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

WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

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COMMENTARY

MISSION-CRITICAL

Financial readiness equals mission readiness

By Ingrid Bruns
Fort George G. Meade, Md.

"The financial well-being of our military community is a significant readiness issue. Today's complex financial environment and uncertain future demand we have the knowledge to make informed choices ..."

As a long-time military spouse, I have held various jobs – and I know many of you can relate. I served as a military and family life counselor at an Airman and Family Readiness Center and had the privilege of working with fellow military families to create budgets, develop debt-payment plans, manage credit and save toward goals.

I remember one military spouse in particular who came to see me while her Airman was deployed. She "handled the family finances just fine" by doing what the couple had always done (even before the deployment). She came to see me after hearing about how the readiness center offers free financial counseling at a spouse meeting. She thought she and her husband could be better at paying down debt and saving for a trip to see family when her husband returned.

I only met with her twice, but together we developed a plan she knew she could follow and commit to by making minor tweaks to her everyday expenses during the deployment. I happened to see her again shortly before he came home and she gave me a big hug and shared with me she had managed to save enough for the visit home and pay off some of the credit card debt. I do hope that she and her Airman were able to stay on track and reach their goals – healthier finances usually means healthier Airmen.

The financial well-being of our military community is a significant readiness issue. Today's complex financial environment and uncertain future demand we have the knowledge to make informed choices about budgeting, saving, credit and debt, the Thrift Savings Program, and many more "fact of life" issues.

To further complicate financial readiness plans, our military lifestyle includes frequent relocations and deployments. But our way of life doesn't have to hinder our ability to manage family finances successfully.

There are a wide variety of resources available to help put us on the path to financial freedom. Whether you prefer a classroom setting, an online experience, a multimedia approach, or an individual consultation in person or virtually, there is a solution to help meet your needs.

Military and Family Readiness Centers provide educational opportunities to help you take charge of your finances. There are classes and workshops on specific topics, but you can also meet with a certified financial counselor to get personal assistance with your unique goals.

Emergency financial assistance organizations, such as the Air Force Aid Society can meet immediate financial needs in an emergency situation. The Society provides interest-free loans and grants based on the individual situation for needs such as: basic living expenses, emergency travel, vehicle expenses, funeral expenses, medical/dental care, child care/respite care, or moving expenses.

Military OneSource "Money Matters" provides financial calculators, articles, DVDs and CDs to help with topics, such as financial wellness, how-to strategies, sample budgets, mortgages and foreclosures.

Financial consultants are available all day, every day to provide up to 12 sessions (per person, per issue) of no-cost, confidential financial counseling with a certified financial professional. Counselors are available online and by phone at 800-342-9647.

Several non-profit organizations, such as The USAA Educational Foundation and the Consumer Federation of America's Military Saves program, provide financial education, resources and programs to service members and their families. These programs aren't about selling you products. They are strictly educational and focus on setting financial goals, managing credit and debt, saving and investing, and risk management.

Financial woes can negatively affect your personal and family well-being and it can critically injure the effectiveness of your mission readiness. These resources are ideally used as a preventive measure rather than a corrective measure, but like the spouse I worked with years ago, you must be proactive in identifying what you need assistance with and seeking it out.

In spite of any perceived stigma, seek out help and take action for your financial security. Use the resources exclusively available to you as a military community to help you make effective financial decisions and improve your financial capability. Always remember that financial readiness is critical to mission readiness.

(Editor's note: The appearance of hyperlinks or inclusion of information for local businesses, activities or resources does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Air Force or the Defense Department of the external website or the info, products, or services contained therein.)

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ON THE COVER

Martinez GreGorio, landscape technician, trims trees March 13 within the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph housing area. For the complete story, see page 9.

Photo by Harold China

WINGSPREAD

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560th FTS honors Freedom Flyers today

Courtesy graphic

By Maricris Moore
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Members of the 560th Flying Training Squadron hosts the 42nd Freedom Flyer Reunion and the 18th Annual POW/MIA Symposium today at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. This annual event takes place in order to honor all the POWs held captive during the Vietnam War. The last group of POWs were released from their captivity in North Vietnam March 1973.

The tradition began when the 560th Flying Training Squadron was given the task to retrain more than 150 POWs returning to flying status. To honor their return, their initial training included a "freedom flight."

This year's event will begin with a wreath laying ceremony and a 'Missing Man' formation fly-by at 12:15 p.m. at Washington Circle. Guest speaker will be Lt. Col. Orson Swindle, whose F-8E aircraft was shot down over North Vietnam Nov. 11, 1966. He was released after seven years.

The 18th Annual POW/MIA Symposium begins at 1 p.m. at the Fleenor Auditorium. The following speakers will share their experience:

Retired Air Force Col. Kenneth W. Cordier, whose F-4C plane took a direct hit while performing an escort mission north of Hanoi Dec. 2, 1966, was captured and later released March 4, 1973.

Retired Navy Cmdr. Everett Alvarez Jr. was taken prisoner the same day he was shot down while flying a Douglas A-4 Skyhawk Aug. 5, 1964. He was released Feb. 12, 1973 after more than eight years.

