A publication of the 502nd Air Base Wing – Joint Base San Antonio

WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 37 • SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

JBSA firefighters pull their way to victory in Battle of the Badges

PAGES 8-9

Michael Coscrelli, a 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, and members of his unit pull a fire truck Saturday during the final challenge of the 2015 Battle of the Badges at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Photo by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

Photo by Dennis Rogers

Wings of Blue, page 4

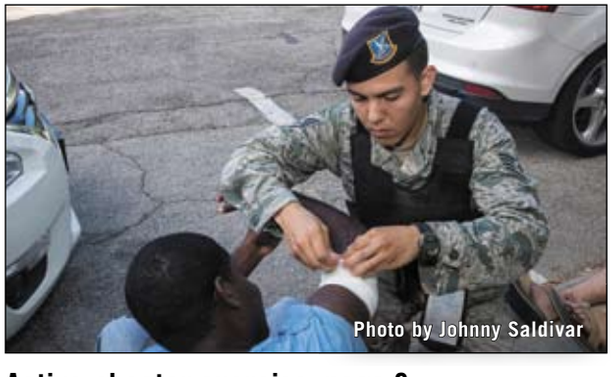


Photo by Johnny Saldivar

Active-shooter exercise, page 6

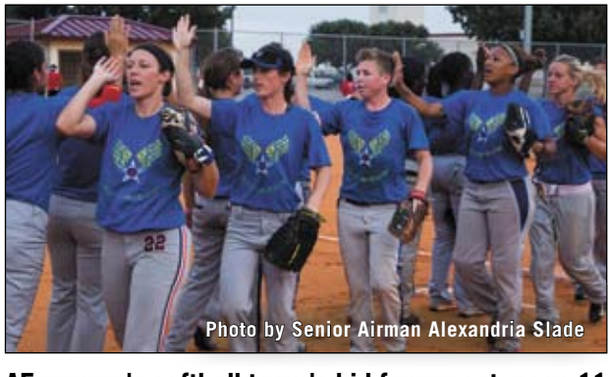


Photo by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

AF women's softball team's bid for repeat, page 11

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO SAFETY MESSAGE

How to prepare for a hurricane

From http://www.ready.gov

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

• Build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.

• Know your surroundings.

• Learn the elevation level of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you know how your property will be affected when storm surge or tidal flooding are forecasted.

• Identify levees and dams in your area and determine whether they pose a hazard to you.

• Learn community hurricane evacuation routes and how to find higher ground. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate.

• Make plans to secure your property.

• Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8 of an inch exterior grade or marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Another year-round option would be installation of laminated glass with impact-resistant glazing. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.

• Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.

• Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.

• Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.

• Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.

• Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.

• Determine how and where to secure your boat.

• Install a generator for emergencies.

• If in a high-rise building, when high winds are present, be prepared to take shelter on a lower floor because wind conditions increase with height and in a small interior room without windows. When flooding may be occuring, be prepared to take shelter on a floor safely above the flooding and wave effects.

• Consider building a safe room.

Courtesy photo

Hurricanes cause heavy rains that can cause extensive flood damage in coastal and inland areas. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection.

Flood insurance is the only way to financially protect your property or business from flood damage. To learn more about your flooding risk and how to protect yourself and your business, visit the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration website at http://www.floodsmart.gov or call 800-427-2419.

During a hurricane

If a hurricane is likely in your area, you should:

• Listen to the radio or TV for information.

• Secure your home, close storm shutters and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.

• Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.

• Turn off propane tanks

• Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.

• Moor your boat if time permits.

• Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purpose such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.

• Find out how to keep food safe during and after and emergency (http://www.ready.gov/food).

You should evacuate under the following conditions:

If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.

• If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure – such shelter are particularly hazardous during hurricane no matter how well fastened to the ground.

• If you live in a high-rise building – hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.

• If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an island waterway.

Learn more about evacuating yourself and your family at http://www.ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family. If you are unable to evacuate, go to your wind-safe room. If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

• Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.

• Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors.

• Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm – winds will pick up again.

• Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level.

• Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

• Avoid elevators.

After a hurricane

• Continue listening to a NOAA weather radio or the local news for the latest updates.

• Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.

• If you have become separated from your family, use your family communications plan or contact the American Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS/800-733-2767 or visit the American Red Cross Safe and Well website at http://www.safeandwell.org

• The American Red Cross also maintains a database to help you find family. Contact the local American Red Cross chapter where you are staying for information. Do not contact the chapter in the disaster area.

• If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.

• If you cannot return home and have immediate housing needs. Text SHELTER and your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to

See HURRICANE P12

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
Chief, JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs
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
210-250-2052

This newspaper is published by EN Communities, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Wingspread are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or EN Communities, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of JBSA-Randolph. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are U.S. Air Force photos.

The deadline for submissions is noon Wednesday the week prior to publication. All submissions can be emailed to randolphpublicaffairs@us.af.mil.

