



WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 14 • APRIL 10, 2015

A photograph showing two men in military flight suits standing next to a white aircraft. They appear to be inspecting or working on the aircraft's engine area. The man on the left is pointing towards the engine, and the man on the right is looking at him. The aircraft is parked on a tarmac with yellow and red markings. In the background, there are trees and a building.

**559th FTS members
ensure excellent future
for AF pilot training**

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COMMENTARY

Preventing sexual assault: Our enduring responsibility

By Gen. Larry Spencer
Air Force Vice Chief of Staff

As we begin Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, clear signs point to the progress we have made in combating sexual assault. We can cite encouraging numbers in the areas of prevalence, reporting and convictions; however, this serves as only the beginning of an enduring effort. This effort must continue without pause and we must not lose sight of it for a moment.

Regrettably, in the few short years since we energized our efforts Air Force-wide to prevent sexual assault, echoes about shameful activities and behaviors from our past sometimes still resonate.

Most recently, a special interest group criticized the Air Force for an issue involving inappropriate material containing offensive language that was addressed in 2012. Disciplinary action was taken in the incident.

Any activity that goes against our core values and does not treat our people with dignity and respect is unacceptable and does not represent the culture we expect from all Airmen today and going forward. Every Airman is aware of what the Air Force's expectations are about sexual assault awareness and preventing sexual assault altogether. Leaders

and Airmen at every level must foster a climate of mutual respect, dignity and inclusion for all Airmen.

In an effort to ensure the appropriate climate and culture, the Air Force Chief of Staff implemented a Health and Welfare Inspection in 2012. The goal of this inspection was to create a professional environment for all Airmen. This inspection was part of a bigger effort to refocus our force and ensure commanders create and foster healthy and respectful work environments. In this area, we continue to see positive results and steady progress.

For instance, in less than a year's time, the Air Force Office of Special Investigation has focused resources and efforts to reduce the time required to investigate instances of sexual assault from 179 days to a standard of 75 days today. AFOSI also developed advanced sexual assault investigations training and enhanced field evidence processing resources.

Additionally, more progress was made because of Department of Defense Instruction 5505.18. Organizations now initiate investigations on all rape, sexual assault, aggravated and abusive sexual contact allegations. These changes in law and policy resulted in an immediate increase in the number of sexual assault investigations conducted by AFOSI.

Over the past three years, the Air Force has had fewer sexual assault incidents and more victims reporting these crimes. In fact, approximately one in three victims reported crimes in fiscal year 2014 as compared to one in six in fiscal year 2012. Air Force surveys show Airmen are more comfortable coming forward and reporting incidents as an increased focus is placed on care and support for victims. We are going in the right direction, but we still have a lot of work to do.

It is important to note, the Air Force has made significant progress in both its sexual assault prevention and response efforts. Here are some examples since 2011:

- We have reinforced the commander's role as central to preventing and responding to sexual assaults in their unit.
- We have required commanders to be evaluated on their unit's climate assessment and that these results are included in the commander's annual performance report.
- We realigned and restructured the SAPR program by standing up a cross-functional directorate reporting directly to the Vice Chief of Staff which is led by a major general. The directorate includes a 34-person cross-functional

See RESPONSIBILITY P12

Sexual assault prevention: Moving beyond awareness

By Gen. Larry Spencer
Air Force Vice Chief of Staff

Every April since 2001, the nation has focused its attention on sexual assault awareness and the impact this crime has on those who have experienced it. This year, the Department of Defense deliberately renamed the annual effort Sexual Assault Awareness and PREVENTION Month. I want to take this opportunity to share with you how the Air Force is focusing on prevention of this crime – stopping it before it takes place.

This year, we kicked off the new year with a weeklong prevention summit that brought together experts in the sexual assault prevention field with Airmen from across the force – active, Guard, Reserve, civilian, officer and enlisted. Our goals were to better understand sexual assault and determine how to put prevention into action in the Air Force.