Retired Air Force Col. Carlyle Harris was released Feb 12, 1973 after being held for eight years. His aircraft was shot down by an anti-aircraft April 4, 1965 during a bombing run on the Ham Rong Bridge at Than Hoa.

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Jon Reynolds became a POW when his aircraft was shot down during a flying mission near Yen Bai, North Vietnam, Nov. 28, 1965. Nearly eight years later, he was released Feb. 12, 1973.

Retired Navy Capt. Mike McGrath was shot down by enemy fire over North Vietnam June 30, 1967 flying an A-4C "Skyhawk." He was held as a POW for almost six years until his release March 4, 1973.

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. John H. Yuill, whose B-52 aircraft was shot down during his third mission over Hanoi Dec. 22, 1972, was held captive by the North Vietnamese until his release March 29, 1973.

Louise Harris, wife of retired Col. Carlyle Harris, stayed at Kadena Air Base, Japan for six weeks after her husband's aircraft was shot down April 4, 1965.

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Charley Huff, a former member of the 560th FTS.

Expect road closures and detours. Plans are to close Washington Circle from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today. Portions of C Street will also be closed and no parking is allowed from midnight to 3 p.m. today. For details, visit http://1.usa.gov/1crnxql.

NEWS

ICE helps people provide feedback on JBSA services

By Amanda Sanchez
Joint Base San Antonio ICE program manager

If you have ever wanted to tell someone what you think about a service that was provided to you on one of Joint Base San Antonio's locations, or if you have ever wanted to make a suggestion you think would improve service, you need to know about the Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, comment card system.

ICE is a web-based tool that collects feedback on services provided by various organizations throughout Department of Defense.

The ICE system allows customers to submit online comment cards to rate the service providers they have encountered at military installations and related facilities around the world. It is designed to improve customer service by allowing managers to monitor their customers' satisfaction levels through reports and customer comments.

Customers who submit an ICE comment, such as a complaint, compliment or a suggestion for improvement, quickly and easily provide important feedback that may play a critical role in making changes to services provided throughout JBSA. Submitting an ICE comment can take less than a minute and can be done from any computer or device with internet access.

When an ICE comment is submitted, an email is instantly sent to the appropriate service provider manager for action. Leaders can then utilize information in ICE comments to identify what is being done well and should be sustained, and what needs improvement. Comments can even help leaders make decisions to redirect resources to better meet customer needs.

ICE allows customers to submit comments anonymously or to include contact information and request a response.

When a customer provides contact information, they will receive a personalized response to their input, from a manager, within three business days of submitting the comment. Providing contact information with your comment allows leaders to not only provide a response, but to gain more information about comments which may need further explaining.

You can submit an ICE comment by visiting http://ice.disa.mil. Once on the page, select CONUS under Army or Air Force, then JBSA. Service providers can be selected from their service category or by selecting the "Show All" link near the bottom of the page.

If you can't find your service provider, submit a comment to the link titled "Site Suggestions, Questions, Comments" and your comment will be routed to the appropriate service provider.

Submit an ICE comment today and you could be a voice for major change and improved capabilities at JBSA. For questions or more information about ICE, call 221-2543.

AETC on PACE to forge professional Airmen

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

Forging professional Airmen was the focus Wednesday when Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command, officiated a ceremony formally recognizing the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The Air Force Chief of Staff's program, PACE, is an initiative set forth in 2014 by then Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel which focuses on military professionalism.

"The overriding purpose of PACE is to make our 695,000 Airmen better in execution of war fighting," Rand said. "What we start today will become legendary for the Air Force."

Officially activated and assigned to AETC March 2, 2015, PACE is focused on studies, analysis and assessment for command strategic priorities associated with Airman professionalism. The center is driven by four professionalism goals: inspire a strong commitment to the profession of arms, promote the right mindset to enhance effectiveness and trust, foster relationships that strengthen an environment of trust and enhance a culture of shared identity, dignity, and respect.

"Our core values of Integrity, Service and Excellence, and our mission of Fly, Fight, and Win, have to be connected," Rand said. "That is what PACE will do."

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Strang

Gen. Robin Rand (left), commander of Air Education and Training Command, passes the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence guidon to Col. Jeffrey Smith, signifying his assumption as the PACE director during a ceremony March 11 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Rand passed the PACE guidon to Col. Jeffrey Smith, signifying his assumption as the PACE director. Smith went on to say that professionalism and leading Airmen is a calling.

"We need to lead our Airmen well," Smith said. "We need to bring our people to a better state tomorrow than where we are today."

The primary audience of PACE is Air Force leaders at all levels. The center produces a number of Web-accessible products to assist leadership in communicating with their Airmen through a variety of forums. Products such as videos can be used in larger, open forums while hand-outs can be shared in smaller, informal meetings or during one-on-one feedback sessions.

"The Air Force is our customer, and we are here for you," Smith said. "I look forward to seeing what we can do together."

