improvement teams. "As a result of the data, we've made multiple improvements to our surgical processes," he said, citing efforts to improve operating room preparations and catheter use. "And our exceptional staff did a great job pushing initiatives focused on better patient care."

While NSQIP provided the framework for analysis, "the dedication of SAMMC personnel and their commitment to quality improvement is what fostered meaningful change," Kallingal said. "It will continue to be an important tool to provide the framework for improving surgical quality outcomes in the future."

The program is an easy sell at SAMMC, added Mariea Shelton, process improvement coordinator. The aim, she said, is to always strive for "great outcomes in surgical procedures."

With an eye on further improvements, Brennan hopes to add a third NSQIP surgical clinical reviewer soon to enable more data to be inputted and more feedback to be gained. "The more numbers we can track, the better off we'll be when it comes to gauging our strengths and weaknesses," he said.

While the program is voluntary, the Department of Defense requires all military hospitals to participate in NSQIP. SAMMC has been a voluntary member of the program since 2009.

"Participation in NSQIP means there is a total commitment to deliver the highest quality surgical patient care," said Marilyn McFarland, a NSQIP surgical clinical reviewer.

"Quality patient care is priority here and it shows," added Laura Van Dyk, surgical clinical reviewer.

Brennan praised the hospital's exceptional care, citing recent successes on The Joint Commission reaccreditation survey, Level I trauma center reverification, and a Commission on Cancer silver designation for SAMMC's cancer program.

"Our focus has always been on providing the best patient care, on what's best for the patient," the colonel said. "That emphasis has never wavered. This is just a great organization, from the leadership on down."

Young Ro-Hawks football team to open season Aug. 28

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Photo by Harold China

Members of the Randolph High School football team run drills Aug. 7 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph to prepare for their upcoming season.

Randolph High School football coach Pete Wesp is hoping the team's younger players will be quick learners when the Ro-Hawks kick-off the 2015 season against the Poth Pirates Aug. 28 at Ro-Hawk Stadium.

With 11 seniors graduating from last year's team that went 4-6 and made it to the playoffs for the first time since 2008, the Ro-Hawks will have several new players in their offensive and defensive lineups this season.

Wesp begins his 21st year as head coach of the Ro-Hawks with a team that has a mix of both youth and experience.

Randolph returns six starters on offense and three on defense, led by senior Cody Kuhl, a four-year starter on the offensive and defensive lines. The Ro-Hawks are experienced on both the offensive and defensive lines, but start the season with entirely new offensive and defensive backfields.

Wesp said the Ro-Hawks' younger players will learn and get better through game experience.

"They have to step it up," Wesp said. "A younger kid has to grow up fast. There are challenges that they are going to have to overcome and I think they are going to be able to do that."

Randolph is retooling its Wing-T hybrid offense, as four of the offensive backfield positions will have new starters, including sophomore quarterback Devin Brown, senior fullback Jordan Thomason and junior wingback Tae Lur Thomas. Senior tailback Eddie Lopez is the lone returner in the backfield and will share time at the position with sophomore Deonte Lyons.

Brown is moving up from the junior varsity team, where he started at quarterback last year. He is taking the reins of a Ro-Hawk offense that in 2014 was led by quarterback Christian Hosley, the District 13-3A Division I Offensive MVP, and running back Bryan London, a first team all-district selection. Hosley and London combined for 1,471 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns last season.

Wesp said Brown is both a skilled runner and passer, and a smart player who makes good decisions.

Thomas played at several positions last year, while Thomason is a transfer who is playing in his first season at Randolph.

The wide receivers are Ryan Clark, a returning starter, and Thomas Larrea, both seniors.

Four starters return on the offensive line, including Kuhl, senior left guard; Quinten Maturey, senior left tackle; Matt Swanson, senior center; and senior tight end Myan Holmes. The newcomer on the line is junior right tackle Jack Brust.

Kuhl earned First Team All-District 13-3A Division I honors on both the offensive and defensive lines last year. Holmes is returning to the tight end position he played at as a sophomore before being moved to guard last year.

Having an experienced offensive line will benefit an inexperienced backfield, Wesp said.

"It helps a younger backfield be able to grow up," the coach said. "It gives them a little bit more time."

Kuhl also anchors the defensive line, where he returns at end. Wesp said Kuhl is a strong lineman with the size and skills to be a force on the line. Joining Kuhl in the line are first year starting tackles Brust and junior Dylan Scott.

The linebackers are Thomas, a returning starter, and Thomason on the outside, and sophomore Evan O'berg and Holmes on the inside.