So, what did we learn? Most importantly, we learned that sexual assault can be prevented. Effective sexual assault prevention strategies focus on preventing perpetration because that is the only guaranteed way to stop the violence. Raising awareness about sexual assault is an important first step towards prevention; but awareness

alone will not create the individual or societal changes needed to stop sexual assault.

Based on decades of prevention science, we know that prevention of sexual assault involves addressing factors that put individuals at risk for perpetrating sexual assault. Some prevention approaches teach skills to change attitudes or behaviors that are associated with assault. Other approaches equip bystanders with the skills to spot and intervene in high risk situations or to speak out against language and practices that create a culture which tolerates or promotes sexual assault.

Strategies that simply raise awareness foster understanding of sexual assault without providing tools to take action. Tools for changing behaviors, relationships and our culture are key to making every Airman a change agent and to creating a force free from assault.

The prevention summit culminated with Airmen's recommendations to prevent sexual assault. We are working hard to build programs across the Air Force based on these recommendations. In the meantime, I challenge every Airman to move beyond mere awareness and equip yourselves, your co-workers, your subordinates, and everyone in your sphere of influence, with the tools we all need to prevent sexual assault.

ON THE COVER

Capt. Dave Markus (left), 559th Flying Training Squadron flight instructor, and Maj. Neil Gregory, 559th FTS student, perform a pre-flight inspection before their flight March 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. For the complete story on the 559th FTS, see page 8.

Photo by Joel Martinez

WINGSPREAD

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

AFAF campaign in full swing

Joint Base San Antonio points of contact for the 2015 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign are:

• **JBSA Project Officer:**

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• **JBSA-Randolph Installation Project Officers:**

Capt. Eliot Peace, 652-7185

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New this year is an updated Air Force Assistance Fund website at <http://www.assistancefund.org> that features information about all of the affiliate charities, a link to the donation forms, videos, assistance stories and questions.





Photo by Olivia Mendoza

From left: Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, commander, Navy Medicine Education and Training Command; Lt. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins, commanding general of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and the senior Army commander of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis; Brig. Gen. Robert Miller, Medicine Education and Training Campus commandant; Lt. Col. Eric Dill, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion and 4th Marine Division commanding officer; and Cmdr. Benjamin Golightly, Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit Texas commanding officer, gathered at the METC Academic Center April 1 to sign the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month proclamation.

JBSA leaders sign Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention Month proclamation

By Petty Officer 1st Class Jacquelyn Childs
Navy Medicine Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Senior officers representing the five military services in San Antonio gathered April 1 for the annual Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month 2015 proclamation signing ceremony at the Medical Education and Training Campus Academic Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The five leaders signed a proclamation on behalf of their respective military service branch to pledge to do their part to combat the issue of sexual assault year-round.

The ceremony included remarks from Lt. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins, commanding general of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and the senior Army commander of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis; Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, commander, Navy Medicine Education and Training Command; Brig. Gen. Robert Miller, commandant, Medicine Education and Training Campus, who represented the Air Force; Lt. Col. Eric Dill, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion and 4th Marine Division commanding officer, representing the Marine Corps; and Cmdr. Benjamin Golightly, Coast

Guard Cryptologic Unit Texas commanding officer, representing the Coast Guard.

"While this is an annual proclamation, our actions must demonstrate a daily affirmation," McCormick-Boyle said. "We must forcefully, deliberately and preemptively take action to prevent sexual assault, swiftly intervene when it does occur to care for those victimized and vigorously pursue justice for perpetrators.

"It is an abhorrent act of violence that goes against our core values as Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen," McCormick-Boyle added.

Those attending also had the opportunity to hear from Army Capt. Jacqueline Just, who shared both good and bad first-hand experiences as a victim.

"I'm thankful for the support of the hospital commander, my supervisor and my Sexual Harassment and Assault Response Prevention advocates for helping me get through this storm," said Just, who claimed to have felt like she was being punished at her last command after coming forward to report her commander for sexually assaulting her and her friend.

Now she urges others who might be in similar situations to not be afraid and come forward. "If you are a victim of sexual assault, seek help," she said.

