



# WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 8 • FEBRUARY 27, 2015



**JBSA security forces  
train with local police  
on hostage rescue**

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## COMMENTARY

### A PROUD HERITAGE

# Dragon Corner: A military training leader's journey

By Tech. Sgt. Quinn White  
336th Training Squadron, Detachment 2

Being stationed at Fort George G. Meade, Md., there are many opportunities to venture to Washington D.C., such as when the Detachment 2 staff attended the Air Force Association Air and Space Conference.

My commander and I decided one presentation we really wanted to see was Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command. It is not often a person can hear directly from their major command commander about the direction of the organization and we wanted to take advantage of the opportunity.

During his speech, Rand talked about how AETC is instilling heritage into our Airmen and he said something that really made me think: "History makes you smarter, but heritage makes you prouder."

This quote made me wonder where I derived my love for the Air Force and how, just in the past few years, it shines more than ever. I continued to think about it and realized there was no specific event or briefing that made me proud of my heritage – it was the last 11 years, since the moment I stepped into my recruiter's office that gave me this pride.

The Air Force recruiter had been helpful, but he seemed like a car salesman from the beginning. If it hadn't been for the Airmen participating in the Recruiter's Assistance Program at the time, I might have walked out. The Airmen told me stories about basic and their experiences in technical training. They expressed that it didn't feel like a job – more like a family unit. People looked after each other, and friends could be found around every corner.

Coming from a large family, I felt

*"The concepts of camaraderie and teamwork did not hit me until the day a fellow female Airman's locker was dumped, her stuff scattered across the bay. We were going to be inspected in an hour and other females in the flight still had small tasks to accomplish. Instead of taking care of our own tasks, we all pulled together and put her locker back in inspection order. Although a small task, it started building my understanding of what the Air Force is all about."*

comfort in knowing it might not just be a "job."

Like many, I joined for a selfish reason. I didn't want to work a dead-end job or be stuck in the same town for the rest of my life. College would be paid for and there would be endless opportunities to travel. I knew I wanted to do something exciting, but I was confused as to what it was going to be.

I remember glancing at the photos around my recruiter's office from another time. There were planes with different paintings on them and men smoking cigarettes while getting inside a cockpit. At the time the paintings did not mean much to me; they simply looked like artwork out of an old movie.

The night before leaving for basic training, I stayed in an old dorm room that had been converted into billeting at the 911th Airlift Wing in Pittsburgh, Penn.. I thought about how much I was going to miss Pennsylvania. It was where I had called home for almost 13 years and it was where my family was located. I sat in my room that night and thought about how hard it was going to be to leave.

Spending two long years in college and working two jobs to support myself was tiring. My parents had been helping with my tuition, but

times were getting tough. There wasn't enough money to go around to support myself and three sisters.

Basic training wasn't fun, and at times, I was confused about why we did certain things. I kept getting yelled at about something involving "12 to the front and six to the rear," and not running "from point A to point B." Everyone was in such a hurry and I was still trying to figure out what having "a sense of urgency" meant. Everything was a blur, but I do remember being proud of how clean the blinds were in the dayroom as that was my nightly detail.

The concepts of camaraderie and teamwork did not hit me until the day a fellow female Airman's locker was dumped, her stuff scattered across the bay. We were going to be inspected in an hour and other females in the flight still had small tasks to accomplish. Instead of taking care of our own tasks, we all pulled together and put her locker back in inspection order. Although a small task, it started building my understanding of what the Air Force is all about.

After graduation, I attended tech school at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., as a vehicle operator. I still did not know much about the Air Force, and I didn't know what to think about attending a

See JOURNEY P17

## ON THE COVER

Members from the 902nd and 802nd Security Forces Squadrons train with members of local Bexar County police departments on hostage rescue techniques Feb. 19 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Camp Talon. For more photos, see page 4.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

## WINGSPREAD

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- YouTube: Joint Base San Antonio



## Former astronaut visits Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph



Photo by Harold China



Photo by Airman 1st Class Alexandria Slade

Above: Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Charlie Duke, Apollo 16 astronaut and 10th person to walk on the moon, talks about his journey and experiences as an astronaut Feb. 20 during a 12th Flying Training Wing professional development seminar. The goal of the seminar was to teach attendees how to lead in times of crisis.

Right: Duke climbs into a 560th Flying Training Squadron T-38 Talon before an incentive flight Feb. 19 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Duke visited JBASA-Randolph to serve as the main speaker during a 12th FTW professional development seminar Feb. 20.

# Security forces: Protecting so others may serve

By Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer  
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Members of the 902nd and 802nd Security Forces Squadrons took part in a joint training exercise with local police departments Feb. 19 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Camp Talon to learn bus assault and hostage rescue techniques.

The local agencies involved in the exercise were from the cities of Live Oak, Universal City, Converse and the Judson Independent School District Police Department. Security forces and local police departments trained together to prepare for emergencies that require both military and civilian response efforts. The aim of the exercise was to help foster interdepartmental familiarization and train to save lives.

“We will be able to integrate and work together be-

cause we have been training together,” Tech Sgt. William Graham, SFS, said. “It’s a good thing to have our training boil down to the real world. That’s what we have our training for.”

The type of training requires specialized equipment.

“At any time, you would have to have a lot of situational awareness, a lot of control, and the same training and knowledge

Photos by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Below: Staff Sgt. Paul Olmos III, 802nd Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, leads members of the 902nd and 802nd SFS with members of local police departments during a bus assault and hostage rescue exercise Feb. 19 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Camp Talon. Security forces and local police departments trained together to prepare for emergencies that require both military and civilian response efforts.



Officer Sergio Pena, City of Windcrest Police Department patrolman, leads a boarding party onto a city bus during a hostage rescue exercise Feb. 19 at JBSA-Randolph.



Officer John Salas (left), Judson Independent School District Police Department patrolman, and Officer Brian Fowler, 802nd Security Forces Squadron assistant NCO in charge, demonstrate how to break bus windows during the Feb. 19 exercise.



# Carter named 25th Defense secretary

By Cheryl Pellerin

Department of Defense News

Ash Carter became the 25th secretary of Defense Feb. 17 after having served previously as deputy defense secretary, defense acquisition chief and assistant secretary for global strategic affairs.

President Barack Obama nominated Carter for the position – calling Carter an innovator and a reformer who knows the Defense Department inside and out – the president said, “On day one, he’s going to hit the ground running.”

At his Feb. 4 Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing, Carter described the work that lies ahead for him and the department.