PACE is driven and committed to its vision of developing Airmen who do the right thing, the right way and for the right reason.

"When their moment comes, and there will be a moment for every Airman when it is their time to do something that will change the world," Rand said. "They will be ready."

For details and to access their Web products, visit the PACE website at http://www.airman.af.mil or engage with PACE through social media via their Twitter account at @ProfessionalAmn and their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/USAFProfessionalism.

Rapid Strike hits JBSA-Randolph

Photos by Johnny Saldivar

Above: Capt. Jacob Chisolm, Air Force Recruiting Service chief, Air Force National Events Branch and Master Sgt. Chad Tanner, Air Force Recruiting Service event marketing superintendent, let people out of the Rapid Strike simulator March 10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The Rapid Strike is a full-motion simulator ride experience that immerses visitors in the high-tech world of the Air Force. The ride allows visitors to experience a real Air Force mission, including an F-22 flight, a C-17 cargo drop, special operations ground surveillance, satellite communications and a Reaper missile strike – all from a first person point-of-view. Left: JBSA-Randolph residents and visitors experience the Rapid Strike simulator March 10 at JBSA-Randolph.

Smooth PCS all about preparing and planning ahead

By Air Force Staff Sgt. AnnieLiz Navarro
Joint Personal Property Shipping Office

A move cannot begin without orders, but that doesn't mean you can't plan ahead. With the peak personal property moving season of May through August quickly approaching, people are encouraged to start proactively planning their moves.

When first notified of a permanent change of station assignment, immediately visit the Defense Personal Property System website at http://www.Move.mil. It contains a wealth of information covering many relocation topics. The majority of service members can use this site to set-up and manage their personal property shipments.

DPS website topics include personally procured move information, Department of Defense service policies for personal-property moves, a transportation office locator, loss and damage claims filing information and an authorized weight allowance table

As a start, validate your weight allowance using the table in the "It's Your Move" pamphlet at http://www.Move.mil or the "Plan My Move pamphlet at https://apps.militaryonesource.mil. Service members can find basic entitlement information, shipment estimating tools, as well as "do's and don'ts" info that can prevent people from incurring personal debt due to excess costs.

See MOVING P7

Courtesy graphic

With the peak personal property moving season of May through August quickly approaching, people are encouraged to start proactively planning their move.

2015 Total Force Climate Survey slated for March

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Total Force Airmen will have an opportunity to express their opinions to Air Force leadership during the 2015 Total Force Climate Survey slated for March 13 to April 27.

The purpose of the survey is to assess the opinions and perceptions of Air Force active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilian personnel on a wide range of issues including job satisfaction, available resources and unit performance, said Brenda Gainey, acting Air Force Survey Office chief.

"As with past surveys, unit leaders will have access to their units' results to enable them to improve their organization and the organization's ability to accomplish the mission. Every Airman's input is very important to the process. Leaders need honest feedback from the Air Force's most valuable resource – Airmen," she said.

Since 1999, the Total Force Climate Survey has evolved with the goal of reducing how long it takes to complete the survey while optimizing the amount of information collected.

The survey includes the opportunity to comment on how to improve the unit, and the recognition and resources sections have been expanded.

The survey office will send individual email invitations in stages beginning March 13. Aggregated reports by Personnel Accounting Symbol Code will be available to commanders whose units have at least 10 respondents. For units with fewer than 10 participants, responses will be included in the parent unit's report. Results are expected to be available after June, and leaders will be encouraged to brief results to their organization within 30 days.

"Your feedback will directly impact leaders' decisions on issues that affect the Total Force" Gainey said. "That's why it's critical that all Airmen take time to complete the survey."

For more information about the survey and to view the results of the previous survey, go to the Air Force Portal at https://www.my.af.mil, enter "Air Force Survey Office" in the search window, select the survey office link and click on the "Total Force Climate Survey" link in the left hand column.

MOVING from P6

Once PCS orders are in hand, set up your move online using http://www.Move.mil or immediately contact your installation transportation office. Being proactive will maximize your potential to receive your desired move dates.

If you are retiring, separating or if this is your first move, contact the local installation transportation office to receive one-on-one counseling. A counselor will provide a detailed explanation of entitlements and transportation service providers performance requirements. Listen carefully and ask lots of questions.

The months of May through August are the busiest months for personal property shipments. Prepare early and be as flexible as you can in offering alternate dates for packing/pick-up of your property.

Additionally, never schedule a pick-up or delivery on the same date you will be vacating or gaining access to your residence. Also, do not schedule two different shipments for pick-up or delivery on the same day. A conflict that causes you to be unavailable during the agreed upon pickup or delivery date can – and will – be billed to you.

Once movement dates are confirmed, the TSP will contact you to conduct a pre-move survey. Make sure you ask for this to occur at least five days prior to your initial pack date. Expect one pack day for every 4,000 pounds of estimated weight.

If you believe you have exceeded your weight allowance, request a reweigh with your TSP prior to accepting delivery of your property.

To ensure your pack and pick-up dates go unhindered, clean residence and furniture, unplug appliances, remove pictures from walls and move items from crawl spaces.