Courtesy photo

A T-38 Talon flies over Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

JBSA-Randolph hosts T-X immersion event

From Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

The Air Force hosted an Advanced Pilot Training Industry Immersion for the T-X Sept. 4 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The event afforded each registered vendor a session to engage with Air Education and Training Command and other government leadership on the APT program, also known as the T-X program.

The T-X is a replacement for the T-38 and will meet the Air Force's advanced fifth-generation pilot training needs for the next several decades. The T-X's requirements focus on capability, adaptability and affordability.

"The purpose of the Industry Immersion was to afford the new AETC commander and his senior staff the opportunity to interact with the Advanced Pilot Training T-X vendors," said Col. Philip Wielhouwer, AETC capability requirements division chief. "The vendors previously participated in the May 2015 Pre-Solicitation Conference."

The industry immersion event included a 45-minute session for each of the registered prospective prime vendors to meet and brief the Air Education and Training commander, AETC'S director of plans, programs, requirements and assessments and other USG representatives.

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander, said the event provided a better understanding of the T-X system.

"The Industry Immersion was an exceptionally informative event," Roberson said. "As the incoming AETC commander, I've now had the opportunity to engage with industry on T-X and I am better informed about what our prospective advanced pilot training vendors plan to offer."

The initial draft requirements were released in 2012, allowing industry to make more informed, early design decisions. T-X requirements identify three key performance characteristics for the APT mission. These include sustained G, simulator visual acuity and performance, and aircraft sustainment. While there are more than 100 requirements, these characteristics are the most critical to close training gaps and create strategic agility for the future.

Collaboration amongst all vested parties will shape a more capable and affordable pilot training system for the Air Force. The Air Force is making a concerted effort to maintain open dialogue with industry, allowing for clearer understanding of the cost impact of certain performance characteristics, as part of Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James' "Bending the Cost Curve Initiative."

"In accordance with the Secretary of the Air Force 'Bending the Cost Curve Initiative,' our dialogue with industry during this event will further our efforts toward delivering the Advanced Pilot Training T-X system with the best value that meets our requirements," said Brig. Gen. Andrew Croft, AETC plans, programs, requirements and assessments director.

Currently, 350 T-Xs are scheduled to replace 431 T-38s in Undergraduate Pilot Training and Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals. The Air Force plans to finalize the T-X acquisition strategy later this year.

Wings of Blue team continues spirit of first Air Force Academy jumpers

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

In 1962, seven U.S. Air Force Academy cadets took up parachute jumping and laid the groundwork for the formation of the academy's first aerial demonstration and competition teams.

On their own time and at their own expense, the cadets performed in several demonstrations and competition jumps, including a first-place finish at a collegiate contest in Wisconsin. Two years later, the parachutists were allowed to form their own club at the Air Force Academy, which allowed them to make jumps on the academy site in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Today, the U.S. Air Force Parachute Team Wings of Blue continues the lineage and spirit of those cadets 53 years ago who took it upon themselves to test the skies and go beyond their limits.

The Wings of Blue will put their aerial demonstration skills on display to the public at the Joint Base San Antonio Air Show and Open House Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Consisting of 100 members from around the Air Force, including jumpers and support staff, Wings of Blue does about 50 performances a year in the U.S. and, in some instances, overseas, said Steve Hoehn, Wings of Blue demonstration coordinator.

The parachute unit makes jumps at major sporting events such as the Orange Bowl and the national collegiate football championship game and performs demonstrations at events in Colorado Springs, Colo., from schools to Boy Scouting functions to Air Force Academy football games.

Photo by Dennis Rogers
Members of the U.S. Air Force Academy's Wings of Blue parachute team maneuver toward successful landings May 6 at the Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Jumpers in the Wings of Blue consist of Air Force Academy cadets, active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air Force civil service.

Each year in August, 25 new parachutists, who are Air Force Academy cadets, are selected for the Wings of Green, a one-year training program that allows them to become eligible to join the Wings of Blue, Hoehn said. The cadets that are selected to the Wings of Green are experienced parachute jumpers who have completed the basic freefall parachute course at the academy and earned their basic jump wings.

Hoehn said the 25 who are selected to the Wings of Green are among hundreds of cadets who apply for a spot on the team. After acceptence into the Wings of Green, the cadets are trained to become instructors and jump masters for the team.

The parachute team members come from all specialized jobs within the Air Force, some of whom have served in deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, Hoehn said.

"They represent professionalism and team spirit," Hoehn said.

Wings of Blue will perform various free falling parachute demonstrations and formations at the JBSA Air Show and Open House. Starting from 11,000 feet in the air, the demonstration will include a patriotic theme to begin the performance, an 800 square-foot American flag held by the jumpers, the playing of the national anthem and colorful smoke coming from canisters attached to the jumpers.