Just's negative experiences and those of other victims like her are awakening leaders to the need to get more involved and in turn push their units or commands to be more aware of what's going on around them.

"We have no room to talk about one gender or another," Wiggins said. "We have no room to have someone take advantage of someone else based on rank, demographic or race. No place for any of it.

"When you put on the uniform of the United States service member, you are bigger and better than society," Wiggins added. "If society can't solve it, I get it. But in our formations, we're bigger than that. You represent an institution that we cannot afford to tarnish."

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph will all be doing their part to raise awareness by hosting special events and public education opportunities throughout April, including a tri-service talent show, a golf tournament, a 5K run and a self-defense class. For more information about these events and others, contact your SAPR/SHARP office.

To report a sexual assault or speak confidentially to a victim advocate, call the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or contact your local SARC or victim advocate.

JBSA-Randolph observes Child Abuse Awareness Month

By David DeKunder

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

On April 10, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph service members and employees will be wearing blue to raise awareness of child abuse, a problem that leaves both physical and emotional scars for children and families.

April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month throughout the U.S., and the JBSA-Randolph Family Advocacy Program is holding a series of events and exhibits that educate the installation community about the causes and consequences of child abuse, while providing solutions that could help reduce the instances of child abuse and protect children.

Emily Mueller, JBSA-Randolph Family Advocacy Program intervention specialist, said the Family Advocacy Program offers a variety of services that can help stop child abuse.

"We want to make sure folks are aware of prevention strategies," Mueller said.

Starting on Tuesday, April 14, the Scream Free Parenting Class will be held every Tuesday and Thursday

"It can be heart-wrenching. We see all kinds of things. My goal is to work from a non-judgmental, unbiased approach. Safety is paramount. We always have to make sure we address safety and reduce the risk of child abuse."



Emily Mueller

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Family Advocacy Program intervention specialist

in April at the Human Performance Resource Center, Building 70, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mueller said the class teaches positive techniques that help parents improve their parenting skills. Parents can register for the class by calling the JBSA-Randolph 359th Mental Health Flight at 652-2448.

In observance of Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, ChildSafe, a child advocacy center in San Antonio, is holding its Card Board Kids campaign at various locations in Bexar County, including at JBSA-Randolph. A total of 5,434 cardboard figures of children will be put on display, representing the number of confirmed cases of child abuse and ne-

glect in Bexar County in 2014.

The Card Board Kids will be on display at two locations at JBSA-Randolph, the Youth Center and the Child Development Center.

Also, Mueller said a display on child abuse and child abuse prevention will be at the 359th Medical Group clinic. The display will include information and handouts.

Mueller said child abuse occurs in several forms: physical, emotional, neglect and sexual exploitation.

According to Childhelp.com, a case of child abuse is reported every 10 seconds in the U.S. and more than five children a day die from child abuse, with 80 percent of those children under the age of 4.

Mueller said the Family Advocacy Program works with service member families in which cases of child abuse is suspected. Cases of alleged child abuse are referred to the Family Advocacy Program from Texas Child Protective Services, a medical provider, security forces or a commander.

"It can be heart-wrenching," said Mueller about child abuse cases. "We see all kinds of things. My goal is to work from a non-judgmental, unbiased approach. Safety is paramount. We always have to make sure we address safety and reduce the risk of child abuse."

There are support services, Mueller said, for service member families that include counseling. Information on these services can be found at the JBSA Family Advocacy page, www.jbsa.af.mil/needhelp/familyadvocacy.asp, or by calling the JBSA-Randolph Family Advocacy Program office at 652-6308.

To report a possible child abuse case, call the Family Advocacy Program office at 652-6308, or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400.

Gen. LaBrutta signs Air Force Assistance Fund pledge

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta (right), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, fills out a 2015 Air Force Assistance Fund pledge form as Capt.