In addition, separate professional gear from the rest of your personal property and ensure the TSP annotates it on your inventory. If documented at time of pick up, professional gear does not count against your authorized weight entitlement.

During packing up and pick up, safeguard passports, luggage, etc., and remove unused or unwanted items lying around the house. Time is money to the TSP and if not segregated, they will pack items you didn't intend to ship.

Claims for personal property loss and/or damage can also be filed via http://www.Move.mil. Military members and DOD employees have 75 days from their property delivery date to initiate a claim. If there are issues settling a claim, contact the service-specific claims office. This information is available at http://www.move.mil/dod/claims_css/dod_claims.cfm.

Remember to file claims directly with the TSP. If an agreement cannot be reached on the monetary value between you and the TSP, or you discover additional damage at a later date, contact your service claims office for mediation or assistance.

For more information, call the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Transportation Office at 221-1605, the JBSA-Lackland PPPO at 671-2821 or the JBSA-Randolph PPPO at 652-1848/1849.

Courtesy graphic

As soon as members get their PCS orders, a good first go-to website is the Department of Defense's Defense Personal Property System portal at http://www.Move.mil.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph

Chapel Easter Schedule

Catholic Holy Week Services

Penance Service: March 25 at 7 p.m., Religious Activity Center (building 975)

Palm Sunday: March 28, 5:30 p.m., Chapel One

March 29, 8:30 a.m., RAC (building 975)

and 11:30 a.m., Chapel One

Triduum

Holy Thursday: April 2, 5:30 p.m., Chapel One

with Eucharistic Adoration until midnight

Good Friday: April 3, 5:30 p.m., Chapel One

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil, April 4, 8:30 p.m., Chapel One

Easter Sunday: April 5, 8:30 a.m. RAC (building 975)

and 11:30 a.m., Chapel One

Protestant Holy Week Services

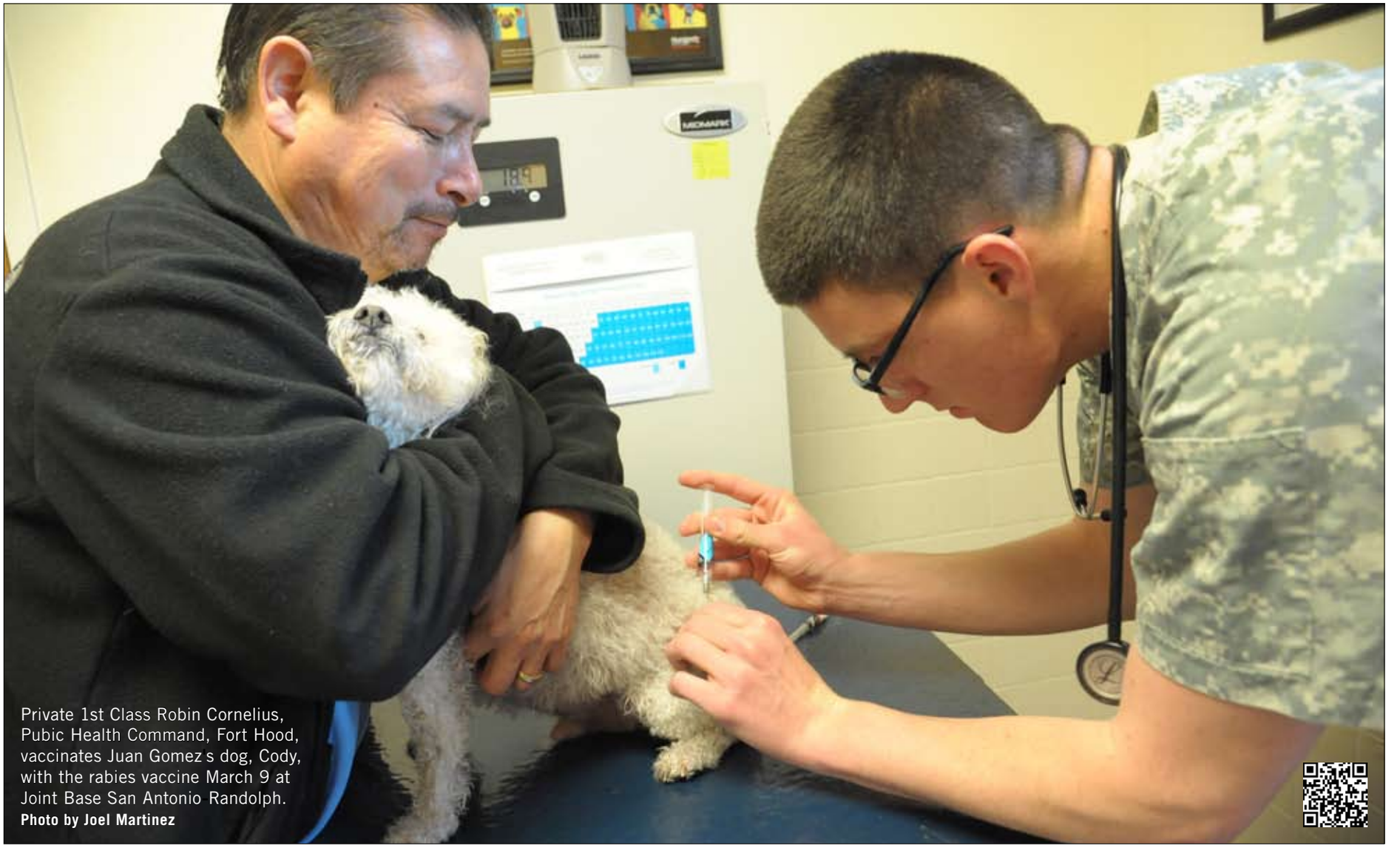
Palm Sunday: March 29, 8:15 a.m., Chapel 1