After their performance is completed, members of the Wings of Blue will be available for autographs and will answer questions about the parachute team, the Air Force and the Air Force Academy.

Photo by Johnny Saldivar

Senior leaders brief Texas senator on vital military issues

Col. Matthew Isler (left), 12th Flying Training Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta (center), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, welcome Texas State Sen. Donna Campbell, M.D., Chair of Veteran Affairs and military installations, during her visit to JBSA-Randolph Sept. 9. The senator and her staff visited JBSA-Randolph to learn about the 12th Flying Training Wing's mission impact on national security, as well as being briefed on mitigating current encroachment issues. Members of the 12th FTW are responsible for combat systems officer training, pilot instructor training, as well as remotely piloted aircraft pilot and basic sensor operator training.

Suicide prevention: How one person can make a difference

By Katie Lange
Department of Defense News
Defense Media Activity

Photo by Ed Dixon

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, and 502nd ABW Command Chief Stanley Cadell (center), were joined by hundreds of military members, civilian personnel and family members, as they run down Stanley Road during the 2015 5K Run For Life at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Sunday.

Thoughts of suicide are not necessarily something people explicitly announce to the world, which means loved ones often have no idea that their friend or family member is contemplating it.

But there are signs and risk factors, and while you might be thinking you can't make a difference by yourself, you're wrong. Experts say that's sometimes all it takes.

That's the point of the "Power of 1" campaign, launched by the Defense Department and Department of Veterans Affairs in observance of National Suicide Prevention Month.

"One smile, one conversation, one comment, one caring gesture toward somebody at risk can make a difference in their experience and perhaps instill hope and get them to help," said Dr. Keita Franklin, Defense Suicide Prevention Office director.

The No. 1 thing to know: Suicide is preventable. Warning signs are just missed sometimes.

"Inevitably, we always know that somebody has told somebody that they were struggling," Franklin said of her office's research. "Unfortunately, that person may not have known the extent of the risk."

To be better prepared, here are some of the signs you can look for:

- Expressing sadness often
- Anxiety and agitation
- Deteriorating physical appearances
- Neglect of personal welfare
- Sleeping all the time, or having trouble sleeping
- Withdrawing from friends and family
- Losing interest in hobbies; loss of appetite
- Performing poorly at work or school
- Dramatic and frequent mood changes
- Acting recklessly; showing violent, self-destructive behavior
- Expressing feelings of guilt, shame or failure
- Desperation – feeling like there's no way out or no solution to the problem
- Giving away prized possessions
- Making out a will, getting affairs in order
- Trying to secure weapons, pills or other things that can be used for harm

Common risk factors for suicide include relationship, financial or legal struggles.

Franklin said a big part of suicide prevention in the military is making sure those at risk feel like they belong and are valued in their roles. That means making sure the at-risk person knows his or her chain of command cares and is willing to help – that it's OK to not be OK.

"Leaders need to be able to convey to their units that people can bounce back from their stress issues and that they're not always terminally broken," Franklin said.

She said it's important for at-risk people to know that getting help with mental health issues is a sign of strength, not weakness.

"It's a big first step, and it can save a life, whether you're the person at risk or the person helping the person at risk," Franklin said.

She said service members are also provided peer-to-peer training that focuses on them looking for signs and risk factors and, more importantly, asking the question, "Are you thinking of killing yourself?"

"We won't know if people are at risk until then," Franklin said.

For more resources on how to support military members and veterans in crisis, visit http://www.Veteranscrisisline.net or the Defense Suicide Prevention Office website at http://www.dspo.mil/.

Service members and veterans who need help can call the Military Crisis Line and speak to a counselor by dialing 800-273-TALK and pressing 1.

DOD statistics show that in 2014, there were 268 confirmed suicides among active-duty military members, 79 confirmed in the reserves and 87 in the National Guard.

EXERCISE ... EXERCISE ... EXERCISE ...

Photos by Johnny Saldivar

Above: Master Sgt. Benito Maciel (left) and Staff Sgt. Neal Kiser, both from the 902nd Security Forces Squadron, clear a building as exercise evaluation team members observe during an active shooter exercise Sept. 8 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Left: Senior Airman Pedro Rodriguez, 902nd SFS, calls in for help while providing treatment to a simulated victim during an active shooter exercise Sept. 8 at JBSA-Randolph. The active shooter exercise tested the threat response time and effectiveness of Joint Base San Antonio's emergency responders and support agencies. The exercise replicated possible real-world events and was designed to enhance training and readiness of JBSA emergency responders during threats to the installation and units. The next readiness exercise is planned for Oct. 6.

AF general takes helm at San Antonio Military Health System

From San Antonio Military Health System

Air Force Maj. Gen. Bart Iddins assumed the role of market manager of the San Antonio Military Health System from Army Brig. Gen. Barbara Holcomb Tuesday.