Enisa Dervisevic, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston installation project officer, looks on. The 2015 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign runs until May 1. Air Force bases worldwide are participating in this fundraising event which raises money for four Air Force charities: Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village, Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

Photo by Johnny Saldivar



Sacrifices of the military child recognized during April

By Amaani Lyle

Department of Defense News, Defense Media Activity

To highlight the year-round contributions, courage and patriotism of the military community's youngest members, the Defense Department observes April as the Month of the Military Child, said a Pentagon official.

Established by then-Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in 1986, the month recognizes some 1.9 million U.S. military children ranging in age from infants to 18 years old, who have one or both parents serving in the armed forces, said Barbara Thompson, the director of DOD's Office of Family Readiness Policy.

"We want to highlight their sacrifices (and) support of the military member in their families, so it behooves us to recognize military children," she said.

Permanent change of stations, deployments and training activities, among other facets of military life, can present unique challenges to children who must constantly adjust to distance, unfamiliarity and uncertain schedules, Thompson explained.

"That can be a real sacrifice, because each parent is a very important part of that child's makeup," she said. "So we want to make sure that when they move or change schools, all of those transition times are supported with resources, programs and services."

DOD offers a variety of programs to help military children overcome these challenges, Thompson said.

• **Available programs offer assistance**

For example, the Child Development Program offers child care up to age 12. Similarly, youth development programs offer older children opportunities for recreation, and character, social and emotional development.

Thompson reported that parents have resources to help best guide and nurture their children of all ages.

The New Parents Support Program helps parents during pregnancy and childbirth, and children up to 3 years of age, to reach their full potential through home visitations and parent support groups, she said.

Military OneSource is another resource available 24/7, 365 days a year, to support parents to learn more about parenting skills, as well as to find support for themselves, Thompson added. It also offers telephonic, face-to-face, online and video nonmedical and financial counseling, which she described as "strengthening pillars" for military households separated from extended family or settling into a new environment.

"On the installations, we have military family support centers," she said, "where a multitude of services for transitions and life skills are offered to make sure our families can be resilient and strengthen them in their efforts to be the parents they want to be."

Family support has evolved over the last 40 years to become the family readiness system, which is a col-

laborative network of agencies, programs, services and professionals who promote the readiness and quality of life of military families both on installations and in the community, Thompson said.

"There is no 'wrong' door," she said. "So regardless of where you're seeking support, whether it's with your pediatrician or with your chaplain, he or she will also know the resources to support you in your efforts to navigate the military life course."

• **A visual tribute**

Across the services, Thompson said, parades, fairs, art and poetry contests will abound as installations develop engaging and amusing activities to solidify the bonds among families and communities.

"We want to make sure that children's voices are heard during the Month of the Military Child," she said. "It's a fun time to be with their families (and) to take part in the various activities that the services developed to recognize military children."

Community outreach initiatives include partnerships with the Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's 4-H youth group to promote "Purple Up!" on April 15, Thompson said. Students, school sports team members, teachers and community leaders will wear purple as a visual tribute to military children.

"It is hard to be a military child, and they're doing it super well," Thompson said.

559th FTS molds instructor pilots, secures future of training

By David DeKunder

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Members of the 559th Flying Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph are molding the instructors who will train the next generation of U.S. Air Force pilots.

The squadron, part of the 12th Flying Training Wing at JBSA-Randolph, provides training for instructor pilots utilizing the T-6A "Texan II" aircraft, which is used to teach pilots basic flying skills.

Started in November 1940 as the 81st Bombardment Squadron at McChord Field, Wash., the 559th FTS has been stationed at JBSA-Randolph since May 1972.

Lt. Col. Robert Bryant, 559th FTS commander, said the pilots who graduate from the squadron's pilot instructor training program are assigned to train undergraduate pilots at several Air Force installations.

"We have an impact on 90 percent of all U.S. Air Force pilots trained," Bryant said.

Each year, the squadron trains 220 pilots to become instructors. These pilots, known as upgrading instructors, are in the PIT program for more than four months. The program includes two weeks of classroom learning, a two-week qualification phase and 11 weeks of instruction.

The 559th FTS is made up of 85 instructor pilots. Bryant said the squadron's instructors are experienced pilots with six to 10 years of flying and have also taught pilots at the undergraduate level.