and 11 a.m., RAC (building 975)

Good Friday: April 3, 3 p.m., Chapel One

Easter Sunday: April 5, 8:15 a.m., Chapel 1

and 11 a.m., RAC (building 975)



Private 1st Class Robin Cornelius, Pubic Health Command, Fort Hood, vaccinates Juan Gomez's dog, Cody, with the rabies vaccine March 9 at Joint Base San Antonio Randolph.
Photo by Joel Martinez

Base veterinarian stresses need for pet vaccinations, tags

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

A Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph veterinarian is stressing the need for base residents to get their pets vaccinated against rabies, as instances of the disease could increase with spring approaching.

Richard Avery, a veterinarian at the JBSA-Randolph Veterinary Clinic, said base pet owners need to make sure their dogs or cats are up to date on their rabies shots.

Residents moving onto base with pets must show proof of rabies vaccination at the veterinary clinic and with base housing. Also, pets are required to wear identification and rabies tags.

In Texas, dogs and cats must get their rabies vaccination by four months of age. A second vaccination is recommended after the first year, then booster shots every three years.

Base residents can get their pets vaccinated or up to date on their booster shots at the veterinary clinic, located in Building 216, by scheduling an appointment. To make an appointment, call the clinic at 652-3190.

Dogs and cats are exposed to rabies if they come in contact with or are bitten by wild animals who are susceptible in carrying the disease – skunks, bats, coyotes and foxes.

Avery said dogs and cats who are infected with rabies have several symptoms, including a change in behavior, drooling, trembling, irrational barking, salivating and biting at people and things.

Humans are exposed to rabies if they are bitten by an animal with the disease, or if saliva from the animal gets in their eyes, nose or mouth, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Airman 1st Class Cerina Roberts, 359th Public Health Aerospace Medicine Squadron technician, warned base residents not to touch any wild animals they find in their yards, whether they are alive or dead, and instead contact the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron Pest Management division at 652-4299.

Roberts said in 2014, bats and skunks in Texas were the most likely to carry rabies, as 407 bats and 402 skunks tested positive for the disease.

Any base resident or service member, Roberts said, who gets bitten or scratched by an animal or pet should report to the JBSA-Randolph clinic. The report is then referred to the veterinary clinic and the owner of the pet is contacted to make sure the pet is up to date on its rabies vaccine.

Avery said any pet that has bitten someone is put under quarantine for at least 10 days for rabies observation. If the animal dies and tests are positive for rabies, the person who is bitten will be required to take anti-rabies treatment to prevent the disease from spreading into the body.

Prevention, Avery stressed, is the key in stopping rabies. He said this can be done if pet vaccines are kept up to date by their owners and if humans take caution in staying away from stray, sick or wild animals.

Intermittent lane closures expected as tree-trimming continues

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Tree-trimming crews are continuing the process to prune and remove trees in Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's central housing area in an effort to thin the habitat of white-winged doves, the No. 1 culprit in aircraft bird strikes affecting the 12th Flying Training Wing's mission.

Crews have already completed one phase of the project, trimming more than 600 trees and removing 61 others in the area inside Outer Octagon all the way to the Parr Club. They have begun work in the housing area between Outer Octagon and Main Circle.

Bill Kuehl, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron contracting officer representative, said crews have started pruning trees in the "pod" between Southeast Road and East Park, across Main Circle from the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs facility, and will work counterclockwise all the way around Outer Octagon and Main Circle, a process that is expected to continue until mid-June.

Kuehl said traffic on Main Circle will be affected at times, but no long-term lane closures are expected as crews work their way around Main Circle.

"Residents and JBSA-Randolph employees can expect intermittent lane closures on the inner lane of Main Circle. Drivers are asked to be cautious in this area while work is ongoing, ..."

Bill Kuehl
502nd Civil Engineer Squadron contracting officer representative

"Residents and JBSA-Randolph employees can expect intermittent lane closures on the inner lane of Main Circle," he said. "Drivers are asked to be cautious in this area while work is ongoing, observing obstacles including open-top roll-off dumpsters, traffic cones, signs and controllers. Residents are also reminded that the dumpsters are for contractor use only, for green yard waste."