As market manager of the San Antonio Military Health System, Iddins integrates a medical system that has a collective operating budget of $1.2 billion and provides health care for more than 240,000 beneficiaries who visit the system's 10 medical facilities in the San Antonio metropolitan area.

Iddins, who also commands the 59th Medical Wing headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, becomes the fourth market manager in the organization's six-year existence. The positions of market manager and vice market manager rotate between the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army every two years.

The SAMHS is one of six Department of Defense multi-service markets that integrate military health care between the services. Together, the market manager and medical commanders at local military treatment facilities partner to coordinate health and wellness programs with a clear focus on optimizing patient-centered care and safety, while maintaining the global readiness of U.S. forces throughout the globe.

"I am honored to serve all Joint Base San Antonio mission partners and our 240,000 beneficiaries as the SAMHS market manager. Our over-arching goal is to treat your mission as our mission; your family as our family and your hardships as our hardships," Iddins said. "SAMHS medical personnel are relentlessly focused on exceeding all expectations regarding access to health care services, patient safety, health care quality, education, training, research, and combat readiness! Moreover, all components of the SAMHS health care enterprise are rapidly transforming into a so-called 'high-reliability organization' by leveraging innovation, standardization, modern process/quality improvement methods, and the dedication and talents of our extraordinary medical personnel."

Maj. Gen. Bart Iddins

Brig. Gen. Barbara Holcomb, who continues to command the Southern Regional Medical Command at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said, "Our goal at SAMHS is to make the military health care system the primary health system of choice for our beneficiaries.

"Over the past year we have worked purposefully to improve timely access to care, patient safety, and quality outcomes across the market by collaborating together and focusing on common processes and procedures. The partnership efforts of our local Army and Air Force medical units throughout SAMHS have resulted in more efficient uses of resources, better patient outcomes, and streamlined, standard processes," Holcomb said.

"There are still many areas we can improve but the most important focus is on our patients and their families to

ensure they are provided the best possible care when ill or injured and receive the best health education to prevent illness and injury," she added.

The SAMHS reached full operating capability Oct. 1, 2014. Over the past year, local medical commanders and their subordinate senior leaders created the first unified business performance plan.

This five-year plan refines the approach to standardizing processes, reducing health care costs and ensuring that the patient gets exceptional access to quality services.

Joint Base San Antonio Combined Federal Campaign underway

By Steve Elliott
Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

The 2015 San Antonio Area Combined Federal Campaign is in full swing, with military members and federal civilians being asked to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate by making a donation to their favorite charity.

The Combined Federal Campaign is the once-a-year workplace campaign available to federal employees which eliminates year-round on-the-job solicitations, while allowing employees a convenient way to give to the charitable organizations of their choice. The San Antonio area campaign is made up of 167 local military and federal organizations with more than 66,000 employees.

It is also the only authorized solicitation of federal employees in their workplaces. The Office of Personnel Management regulates the CFC and provides guidance and oversight to the local campaigns. OPM is accountable for assuring federal employees that their designations are honored and distributed to the charitable organizations of their choice and maintains strict eligibility and public accountability criteria that all participating CFC charities must meet.

In 2014, contributions from Joint Base San Antonio members totaled $3,365,812, making San Antonio the ninth largest CFC campaign in the world. For 2015, the goal has been set at $3.8 million.

"As with all CFC campaigns, the overall goal is to ensure that all eligible military and federal employees are given the opportunity to make a pledge to the charity or charities of their choice," said Rick Robel, CFC director for the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County. "While we have set a monetary target this year of $3.8 million, we will continue to focus on efforts to ensure 100 percent of the personnel are contacted. If done properly, the overall amount raised will take care of itself."

Photo by Steve Elliott

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta (center), commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, signs his Combined Federal Campaign form with the assistance of 2nd Lt. Christina Muncey (left) and Master Sgt. Elliott Velez.

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

For example, there is now a "search charities" tool on the San Antonio Area CFC website at http://www.cfcsanantonio.org that connects to an online database – identical to the printed charity brochure – where donors can review more than 2,800 charities by name, location, category, fundraising rates and more.

The database can display national, international and local organizations that have met CFC eligibility requirements. Key elements include: the organization's new five-digit CFC code, the legal name in parentheses shown if it is "doing business as" under another name, the employer identification number, a 25-word statement of purpose (except in abbreviated listings), its administrative and fundraising expense rate and its service categories (taxonomy codes).

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

"For 2015, we are excited to continue an on-line payroll deduction pledge option for all military and DOD civilians through myPay," Robel said. "This option allows employees to make their pledge directly with Defense Finance and Accounting Services, thus eliminating the need for coordinators to physically walk paper pledge forms to finance."

Donors can contribute to charities that work around the world or right in their backyard. In the San Antonio area, there are 175 local participating charities, including three local federations.

