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WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

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Where Eagles Dare:

435th FTS shapes future fighter pilots

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Second Lt. Duston Obrien, 435th Fighter Training Squadron upgrade pilot, prepares to take off in a T 38C Talon Sept. 3 at Joint Base San Antonio Randolph.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Photo by Master Sgt. Adrian Cadiz

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Photo by Army 1st Lt. Max Perez

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GLOBAL TROOP TALK

Secretary of Defense fields questions

By Amaani Lyle
Department of Defense News

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter crossed continents and engaged with the services via television and across social media platforms today in an unprecedented live, worldwide troop talk from a Defense Media Activity studio Sept. 1 at Fort Meade, Md.

Carter emphasized that people, in tandem with technology, are critical to the United States keeping its edge as the Defense Department looks to frontiers including hypersonics, biotechnology and cyberspace as part of the "Force of the Future" landscape.

"Our planes, ships and tanks, in order to function effectively, require networking," Carter said. "The biotech revolution is going to be even more consequential than the information revolution."

But Carter acknowledged that like all other technological revolutions, the harvest could be used for good or for ill. "We want to make sure it's used for good, and we want to make sure that we're the best at combating any use of it for ill," the secretary said.

On the heels of recent travels that included meeting with service members in Illinois, Nevada and California, Carter emphasized taking the utmost care in matters of troop readiness, employment and training.

He commended service members at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., for their performance in training to counter high-end threats and to leverage new technologies with air and amphibious operations.

"We're refocusing on full-spectrum conflict and the whole range of emergencies," he said.

Carter also visited Silicon Valley on his trip. During his troop talk, he related the importance of building bridges between industry and the "small slice of society" who serve in the military apply technology to warfare.

Aligning DOD goals with new generations and thought processes is critical, the secretary maintained, noting a new era of family, mobility, home life, learning, training and transition that service members face. The force of the future must use the best of new techniques while thinking and self-challenging to build the most capable, competent team for the nation's defense in the years to come, he added.

Photo by Master Sgt. Adrian Cadiz
Defense Secretary Ash Carter hosted a worldwide troop talk, the first of its kind, Sept. 1 at Fort Meade, Md.

Carter also responded to questions regarding the fate of military pay.

"We can't pay you enough for what we ask you to do," he said. "In addition to paying you more, I want to make sure you're fully trained. I want to make sure you have the best equipment and I want to make sure there are enough of you to carry us to victory."

The secretary noted the necessity of a fixed budget to meet defense needs without paring military families' income.

"There's never a single discussion of cutting people's pay, but we are discussing changing the rate at which pay is increased annually," Carter said, adding that this scenario is a reality he does not like. "I'm not going to change the game on anybody who signed up with a given understanding about retirement," he said.

Carter recognized ongoing challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, where the Defense Department has focused attention in recent years and where he said U.S. forces must remain ready to "fight tonight."

"Since 1953, American troops have been deterring North Korean aggression," Carter said. "It's probably the single place on the world where war could erupt at the snap of our fingers."

The secretary also fielded questions from the studio audience, including a query from a soldier who asked about the possibility of a policy throughout the Defense Department for maternity leave, citing recent Navy leave enhancements for families.

"This gets back to making family life compatible with military life," Carter said, calling it an important consideration. "I don't want you to have to choose between your family and serving us."

Carter also spoke with an Air Force senior airman at Thule Air Base, Greenland, who asked about the DOD's capability intentions there. The secretary noted the base's critical capability for early detection of ballistic missile attacks against the United States and the need to keep its radars modern, sensitive and ready. "Thule is one of the places that ballistic missiles would overfly if they were en route to the United States," he pointed out.

The secretary next responded to a soldier in Kuwait who asked him about the significance of two women graduating last week from Army Ranger School.

"That's a big deal for anybody – male or female – to get through Ranger school," Carter replied. "What matters most is who is qualified, and who can meet the rigorous standards of service. I want to have the widest possible pool of people into which we can draw the force of the future."

Carter emphasized that he plans to cast a wider net in selecting the best candidates who can meet specific service standards. "It's important at all ranks," he added. "There's a huge benefit to it."

Carter also addressed defeating terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, telling his worldwide audience that it requires an inside-out approach in a battle of "civilization against barbarity."