“I think we are in a time where the number and severity of risks is something I’ve not seen before in my life,” Carter said before the Senate panel.

For Carter, the job will include dealing with coalition responsibilities in



Ash Carter

Afghanistan and Iraq, and what he described as “the malignant and savage terrorism” emanating from turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa.

He’ll also take on what has become a reversion to what he’s called old-style security thinking in parts of Europe, long-standing tensions and rapid changes in Asia, a continuing imperative to counter the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and dangers in new domains such as cyber.

Carter’s own expertise, experience, travels and interests in defense and national security have prepared him precisely to deal with these challenges and more.

As former Sen. Joe Lieberman said in introductory remarks during Carter’s hearing, “It would really be hard to find someone to serve as Secretary of Defense who combines as much practical Pentagon experience with so deep a background in national security policy as Ash Carter.”

# Learn how to prevent electrical fires at home

By Ricardo Campos

Joint Base San Antonio Fire Emergency Services  
Public Fire and Life Safety educator

Flipping a light switch, plugging in a laptop computer or charging your mobile phone ... these actions are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives convenient.

However, we need to be careful and keep electrical safety in mind, since there is plenty of electricity being used across Joint Base San Antonio.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical fires remain one of the leading causes of home structure fires. The electrical fires report (<http://www.nfpa.org/research/reports-and-statistics/fire-causes/electrical>) calculates that an electrical failure or malfunction factored in 45,000 to 55,000 home structure fires reported to the U.S. fire departments every year since 2000.

These fires, which account for 13 percent of total home structure fires, resulted annually in 455 civilian deaths, 1,500 civilian injuries and \$1.5 billion in direct property damage from 2007-2011.

Any type of equipment that uses electrical power can have an electrical failure or malfunction. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment accounted for 48 percent of home electrical fires from 2007-2011. The leading other types of equipment involved in ignition were fans (6 percent), washers or dryers (6 percent), space heaters (4 percent), air conditioning equipment (4 percent), water heaters (3 percent) and ranges (3 percent).

Halogen lights have a higher risk of fire than incandescent lights, which have a higher risk than fluorescent lights. Compact fluorescent lights now account for more than two-thirds of all fluorescent lights in residential usage. Incandescent lights are due to be phased out in favor of fluorescent lights, but as of 2010, incandescent lights still outnumbered fluorescent lights by nearly 2-to-1 in residential usage.

Electric safety tips:

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a

qualified electrician.

- Only plug one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into a receptacle outlet at a time.

- Major appliance (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc.) should be plugged directly into the wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.

- Arc fault circuit interrupters are a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home by a qualified electrician.

- Use ground fault circuit interrupters to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.

- Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month to make sure they are working properly.

- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacles outlets so you won't have to use extension cord.

- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture. There should be a sticker that indicates the maximum wattage light bulb to use.

Contact a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Sparks from an outlet

To learn more about electrical safety, visit the National Fire Protection Association's website at <http://www.nfpa.org/education> or contact any of the JBSA Fire Prevention Division offices. At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-2727; at JBSA-Lackland, call 671-2921; and at JBSA-Randolph, call 652-6915.



# Texas switches to single sticker for vehicle registration, inspection

By Jewell Hicks

Joint Base San Antonio Safety Office

After March 1, vehicle inspections and vehicle registrations will no longer be independent of each other and drivers will no longer be issued an inspection sticker for their windshield.

Vehicles will still be required to be inspected. However, once the vehicle passes inspection, inspection results will be entered into a statewide data base available in real time. Also, vehicle owners will be issued a certificate upon their vehicle passing inspection.

Vehicle registration renewal can be accomplished online, by mail or in person. Either way, it will require verification of the vehicle passing inspection.

Whether through the statewide data base or your personal copy of the vehicle inspection certificate, registration will require proof of the vehicle passing an inspection. Once the registration process is complete, drivers will be issued a blue-bordered vehicle registration sticker which will serve as proof of both the inspection and registration.

Authorities have indicated the “Two Steps, One Sticker” is designed to reduce fraud, improve safety and boost compliance. House Bill 2305 was passed during Texas’ 83rd Legislative Session, eliminating the inspection sticker, resulting in a single-sticker system and makes vehicle registration dependent on obtaining a passing vehicle inspection.



The program’s first year could be unwieldy as Texas synchronizes their inspections and registrations. The state is using the one-time grace period of March 1 to Feb. 29, 2016, to get everyone synced.

There will be drivers whose registration expires in a different month than the inspection, such as a driver whose registration expires in April, but whose inspection expires in September. They will renew the registration in April like normal and then won’t have to have to get a new inspection until April 2016.

On the other hand, a driver whose vehicle driver inspection expires in April, but whose registration expires in September would get an inspection for the vehicle in April, but will not receive an inspection

sticker. The vehicle owner will renew their registration like normal in September and then won’t have to get another inspection until September 2016.

If the vehicle is from out of state and the owner is unable to complete a Texas vehicle inspection in order to renew the registration, the owner will be able to self-certify that the vehicle is out of state and will be permitted to register. The self-certification process will be limited to active duty military, full-time students, seasonal Texans, recreational vehicle owners, apportioned vehicles and elected Congressional officials. For additional information, visit <http://txdmv.gov/tax-assessor-collectors-county-tax-offices>.

For multiyear registration, only new passenger cars and light trucks purchased from a dealer which have two years of initial inspection will be eligible to receive two years of initial registration at the time of title. Multi-year registrations will remain valid until it expires. However, the requirement to pass an annual vehicle inspection still stands.

After March 1, vehicle inspection stations will no longer collect the state’s portion of the inspection fee. At the time of inspection, the vehicle owner will pay only the inspection station’s portion of the fee. The state’s portion of the inspection fee will be collected at the time of registration or renewal.

For more information regarding vehicle inspections and registration, visit <http://twostepsonesticker.com>.

# Measles makes a comeback in several states

By Capt Audra Blasi  
359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Public Health Flight

As many are aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and State Health Departments are investigating a multi-state outbreak of measles linked to unvaccinated foreign travelers who visited a theme park in the United States. The outbreak started in December 2014 and is ongoing as the virus continues to spread.

As of Feb. 6, there have been 121 cases in 17 states and Washington D.C., with 103 of these cases linked to the theme park visit. Other cases were associated with travel outside of the United States, including the one case reported in Texas earlier this year.

Measles was listed as eradicated from the U.S. in 2000 due to the two-dose vaccination campaign, resulting in high population immunity. Even though it is listed as eradicated, every year unvaccinated travelers, both American and foreign visitors, bring the virus to the states. Anyone who is not protected is vulnerable, which may lead to an outbreak.