David Meyer, 502nd CES contracting officer representative, said residents are being asked not to park their vehicles under trees when tree trimmers are in their vicinity.

Residents who will be away from their homes for an extended period of time due to temporary duty or other circumstances and will be leaving their vehicles behind should also park away from overhanging tree limbs before they depart.

Kuehl said residents have been cooperative during the tree-trimming program.

"We have had no problems with residents," he said. "They've been gracious about moving their vehicles."

Kuehl estimated there are some 500 trees in the area between Outer Octagon and Main Circle. Most will be pruned, but some will be removed, especially if they are dead or diseased.

The purpose of the tree-trimming effort is to open up the trees' canopies so that they're not a welcoming habitat for a white-winged dove population that has proliferated in recent years.

Statistics from the 12th FTW Safety Office indicate that white-winged doves lead all species in the number of strikes to the wing's training aircraft. In addition, repair costs attributed to strikes by white-winged doves continue to increase.

Kuehl said tree-trimming efforts may continue in other JBSA-Randolph housing areas – funds permitting – once work ends in the central housing area.

He said tree-trimming crews are doing a great job.

"It's all for the BASH effort," Kuehl said, referring to the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard program at JBSA-Randolph,

BASH program representatives, using a variety of mitigation techniques, work daily to keep birds away from the flightlines as they head for their feeding grounds south and southeast of JBSA-Randolph.

Airman recognized

Photo by Johnny Saldivar

Chief Master Sgt. Troy Palmer (right), 12th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant, presents a coin to Senior Airman Kaitlyn Garcia, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group executive assistant, March 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Garcia was recognized in a surprise coining ceremony for going above and beyond to help restore Medal of Honor recipient Chief Master Sgt. Richard L. Etchberger's photograph located at JBSA-Randolph's Taj Mahal Hall of Valor dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients.

Photo by Harold China

Workers from a local tree-care company trim trees March 13 within the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph housing area. Tree-trimming crews are continuing the process to prune and remove trees in the JBSA-Randolph housing area in an effort to thin the habitat of white-winged doves, the No. 1 culprit in aircraft bird strikes affecting the 12th Flying Training Wing's mission.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph

News Briefs

Washington Circle changes

Drivers are advised to slow down for the next 60 days as they enter Washington Circle. Crews will be pulling up the bushes located in the center of the circle. Work is expected to begin Saturday. For more information about the grounds maintenance, call 214-1239.

502nd Air Base Wing Commander's Calls

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, will hold a series of commander's calls at JBSA locations. The first is at 10 a.m. March 27 at the Bob Hope Theater at JBSA-Lackland. The next is at 1 p.m. March 30 at the JBSA-Randolph Fleenor Auditorium. The final commander's call is at 10 a.m. April 3 at the Evans Theater at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Parenting order legal clinic available

A parenting order legal clinic takes place noon to 2 p.m. March 27 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center. Judge Advocate General Corps and Texas Attorney General staff will answer questions, but cannot represent or give legal advice. Attendees are encouraged to bring any prior court orders to the clinic. For more information, call 652-6781.

JBSA Easter egg hunt

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

JBSA 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. April 11 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. For more information, call 652-2088.

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.

Fast track medical appointments available

Patients can now make next- or same-day appointments specifically for cold, flu or allergy type issues at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Medical Clinic. Appointments will be 15 minutes long and are available between 7:30 to 11 a.m. Monday-Friday.

JBSA lodging office team members take care of guest, each other

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

Imagine a single stick; thin, flimsy and easy to break. Now picture 10 of them bundled together. When tightly bound and reinforcing one another, they are stronger and not so easily broken.

This is one of the core principles that has led to success and career longevity for the employees at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Lodging Office.

"If you are working alone you can fail very easily, but when you work as a team you can't be broken," Mary Eddy, 802nd Force Support Squadron lodging manager, said. "Communication is key. Just by the great communication we have, we are able to take care of our employees and put our guests first."

Team members of the JBSA-Randolph Lodging Office are offered cross training, which allows a better understanding of every department and career advancement. Cross training not only allows for career advancement, but also allows for every department to understand the needs and capabilities of one another.

"If you show that you want to do more, we will give you that opportunity," Eddy said. "We have people who started in housekeeping that are now our accountants. We are constantly moving people up and around. Having versatility in the team helps workers understand what different departments are going through."

The lodging team members also have customer service at the forefront of their daily routines.

"We have a lot of people that come to JBSA-Randolph courses and it is hard to focus on what you need to focus on when you are uncomfortable and can't rest or relax," Marina Lucia, 802nd FSS assistant lodging manager, said. "Our main concern is to make sure our guests that stay here are ready to fly and train."

Victor Douglas, referred to by his coworkers as "the godfather of lodging," recently passed his 40-year mark as a member of lodging.

"I love the people I work with and work for," Douglas said. "This has been a great place to work for the past 40 years. This is an older base and we put a lot of effort into our facilities to make them comfortable for our guests. You have your good and bad days; you just take it with a grain of salt."