"The trick is to defeat ISIL in a lasting way," Carter said. "Our strategic approach is to enable capable and motivated ground forces that are local and can keep the peace after we've helped them win the peace."

WINGSPREAD

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TRICARE pharmacy beneficiaries to see change in drug coverage

From TRICARE

Starting Oct. 1, a new law requires all TRICARE beneficiaries, except active duty service members, to get select brand name maintenance drugs through either TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or from a military pharmacy. Beneficiaries who keep using a retail pharmacy for these drugs will have to pay the full cost.

Maintenance drugs are those you take regularly for a long time, such as drugs to control blood pressure or cholesterol. The law does not apply to drugs you take for a short time, like antibiotics, or generic drugs. Beneficiaries living overseas, or with other prescription drug coverage, are not affected.

The TRICARE pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, is sending a letter to beneficiaries taking an affected drug, explaining their options. Beneficiaries can contact Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 to see if they are affected.

After October 1, beneficiaries still filling an affected drug at a retail pharmacy will receive another letter informing them of the change to the benefit. After that, beneficiaries have one final "courtesy" fill at a retail pharmacy. If they fill at a retail pharmacy again, they have to pay 100 percent of the cost of their medication.

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery is a safe, convenient and low cost option to get maintenance drugs. You can get up to a 90-day supply, as opposed to a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy. You save up to $176 a year for every brand name drug you switch to Home Delivery. Military pharmacies offer up to a 90-day supply of drugs at zero copay, but not all drugs are available. You can check with your local military pharmacy to see if they carry your prescription.

For more information about this change to TRICARE's pharmacy benefit, visit www.tricare.mil/RxNewRules.

The public is invited to join us at the

Joint Base San Antonio 2015 Air Show

Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at JBSA-Randolph

Joint Base San Antonio 2015 AIR SHOW & OPEN HOUSE
Taking Military City USA to New Heights!

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

For complete details, visit us at http://www.jbsa.mil;
http://www.facebook.com/JBSARandolph
or follow us at http://www.twitter.com/JBSARandolph

Medical group preparing for arrival of season's flu vaccine

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Immunization Clinic, located at 221 3rd Street West, building 1040, is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. Smallpox vaccinations are administered by appointment only 3-4:15 p.m. Friday. Patrons for all other immunizations can walk in anytime without an appointment. For more information, call 652-3279.

Photo by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

Officials from the 359th Medical Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph are urging beneficiaries to plan on receiving their immunization as soon as the flu vaccine for the 2015-16 season is available.

After a flu season that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention described as "moderately severe," health care professionals at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's 359th Medical Group are urging beneficiaries to make plans to receive their immunizations as soon as the vaccine for the 2015-16 season is available.

Capt. Avis McCaslin, 359th MDG Pediatric Clinic Flight commander, stressed the importance of flu shots: People who are immunized are not only protecting themselves, they are protecting others.

"It's important to receive a flu shot because there are individuals who have a higher risk of having dangerous flu-related complications," she said. "The high-risk individuals include, but are not limited to, pregnant women, children 6 months to 5 years old, people over the age of 50 and those who are immunocompromised."

According to the CDC, H3N2 viruses were the most common during the 2014-15 season, followed by a wave of influenza B activity starting in early March. McCaslin said it's "impossible to predict" what the next flu season will bring.

"Each year is different in terms of how the virus is spread, its severity and how long it will last," she said. "With such variations, it's not predictable."

McCaslin said it's also impossible to predict when the flu season will peak.

"The timing is equally unpredictable as the other variables," she said. "We do know that flu season occurs in the winter, most commonly from December to February, but as early as October and as late as May."

The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months old and older should be vaccinated against the flu, but there are exceptions, McCaslin said.

"The individuals who do not get the vaccine are those with a severe reaction in the past, who are severely allergic to eggs and who have a fever the day of the vaccination," she said. "Those are just examples of those who are more than likely not eligible. It is important to talk to your health care provider about whether or not you should receive the flu vaccine."

Staff Sgt. Kelly Boos, 359th Medical Operations Squadron NCO in charge of pediatrics, said children 6 months to 7 years old who are getting vaccinated for the first time require a regimen of two doses, with the second one given at least 30 days after the first.