## ***What is measles?***

Measles is a highly contagious viral respiratory disease that can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis, deafness and death. Measles begins with a fever that can get very high, cough, runny nose and red eyes. This occurs two to four days before the rash develops. The rash generally begins at the head

and spreads to the rest of the body. Other symptoms that may occur include diarrhea and ear infections.

## ***How does it spread?***

Measles is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes, spreading the virus into the air. The person is contagious four days before the onset of the rash to four days after the rash appears. Even after an infected person leaves a location, the virus may remain viable for up to two hours on surfaces and in the air, increasing the number of people possibly exposed.

## ***Who is most at risk for infection?***

Anyone who has not previously contracted measles or received the Measles, mumps, rubella vaccine is susceptible, but children are especially prone to the severe complications. As such, the following are the most at risk: infants younger than 12 months who are too young to be vaccinated; children older than 12 months who have not had at least one MMR vaccination; children over four years who have not had a second MMR vaccination; and anyone who is immunocompromised and cannot receive the vaccine.

## ***How do you prevent infection?***

Vaccination with the MMR vaccine is the only sure way to prevent infection. The vaccine is both safe and effective. One dose is 93 percent effective while two doses are about 97 percent effective. While infected persons are isolated to prevent spread of the virus, it is so contagious, that if one person has it, 90 percent of the people around them will also become

infected if they are not protected. Cases are often not identified until the rash appears and by then, the person has been infectious for up to four days.

## ***Recommendations:***

- All children should get two doses of MMR vaccine:
- First dose given at 12-15 months of age
- Second dose given at four to six years of age
- College students with no evidence of immunity should receive two doses of MMR vaccine
- Adults born during or after 1957 with no evidence of immunity should get at least one dose of MMR vaccine
- People six months and older who are traveling internationally should be vaccinated
- Isolation of suspected measles cases
- Exclusion of all non-vaccinated personnel and children from Air Force Child and Youth Programs for 21 days if there is a potential outbreak that has been documented by the medical community

The 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Public Health Flight reports there have been no reported cases in the San Antonio area and the situation is being actively monitored.

For additional information, visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html> or the Texas Department of Health at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/measles>.

For questions or concerns, call the 359th AMDS Public Health Flight at 652-1876 or the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Child Development Center at 652-4946.



# Joint Base San Antonio

## FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

### Monthly Events

March

#### Arts and Crafts

##### Special memories deserve custom frames

The professionals at JBSA-Lackland's Frame Shop are available to help make the best selections for framing personal items such as artwork, memorabilia or photographs. For more information, call 652-5142.

Experts at JBSA-Randolph's Community Services Mall are also available to help create the perfect custom frame for special certificates, artwork or photographs. The Frame Shop offers 25 percent off selected frames March 2-27 and there is no sales tax. For more information, call 652-5142.

#### Auto Hobby Shop

##### Auto mechanics help themselves

The JBSA-Lackland Auto Hobby Shop offers self-help bays to rent for customers that like to get a little dirty, tackle repairs and maintenance and save money. Most tools are available for use free of charge and others at a minimal cost. For more information, call 671-3549.

#### Bowling

##### Bowling Center closed for maintenance

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center is closed March 1 for installation of a fire suppression system; the center is projected to reopen June 1. For more information, call 221-4740.

##### Bowlers get great deals

Bowlers get three games and shoes for \$5 all day, Tuesdays during March at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center. For more information, call 671-1234.

##### Roll through Spring Break

Make plans to visit the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center during Spring Break, March 16-20 and 23-27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for the reduced bowling rate of \$2.50 per person with \$2.50 shoe rental. For more information, call 652-6271.

##### Bowl with the Easter Bunny

Visit with the Easter Bunny at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center March 28, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child and includes two games of bowling, rental shoes, a picture with the Easter Bunny and a goodie bag. For more information, call 652-6271.

#### Community Programs

##### Bargain hunters find treasures

JBSA-Lackland's Skylark Community Center hosts a Flea Market at the Warhawk Fitness Center parking lot March 7, 8 a.m. to noon. Enjoy shopping, food and music.

Sellers can rent spaces for \$10 and tables for \$5 each. For more information, call 671-3191.

##### Spouses attend information fair

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center is holding a Military Spouse Information Fair March 12, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This free information fair is for newly arrived spouses and family members to meet with support agencies from JBSA. For more information, call 221-2705.

##### "Deep in the Heart of Texas"

Take a country music journey at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Harlequin Dinner Theatre March 12 to April 25. "Deep in the Heart of Texas" spans the decades with hits from all-time country greats such as Patsy Cline, Hank Williams, Loretta Lynn, Kitty Wells, Johnny Cash, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, the Dixie Chicks, Reba McEntyre and more. This show is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. To make reservations, call 222-9694.

##### Doggies enjoy an egg hunt

The JBSA-Lackland Arnold Hall Community Center hosts the annual Doggie Easter Egg Hunt March 27, 6-7:30 p.m., at building 5506, outside in the courtyard and surrounding area. This event is free and open to all JBSA members. Dogs hunt for Easter eggs filled with treats and prizes. Water and snacks are provided for animals, pet owners and families. All dogs must be leashed and up-to-date with shots. Shot records are required to participate. For more information, call 671-2619 or 671-2352.

##### Lasso up some fun

Attend the 10th annual Cowboys for Heroes event March 28, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center. The event features free authentic cowboy cooking on 1800s-style chuck wagons, live horseback riding performances, mutton busting, hay rides, pony rides, two mechanical bulls, a trick roper, music and more. Registration is required for mutton busting and can be completed at the event. This event is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP and Budweiser. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended. For more information, call 221-1718.

#### Clubs

##### Reserve a seat for an Easter buffet

Make reservations beginning March 4 for the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club's Easter buffet. The buffet is April 4 and various seating times are available. The cost is

\$24.95 per adult member, \$27.95 per adult nonmember, \$12.50 for members' children, ages 6-12 and \$14.50 for nonmembers' children. Children age 5 and younger eat free. The Easter Bunny is attending and passing out candy and children age 12 and younger are entered into a drawing to win Easter baskets. Reservations and prepayments are required. Refunds are available 48 hours prior to the event. To make reservations or for more information, call 652-4864.

##### Salsa the night away

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club provides professional salsa classes by San Antonio instructor, Melissa Albertson. These classes are free and held every other Tuesday starting March 10, 6:30 p.m., in the Nite Club. All Department of Defense ID cardholders are invited to participate. A salsa dance off competition is held Oct. 16 with prizes for first- second- and third-place winners. For more information, call 652-3056.