Bryant said instructors in the squadron's PIT program train upgrading instructors, who are experienced pilots, how to teach the basics of flying to undergraduate pilots.

"What we are teaching our upgrading instructors is to teach and verbalize what has become instinctive over the years," he said.

Bryant said the training includes role-playing simulations between the instructor and the upgrading instructor in the T-6 aircraft.

"Instructor pilots act as students and make intentional mistakes so our upgrading instructors will pick up on these errors," Bryant said. "It's a huge challenge for these upgrading instructors to fly the high-performance T-6 as well and instruct at the same time."

Once the upgrading instructors have gone through the PIT, they are then assigned as instructors in the undergraduate pilot training programs at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas; Vance Air Force Base, Okla.; or Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Undergraduate pilots in the T-6 train at all three locations.

Other upgrading instructors go to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, to train combat systems officers.

"In addition to teaching our upgrading instructors how to be instructor pilots, we put a lot of emphasis on teaching professionalism and Air Force core values," Bryant said. "Air Force core values like pride in their service and treating one another with pride, dignity and respect is essential to being a good in-

"In addition to teaching our upgrading instructors how to be instructor pilots, we put a lot of emphasis on teaching professionalism and Air Force core values. Air Force core values like pride in their service and treating one another with pride, dignity and respect is essential to being a good instructor and officer in our Air Force."

Lt. Col. Robert Bryant

559th Flying Training Squadron commander



Photo by Joel Martinez
Capt. Dave Markus (left), 559th Flying Training Squadron flight instructor, and Maj. Neil Gregory, 559th FTS student, perform a pre-flight inspection, before their flight March 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

structor and officer in our Air Force."

Bryant said the squadron is using technology and innovation to better train the upgrading instructors. Maj. Matt Elmore, 559th FTS director of innovation, and Maj. Todd Arthur, 559th FTS chief of training, put together videos of aircraft maneuvers to be

viewed by upgrading instructors. The videos help the upgrading instructors learn and practice the maneuvers of the T-6.

Also, the 559th FTS works with the members of the 558th Flying Training Squadron, who train undergraduate pilots to operate remotely piloted aircraft.

Renovation project set to transform Rendezvous Dining Facility

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Rendezvous Dining Facility has endured cost-cutting measures and faced the possibility of closure in recent years, but a renovation project scheduled to begin in early June will transform the facility.

After closing nearly six months for the project, the DFAC will reopen sometime this fall with a new look and a wider range of food offerings while accommodating a more diverse customer base – anyone with access to JBSA-Randolph. The DFAC's last day of operation is May 31.

"We're one of five Air Force dining facilities that will go through a transformation this year," Robert Murray, 802nd Force Support Squadron food operations officer, said. "We will be closed for a short period of time and when we reopen, we'll have a more college campus-style atmosphere with food stations."

The project is part of the Air Force Materiel Command's Food Transformation Initiative that began in 2010 at bases that included Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., McDill AFB, Fla., and Travis AFB, Calif. This year's round of renovation projects will affect facilities at JBSA-Randolph, Dover Air Force Base, Del., Cannon AFB, N.M., Minot AFB, N.D., and Goodfellow AFB, Texas.

In 2012, budget cuts forced the JBSA-Randolph DFAC to limit use to pay grades E-5 and below and to authorized members on temporary duty and the facility faced closure last year, Murray said.

"It's very difficult to close a DFAC and even harder to open it back up, so we kept it open," he said. "The Air Force found there was a need to keep the DFAC open, especially for the mission."

The \$1.5 million renovation project under contractor Sodexo USA will replace the serving lines and seating area and add several food stations, John Creel, 802nd FSS food operations manager, said.

"It will bring the facility more in line with what you would find on a college campus," he said. "More colors will be added to brighten up the facility and enhance the decorum."

Murray said the food stations will offer deli items, pizza, desserts, bakery items, drinks and a variety of other choices.

