FORT SAM HOUSTON
News Leader
JANUARY 29, 2016
VOL. 58, NO.4
A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING – JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON

JBSA HOTLINES

DOD Safe Helpline
877-995-5247
JBSA Sexual Assault Hotline
808-SARC (7272)
JBSA Domestic Abuse Hotline
367-1213
JBSA Duty Chaplain
221-9363

JBSA FRONT AND CENTER PAGE 3

BAMC OB/GYN GETS HIGH MARKS PAGE 10

DESERT STORM 25 YEARS LATER PAGES 18-20

ARNORTH deputy speaks on recruiting, retention and readiness at panel discussion

By Sgt. Maj. Matt Howard
U.S. Army North Public Affairs

The U.S. Army North Deputy to the Commanding General discussed the challenges the Army faces in readiness, recruiting and retention during a panel discussion Jan. 21 in San Antonio.

Robert Naething joined Air Force Brig. Gen. Tom Murphy, 24th Air Force vice commander and Air Force Cyber deputy commander, and Air Force Brig. Gen. Peter Lambert, 25th Air Force vice commander, for a panel discussion hosted by the Defense One news organization titled "Maintaining Force Readiness in the New Era of Global Threats."

"Readiness is what it's all about," Naething said, echoing senior Army leadership priorities for meeting challenges globally in an era of dwindling resources. "The American public expect it and we have to provide it."

"Fort Sam Houston plays a huge role in that readiness," he added. "We are the home of all military medical training. At any time we have around 8,000 medical students."

Murphy told the audience that the definition of readiness has changed to reflect the high tech capabilities of the information age, for both friend and foe.

"This is not your father's

See NAETHING, P5

AETC commander tours Joint Base San Antonio

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, commander of Air Education and Training Command, tours the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron Jan. 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's vehicle management flight with members of the 502nd Air Base Wing leadership. The AETC commander, command chief master sergeant and their spouses were provided a 502nd ABW immersion tour at JBSA-Randolph, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston locations Jan. 20-22. Turn to Pages 6-7 for article and more photos.

Photo by Joel Martinez

FORT SAM HOUSTON
News Leader
A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING – JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO – FORT SAM HOUSTON

Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing/JBSA Commander
Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta

502nd ABW/JBSA Public Affairs Director
Todd G. White

502nd ABW/JBSA Public Affairs Chief
Bill Gaines

Writer/Editor
Steve Elliott

Layout Artist
Joe Funtanilla

News Leader office:
2080 Wilson Way
Building 247, Suite 211
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
TX 78234-5004
210-221-1031
DSN 471-1031

News Leader Advertisements:
EN Communities
P.O. Box 2171
San Antonio, TX 78297
210-250-2052

News Leader email:
usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.fsh-news-leader@mail.mil

This Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the News Leader are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or Department of Defense. It is published weekly by the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office, 2080 Wilson Way, building 247, Suite 211, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-5004; 210-221-2030, DSN 471-2030. Printed circulation is 10,000. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 502nd ABW/JBSA Public Affairs Chief. The News Leader is published by EN Communities, 301 Ave. E, San Antonio, TX 78205, 210-250-2052, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. government, under exclusive written contract with the 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Air Force. Stories and photos for publication consideration may be e-mailed to usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.fsh-news-leader@mail.mil by close of business Thursday.

Recent Texas firearms laws changes do not apply on Joint Base San Antonio

By Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta
Commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta

As most of you are aware, as of Jan. 1, a Texas law now allows citizens with a concealed handgun license to openly carry a handgun. With a license, license holders may now carry a handgun concealed or in plain sight using either a shoulder or belt holster in most places.

Even so, I want to be perfectly clear, these changes do not apply to Joint Base San Antonio. Federal law prohibits the carrying of firearms, or POFs, in federal facilities and as the Installation Commander, I want to make sure you understand that all JBSA locations will continue to prohibit both open and concealed carry of privately owned firearms by military members and civilians.

This prohibition applies to all JBSA facilities both inside and outside the fence line. State concealed carry licenses and Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act credentials are not valid on JBSA.

1. All Privately Owned Firearms on JBSA are subject to the following restrictions:

POFs within JBSA must be registered with Security Forces via Air Force Form 1314. Once registered, they may be stored in military/privatized housing if they are secured in an appropriate locked container. They must also be rendered inoperable to unauthorized users by mechanical locks or other safety devices. POFs and/or ammunition shall not be stored in vehicles, barracks, unaccompanied quarters, transient quarters, dormitories, lodging rooms, temporary lodging facilities, privatized lodging, guest houses, or JBSA camping/recreational vehicle areas. Residents or visitors at these facilities must immediately store any POFs in a Security Forces Armory.