According to the CDC, the first dose "primes" the immune system, while the second provides immune protection.

Boos said a yearly flu vaccine is recommended after the initial vaccine is administered, and is available in both injectable and nasal-spray form. The vaccine protects against the main flu viruses that research suggests will be the most common during that flu season.

McCaslin described the flu, or influenza, as a "contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses."

"The best way to prevent it is through vaccination," she said. "It is spread through droplets when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. Less often is flu contracted by contact."

Flu symptoms range from fever, cough and sore throat to runny nose and muscle aches.

Once the vaccine supplies arrive, the 359th MDG plans to visit active-duty units, administer doses at the JBSA-Randolph Exchange for two days and establish flu lines at the clinic during busy times, McCaslin said.

Boos said beneficiaries can expect longer wait times during flu season.

"At the end of the day, when students get out of school, we're pretty swamped," she said. "We're also doing routine vaccinations at the same time, so we do the best we can."

The immunization clinic hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. Smallpox vaccinations are administered 3-4:15 p.m. Friday.

People with disabilities at greater risk during fire

By Ricardo Campos
Joint Base San Antonio Public Fire and Life Safety Educator

Every morning, my wife drives to my father-in-law's home and helps her dad, age 94, get out of bed and assists him with brushing his teeth and dressing.

She'll take her father to the kitchen table, sit him down and give him his coffee and they will speak of years gone by.

She'll administer medications for him, prepare his breakfast, clean up the kitchen and schedule her dad's doctor appointment for the following week. She'll assure her dad repeatedly that everyone is OK.

With approximately 3,400 Americans dying and another 17,500 being injured in fires each year, this is a major concern for my family as we take care of my father in-law.

People with mobility, sight and hearing disabilities can significantly increase their chances of surviving a fire by practicing proven fire safety precautions.

The United States Fire Administration encourages people with disabilities to use the following fire safety checklist to help protect themselves and their home from fire. Personal responsibility is the key to fire safety ... fire stops with you!

Understanding the risk raises the question, "Why are people with disabilities at risk?"

People with disabilities at risk:

• Decreased mobility, health, sight and hearing may limit a person's ability to take the quick action necessary to escape during a fire emergency.

• Depending on physical limitations, many of the actions an individual can take to protect him or herself from the dangers of fire may require help from a caretaker, neighbor or outside source.

It is vitally important to make and practice escape plans. In the event of a fire, time is the biggest enemy and every second counts.

• Involve the assistance of a building manager, family member or an entrusted friend when practicing your fire escape plan.

• Know at least two exits from every room.

• If you use a walker or wheelchair, check all exits to make sure they get through the doorways.

• Practice opening locked or barred doors and windows.

• When a fire occurs, do not waste any time saving property. Leave the home immediately. Once out, stay out.

See RISK P12

Courtesy photo

Working smoke alarms installed on every level of the home dramatically increase chances of survival.

Target date set for migration to 64-bit operating system

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Public Affairs

The 502nd Communications Squadron has established Oct. 13 as a target date for all Air Force Network computer users at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph to complete migration of their machines to a 64-bit operating system.

The migration is necessary to accommodate the next major standard desktop configuration, SDC v5.x, which will include Windows 10, later this year.

Lloyd Mims, 502nd CS project manager, said full compliance by Oct. 13 "will position us for a smoother transition to SDC v5.x when it is released."

But he also acknowledged the challenge ahead.

"Since the timeline is so aggressive, the 502nd CS will work with individual organization client support technicians to assist in the migration and accomplish any migration remotely whenever feasible and possible," Mims said. "Upgrading more than 15,000 computers across JBSA is a huge endeavor and may require numerous man-hours, depending on the number of computers requiring an upgrade in your unit."

Air Force Space Command directed the Air Force Enterprise Configuration Management Office in May to focus efforts on the next major SDC release, Mims said.

"The new release requires all clients connected to AFNET to operate on a 64-bit architecture and use a 64-bit operating system," he said.

Although Microsoft has supported 64-bit architecture and OS versions of the Windows Professional OS since April 2005 with Windows XP, the Air Force never fully migrated to a 64-bit environment, Mims said. Previous SDC updates were released in 32- and 64-bit versions, but all future SDC updates will only be released in a 64-bit version.