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer
Victor Douglas, 802nd Force Support Squadron maintenance technician, spray paints a waste receptacle lid March 6 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Lodging Office. Douglas has worked for the JBSA-Randolph Lodging Office for 41 years.

Support group provides single parents with forum, friendships

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Single parents who are on active duty can experience feelings of isolation as they deal with the stressors that affect them and their families.

However, there is an organization at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph that is addressing the concerns of single parents and offering them a support network to help them better cope with the challenges they face.

The Single Parent Support Group, which began a year ago, meets from noon-1 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center and is planning social activities that will bring members even closer together.

"We're helping parents who are struggling to take care of their children by themselves," Maj. Jennifer Tomlinson, Air Education and Training Command Medical Readiness Division deputy chief, said. "We've been there, so we know what it's like."

Tomlinson, who founded the group in late 2013 after discovering there was no organization that specifically supported single parents, said the sessions at the M&FRC "open up dialogue" and allow single parents to build friendships.

During Single Parent Support Group meetings, representatives of JBSA-Randolph helping agencies address topics of interest to parents and participants are given the opportunity to discuss those topics or bring up their own concerns, she said.

Representatives of helping agencies who lend support include Military and Family Life Counselors, 359th Medical Operations Squadron Mental Health Flight members and M&FRC community readiness consultants.

"They all spread the wealth and are anxious to make these presentations," Tomlinson said. "The meetings start with their presentations, and that gets the dialogue going."

The February session addressed "Effective Communication in Conflict Resolution," and this month's meeting topic will be "Building Resiliency in Children." Among other topics this year are time management, parenting teenagers, dating, bullying and stress management.

Master Sgt. Rebecca Logan, AETC Airfield Management Operations and Procedures command manager, said single parents' issues differ from couples' issues in a number of ways.

Members who are leaving an installation or moving to another installation, for example, have to deal with out- or in-processing while addressing their children's needs without help from a spouse, she said. In addition, they have to make all the appointments for their children,

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SPORTS - HEALTH - FITNESS

Members of the Randolph High School boys' basketball team practice March 10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The team lost the victory to the Brock High School Eagles by a score of 37-32 during the state championship game March 14 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.
Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Randolph Ro-Hawks play hard, fall short of state title

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The Randolph High School boys basketball team fell short of their dream of winning the state title Saturday, losing to the Brock Eagles, 37-32, in the Class 3A state tournament final at the Alamodome.

Randolph gave Brock, the top-ranked team in the state, all they could handle. The Ro-Hawks (31-4) were ahead 32-31 with 3:29 left in the game before Brock (37-2) scored the last six points to win its fourth state title in school history.

The Ro-Hawks advanced to their first-ever state title game after defeating the Childress Bobcats, 31-29, in the state semifinals March 12 at the Alamodome.

Randolph appeared in its fourth state tournament in school history and their first since 1995.

Randolph coach Tim Gendron said the Ro-Hawks accomplished a lot this season in making it all the way to the state title game.

"They're champions in my eyes," Gendron said. "We did something no other Randolph team had done before. We reached our goals of getting to state and then we started to live out our dream. We just fell a little bit short in our dream of finishing out."

Senior center Bryan London scored 15 points in the championship game to lead the Ro-Hawks. London scored six of his 15 points in the third quarter, helping Randolph ovecome an 18-14 halftime deficit to take a 26-26 lead at the end of the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, London scored on a three-point play to give the Ro-Hawks their last lead of the game, at 32-31, when he hit a turnaround shot off the glass and converted the subsequent free throw.

After Lance Ewell connected on a jumper to put Brock up 33-32, the Ro-Hawks failed to score in the last three minutes of the game, missing four shots and turning the ball over twice in their last six possessions.

Defensively, Gendron said the Ro-Hawks did what they needed to do in clamping down on the fast-paced Brock offense. Randolph held Brock to its lowest point total of the season.

With Randolph controlling the tempo, the title game turned into a defensive match-up as both teams struggled offensively. Brock converted on 29.8 percent of its shot attempts, with Randolph shooting 27.9 percent.

In the state semifinal match-up against Childress, Jordan Williams made both of his free throws with 2.6 seconds remaining for the game-winning points. Childress' Luke Darter attempted a last second game-winning three-pointer, but Randolph's Braelin Barnes got to Darter in time to block it.

Barnes and Williams hit key three-pointers as part of an 8-0 fourth quarter run for Randolph in the state semifinal game, turning a 22-21 deficit into a 29-22 lead with 5:56 left in the game.

London and Williams were selected to the Class 3A all-state tournament team by members of the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

London, Barnes, Shaun Jackson and Caleb Hentz were the Ro-Hawks only four seniors this season. The Ro-Hawks could have as many as eight players returning next season, which includes three starters, Williams and Nick Hardy – both juniors – and sophomore J.J. Gomez.

London said he appreciated the support Randolph High School fans and members of the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph community gave the Ro-Hawks during the season.

"A lot of people thought we were underdogs, but on Randolph, we never felt that way," he said. "The whole community had faith we could do it. We believed in ourselves."