"Thanks to the generosity of JBSA contributors in 2014, we were ranked No. 1 in Texas and No. 9 out of 151 CFC campaigns worldwide," Robel said. "The CFC belongs to you – the federal employee. It doesn't belong to the federal government, the United Way or to the charitable organizations that benefit from it. You control where your gift will go.

"You don't have to go far to find people in need. Many of your family members, friends and neighbors will at some point benefit from the services of charities participating in the CFC," Robel added. "Whether it's advances in medicine provided by research, support for our aging parents, disaster assistance or the opportunity for a child to participate in after school programs – we all have something to gain by supporting the campaign."

Security forces, firefighter members clash during 2015 Battle of the Badges

By Senior Airman Alexandria Slade
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Security forces members and firefighters from across Joint Base San Antonio competed against each other once again during the fifth annual 2015 Battle of the Badges Sept. 12 at the JBSA-Randolph Camp Talon Fire Training Area and Eberle Park.

Members from the 802nd Security Forces Squadron from JBSA-Lackland, 902nd SFS from JBSA-Randolph and firefighters from JBSA Fire Emergency Services took part in various tests of strength, teamwork and professional expertise during the event.

"The Battle of the Badges event is important for both the firefighters and defenders because we work full time throughout the year for everybody and anybody," Tech. Sgt. William Everett, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, said. "We are the ones that go out to protect and to serve no matter what, so it's great for our members to come out, relax, have some fun and work together with their fellow first responder units."

This year's Battle of the Badges was comprised of three main events for time: a tactical shooting challenge, a firefighter combat challenge and a fire truck pull. The tactical shooting challenge consisted of security forces defenders and firefighters vying for the title of best marksmen for a specific target.

The firefighter combat challenge tested members of both parties with an obstacle course that included carrying gear up three flights of stairs, hoisting a bundle of hose from the ground with a rope, dragging a weighted dummy and hitting a target with a charged fire hose.

gather to build the camaraderie, esprit de corps and cohesion that we have as first responders. What we do as first responders is a critical mission and it's important for our family members to understand that mission and be able to support us. That support and love empowers and fuels us to perform our mission as well as possible."

Maj. Julia Jefferson
902nd Security Forces Squadron commander

"Today we gather for friendly competition," Maj. Julia Jefferson, 902nd Security Forces Squadron commander, said. "We gather to build the camaraderie, esprit de corps and cohesion that we have as first responders."

In addition to the traditional challenges, this year's event opened with a softball game Sept. 11, and gave both defenders and firefighters the opportunity to showcase parts of their missions with repelling, military working dog and Taser demonstrations.

The families and friends of security forces members and firefighters also attended the event to learn about some of the first responder missions performed around JBSA on a daily basis, to cheer on competitors and meet with Sparky the fire dog and McGruff the crime dog.

"What we do as first responders is a critical mission and it's important for our family members to understand that mission and be able to support us," Jefferson said. "That support and love empowers and fuels us to perform our mission as well as possible."

The firefighters won all three main challenges for time, taking back the trophy lost during last year's security forces' victory and becoming the 2015 Battle of the Badges champions.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer
First Lt. Clayton Schmidt, 902nd Security Forces Squadron operations officer, shoots a stream of water from a fire hose during Battle of the Badges Saturday at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer
Airman Evan Nares, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, fires an M-4 carbine during the tactical shooting portion of Battle of the Badges Saturday at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Photo by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade
Senior Airman Christian Torres, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, performs an inversion technique during the repelling demonstration portion of the 2015 Battle of the Badges Saturday at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer
Airman 1st Class John Connor, 902nd Security Forces Squadron armorer, drags a 185-pound dummy during the firefighter combat challenge event of Battle of the Badges Saturday at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Photo by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade
Sparky the Fire Dog high-fives children attending the 2015 Battle of the Badges Saturday at Eberle Park at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer
Airman 1st Class Victoria Dunning, 902nd Security Forces Squadron electronic security systems manager, demonstrates the attack capabilities of a military working dog during Battle of the Badges Saturday at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

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

Rambler 120 Team Challenge

The Rambler 120 Team Challenge, Joint Base San Antonio's adventure race, will feature two new team categories when the ninth edition of the competitive event takes place Saturday at the JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake.

The Rambler 120 challenges four-person "Xtreme" teams and eight-person relay teams with a 22-mile bike race through the Texas Hill Country, a 6-mile run across Canyon Lake Dam, a 2-mile raft race along the shoreline and a mystery event.

Xtreme teams, which must include at least one Department of Defense ID cardholder, and relay teams, which must have at least two DOD ID cardholders, compete in all-male, all-female and coed categories. This year, all-military Xtreme and relay categories have been added to the Rambler 120. The deadline to register for the Rambler 120 is Saturday. For more information, call 652-5763.