##### Enjoy live entertainment

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Sky Lounge hosts the Mystyx Band March 6 and the Tobias Band March 27, 6:30-10:30 p.m. The lounge is open 5-11 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres until 6 p.m. Admission is \$3 for club members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information, call 652-4864.

##### Party like it's a birthday celebration

The JBSA-Randolph's Kendrick Club bingo program celebrates members' birthdays March 10 with a complimentary bingo machine for each birthday member, cake, champagne and fun. All birthday bingo players enter a drawing to win \$30 in Randolph Club Bucks. Randolph club members only; ID and club card are required. For more information, call 652-3056.

JBSA-Randolph clubs provide club members birthday coupons to help celebrate their special day. These coupons are valid for up to \$10 and are accepted at Gil's Pub or the Air City Bar & Grill for any food item or non-alcoholic beverage. Club card and Department of Defense ID is required. Birthday coupons may not be combined with other discounts and must be redeemed during the club member's birthday month. Pick up a coupon at the Kendrick or Parr Club cashier cage. For more information, call 652-3056 or 652-4864.

##### Celebrate all that is St. Patrick's Day

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts a special lunch buffet in the Food Court March 12, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Find a bountiful selection of corn beef and cabbage, Sheppard's pie, grilled stuffed pork chops with green pepper and

onion strips, shrimp Alfredo with green fettuccine, plus an assortment of sides including garlic whipped potatoes with brown gravy, buttered new potatoes, green beans almandine, corn O'Brien and freshly baked rolls. Enjoy a choice of potato bacon soup or split pea soup and dessert selections including key lime pie, lime Jell-O parfaits, green velvet cake, apple pie with whipped topping, green sherbet, St. Patrick's Day cake and more. For more information, call 645-7034.

Join the St. Patrick's Day party at JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club's Lone Star Lounge March 13, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. The celebration begins with music by LJU Sounds, followed by Show Band from 6-9 p.m. and ending with LJU Sounds. Also enjoy Doggin' Dave Productions 5-9 p.m. in the Maverick Lounge. For more information, call 645-7034.

Wear green to Gil's Pub in the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club March 13 and 17 and receive \$1 off any beverage. Also enjoy a large mug of green beer for \$2.50 all day long. For more information, call 652-3056.

### Order Easter meals to go

Let the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club do the Easter cooking. Order a glazed Virginia pitted ham (9-11 pounds) for \$50 or \$55 for nonmembers or a complete meal including roasted pork loin stuffed with dried fruit for \$80 or \$85 for nonmembers. Sides include whipped potatoes with brown gravy, sweet potatoes with marshmallows, macaroni and cheese, green beans almandine, corn O'Brien and apple pie. Orders are accepted March 15 through April 4 and must be placed two days in advance. No coupons are accepted. Freshly prepared hot meals are available for an additional \$15. To place an order or for more information, call 645-7034.

### Club members are appreciated

JBSA-Lackland's Gateway Club honors club members with a special buffet dinner in the Fiesta Ballroom March 24, 5-8 p.m. Entertainment is provided by Doggin' Dave Productions. The cost is \$10.50 for members and \$12.50 for nonmembers. The menu features a build-your-own salad bar, French onion soup, beef tenderloin with bearnaise sauce, rosemary roasted Cornish hen, tilapia stuffed with crab and shrimp topped with a white wine sauce. Sides include whipped potatoes with brown gravy, rice pilaf, roasted asparagus spears, glazed baby carrots, snow peas, freshly baked rolls and bread sticks. Desserts include miniature carrot cake, raspberry cheesecake and chocolate cake. For more information, call 645-7034.

### Equestrian Center

#### Saddle up and ride

The Equestrian Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston offers horseback riding lessons for beginners and advanced riders in English and Western style riding. Therapeutic riding lessons with certified instructors are also available. Horses, saddles and tack for lessons is provided if needed. Patrons must be at least age 7 to participate. Lessons are by appointment only. The price is \$40 per hour for a single private lesson, \$175 for five group lessons, \$225 for five semi-private lessons and \$250 for five private lessons.

JBSA-Lackland Library, Bldg. 6114  
**TOUR OF TEXAS BREWS**  
 March 27 \* 6-8 p.m.  
 Sampling of 9 Texas brews  
 while learning about

- Texas craft beer
- food pairings
- homebrewing
- cooking with beer
- and much more

Must be 21 to attend  
 Advance registration required  
 Limited 50 attendees  
 For more information, call 671-3610  
**FREE EVENT**  
 www.jbsalibraries.org

Trail rides are available Saturdays and Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., for guests ages 7 and older. The cost is \$30, and adults must accompany children ages 12 and younger. Riders must be at least 4 feet 6 inches tall and weigh no more than 200 pounds.

The Equestrian Center offers parent-led pony rides Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for patrons ages 6 and younger. The cost is \$10 and adults must accompany children. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis.

The Equestrian Center is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 224-7207.

#### Boarding for horses available

The Equestrian Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston has stalls and paddocks available to board customers' horses. Space is limited and priority is given to active-duty military. If space is available, the owner must contact the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Treatment Facility and comply with vaccination requirements. All incoming horses are quarantined for seven days. Stallions are not allowed. The cost to rent a 10-foot-by-10-foot stall is \$120 per month and the cost to rent a 20-foot-by-50 foot paddock is \$45 per month. Trailer storage, feed and turn out services are also available. For more information, call 224-7207.

### Fitness

#### Slam dunk into men's basketball

Register on or before March 2 for the 17th Annual Men's Basketball Tournament March 7-8, 9 a.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The tournament format is double-elimination, 12-player

limit, using National Collegiate Athletic Association rules. Entry fee is \$375 per team and is open to the first eight teams. Trophies are awarded to first- and second-place teams. For more information, call 808-5710.

#### Play ball

Sign up for JBSA-Lackland's intramural softball season. Letters of intent are due March 2, and a coaches meeting is scheduled March 5. The season begins March 23. For more information, call 671-2632.

#### Experts available for nutritional advice

Stop by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's Jimmy Brought Fitness Center March 3, noon to 1 p.m., to consult with a sports dietitian and ask questions about performance nutrition, dietary supplements, how to fuel and hydrate properly before and after a workout and any other physical health questions. "Ask the Expert" takes place at the desk across from the weight room on the first Tuesday of every month. For more information, call 221-1234.