"To prepare for the implementation of SDC v5.x with Windows 10, all clients not operating in the 64-bit environment will require an upgrade," he said.

See MIGRATION P7

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Jose Luna (left), 502nd Communications Squadron information technology specialist, and Ron Thomas, 502nd CS lead IT specialist, upgrade a computer operating system Sept. 2 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Class teaches parents about children and social media pitfalls

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Public Affairs

Parents at Joint Base San Antonio got the opportunity to learn more about the potential pitfalls social media poses to children and what they can do to protect their children during the "Dangers of Social Media" class Aug. 26 at the Human Performance Resource Center at JBSA-Randolph.

Parents who attended the class learned about the online social media applications used by children and the potential risks of each of them and the tools they need to protect their children from online dangers.

Rebekah Sanchez, 802nd Force Support Group Family Life Program educator at the Military and Family Readiness Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said children, particularly those between the ages of 12 to 17, go online frequently. She said a survey conducted in 2012 found that 95 percent of children in the 12 to 17 age group were using the Internet.

Sanchez shared a list of 21 social media apps children and adults have access to, with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram being the most commonly used.

While each of the apps has different functions, Sanchez said there are privacy and safety issues with each of them that parents need to be aware of including: who is following a child on a social media app, who has access to information posted by the child, what information is the child putting out there and how much of that information is accessible, and who are the children talking to online.

On Facebook, Sanchez said personal information can be shared not only with friends but other users, if the privacy settings on the app are not set. Also, she said another pitfall is that an online predator, whether it be an adult male or female, could set up a fake profile posing as a teenager and friend request an underage child, trying to lure them into meeting them alone.

"You can come up with any persona you want and friend request people," Sanchez said. "No one knows who you are."

On Instagram, an app in which users post pictures they take, Sanchez said children could end up being followed by people they do not know, and that the app has a GPS locator that gives the location where the user is posting from. Children who post photos could be giving the location of where they live or go to school.

Sanchez warned parents that children could be exposed to sexual or mature content on Instagram, depending on what they search for on the app. On another app, Tumblr, she said children can be exposed to content that promotes unhealthy, self-destructive behaviors, including children who cut themselves.

On Instagram and Yik-Yak, an app that allows the user to post a message up to 200 characters, and Whisper, an app that allows the user to post confessions anonymously in form of words superimposed on a picture, Sanchez said children could be subjected to bullying or personal attacks.

Sanchez said there are several measures parents can take to protect their children from social media pitfalls:

- Learning about social media, including the apps that are used by children
- Knowing about the social media apps that are being used by your child
- Adjusting the privacy settings on apps
- Using online settings that allow children to download only age appropriate apps
- Talking to children about online safety
- Discussing with children about how they should respond when they see inappropriate behavior on social media
- Talking to children about how social media can affect their future. Sanchez said a survey conducted three years ago found that 27 percent of college admission officers said they did a Google search of all their applicants and of those online searches 35 percent came back with negative information on the applicant, impacting whether or not the applicant was admitted to college.
- Warning of potential online scams
- Setting time limits and boundaries on social media use.

Parents should check both computers and smart phones to see what social media apps their children are using and how they are using them, Sanchez said. A survey conducted in 2012 discovered that 50 percent of teenagers who owned a smart phone used it to access the Internet.

"If we are not aware of what's on our kids' cell phones, we are missing the mark," Sanchez said. "If we are just looking at browser histories on Internet Explorer, Firefox or Google Earth Pro, we're not going to know where they are going."

Fara Smith, a parent of a four-year-old, said she was able to learn more about the social media apps that are online.

"I knew only eight of the 21 apps that are most commonly used," Smith said. "I have a lot of catching up to do. It scared me straight. I'm going to stay informed and stay up to date with the latest apps because they change so often."

Parents who want to learn about the dangers that come when children are on social media and how to protect them can contact Sanchez at 221-0349.

MIGRATION from P6

A network scan has identified some 34,000 clients across JBSA that are connected to AFNET, Mims said, and about 50 percent of them will require an upgrade because they are still operating with a 32-bit OS.

The 502nd CS Communications Focal Point has issued instructions to JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph client support technicians since early July about how they should begin to migrate machines to the 64-bit OS, he said.