JBSA 5K Run For Life

The 2015 5K Run For Life takes place 8 a.m. Sept. 26 at the Gillum Fitness Center on JBSA-Lackland. Free registration begins at 7 a.m. The event promotes suicide prevention awareness and the resources available to assist service members and their families with fitness and resiliency. All participants receive an "I Run For Life" reflective belt and dog tag, while supplies last.

For more information, visit http://www.facebook.com/JBSArunforlife and http://www.facebook.com/JointBaseSanAntonio.

JBSA-Randolph National Night Out

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph National Night Out takes place 6-8 p.m. Oct. 6 at the North Park Median at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. NNO is held each year to encourage communities to come together and fight against crime and illegal drugs. NNO will include crime prevention tips, McGruff the Crime Dog, Sparky the Fire Dog, a patrol car display and a fire truck display. Food and activities for children will also be available. For details, call 652-1645.

JBSA Proud Week Fall Clean-up

Joint Base San Antonio will conduct a JBSA-wide fall cleanup operation Oct 7-9. Proud Week provides a specified time period where resources are allocated to conduct general area building maintenance, environmental maintenance (landscaping) and clean-up of work areas in order to promote pride and maintain a high beautification standard throughout Joint Base San Antonio. Mission partners, tenant units, organizations and agencies participating in the JBSA Cleanup operation will be responsible for providing manpower to clean areas, bag and bundle all trash as appropriate and transport trash to collection points at designated trash dumpsites. For more information, call Antony Pearson at 671-3015 or Ben Gauna at 473-3015.

Fall Festival

The Randolph Field Independent School District Parent Teacher Organization hosts a Fall Festival from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 25. at Randolph Elementary School. The festival is open to the base community. Tickets are 25 cents and the event is sponsored by the Randolph ISD PTO as a way to bring community families together. For more information, visit http://www.randolphpto.org.

Airmen Powered By Innovation

Airmen who have ideas to launch efficiencies and increase cost savings across the Air Force can submit their ideas online to the Airmen Powered by Innovation website at https://ipds.afpc.randolph.af.mil or through the Air Force Portal.

Ideas should describe in detail the current method, proposed method, expected benefits and cost of implementation to support the idea. Once the idea is submitted, an API Idea Cell analyst will review the idea. For assistance with the documentation of process improvement ideas, contact the 802nd Force Support Squadron Manpower Office at 652-8953 or 652-8954.

Readiness NCO serves important role for military members, families

By Tech. Sgt. Joshua Strang
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Life doesn't stop when the deployment order comes down.

Whether Airmen are single or married with a family, knowing who to talk to is the first step to a successful deployment.

From notification through homecoming, the readiness non-commissioned officer assists Airmen and their families through all phases of deployments.

"I brief Airmen and families before they deploy," said Master Sgt. Joe Ugarte, JBSA-Randolph Readiness NCO. "I am also one of the first individuals to see them when they return."

The readiness NCO serves an important role for military members and their families, to include briefing programs intended to make life easier for the deploying member as well as the family at home.

"As members deploy, I become the focal point for any family-related issues," Ugarte said. "I've assisted Airmen and their families with Air Force aid assistance, personal and work related life issues, employment, and even transitions to civilian life."

Ugarte said there are many programs to help families such as "Give Parents a Break," "Car Care Because We Care" and "Hearts Apart" events. He said he has a direct effect on Airmen.

Photo by Johnny Saldivar
Master Sgt. Joe Ugarte, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph readiness NCO, briefs Randolph Elementary School students on military deployment processes May 8, 2014 at JBSA-Randolph.

"The most rewarding part of this special duty is that you make a difference in people's lives," Ugarte said. "I concentrate on taking care of families so that Airmen deployed to the area of responsibility can focus their full attention on a combatant commander's mission objectives."

Readiness NCO is one of 10 special duties identified as a developmental special duty in 2013.

"With the new process, I believe we get the right person into the right position," Ugarte said. "Some of our young Airmen have great leadership potential but don't know it until given the opportunity."

Ugarte said the readiness NCO must be a people person and ready for challenges.

"The toughest part of my job is that no two days are the same," Ugarte said. "One day you could be helping someone with their finances and the next day you could be confronted with a potential suicide."

He continued to say there are no limits with the readiness program.

"You have to genuinely care about people and understand that there is no certain way to get the job done," Ugarte said. "You get to use your creativity and experience to ensure Airmen and their families are taken care of."

For more information on the readiness NCO position or any other developmental special duties, Airmen should search for DSD on mypers at http//:www.mypers.af.mil, as well as discuss DSD opportunities with members of their supervisory chain.

AF women's softball teammates aim for repeat as championship title

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The Air Force women's softball team starts its quest for a second straight title at the Armed Forces Softball Championships Sept. 20-25 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The team will compete against squads from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps in the triple round-robin tournament.

The Air Force women's softball team consists of 15 active-duty players from Air Force installations around the world, including members from Joint Base San Antonio.