Gendron said the Ro-Hawks were good representatives of their school and the JBSA-Randolph community.

"There's not a day I get up and love coming to work for people who sacrifice to protect this country and these kids parents do that every day," he said. "It's an honor to work with these military kids."

AFPC makes history on pro basketball court

By Jose T. Garza III
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Public Affairs

Photo by Jose T. Garza III

Bill Snodgrass (center), Air Force Personnel Center executive director, presents the Joint Base San Antonio Intramural Basketball Championship to the AFPC intramural basketball team March 6 at the AT&T Center.

The Air Force Personnel Center intramural basketball team from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph was anxious to make history and they did.

The team defeated the 502nd Force Support Squadron, 59-34, March 6 at the AT&T Center, making them the first to win the JBSA Intramural Basketball Championship on the home court of 2014 NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs and San Antonio Silver Stars.

The game coincided with the Spurs versus Denver Nuggets matchup later in the evening as part of Military Appreciation Day festivities. Due to the Nuggets' prolonged practice session, tip off was delayed 30 minutes.

AFPC exhibited its enthusiasm to make history from the onset with a vast 27-7 run. The team went into halftime with a 28-12 lead.

"We were anxious more than anything because we play basketball daily throughout the season from November to March and we were ready to get it going and claim another championship under our belt," said guard Staff Sgt. Michael Gunter, AFPC knowledge operator. "The feeling of the unknown, and how we were going to perform in front of our peers in a new setting made us anxious."

The FSS deficit would be no smaller than 14 in the second half. A layup from Capt. Carlos Colon, AFPC director of staff, extended the team's lead to 33 - it's largest of the game – at 57-24.

Master Sgt. Jeremy Gilchrist, superintendent of knowledge management, led AFPC with 17 points, while 1st Lt. Willie Whitley, AFPC programming factors team leader, added 11 points.

"We have been playing for three years now," Gunter said. "We know one another really well and know that our team chemistry is going to kick in. We always have confidence in each other. We never get down on any player and we always build each other up.

"We had to continue to attack FSS and not step off the gas pedal."

Producing a dominant performance in the same arena that the Spurs have won two of their five championships was not lost on the team.

"It was amazing to be on the same court that the greatest players in the world play on," Gunter said.

"It's pretty crazy (to play at the AT&T Center)," added 2nd Lt. Adam Brakeville, AFPC data analyst. "It's awe-inspiring because of the magnitude of this place. To be in the same arena that some of best players in the world have played in is amazing."

The event was coordinated between Ken Hack, Fitness Center on the Medical and Education Training Campus sports and fitness director and a former Spurs employee, and Britni Henderson, Spurs Sports & Entertainment liaison.

Both Hack and Henderson were thrilled to give both teams a different platform to showcase their talents.

"I am happy for the players on both teams and to see their smiling faces," Hack said.

Henderson added, "We definitely wanted the military community to know that we support them all year long and today was a unique opportunity to show them the 'flashy' side of what we have here."

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housing, utilities, furniture delivery, vehicle maintenance and other needs.

Logan, who started a single parent group at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, said the organization can help single parents when they face those challenges.

"For child care, the Single Parent Support Group can offer a listing of child care providers, or one of us can step in or offer a teenager who is qualified in first aid," she said.

Britt Johnson, 359th Medical Support Squadron database sustainment specialist, also mentioned issues facing single parents.

"Some of the biggest issues are trying to maintain a budget, trying to find time for yourself, trying to raise your children without feeling like you have failed them in some way, creating quality time with them and feeling like you are sometimes stretched so thin that you do not know if you are coming or going," she said.

Although active-duty members are a special emphasis of the support group, contractors and Department of Defense civilians who are single parents are also welcome, Tomlinson said. Spouses who are separated from their partners due to deployment, remote assignment or extended TDY can also benefit from participation in the support group.

Johnson, a contractor, said she learned about the support group from Tomlinson and has belonged to it from the start.

"It's simply a great outlet for single parents to discuss and relate with others the ups and downs of being a single parent," she said. "With divorce being so prominent, there needs to be a way for single parents to connect with others. Being a single parent can be a very isolating experience if you are not able to connect with others."

Logan said she has benefited from the support group "knowing I am not alone in my situation and there is strength in numbers.

"It's a huge benefit to be able to sit and share our life experiences and lessons learned," she said. "I have been able to reap the benefits from the information given by the different agencies, a safe forum to discuss issues; it truly is an environment where members are encouraged to lean on each other."

Johnson said the support group is especially helpful when a single parent relocates to another installation due to a permanent change of station.

"It creates that instant bond with others," she said.

Tomlinson also cited the importance of support during a PCS.

"The stress on a single parent is even more significant during a PCS and resiliency is built on having that support system," she said. "That support system is what we are trying to build through this group."

JBSA-Lackland also offers a single parent support group, Tomlinson said. In fact, she attended one of that group's meetings before starting the JBSA-Randolph organization.

Single parents interested in joining the support group or attending the monthly sessions can call the M&FRC at 652-5321, she said.