Mims also said that the 24th Air Force, which is part of the United States Cyber Command, will enforce SDC compliance to maintain the operational baseline with future SDC releases.

"If users are unable to comply, SDC tasking orders will define requirements and provide guidance for the plan of action and milestones process," he said.

Mims described the plan of action and milestones as a tool that identifies tasks to be accomplished to remediate security vulnerabilities.

"The goal of a POA&M should be to reduce the risk of the vulnerability identified," he said.

Questions about the migration process may be directed to the 502nd CS Communications Focal Point at 925-0576 or 652-5009.

435th Fighter Training Squadron members, students learn flying, life lessons

By Gloria Kwizera
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

For months, Lt. Col. Mark Schmidt, 435th Fighter Training Squadron commander, has been on a mission with 435th FTS flight commanders and instructors to instill wisdom and leadership skills in young fighter pilots.

"Our primary goal is to teach wingmen the fundamentals of being a fighter pilot," Schmidt said. "However, we have also been on a mission concerning two important matters: wisdom and leadership.

"After they finish with us they go to their fighter aircraft unit to learn the basics of flying that aircraft," he said. "We teach them the foundation of being a fighter pilot: how to handle a brief, how to aggressively fly an aircraft, how to handle a debrief and how to handle being in a squadron."

In keeping with this initiative, the squadron opened a library Aug. 28 filled with books centered on strategic thought, leadership and military history and heritage.

"The Claire Chennault Library of Strategic Thought was opened in honor of General Chennault, a legendary fighter pilot and founder of the Flying Tigers in World War II, which later became the 14th Air Force," Maj. Gavin Peterson, 435th FTS instructor, said.

The library not only opened to honor the late general, but to also inspire young Airmen that walk the 435th FTS hallways.

"The title is appropriate given the goal of honoring Air Force heritage and bold, visionary leaders," Manning said. "Members of the 435th FTS felt that Gen. Chennault embodied the type of revolutionary leader that we aim to be and encourage others to be."

"We want to know what it means to be a great leader and by visiting leaders from different fields and having an opportunity to interview them, we are learning first-hand what it takes," Schmidt said.

By the time students graduate, Schmidt said instructors see the transition their students have made throughout the course.

"It's exciting to see them embrace what they have learned," Schmidt said.

"Throughout this journey of learning to become critical, creative and diverse thinkers, squadron members learned that wise warriors live a life focused on others," Schmidt said. "Humility and gratitude are essential qualities of wise warriors and leaders, and wisdom can be better than weapons of war."

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"Our students are fresh there quad-
ron when you have brilliant first and second lieutenants arriving regularly," Schmidt said.

"You feel it as you walk around the squadron's facilities. We want to take that energy and direct it toward something greater than ourselves."

Schmidt and his team have hosted and visited several leaders, from Vietnam veterans and military leaders to national sport coaches and civic leaders in pursuit of a better understanding of what makes a great leader.

"This ongoing professional development initiative has consisted of visits and interviews with prominent business, political and sports leaders, an off-station squadron 'hot wash' event, attendance at the 2015 Global Leadership Summit, a squadron book club, and a dedicated career day for each class," Maj. Timothy Manning, 435th FTS instructor, said.

After graduating from either undergraduate pilot training or undergraduate combat systems officer training, pilots and CSOs go through the 435th FTS' nine-week program, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, to prepare them for follow on assignments in a fighter aircraft.

A squadron within the 12th Flying Training Wing, the 435th FTS is responsible for four single-source aviation pipelines. These pipelines include combat systems officer training, pilot instructor training, remotely piloted aircraft pilot and basic sensor operator training.

Once student pilots graduate from the 435th FTS, they move on to training in one of six fighter aircraft: F-15E Strike Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, F-22 Raptor, A-10 Thunderbolt II or F-15C Eagle.