The defensive secondary is undergoing a makeover with only Lopez returning at cornerback. Sophomores will start two secondary positions, including Lyons at the other cornerback position and Brown at free safety.

Depending on the Ro-Hawks' defensive scheme, Thomason will also lineup at strong safety when needed.

Wesp assessed the state of the defense during preseason workouts.

"The strength is now in the defensive line and the outside linebackers," he said. "The inside linebackers are all brand new so they have a lot learning to do. The secondary is pretty much new so they have some learning to do."

On special teams, Brown will handle the punting and kicking chores. Returning punts and kickoffs will be Lopez and Thomason.

Wesp said he expects another competitive finish in District 13-3A this season. The district includes Randolph, Marion, Cole, Luling, Comfort and Ingram Moore.

Since four of the six teams in the district advance to the playoffs, the playoffs spots weren't settled until the last game of the regular season last year, with Randolph securing its playoff spot after beating Marion 7-0.

Randolph finished third in District 13-3A last season, one game behind district co-champions Ingram Moore and Comfort.

"I still think our district could end up being like last year, pretty even," Wesp said.

Randolph will dedicate this season in honor of teammate Jakobus Beamer, who died in a drowning accident at Canyon Lake Aug. 7. The 15-year-old sophomore started on the defensive line his freshman year and would have started on both the offensive and defensive lines this season.

WATER RESTRICTIONS from P5

is prohibited unless included in contract deliverables, required to repair damage resulting from maintenance or construction actions, or authorized by the base civil engineer.

• Irrigation of new turf or landscape outside of the allowed times requires base civil engineer approval. Irrigation of athletic fields is permitted only as required to maintain the turf viability/safety. Athletic fields may water between the hours of 3-8 a.m. and 8-10 p.m. once per week on the days from Table 2. Government vehicle washing allowed twice a month, during the first (full) and third weeks.

In Stage 2, the watering days are as follows if address/facility number ends in: 0 or 1, Monday; 2 or 3, Tuesday; 4 or 5, Wednesday; 6 or 7, Thursday and 8 or 9, Friday.

All water restriction measures and details are listed in the JBSA Critical Period Management Plan available at www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130809-013.pdf.

JBSA personnel should not confuse the JBSA water restrictions with the SAWS restriction levels. The JBSA water restrictions are more stringent and begin sooner than SAWS restrictions.

Contact the JBSA water conservation manager at 671-5337 for the reporting of water abusers. Those found not abiding with the JBSA Critical Period Management Plan may face potential disciplinary measures. Reports will remain anonymous.

RPA PIPELINE from P7

piloted aircraft used by the Air Force – the MQ-1 Predator, the MQ-9 Reaper and the RQ-4 Global Hawk. RQ-4 training is at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., while MQ-1 and MQ-9 training is conducted at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

The number of sensor operators that will be trained will also increase, according to Air Education and Training Command officials. The Air Force will determine the number of additional sensor operators who will undergo undergraduate RPA training at a later date. In 2014, the 558th FTS trained 203 sensor operators.

To make room for the additional RPA students, AETC officials said $4.6 million in simulator upgrades and $600,000 in renovations will be made to the 558th FTS building. Six new, more robust instrument simulators will be added, while upgrades will be made to 10 existing simulators to improved specifications. The RPA student pilots train with these linked, T-6A-like simulators to learn instrument flying procedures in a dynamic airspace environment.

Renovations include additional simulator rooms and additional classroom and office space, said AETC officials. The renovations are scheduled to start in September 2015 and be completed by October 2016.

An AETC undergraduate RPA training official said the renovations will not interfere with training at the 558th FTS.

To train the additional RPA pilots, Stallworth said the 558th FTS will gain 42 new instructors, going from 70 to 112 within the next 14 to 15 months. Increasing the number of instructors will allow the squadron to train students in six flight rooms.

An AETC RPA training branch official said the first wave of additional RPA student pilots will enter training at JBSA-Randolph in January and graduate in May. Beginning in October 2016, the AETC official said the RPA pilot training pipeline will be ready for the increased384 student capacity.

Other Air Force plans for the RPA program include pay bonuses for RPA pilots, investing $100 million for more ground control stations, simulators and contract instructors and increasing the use of the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and contractors for the RPA mission.

National Drug Take-Back Day

Everyone is invited to turn in unused or expired medication for safe disposal 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph BX Satellite Pharmacy. All medications should be in zip lock or plastic bags prior to disposal.

Courtesy graphic