2. If transporting a POF on JBSA, it must be unloaded, separated from ammunition, and transported in the rear-most portion of the vehicle. Individuals transporting a POF must notify entry controllers of the POF when entering JBSA. They must then proceed directly to the appropriate range or authorized storage facility and cannot store their POF in the vehicle for later use. POFs shall not be transported on motorcycles, bicycles, or other two or three-wheeled vehicles.

Please also note that across the state of Texas, handgun carry is still prohibited in some places. For example, it will still be a felony to carry a firearm onto the premises of a business like a bar at which over 51 percent of the revenue comes from the sale of alcohol.

It will also still be illegal to carry a firearm into courts or court offices, election polling places, racetracks, public sporting events and secured areas of airports. You also cannot carry a gun if you are intoxicated. Additionally, private property owners may prohibit individuals from carrying a handgun, either concealed or openly, on their property.

Bottom Line: JBSA is a complex environment. Fortunately, we have exceptional security forces and investigation professionals who are on duty 24/7/365 ensuring the safety, security and asset protection for all of us who live and work on JBSA.

Therefore, if you plan to own a handgun, it is your responsibility to obtain the required training and licenses, to follow the law and requirements of JBSA, and to become familiar with the applicable laws in your jurisdiction and across the State so that you do not violate those provisions.

As always, please accept my thanks to all of you and your families for your hard work, dedication and the professionalism you display daily in executing your part of the critical missions that provide for the security of this great nation!

As Army shrinks, higher quality, more innovation prevails

By Elizabeth Behring
Redstone Arsenal, Ala., Public Affairs

As the Army force shrinks to its lowest levels since World War II, the service's top manpower leader said it's also transitioning to a higher quality and more innovative team.

"If you are a Soldier today, you've got to get on the field and play your position," said Army Deputy Chief of Staff G-1 Lt. Gen. James C. McConville. "And you've got to go to the away games."

McConville, who addressed nearly 200 Soldiers and civilians at Army Materiel Command headquarters in December 2015, said 50,000 active-duty Soldiers and 100,000 in the entire force are considered non-deployable.

"We need resilient, mentally and physically fit Soldiers of character who can become competent, committed, agile and adaptive leaders who can perform for these cohesive teams of trusted professionals and represent the diversity of America," McConville said. "Young people want to be on a team that does important stuff. They're the type of Soldiers we want in our Army."

Army Research Institute social scientists have determined throughout the past decade that Soldiers, who are the most resilient, both mentally and physically, will do the best in combat.

This resiliency translates into readiness, which remains the number one priority, McConville said, even as the number of Soldiers dips toward 450,000 in the active component, 335,000 in the National Guard and 195,000 in the Army Reserve.

Of those remaining Soldiers, McConville said the onus is on them to be the best of the best.

"As we go forward, we'll be much more of an innovative total force. We're looking right now on how to bring in higher-quality troops," McConville said.

To ensure the cali-

See SHRINKS, P21

Joint Base San Antonio
http://www.facebook.com/JointBaseSanAntonio
Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston
http://www.facebook.com/JBSAFortSamHouston

Joint Base San Antonio
http://www.twitter.com/JBSA_Official
Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston
http://www.twitter.com/JBSAFSH

http://www.JBSA.mil
http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao

News Briefs

Programs Help Soldiers Get Commission, Become Medical Officers

The Inter-Service Physician Assistant Program and Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program exist to help Soldiers gain a commission and become medical officers. These opportunities will be briefed by program managers from Fort Knox, Ky., at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797, in Suite 95, the facility's auditorium. For more information, call 502-626-0386 or 502-626-0381.

Officer Candidate School Board Interview Panel

The 502nd Force Support Squadron's Military Personnel Branch conduct an Army Officer Candidate School structure interview panel board at 8 a.m. Thursday at building 2263, 1706 Stanley Road, room 117B. All Soldiers must have a bachelor's degree and cannot be over the age of 33, without exceptions. Soldiers must be U.S. citizens, have a general technical score of 110 or higher, a security clearance and cannot have more than six years active federal service. Soldiers are required to have a Department of the Army photo or photo in Army Combat Uniform. Do not apply if you are on assignment or scheduled to deploy. Visit https://www.hrcapps.army.mil/site/protect/branches/officer/Operations/Accessions/OCS/index.htm for a listing of OCS requirements and forms. All OCS applicants must see their S1/G1 prior to submitting their OCS packets. For more information, call 221-0885.