Second Lt. Duston Obrien, 435th Fighter Training Squadron upgrade pilot, and Maj. Gavin Peterson, 435th FTS instructor pilot, prepare to take off in a T-38 Talon.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

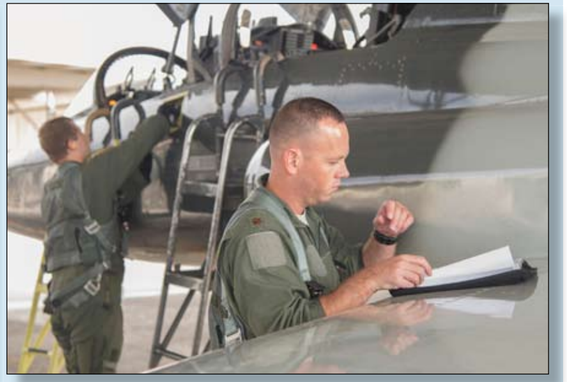
"Throughout this journey of learning to become critical, creative and diverse thinkers; squadron members learned that wise warriors live a life focused on others. Humility and gratitude are essential qualities of wise warriors and leaders, and wisdom can be better than weapons of war."

Lt. Col. Mark Schmidt
435th Fighter Training Squadron commander

Maj. Jason Bianchi, 12th Operations Group executive officer, gives 2nd Lt. Duston Obrian, 435th Fighter Training Squadron upgrade pilot, a pre-flight briefing Sept. 3 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Miguel Martinez, 28th Maintenance Squadron aircraft mechanic, launches a T-38C Talon Sept. 3 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The 28th MXS launches an average of 30 aircraft every day.

Pilots from the 12th Operations Group and the 435th Fighter Training Squadron gather for a briefing Sept. 3 at the 435th Fighter Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



Second Lt. Duston Obrien, 435th Fighter Training Squadron upgrade pilot, and Maj. Gavin Peterson, 435th FTS instructor pilot, perform a pre-flight check Sept. 3 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

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. today. Registration is free through today. To register, call 671-3766 or 969-4466. For more information, call 671-8144.

Munitions office closes for inventory

The 12th Flying Training Wing munitions offices and munitions storage area will be closed to normal business Monday through Sept. 18 to conduct its semi-annual 100 percent inventory of ammunition and explosives. Only emergency issues can be honored during this period. Contact 12th FTW munitions at 652-6780/3361 for any questions or concerns.

JBSA 5K Run For Life

The 2015 5K Run For Life takes place at all Joint Base San Antonio locations. Free registration is at 7 a.m. with the run beginning at 8 a.m. on the following dates:

- Saturday at Eberle Park at JBSA-Randolph
- Sunday at Worth and Stanley Roads at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
- Sept. 26 at the Gillum Fitness Center on JBSA-Lackland.

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 Sustainability Expo

Learn more about the Department of Defense Sustainable Procurement Program and how to comply with DOD and federal regulations and directives at the Joint Base San Antonio Sustainability Expo from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the Gateway Club, 1650 Kenly Ave., JBSA-Lackland. The free expo features vendors that supply recycled content, as well as energy-efficient, water-efficient and "green" services. Workshops are offered at 10, 10:45 and 11 a.m. For more information, email sgreenspan@fdaexpo.com.

JBSA Air Force Birthday Ball

The 2015 Joint Base San Antonio Air Force Birthday ball takes place Sept. 18 at the J.W. Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa, 23808 Resort Parkway. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Attire is mess dress or semi-formal uniform for military members and formal (black tie and tuxedo) for civilians. For tickets, visit https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=256363&k=0064440A7D54. Ticket prices are $70 for E-8, E-9, O-4 through O-10 and GS-11 and above; $60 for E-7, O-1 through O-3 and GS-7 through GS-10; $40 for E-5 and E-6, GS-5 and GS-6; and $25 for E-1 throgh E-4 and GS-1 through G-4. For more information, send an email to 502abw.ccc.jbsaball@us.af.mil.

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.

AFPC softball team comes up short in bid for JBSA title repeat

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The Air Force Personnel Center softball team came up short in its bid to repeat as Joint Base San Antonio champions, losing 15-12 to the 502nd Force Support Group from JBSA-Lackland in the championship game Aug. 26 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

AFPC coach Robert Thomas said his team had several chances to win its second straight JBSA title, despite being shorthanded of players because of injuries and those who were on leave.