"The project will allow us to increase



Photo by Melissa Peterson

June launches the upcoming renovation of the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Rendezvous Dining Facility. The plans for the renovation will help to create more of a campus-style eating facility, along with new additions such as a pizza and a deli station and will provide more seating for its customers. The renovation is scheduled to run until mid to late November.

the amount of variety we have in the dining facility," he said.

Creel said he believes Airmen will like the new concept "because of the food variety and flexibility it provides."

Greater access will be another plus, he said.

"While we haven't coordinated the exact operating hours of the DFAC, they will significantly increase to allow customers greater access," Creel said. "Our goal is to more than double the operating hours. More food variety will be added to the menu as a 28-day menu cycle is rolled out versus the 21-day cycle we currently use, and of course we'll continue to provide nutritious meals."

Pricing will be different as well, Murray said, though it won't affect Airmen who have a meal card.

"It will be more comparable to off-base prices," he said.

One of the biggest benefits of the transformed DFAC will be its access to all ID cardholders, including retirees, Murray said.

"We're now averaging 100 to 125 diners a day, but we expect to at least triple that," he said.

Creel said the change will allow entire work sections to dine together regardless of rank or status.

In addition, he said, "families will be able to enjoy a meal in the DFAC

whenever they like."

Creel said he visited Beale AFB, Calif., one of the 13 locations where the FTI concept is already in operation, and had the opportunity to speak with a few young Airmen about their experiences.

"All of them raved about the quality of the food, DFAC hours, decorum and the flexibility campus dining brings," he said. "This is a fantastic concept and one of the best changes to the Air Force Food Service program in many years."

Murray said customers will be "amazed" at the changes.

"I'm really excited for the Airmen," he said. "They're the reason for the dining facility in the first place."

Bowling center closing



Photo by Joel Martinez

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Bowling Center is closed for renovation Monday through May 31. For more information, call 652-6271.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

American Red Cross seeks volunteers

The Red Cross is looking for volunteers to serve the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph community within their medical treatment facility. Those interested would be serving a minimum of four hours per week.

For more information, call the Red Cross Desk at 652-6372 or stop by the patient administration office at the JBSA-Randolph medical clinic across from the radiology office.

JBSA-Randolph Famaganza

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Famaganza event celebrating the "Month of the Military Child" takes place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs facility. Entertainment, refreshments and valuable information about base programs will be available and the event is open to all with base access.

Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers is a Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support-managed Department of Defense program that can help military members begin a new career as a public school teacher – giving them the opportunity to use leadership skills, knowledge and experience to have a positive effect on youth. For an overview on the program, visit <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/troops-to-teachers/index.html>.

Flea market

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Outdoor Recreation hosts a flea market 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the JBSA-Randolph Child Development Center parking lot. Sellers can rent a space for \$15 which includes one six-foot-long table. Additional tables cost \$4. Sellers may reserve space at Outdoor Recreation located in the Community Services Mall. The selling of firearms, animals, arts and crafts or food and beverage items is not permitted. For more information, call 652-5142.

JBSA NCO Professional Development Seminar

A Joint Base San Antonio NCO professional development seminar takes place 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 21-22 at Forbes Hall in the Medina Annex next to JBSA-Lackland. The two-day course is designed to build a joint interoperability mindset for all JBSA NCOs by introducing them to sister-and joint-service performance reporting, award writing, leadership, and physical fitness standards. Those interested must register no later than Tuesday.

To register, call Master Sgt. Donnie Pleasant at 977-2073 or Senior Master Sgt. Jason Thompson at 925-8022.

Interactive Customer Evaluation feedback

Customers can let service providers know when they do a great job by submitting comments at <http://ice.disa.mil>.

JBSA-Randolph volunteers recognized

The 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Program honoring all Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph volunteers takes place noon to 1:30 p.m. April 22 at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center. Light refreshments will be served. For more information or to make a reservation, call 652-5321.