The team is coached by Salomon Vieyra, 690th Intelligence Support Squadron superintendent at JBSA-Lackland. Vieyra is in his second year as the team's head coach and has coached base- and Air Force-level teams for 21 years.

The team's assistant coach is Master Sgt. Danielle Hirvela from Yukota Air Base, Japan.

Training camp for the team started Sept. 3 at JBSA-Randolph with 25 active-duty players trying out for the squad. After the tryouts, coaches trimmed the team's roster to 15 players, with nine returnees and six newcomers.

Photo by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade
Staff Sgt. Schameka White, U.S. Air Force women's softball team member, winds up to hit the ball during a scrimmage game Sept. 9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The team has held several practices and played in a scrimmage against a local team at the JBSA-Randolph softball field Sept. 9 before leaving to compete in the World Softball League Championships Sept. 11-13 in Panama City, Fla.

The team returned to JBSA-Randolph this week to practice and prepare for the Armed Forces Softball Championships.

Chief Master Sgt. Eileen McCain, Air Education Training Command functional manager at JBSA-Randolph, is in her second stint playing with the Air Force Women's Softball Team. She first played for the squad in 2005.

"I was ready to come back and play with these great ladies," McCain said. "I wanted to see how well I would do."

McCain said the team is focused on retaining its Armed Forces Softball Championship title it won last year.

"We want to keep the gold," she said.

Staff Sgt. Lyndsay Moen, 433rd Reserve Squadron diet therapist at JBSA-Lackland, is returning for her second year on the team. Moen said she remembers what it felt like to capture the title at last year's Armed Forces Softball Championships.

"It was a very proud moment," she said. "I was humbled and just happy to be a part of the team. We gave it our all and we came out on top. I expect the same thing this year. The team chemistry is there."

To repeat as Armed Forces tournament champions, Vieyra said the Air Force women's team will need to focus on hitting the ball consistently and playing solid defense.

"Our goal is to get 15 or more runs in every game," Coach Vieyra said.

In last year's championship tournament, the Air Force squad averaged 7.3 runs per game on their way to winning the title.

Vieyra said the top hitters for the team are Senior Airman Terri Hodges from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.; Tech Sgt. Lorenda Wong from Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.; Staff Sgt. Schameka White from Kadena Air Base, Japan; and Tech Sgt. Latonya Mathis MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. White and Mathis are the team's captains.

The starting pitcher is Staff Sgt. Andrea Butler from Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

See SOFTBALL P12

Understanding ICE: How to make Interactive Customer Evaluation work for you

By Amanda Sanchez
502nd Air Base Wing ICE Site Administrator

Interactive Customer Evaluation

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.

Customers who use services provided on Joint Base San Antonio, such as the bowling alleys, the ID card facilities, the child development facilities and many others, have been submitting complaints, compliments and suggestions for improvement via the Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE system. This lets managers and leaders know what is working well throughout JBSA and should be continued, as well as what services provided at JBSA could use improvement.

If you haven't submitted an ICE comment yet, you are missing your chance to be the voice of major change for JBSA.

Submitting an ICE comment is quick, easy and can be done at any time from any computer or device with internet access at http://ice.disa.mil.

Want to make sure JBSA leadership hears your voice loud and clear? Here are some tips for making the most of your ICE comments:

Comment often

Try to comment on each and every service you use throughout JBSA. Whether you receive service at the gate, a childcare facility, the bowling alley or one of the numerous other services on JBSA, we want to hear about your experience.

Managers and leaders depend on constant feedback to continually improve services and best meet their customers' needs. Since ICE comments take little time to submit, you can make a list of services you have used on the installation and submit them once a week, or submit them as you visit the service.

Don't just complain … compliment!

Submit ICE comments when you receive great service, not just when you have a complaint. Doing this helps managers know what is working well and should be continued. It also helps managers and leaders give those employees who are providing great service the recognition they deserve.

Give the benefit of the doubt when commenting about employees and service

Everyone has a bad day now and then. Sometimes service providers are at the mercy of others to fix problems with their facilities. Maybe a service provider is short staffed due to circumstances out of their control. However, if you visit the same service numerous times and encounter the same issue repeatedly, it is probably time to submit an ICE comment.

Always give your name and contact info and request follow-up if you would like an update

There will probably be some situations when you won't feel like giving your name, but rest assured that when you submit contact information, it is – per Department of Defense ICE Policy – not to be used for retaliation.

By giving your contact information and requesting a follow-up, you are telling management this is something important to you.

If you're commenting on an issue you need help with, receiving follow-up ensures you receive the help you need.

For example, if you submit an ICE comment regarding a problem with a travel voucher, but don't leave contact information, management can't look into your situation further or provide you a response or update concerning your situation.

If you are complaining about something less life changing – such as an area of grass you believe needs to be mowed or overflowing trash bins – you give the message to the reader that this is something you really want to see fixed.