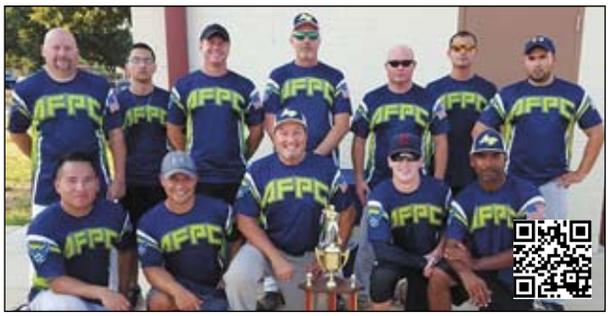
"We didn't quite have our full squad in the championship game," Thomas said. "We were two or three hits short. I'm a little disappointed we didn't win the JBSA title, but overall it was a good season."

AFPC went 15-2 and won its second consecutive JBSA-Randolph softball title by beating the Air Education and Training Command team, 13-8, Aug. 19 in the JBSA-Randolph tournament championship game.

In the JBSA-Randolph championship finale, Colin Tench slugged two home runs for AFPC.

"It felt great to be able to keep the (JBSA-Randolph) softball title at AFPC," Thomas said.

Thomas said the experienced AFPC squad was led by first baseman Scott Thoms and outfielders Phillip Bray and Phillip Torres, who each came up with clutch hits in several situations during the course of the season.



Courtesy photo

Air Force Personnel Center's softball team took the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph title.

On the mound for AFPC, Jimmy Layman kept opposing hitters in check with his pitching.

"He pitched marvelously all year," said Thomas of Layman. "He's a very good defensive pitcher. He makes the batter hit it where they are not comfortable hitting it."

Besides coaching the team, Thomas was AFPC's leadoff hitter and played at several positions. He has been with the AFPC team for 10 years as a player or coach.

Thomas said the AFPC squad is loaded with experience, with players who have been on the team from two to six years.

"I think this team is very mature," the coach said. "They play as a team. Nobody tries to be a hero and everybody tries to play their role the best they can."

After being the runner-up in the JBSA-Randolph tournament championship game, AETC moved on to the JBSA championship tournament at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. In the first game of the JBSA tournament, AETC took 502nd FSG to extra innings, falling 13-12.

AETC coach Ron Sandoval said his squad played one of their best games of the season against 502nd FSG, who went on to become the JBSA champions.

"We played against tough competition and we took them down to the wire," Sandoval said.

Sandoval, who has coached AETC for the last 10 years, said outfielder Eric Culver, shortstop Ron Meadows and pitchers Brian Marchitello and Michael Skeens provided consistency for the squad.

Meadows came through in the last game of the regular season against the JBSA-Randolph Fire Emergency Services team, getting a bases-loaded hit with two outs that brought in the tying and game winning runs for AETC in a 13-12 game.

In the JBSA-Randolph tournament, AETC defeated the 559th Flying Training Squadron, 19-4, in the first round and 502nd Communications Squadron, 12-3, in second round. In the third round, they lost to AFPC, 10-9, before beating the 12th Flying Training Wing to get back in the winner's bracket, where they lost to AFPC again in the championship game.

DOD: Preparedness vital to defense readiness

By Terri Moon Cronk
Department of Defense News, Defense Media Activity

September is National Preparedness Month and while preparedness calls for year-round attention, it is a good opportunity to remind Department of Defense personnel and their families to be prepared at all times to respond quickly to disasters and emergencies, said the acting assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and global security.

The scope of national security readiness includes being prepared for any type of crisis in the workplace and at home, Tom Atkin said in a recent interview with DOD News.

National Preparedness Month culminates Sept. 30 with America's Preparathon! Day, which Atkin described as a "day of action" for the DOD workforce and families to exercise their emergency plans.

This year's national preparation theme is, "Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today."

"Preparedness is the shared responsibility of our entire nation," Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work noted in an Aug. 21 DOD-wide memorandum.

"Preparing individuals, families, components and installations for disasters and emergencies – from flooding to an active shooter – ensures the strength of our workforce and our ability to continue to safeguard U.S. security," Work said in the memo.

The deputy defense secretary noted that national preparedness campaigns provide a "recurring opportunity" to take action before a crisis, "which contributes to fostering a culture of preparedness and to strengthening our resilience."

The DOD preparedness campaign encourages personnel and families to participate this month in three key ways:

• Take action: Know your hazards, create an emergency communications plan and build an emergency kit;

• Be counted: Have your organization complete the DOD survey at http://www.defense.gov/prepare and register your action at http://www.ready.gov/prepare; and

• Spread the word: Tell others about your actions and encourage them to take part.