#### Compete in a spin off

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center March 7, 9-11 a.m., for their first-ever spin off. The free event includes great music, awesome prizes, delicious fruit, top-notch instructors and is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders, ages 16 and older. For more information, call 808-5709.

#### Spring into fitness

Bikers of all ages are encouraged to get in the saddle at the JBSA-Randolph's Eberle Park March 7, 7:30 a.m., and enjoy a 15-mile bike ride in the beautiful Texas spring weather. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks

**GLOW IN THE PARK 5K**  
 JBSA - Fort Sam Houston  
**MARCH 7** at MacArthur Parade Field  
 5:30 p.m. Pre-event Fun | 7 p.m. 5K Begins  
 Register at  
<http://www.the5kglowrun.com>  
 for \$10 or at the event for \$15. All participants will receive a goody bag with a T-shirt, glow gear and a race bib.  
 For more information, please call 857-8385.

Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 652-7263.

### Patrons try out for soccer

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Medical Education and Training Campus Fitness Center is conducting student intramural soccer tryouts. All METC students are eligible and all Department of Defense ID cardholders 18 years or older, not participating in an academic athletic association, may participate. Letters of intent are due March 9 and must be signed by the sports representative or commander. The coaches meeting is March 16, 1 p.m. Season play begins March 20. For more information, call 808-5710 or 221-7173.

### Take home the trophy

Compete for "King of the Hill" at the JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center's free 3-on-3 basketball tournament March 13, 11:30 a.m. Sign up before March 12, noon, at the Gillum Fitness Center. For more information, call 977-2353 or 977-5354.

Take part in the 3-on-3 "Hoops" basketball tournament March 21, 9 a.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Team rosters must consist of at least three players, and the registration deadline is March 13, 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 per team. This event is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders, ages 18 and older. For more information, call 221-1234.

### Patrons run in St. Patrick's Day 5K

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day March 27, 7:30 a.m., with a spring 5K run/walk at the JBSA-Randolph Eberle Park. This is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 652-7263.

### Join in the racquet

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center invites all Department of Defense ID cardholders, ages 16 and older, to take part in a free racquetball tournament March 27-29. Register now through March 17. For more information, call 221-1234.

### Shape up with free workout classes

The JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center offers high-energy cardio programs guaranteed to get gym enthusiasts in great shape. The total body toning classes Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., target strength and cardiovascular fitness. The stand-up fighter workout Tuesday and Thursday offers a combination of mixed martial arts, basic boxing, Muay Thai and ground defense boxing techniques focusing on cardiovascular aerobics and stress relief. These classes are free. For more information, call 977-2353 or 977-2354.

## Golf

### Warrior teams compete for prizes

Golfers are invited to play in the monthly warrior four-person Scramble at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course March 6, 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers and includes 18 holes of golf, green fees, golf cart and dinner. Gift certificates are presented to winners of the longest drive and closest to the

pin. First-, second- and third place winners also receive gift certificates. For more information, call 222-9386.

### Take the money ball tournament

JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course holds the Money Ball Tournament March 15, 8 a.m., with three-person teams and a two best-ball format. Money ball score and next lowest score must be used. Entry fee is \$25 per person and does not include green fee or cart. Food and drinks are provided. Sign up no later than March 12. Prizes are awarded for gross and net. For more information, call 671-3466.

### Form a team

Attend the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course Intramural Golf organizational meeting March 20 in the Snack Bar seating area. Individuals interested in forming a unit or organization team are encouraged to attend. The format for the spring league is confirmed at this meeting. There is an 18-hole and 9-hole league this spring. For more information, call 671-2517.

JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course

## Randolph Spring Dual

March 7 & 8  
7-9 a.m. Tee Times

- \$80 Members, \$120 Nonmembers
- Two-person low ball event
- Pre-flighted based upon Golf Handicap & Information Network handicaps
- Saturday barbecue lunch by Carl Null & Son
- To sign up, call 650-4653

### Try before buying

Head over to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course driving range and putting green March 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to try the latest equipment from golf outfitters such as Ping, Taylor Made, Mizuno, Nike and others. Patrons will benefit from special Demo Day pricing on selected equipment. For more information, call 671-2517.

### Try out golf

All Medical Education and Training Campus students are eligible to participate in intramural golf tryouts. Letters of intent are due March 10, noon, and must be signed by the

sports representative or commander. The coaches meeting is March 4; rosters are due March 18 and league play begins March 24. For more information, call 808-5710 or 221-7173.

### Golfers take advantage of spring grip special

Stop by the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course Pro Shop and check out the latest golf grips. It is a great time to re-grip worn out grips for the new season. During March and April golfers receive an additional 10 percent discount when re-gripping 10 or more clubs. JBSA golf members receive 15 percent off with a valid membership card. For more information, call 671-2517.

## Information, Tickets and Travel

### Take a gamble and take a trip

Travel to the Grand Casino Coshatta in Kinder, La. with JBSA-Randolph Information, Tickets and Travel. The remaining 2015 trips are March 17-18, May 12-13, July 14-15, Sept. 15-16 and Nov. 17-18. The trips include round-trip motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations and a \$23 voucher from the casino. The bus departs at 7:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 9 p.m. the next day. Cost is \$65 for double occupancy or \$130 for single occupancy. For more information, call 652-5142.

### Step into the Renaissance era

Enjoy music, games, entertainment, shows and crafts from days gone by at the Sherwood Forest Faire, weekends through March 29. Discount tickets are available at the JBSA-Lackland Information Tickets and Travel office. For more information, call 671-3059.

### Keep up with the time

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ticket Office's new hours of operation are Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Be sure to visit for tickets at low prices for activities in and out of the San Antonio area. For more information, call 808-6262.

### Capture Ireland with a trip

Visit JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel for a getaway to Dublin, Donegal, Limerick, Tralee, and Blarney, Ireland Oct. 25 to Nov. 1. Rates start at \$2,200 per person including airfare. Final payment is due March 16. For more information, call 671-7111.

### Visit local historical caverns

Pick up tickets at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's Ticket Office for the Natural Bridge Caverns' Discovery Tour, which offers a high energy, educational, fun and family oriented experience. Patrons can pan for precious stones, take the ultimate leap of faith from the Canopy Challenge, go caving on one of the adventure tours or just experience nature. Active-duty military members are eligible for a free tour. Purchase tickets for family and friends for \$16.75 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3-11. For more information, call 808-6262.

## Library

### Story time is a hit with preschoolers

Preschoolers love stories, crafts and songs as part of the story time at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A.