Annual Youth Basketball Clinic

The African American Heritage Committee and Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Youth Programs present the 7th Annual Youth Basketball Clinic Feb. 5 at the JBSA-Lackland Youth Center, building 8420. The session for ages 5-9 is from 4:30-6 p.m. and for ages 10-15 from 6-7:30 p.m. The clinic will focus on dribbling, shooting, conditioning drills and

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

ARMY UNDERSECRETARY VISITS SAMMC

Brooke Army Medical Center Commander Col. Evan Renz (right) points out some aspects of San Antonio Military Medical Center to Under Secretary of the Army Patrick Murphy during his visit Jan. 21 to SAMMC. Murphy visited SAMMC to learn about BAMC's mission.

Under Secretary of the Army Patrick Murphy (left) talks with Col. Michael Hilliard, Emergency Department chief, about SAMMC's Level I trauma mission Jan. 21 during a visit to learn about BAMC's mission.

Col. Kurt Edwards (right), Brooke Army Medical Center trauma surgeon, shows Under Secretary of the Army Patrick Murphy the rooftop helipad Jan. 21 at SAMMC. BAMC is the only Level I Trauma Center within the Department of Defense and has the only rooftop helipad.

Photos by Robert Shields

JBSA Front and Center: lure of outdoors draws Airman to cable, antenna systems career field

By Robert Goetz
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Ever since he was a boy growing up in a Kansas City, Mo., suburb, Air Force Staff Sgt. Adam Nichols has enjoyed the great outdoors.

His days of Boy Scout campouts are behind him, but now Nichols is serving his country in a job that allows him to spend much of his time outdoors.

Nichols, who joined the Air Force eight years ago, is a cable and antenna systems craftsman with the 502nd Communications Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"I like being out in the sun," he said. "I couldn't imagine a job where you sit in a room behind a desk all day. I like doing physical work."

One of Nichols' tasks is climbing antenna support structures and wooden poles to maintain and install cable and antenna systems. He said it's the favorite part of his job.

"I like working out and climbing's probably one of the best workouts you can get," he said.

Nichols said he considered a military career at an early age because he wanted to serve his country and help people, and he followed his

See NICHOLS, P9

Photo by Sean Schroeder

Staff Sgt. Adam Nichols, 502nd Communications Squadron cable and antenna systems craftsman, connects network cables Sept. 14, 2015, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Members of the 502nd CS install telephones, local area network connections, install and maintain antenna, and maintain communications towers.

DOD: Training, awareness critical in human trafficking fight

By Lisa Ferdinando
DDD News, Defense Media Activity

The signs of human trafficking could be all around Department of Defense personnel: a subcontractor withholds passports and delays payment to its employees or a company forces potential workers to pay a large fee to obtain a contract job on a DOD installation.

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and the DOD is highlighting the issue and its efforts to fight trafficking, said Army Col. Joshua Burris, deputy chief of staff for Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Sam Houston, and the executive director for DOD's Operational Contract Support Joint Exercise 2016.

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, Burris said, adding that Defense Department has zero tolerance for violations.

DOD wants its service members, civilians, contractors and others associated with the agency to be able to recognize the signs of human trafficking and know how to report suspected violations, he said.

"Human trafficking includes using force, fraud or coercion to compel a person to provide labor, services or sex," Burris said. "It is a violation of basic human rights. It is a global problem; it happens in the United States and around the world.

"This is a heinous, awful thing that happens," Burris added. "It's very important that we eradicate it."

The three most common forms of trafficking, according to the DOD's Combating Trafficking in Persons office, are labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and child soldiering.

DOD relies on contractors at installations around the world, Burris said. The human trafficking violations the agency sees most often, he said, are labor abuses involving debt bondage.

Debt bondage is when a person is required to pay a large fee to obtain a job, putting the person in extreme debt in which the individual works a year or more just to pay off the debt, Burris explained.

The contract workers on bases are the ones who make meals, pump gas, or do other tasks to support the military, he pointed out. They face dangers as well, he said, including indirect fire at installations in warzones. They must be treated fairly and in accordance with laws and DOD regulations, he said.

Five hundred people, including service members from Army and Air Force South, U.S. Special Operations Command and the 1st Armored Division and Acquisition and Financial Management professionals, will take part in a joint, interagency exercise in March and April 2016 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

A focus of the Operational Contract Support Joint Exercise includes scenarios in human trafficking, Burris said. The exercise will evaluate current policies and approaches via the DOD supply chain.

"It's especially important because it is happening worldwide," Burris said. "It's something that we need to take a look at and make sure our people know."

The exercise includes Army South partner nations. They will observe human trafficking and Operational Contract Support training to incorporate lessons into next year's U.S. Southern Command's PANAMAX, he said. Scenarios are based on coalition forces responding to an armed conflict and follow-on stabilization operations.

The exercise will use role player scenarios so participants will better recognize signs of human trafficking, and what actions should be taken, Burris noted.

"We have to keep an eye out and be able to identify these signs, and that's why the training presents this in our exercise," he said.