Photo by Army 1st Lt. Max Perez

Texas Army National Guardsmen, working with local first responders, rescue three people from a stalled vehicle stuck in a low water crossing May 26 near Granbury, Texas. Texas Guardsmen rescued more than 100 people in need during flooding across the state. The engineers are assigned to the 111th Engineer Battalion.

In the work environment, employees must be aware of evacuation routes, shelters, and have a ready-to-go kit, Atkin said, adding that personnel can plan for emergencies with supervisors and co-workers.

And when DOD personnel are assured their families are prepared at home for a crisis, it adds to mission readiness, he said.

Families should prepare by keeping a kit with 72 hours worth of food, water, medications and up-to-date essentials, such as flashlight batteries, he said, adding that the kit should be kept in an easy-to-access place.

Supplies and necessities should be ready to go in a moment's notice for each family member and every pet at home, Atkin advised.

"The reality is in a natural disaster, families will have to care for themselves the first 72 hours," he said.

Other details to consider are having gas in the car, Atkin added.

Making advance plans for pet care is part of family preparedness, to keep them safe and secure, with plenty of food, water and medications as needed, he said.

Family preparedness planning should also include communicating with relatives, friends and the service member's chain of command, Atkin said.

"Preparedness has a much broader scope," than preparing for those in the same household, he said. "And know what they're doing, too."

RISK from P5

Home fire evacuation plan:

People with mobility disabilities should be encouraged to have their bedroom on the ground floor and as close as possible to an exit.

• If necessary, have a ramp available for emergency exits.

• Unless instructed by the fire department, never use an elevator during a fire.

• Be sure your street address is clearly marked and visible from the street.

• Know which local emergency services are available and have those numbers posted or memorized.

Smoke alarms:

Working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home dramatically increase your chances of survival.

• Smoke alarms with a vibrating pad or flashing light are available for people with hearing disabilities. In addition, smoke alarms with a strobe light outside the house can catch the attention of neighbors or others who might pass by.

• Smoke alarm batteries need to be tested every month and changed at least once a year.

Notify first responders of your needs:

Contact your local fire department on a non-emergency telephone number and explain your needs.

• The local fire department will be able to help with an escape plan and may also be able to perform a home fire safety inspection, as well as offer suggestions about smoke alarm placement and maintenance.

• Ask first responders to keep your needs information on file.

Remember to include everyone in planning and practicing home fire drills. People with disabilities can provide input on the best methods for them to escape.

To learn more about assisting people with disabilities visit the National Fire Protection Association's website at http://www.nfpa.org/education; the government's website for information on disability programs and services nationwide at http://www.disability.gov; or contact the fire prevention offices at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston at 221-2727, JBSA-Lackland at 671-2921 or JBSA-Randolph at 652-6915.

Photo by Joel Martinez

New commander takes helm at Air Force Recruiting Service

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson (left), commander of Air Education and Training Command, passes the guidon to Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, during the Air Force Recruiting Service change of command ceremony Sept. 2 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. AFRS develops, implements and manages enlisted and officer recruiting programs for the U.S. Air Force. There are about 1,200 enlisted and 140 health professions recruiters located in 1,215 recruiting offices throughout the United States. AFRS includes about 1,000 active duty and 300 civilian personnel who support the mission of recruiting the enlisted members and officers needed to meet the diverse demands of America's expeditionary Air Force. Harencak's previous assignment was assistant chief of staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters U. S. Air Force Washington, D.C.

POW★MIA

POW/MIA Week events

The 12th Flying Training Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph hosts POW/MIA Week Tuesday through Thursday.

The observance kicks off with a breakfast Tuesday hosted by Col. Matthew Isler, 12th FTW commander. The breakfast begins at 8 a.m. at the Parr Club. For ticket information, call 565-3815.

A 5K Remembrance Run takes place 7 a.m. Wednesday at the Rambler Fitness Center. This event is free and strollers and leashed pets are welcome. For more information, call 652-4931.

The POW/MIA retreat ceremony takes place 5 p.m. Thursday in Washington Circle in front of the Taj Mahal, building 100. For more information, call 565-4904.