TAP: 2-day education track

Military members retiring or separating within the next year are invited to attend a two-day higher education track 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 29-30 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Education Center. Those interested must have already attended a five-day Transition Assistance Program prerequisite course. For more information, call 652-5964.

iMatter site gives AETC Airmen voice

Air Education and Training Command has launched the iMatter Website, giving all command Total Force Airmen access to an AETC-specific tool for sharing innovations and improvement ideas. With iMatter now live, AETC leadership is looking to Airmen at all levels to begin using the site and submitting their ideas. Airmen provide their inputs via a simple, online form, which is available at <https://app10-eis.aetc.af.mil/imatter/SitePages/home.aspx>.

JBSA-Randolph service members mentor local school children

By David DeKunder

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph active duty service members are offering their time and guidance to students in a mentoring program at an area junior high school.

Master Sgt. Joseph Larouche, Air Education and Training Command munitions program manager, and Tech Sgt. Mark Ashby, AETC spectrum manager, are mentoring at-risk students at Dobie Junior High School in Cibolo.

Larouche is a mentor to Daniel and Ashby mentors Hunter. Both students are eighth-graders. Because of confidentiality stipulations, the Wingspread can't reveal the last name of the students.

The service members found out about the mentoring program from Angela Green, school liaison at the Military & Family Readiness Center.

Once a week, both Larouche and Ashby meet with the students for 30 minutes to listen and talk to them about what's going on in their lives, from school to family to friends.

The mentoring program is part of Communities in Schools of South Central Texas, a non-profit organization that provides programs and support services for 273 at-risk children in four school districts in Guadalupe and Comal counties.

When he meets with Daniel, Larouche said he engages the teenager in an open conversation about school and life.

"I just provide a non-judgmental ear and adult figure in his life," Larouche said. "He can bounce ideas off of me



Photo by Airman 1st Class Alexandria Slade

Master Sgt. Joseph Larouche, Air Education and Training Command munitions program manager, talks with Daniel, a student in eighth grade at Dobie Junior High School April 1 in Cibolo, Texas during a weekly mentoring session as part of the Communities in Schools of South Central Texas program.

where I will not judge him. I can give my view of what I have experienced."

Larouche said he stresses to Daniel the need to set both short- and long-term goals, and to stay focused on accomplishing those goals.

"I've reminded him through our meetings of how his short-term actions or decisions can affect his long term aspirations," he said. "How he handles his grades, whether he studies or stays up all night watching movies. I let him explain the answers, and let him realize the consequences of his actions."

Daniel said Larouche has been a good mentor to him, helping him to stay focused in school and encouraging him to set his goals higher, including going to college.

"He gives me good advice on what I should do about little problems," Daniel said. "He helps me through a lot of situations; he makes me happy."

While Larouche was stationed in Utah several years ago, he was a high school football coach. He is a father of two children, including one who is also an eighth grader.

"I can give my view of what I have experienced (as a parent)," Larouche said. "If my son has gone through or experienced something similar, I will tell him about what I advised my son."

Ashby sees his role as a mentor to provide guidance.

"If you can give any kid a good solid foundation, the ratio of them doing well

increases dramatically," he said.

As a father of a 16-year-old son, Ashby said he sees the problems, challenges and peer pressure young people of today have to cope with. Through communication, he says his goal is to guide the student he is mentoring into making good, sound decisions.

"They have to see the big picture," Ashby said. "You need to expand their thinking, which is that light bulb coming on. The idea is to guide and encourage our children to think before they act. The result is a happier experience through life-learned lessons."

Ashby grew up in a poor neighborhood that was plagued with violence, gangs and drugs. He said there were mentors at the local community center he went to who guided him in the right direction. By being a mentor, Ashby says he feels he's giving back to the community.

Maria Villarreal, Communities in Schools site coordinator at Dobie, said 12 volunteers, including Ashby and Larouche and nine students from Steele High School in Cibolo, mentor 13 students at Dobie.

Villarreal said Ashby and Larouche relate to and care for the students they are mentoring.

"They are both very involved in checking with me on how the student is doing and if there is any particular issue I can help the student with," she said.

For information on becoming a mentor for Communities in Schools South Central Texas, contact Sonya Chapa at 830-620-4247 ext. 12, or schapa@cissouthcentral-texas.org.