Campbell Memorial Library Tuesdays, 10 a.m. For more information, call 221-4702.

## Learning a new language is easy

For an innovative way to learn a different language, drop by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library and check out "Mango Languages" with more than 60 foreign languages and 17 English courses available. These online courses offer flexibility and mobility along with free mobile applications. Come by the library for assistance or log on to <http://www.jbsalibraries.com> and click on the eResources/research tab to begin. For more information, call 221-4702.

## Outdoor Recreation

### Rent pavilions and covered picnic areas for half price

There is no better way to spend a day than at JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake. Rent a large pavilion or a covered picnic area for half price during March. The covered picnic areas are great for a family or small group outing for up to 25 occupants while the pavilions can accommodate large reunions, squadrons and company functions for up to 50 occupants. For more information, call 830-964-3576 or 1-800-280-3466.

### The fish are biting at Canyon Lake

Rent a fishing boat for half price during March at the JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake. Patrons can bring a favorite fishing pole or purchase equipment during business hours. Live minnows, worms, catfish dough bait and chicken livers are available for purchase. Boaters are required to take the boater safety course to operate any boats from the marina. The course can be taken at guest reception at the lake for \$2 per person. Allow at least two hours to review the video and take the test. For more information, call 830-964-3576 or 800-280-3466.

### Register to test your aim

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center hosts a 3-D archery competition March 28-29, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is 8-10 a.m., and the course must be completed by 1 p.m. The fee for the competition shoot is \$20. The fun shoot cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids ages 12 and younger. For more information, call 295-7529 or 295-7577.

### Save money with a pass

Purchase a JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake annual pass for \$65. Daily entrance entry fee for the park is \$7 per visit, per vehicle without a pass. Annual passes include a vehicle and boat/trailer pass and are valid for one year from the date of issue. Annual pass holders are not charged the boat launch fee. For more information, call 800-280-3466.

### Park or store recreational vehicles

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston recreational vehicle park has 74 full hookup recreational vehicle pull-through sites with water, sewage and electricity. There are also two shower facilities, two laundry facilities and all sites are 30/50 amp. There is a maximum stay limit of 30 days. Rates are \$20 for a day, \$120 per week and \$440 per month. For more information, call 221-5502.

There are 175 RV storage sites available for rent on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and 354 RV storage sites available for rent at JBSA-Camp Bullis. The cost is \$40 per month, \$100 per quarter and \$300 per year. For more information at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-5225 and for more information at JBSA-Camp Bullis, call 295-7529.

JBSA-Lackland's Outdoor Recreation has 20-foot, 30-foot and 40-foot long-term storage lots available to rent. The lots, perfect for storing recreational vehicles and boats, cost \$300 per year, \$100 per quarter or \$40 a month. All Department of Defense ID cardholders may rent these lots but active-duty members have priority. For more information, call 925-5532.

## Student Activity Center

### DJ night gets students on the dance floor

All JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Medical Education Training Campus students are invited to enjoy the latest and greatest sounds of today's music, featuring a live DJ March 6 and 20, 6:30-10 p.m. The Student Activity Center's Club Zero has a large dance floor and comfortable sitting areas. This is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 466-5049.

## Youth and Children

### Spring Break camp helps children stay active

Register for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs' Spring Break Camp through March 4 at Youth Programs or at Parent Central. For more information, call 221-4466 or 221-5151.

### Youth compete at chess

Sign up by March 4 for the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs annual youth chess tournament March 7, 11 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person for the round-robin tournament play. There are four age categories: 6-8 years, 9-12 years, 13-15 years and 16-18 years. Awards are given to first-, second- and third-place in each category. To sign up or for more information, call 652-3298.

### No membership needed to participate

There is no membership needed to participate in clubs, activities or open recreation March 16-21 at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs. Check out the preteen game room, the Teen Zone, attend a club meeting or join in activities. The free week does not include instructional classes, league sports or school age care programs. Stop by for a monthly calendar to see what is offered during the week. Membership is \$36 per year. For more information, call 652-3298.

### Feedback is appreciated

Attend the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Parent Advisory Council meeting March 17, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This meeting provides an environment for parents to voice concerns about children related issues. For more information, call 221-5002.

### Youth register for spring sports

Register youth for spring sports at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Sports or at Parent Central through

March 14. Activities include First Step Coed T-ball Parent and Child Program, ages 3-4, for \$45; Coed T-ball, ages 5-6, for \$55; coed coach-pitch softball, ages 7-8, for \$55; girls fast pitch softball, ages 9-12, for \$55 and boys baseball, ages 9-14, for \$55. All youth must have current annual physical, immunizations and sports registration form on file. Baseball practice begins March 23. JBSA-Youth Sports are sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-4871

### Hunt for eggs

Youth are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt March 28, 10 a.m. to noon, at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Pershing Ball Park. Children ages 2 and younger start off the festivities with other age groups following every ten minutes. All participants receive candy and each age bracket has a chance to win prizes. For more information, call 221-3502.

### Parents take a well-deserved break

JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs staff understand parents could use some time alone, away from work and away from the kids. The Give Parents a Break/Parents' Night Out program does just that.

JBSA-Randolph's program, March 21, 1-5 p.m., is \$25 per child or free with a GPAB waiver and takes place at the Child Development Center Annex, for children 2 years and younger, and at Youth Programs for children 3 years and older. Registration is March 1-18. For more information, call 652-3298.

JBSA-Lackland's program, March 28, 1-5 p.m., is \$25 per child or free with a GPAB referral and is for children ages 5 (in kindergarten) to 12. Late pickup is subject to an additional \$5 fee for the first five minutes and \$3 for every minute after that. For more information, call 671-2388.

### Partake in a new program for infants and preschoolers

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs offers Kinderjam Tuesdays, 10 a.m., and JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs offers Kinderjam Wednesdays, 10 a.m. This program is for infants and preschoolers ages 1-5 (must be walking). The class combines music, movement, instruction and fun for \$35 per month, per child. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs at 221-3380 or JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs at 671-2388.

### Children excel in after-school club care

Sign children up for drop-in care featuring after-school clubs to entertain and provide a rewarding learning experience. The cost is \$16 per day, per child for ages 5 (in kindergarten) to 12. All required paperwork must be on file in order to participate in drop-in care activities. For more information, call 671-2388.

## STAY CONNECTED

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## 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-Randolph munitions offices closed**

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph munitions offices and munitions storage areas will be closed to normal business March 9-13 to conduct a semi-annual inventory of ammunition and explosives. Only emergency issues can be honored during this period.