If you don't say something, others might not either and the problem will likely never be fixed

If everyone depends on someone else to speak up, managers and leaders may never become aware of an issue. Managers should know what their employees are doing and what kind of service their organization is providing, but since they can't be everywhere all the time, they rely on your help to know if something needs improvement.

By using these simple tips when submitting your ICE comment card, you can provide thorough feedback which can be critical in making changes in services provided to everyone at JBSA.

You can be the voice of change. For questions or more information about ICE, call 221-2543.

HURRICANE from P2

find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345).

• For those who have longer-term housing needs, FEMA offers several types of assistance to help people repair their homes and find replacement housing. Apply for assistance (http://www.fema.gov/) or search for information about housing rental resources (https://asd.fema.gov/inter/hportal/home.htm).

• Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Watch for fallen objects, downed electrical wires and weakened walls, bridges, roads and sidewalks.

• Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.

• Walk carefully around the outside of your home and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage before entering.

• Stay out of any building if you smell gas, floodwaters remain around the building or your home was damaged by fire.

• Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes. If you have any doubts about safety, have your residence inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.

• Use battery-powered flashlights in the dark. Do not use candles. (Note: The flashlight should be turned on outside before entering – the battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.)

• Watch your pets closely and keep them under your direct control. Watch out for wild animals, especially poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris.

• Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.

• Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.

• Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.

• Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

• Never use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.

SOFTBALL from P11

Vieyra said he will rely on experienced players such as White, a 10-year team veteran, to help mentor the new players and to keep the team focused on their goal of winning the Armed Forces tournament title.

"The veteran players will talk to and encourage them to improve their skills, have a good attitude and to be ready to accept their roles, whether they are in the starting lineup or not," Vieyra said.

During her playing career on the Air Force women's softball team, White has been on nine teams that have won the Armed Forces Softball Championships. White said she is passing on what she has learned during her playing career to the younger players.

"I try to be a mentor and try to guide them and lead them in the right direction," White said. "They were willing to listen. They want to learn like me."

White said she is also learning new skills from the younger players on the team. "If I see something that I have never done and that works, I'll try it," she said.

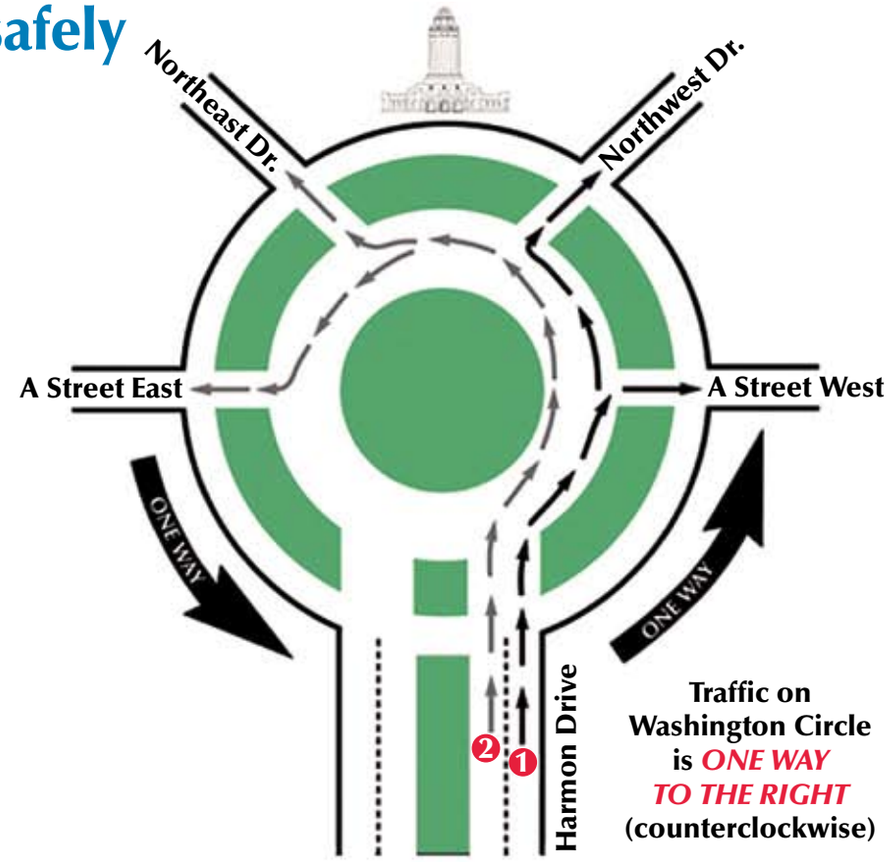
First-round tournament action at the Armed Forces Softball Championships begins Sunday.

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:
  - ❶ If you are exiting at the first or second exit, stay in the outside lane or right lane.
  - ❷ 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 or way.
- All traffic must signal for turns when exiting the circle.