RESPONSIBILITY from P2

team of experts in the Pentagon responsible for policy, operational guidance, force-wide training, and program development; all designed to help us operate an Air Force free from sexual assault.

- The Air Force funded an additional 32 sexual assault response coordinators and 91 full-time victim advocates at installations across the service to strengthen our victim response capabilities.

- The Air Force has reviewed and significantly revised the sexual assault response coordinator's course to cover more content, update old content, and institute adult learning principals so that our SARCs can be more effective in the field. To maintain professional standards, all SARCs and full time victim advocates are now required to be nationally certified.

- The Air Force has trained an additional 75 sexual assault nurse examiners at medical facilities across the Air Force to strengthen our victim response capabilities.

- The Air Force stood-up a Special Victims' Counsel Program that provides an attorney to advocate on behalf of sexual assault victims and enables judge advocates to assert their clients' rights both in and out of court. The special victims' counsel is the first of its kind to provide Airmen and their family members who are victims of sexual assault with their own attorney. Additionally, improved AFOSI training along with establishing the Special Victims' Counsel Program has led to a 90 percent increase in unrestricted reporting, allowing more thorough investigations.

- The Air Force established a special victims' capability comprised of investigators, trial counsel, and victim witness assistance personnel and paralegals with specialized training in the unique dynamics of sexual assault cases. This team of professionals ensures the Air Force is appropriately holding alleged offenders accountable.

- In an effort to foster better synergy and provide better service to our Airmen reporting sexual as-

sault and sexual harassment, in August of 2014, the Secretary of the Air Force directed new initiatives to harmonize our equal opportunity and sexual assault care for commanders and victims.

All of these actions represent significant strides we have made to enhance sexual assault awareness and now sexual assault prevention. Prevention is logically the next phase and only these efforts, when taken seriously at all levels in the Air Force, will further the cultural commitment we place on ensuring lasting change.

We share in common a profession of arms that holds us to a higher degree of commitment to institutional standards. This requires us to make the right choices for both ourselves and our fellow Airmen. Preventing sexual assault requires changing an atmosphere that enables such bad behaviors. This is simply because all Airmen deserve to serve our nation in an environment free from sexual harassment and sexual assault.

Quantico to host 2015 Warrior Games under direction of DOD

Department of Defense News, Defense Media Activity

The Defense Department's Warrior Games 2015 takes place June 19-28 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., according to a DOD news release issued March 16.

The DOD Warrior Games is an annual sporting competition bringing together wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans from across the country, according to the release.

This is the first year the department is organizing the games, which were previously run by the U.S. Olympic Committee and held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

DOD Warrior Games 2015 will feature eight sporting events with about 200 athletes representing teams from the Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force. Each military service hosts trials in the months leading up to the games to determine their teams.

Adaptive sports and athletic reconditioning activities play a fundamental role in recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of service members back to their units, or as they transition into the civilian environment, according to the release.

"The courage, strength and skill of our warrior athletes and their families inspire

their fellow servicemen and women, and Americans everywhere," Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica Wright said. "Everyone in the Department of Defense looks forward to celebrating the athletes' accomplishments before, during and after June's competition."

In 2011, DOD officials created the Military Adaptive Sports Program to enhance warrior recovery by engaging wounded, ill and injured service members in ongoing, daily adaptive activities, based on their interest and ability.

Since its inception, the Military Adaptive Sports Program has assisted more than 158,000 wounded, ill and injured service members at 325 structured camps and clinics for activities, including: basketball, cycling, track, field, swimming, golf, sitting volleyball, yoga and gardening.

For more information on the wounded warrior program, visit <http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil>.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil>. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one at <http://www.retirees.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120510-068.pdf>.

(Editor's note: The Air Force News Service contributed to this article.)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Robert Dantzler
Staff Sgt. Rey Edenfield works out at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., March 27. Edenfield was selected to compete in sitting volleyball, archery, pistol shooting and track for the 2015 Warrior Games at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.


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