For more information, call 652-6780 or 652-3361.

#### **L.E.A.D. Council Scholarship**

The Robert D. Gaylor NCO Academy Leaders of Enlisted Airman Development council is offering a \$250 scholarship through an essay contest. Applicants must be enlisted members or family members of an enlisted member in Joint Base San Antonio seeking degrees from higher learning institutions. Essays can be submitted through March 19. The scholarship will be awarded in April. All packages will be collected via email. For details, call 671-8138.

#### **Tax center operating hours**

The JBSA-Randolph tax center will operate through April 15. For more information, call 652-1040.

#### **Transportation survey**

The Texas Department of Transportation and Joint Base San Antonio are asking JBSA-Randolph commuters to participate in the Active Travel Demand Management Travel Options Study survey to better understand regional congestion patterns.

The anonymous survey link is <http://tinyurl.com/JBSAcommute>. For more information, call 652-3477 or 652-5307.

# SecAF: Airmen hold key to air power, strength

By Staff Sgt. Torri Ingalsbe

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs  
Command Information

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James talked about the importance of a healthy budget, innovation and developing Airmen as key pieces to remaining the world's greatest air power, during the Air Force Association's annual Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition Feb. 13 in Orlando, Fla.

"There is just absolutely no question in my mind we are the best Air Force on the planet precisely because of who we are and what we believe and what we do," James said. "Today our Air Force is fully engaged in joint operations around the world, and the demand for what we do in the Air Force – the demand for our capabilities – is increasing. In short, everybody wants more Air Force."

While the demand for Air Force capability is going up, personnel numbers and funding have decreased, forcing the Air Force to operate in a "perfect storm environment," she explained. "We are the best on the planet, but we are also an Air Force under strain

and something's got to give."

To weather the storm, the Air Force is taking the strongest stand ever on sequestration, and is asking Congress for an additional \$10 billion in funding for fiscal year 2016.

"Our budget proposal actually busts the sequestration caps," James said. "For the Air Force this represents the difference between an Air Force that our combatant commanders require and our nation expects, as compared to an Air Force that with \$10 billion less, will not be able to meet the National Defense Strategy – period."

The increase allows support of Air Force top priorities – taking care of people; striking the right balance between the readiness of today and tomorrow's modernization and making every dollar count.

"The taxpayer's dollar is precious, and we can't afford to waste a single dollar of it," she said. "We all have a part to play in making every dollar count."

As people are her number one priority, James said she's tried to listen hard to what Airmen need. The overwhelming concerns she found through her various base visits is the reduction in force, par-

ticularly involuntary separation boards.

"I have met so many outstanding and passionate and dedicated Airmen along the way," she said. "As far as the downsizing goes, enough is enough. No more. We need to stop this. We may have already gone a bit too far, which is precisely why we are not going to do involuntary boards in 2015."

In addition to no involuntary separation boards this year, the secretary and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III have called for an upward adjustment to 492,000 active, Guard and Reserve Airmen.

The proposed budget will allow reserve component pilots to be instructor pilots, provide funding for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response teams, child care facilities, fitness centers, educational benefits, infrastructure projects and a 1.3 percent pay raise for military and civilian Airmen.

"When we take care of Airmen and their families and we focus on resiliency for all, that means our Airmen can focus on getting ready for the many, many missions that we must undertake in our Air Force," James said. "We need everyone to be focused on that mission."

Ramping up current readiness and investing in the modernization across all mission areas of the Air Force is another piece of the budget, she explained. This allows the Air Force to rebuild its readiness over time, and procure a more modern and agile future force.

"All in all, there's a lot of good in this budget, but it's not perfect," James said. "We've still had to make a lot of tough choices."

Some of those choices include phasing out old aircraft, slowing the growth of compensation packages and some base closures. The cost savings in

some areas will open others to more innovative ways to complete the Air Force mission, well into the future.

"Air Force ingenuity and creativity, in concert of course with our industry partners, can make the impossible, possible," she said. "Our potential adversaries have been watching us closely over the last 14 years, and they have watched us perform magnificently, but they have been studying us carefully," she said. "They understand that we possess a technological advantage, and they haven't been standing still. Gradually, the gap between our capabilities and our nearest competitors is shrinking."

By opening areas up to competition, especially in the space launch realm, James said she believes the Air Force can find both cost savings and technological advances.

"In my experience, both in government and industry, competition always drives down costs and improves innovation," she said. "We want both. We want less cost and we want more innovation. We also want a third very important thing – mission assurance."

Processes are in practice to ensure the Air Force is getting the most bang for its buck in all mission areas, but James said it's the Airmen who are the key to making the mission a success.

"I'm a true believer ... that our Airmen are what are going to keep our Air Force the best on the planet," she said. "I don't have all the answers, but I do know that we're going to have work really, really hard, because the most vital part of our strategic advantage ... the most vital part that no adversary will ever be able to touch – is the pride and the dedication and the passion of our Airmen of today, and we've got to make sure that we strengthen that for tomorrow."

# Workshop helps military members with transition to civilian sector

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Active-duty members who are about to retire or separate from the military gleaned more insight about their transition to civilian life during an all-day workshop Feb. 18 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center.

The Transition Information Program, a partnership between JBSA and the Military and Veterans Community Collaborative, featured panel discussions on topics ranging from education to employment as well as networking opportunities for participants. The collaborative brings government, state and local organizations and businesses together in an effort to support Texas veterans.

The program, which was offered at JBSA-Lackland in September and at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in December, serves as a supplement to pre-separation briefings and the Transition Assistance Program already available to active-duty members who will soon retire or separate from the military, David Patrick, collaborative member, said.

"It's more focused on what's available in the community," he said. "Once active-duty members go outside the gates of their installations, they have to navigate a whole new system."

"The TIP enhances four subject areas – education, civilian health care, housing and employment," Fernando Conejo, Texas Veterans Commission veterans education



Photo by Joel Martinez

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, addresses active and retired service members at the opening of the Transition Information Program Feb. 18 at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center.

coordinator, said. "This gives service members a more in-depth look at these areas and provides them with networking resources."

Conejo, who served as education panel leader during the workshop, said the program also "reinforces" what active-duty members have heard at other briefings.

The workshop opened with remarks from Brig.

Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, and continued with panel discussions that addressed the subject areas of education, civilian health care, housing and employment.

In addition to the Military and Veterans Community Collaborative and the Texas Veterans Commission, organizations represented at the TIP included the American GI Forum, Workforce Solutions Alamo, Bexar Area Agency on Aging and the Military Officers Association of America.

"The TIP is another program to set service members up for success as they transition to the civilian community," Mike Bell, 802nd Force Support Squadron community readiness consultant, said. "Knowing what to expect gives them more confidence."

Ray Ramos, 802nd FSS community readiness consultant, said the workshop helps "relieve a lot of the stress and anxiety for service members as they transition into the civilian sector."

"They're also more aware that the Military & Family Readiness Center is ready to assist them and their families through programs such as this," he said.

Maj. Oscar Hernandez, Air Force Research Laboratory Bioeffects Division tactical bioeffects team chief, said he benefited from the workshop.

"It teaches you how to write resumes, sell yourself and target the job you want," he said. "It also teaches you what veterans' benefits you're entitled to, how to get them and how to use them."

# Counselor believes in personal touch to inform retirees

By Robert Goetz  
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Information about benefits that are available to Air Force retirees is readily available on the Internet, but the 802nd Force Support Squadron Survivor Benefit Plan counselor from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph believes personal interaction still trumps technology where retirees are concerned.

"There's so much information retirees need to know," Debbie Hall, SBP counselor, said. "They are craving information where they can sit down and talk about it. They just can't get the right personal touch from a website when they can sit here, ask a question and get an immediate response."

Hall, who has spent more than 20 years of her 30-plus years in civil service at JBSA-Randolph, said participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan – an annuity paid to the surviving spouse or family member of a deceased service member – is a step-by-step process that must be initiated by the prospective retiree.

However, all members who are retiring must see the SBP counselor, Hall said.

"The paperwork the member needs to sign for the SBP election is also used to help establish the retired pay account," she said. "The retired pay will not be accurate without this paperwork."

Hall said she receives Air Force members' retirement orders six months in advance of their retirements, creates files for them and sends them emails notifying them about the SBP and other retirement issues.

Although participation in the plan is optional, members who are married and on active duty or serving as a Reservist cannot reject coverage without their spouses' consent. In addition, they must select maximum coverage unless their spouses agree to a lesser amount.



Photo by Johnny Saldivar

Debbie Hall, 802nd Force Support Squadron survivor benefit plan counselor, provides a briefing of the Survivor Benefit Plan program Feb. 6 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The SBP provides a monthly income to beneficiaries after a retiree or member's death, which makes it better than life insurance in most cases, Hall said.

"The Survivor Benefit Plan is better because it's a lifetime benefit and it's not affected by Social Security," she said.

A briefing for prospective retirees and their spouses is part of the process, Hall said. She conducts a morning and afternoon briefing one day a month at

the Military & Family Readiness Center, where she works.

"Some months I have 10 to 15 participants, but it can be up to 30 or 40 at other times," she said. "Briefings in the early spring are usually the largest because that's when folks are getting ready for retirement."

Hall said most soon-to-be retirees expect the briefings to be solely about the SBP, but she provides them with information about other benefits they

are entitled to, such as base privileges, medical care and legal assistance.

"They're very appreciative of the briefings," she said. "They've heard much of it before, but hearing it again makes it stick."

Hall also schedules one-on-one meetings in her office.

"I usually have 15 to 20 in-office visits per week," she said.

Hall said the months before retirement are a "stressful time" in the life of retirees and their families. She said it's important that they attend to everything on their retirement checklist before they take their terminal and permissive leave.

Handling casualty assistance for the families of members who die while on active duty is another of Hall's duties.

"For an active-duty death, we send out a notification team to tell the family of their loss," she said. "We prepare messages for the official Air Force notification up our chain of command and to all other agencies involved."

Other parts of the process are creating documents the family needs to sign to claim their benefits and making arrangements with the family to visit them at their home to explain their benefits, Hall said.

"Emotional support is a huge factor for these families – letting them know they are still a part of the Air Force family," she said. "For the death of the retiree, we provide all the care and completion of paperwork as an active-duty death except no visits to the home and no official messages."

Hall said her job is the best one she's ever had.

"I love my job," she said. "I love to see people walk out of here with smiles on their faces."

## Security forces reminds drivers to be good neighbor

By Bryan Gillespie  
502nd Security Forces Squadron director

No one likes speeding vehicles in their neighborhood. Speeders make for an unsafe environment for the residents, their children, guests, pets and property.

Recently, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Security Forces received complaints from residents liv-

ing around the post that JBSA-Fort Sam Houston employees are speeding through their neighborhoods.

An area of particular concern is Brahan Street, which is accessed via departure from the Wilson gate and making a right-hand turn just after the gate. This residential area receives heavy traffic from the post and multiple speeding incidents and dangerous driving episodes have been reported.

As a result, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Security Forces Squadron notified the San Antonio Police Department and asked them to step up speed monitoring activities in the neighborhoods around the post. Please be a good neighbor and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston representative; slow down, contribute to the safe environment of others and save yourself a ticket at the same time.

**JOURNEY from P2**

joint service school. We still stood in line everywhere we went and marched wherever we were going. After my first week, the banter came from the other branches. The Marines made fun of our physical training, the Army would ask where our butlers stayed and the Navy just watched and laughed. My friends and I started to adapt to military living, but gave in to emotions when the stress of being away from home was overwhelming. Tech school paved the way to understanding heritage more than I thought when leaving.

When I saw my first assignment was Ramstein Air Base, Germany, I looked at my military training leader and asked him what state it was in. As he walked away laughing, he told me to start learning German.

Once I arrived on station, everything was an adventure. I witnessed that the Air Force was the hub of all branches and it was a nonstop job. A valued memory I have was watching a C-5 land and unload caskets of our fallen before being loaded onto aircraft headed for their hometowns. At that time, everyone and everything just stopped what they were doing and saluted the fallen without

prompting from a commander or official order. Everyone gave thanks in their own way. It affected everyone. It was a powerful scene for a young Airman and one that impacts me to this day when I think about our fallen comrades.

Today, I am a military training leader charged with leading our new Airmen. Everything I learned coming up through the ranks is now evident in how I teach these young Airmen every day. There is purpose and pride behind Air Force training and traditions, although it is not often apparent at first glance.

The photos from my recruiter's office mean more to me now, as does the memory of how the females in my flight were able to pull together.

The men and women whom I deployed with showed me heritage. The friendly banter with the other service branches showed me heritage. Living our core values, and serving with our brothers and sisters at arms every day is what makes us American Airmen.

Everything we go through as Airmen is associated with our heritage. I am proud of my time in the Air Force. History does make people smarter, but heritage will always make me prouder.