The signs of labor trafficking include an employer confiscating identification documents or forging legal documents, subjecting a person to unsafe working conditions, providing inadequate living conditions, or denying the worker medical care, Burris said.

Members of the military and DOD civilian personnel are required to take at least one Combating Trafficking in Persons training course every fiscal year.

Specialized training is available for service members, law enforcement personnel, senior leaders and contracting professionals.

Signs are posted around military bases so workers know their rights, Burris said. DOD has supplemental exercises each year on fighting human trafficking.

DOD officials emphasize that everyone can do their part in fighting trafficking.

Incidents of human trafficking can be reported to the DOD Inspector General hotline at 1-800-424-9098, 703-604-8799 or DSN 664-8799, or at http://www.dodig.mil/hotline.

Courtesy graphic

President Barack Obama proclaimed January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

NAETHING from P1

readiness," Murphy said. "We're dealing with a network in a domain that is clearly contested. There are people trying to get in our network all the time. In a week we defend more than a billion attempted inbound connections into our network and about 5 billion outbound connections.

"The adversary is agile. They're persistent and they're tenacious," Murphy added. "We have to stay ahead of them. We have to change our behavior based on their behavior."

Naething agreed, noting the modern need for "cyber warriors" has taught the Army a lot about the abilities of its Soldiers.

"You typically bring a Soldier in and you teach him how to be a tanker or something," he said.

Photo by Lt. Col. Tim Beninato

(From left) Brig. Gen. Peter Lambert, 25th Air Force vice commander; Brig. Gen. Tom Murphy, 24th Air Force vice commander and deputy commander, Air Force Cyber; and Robert Naething, U.S. Army North Deputy to the Commanding General, join Defense One deputy editor Bradley Peniston for a one-hour panel discussion on military readiness, recruiting and retention in San Antonio Jan. 21.

"But this cyber is a high-level skill so do we have to go out there and recruit a bunch of Ph.D.'s out of MIT? Well, how do you do that? How do you pay for them? The only immediate solution was to reach within the Army and see the Soldiers we already had ... the sergeants and the officers we already have and try to build an initial capacity.

"The phenomenon that took us off guard is that there is a tremendous capacity among our Soldiers that we didn't expect," Naething added.

Naething said the need for recruiting tech savvy Soldiers extends beyond cyber and into domains that are critical to the homeland defense and disaster response missions of Army North such as mass casualty medical care and tactical search and rescue.

"If a disaster happens and buildings collapse, you just can't go in and start pulling people out," he said. "There are methods you have to know. That is all really high skill level stuff, very similar to cyber commands."

Naething noted the challenges the Army faces today with recruiting since the vast majority of potential recruits know little about the military and do not have a close relative who served. He said the Army must aggressively reach out to all parts of American society.

"If we want the skilled, technical people to come in who have the talent and the potential, we can't look at one little segment of population," he said. "It is spread across all of the different, diverse backgrounds across the United States."

Near the end of the one-hour discussion, Naething talked about retention, and discussed how he believes sending Soldiers out to corporations for one-year assignments to train with industry will become the norm, rather than the exception.

"I don't even think it's an option and it's because of the high-tech capabilities we need not just in those technical skills but also managerial skills," he said. "There has been a sea-change over the past 12 to 24 months and it's getting to the point where I believe if you don't do one of those training with industry assignments it may hold you back."

News Briefs

Continued from P3

offensive/defensive footwork. Cost is one canned food donation for the San Antonio Food Bank. Registration continues through Feb. 5 and all participants must bring their own basketball. Call 977-3921 for more information.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Black History Month Event

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Black History Month commemoration is planned for noon Feb. 10 at the Fort Sam Houston Theater, hosted by Brooke Army Medical Center. Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Calvert is the guest speaker.

Weingarten rights: having union representation during investigatory interviews

The Labor Relations Statute entitles a bargaining unit employee to representation by the union during an examination, by an agency representative, in connection with a matter under official investigation if that employee reasonably believes disciplinary action will result. If the employee requests union representation, no further questioning will take place until a representative is present. For those stationed at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, call 808-0205; at JBSA-Randolph, call 652-4658 and at JBSA-Lackland, call 671-4528.

Check Your Military, CAC, Dependent ID Expiration Dates Now

All Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting system, Command Access Card and military ID card locations throughout Joint Base San Antonio are by 100 percent appointment only and wait time for an appointment can be up to 30 days. Civilian and military members need to remember then their CACs and military IDs expire and schedule renewal appointments appropriately. Plan ahead for your family members for when their ID cards or and DEERS updates need to be made. Appointments can be made online at https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.od.mil.

AETC commander visits with Joint Base San Antonio members

By Steve Elliott
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
Public Affairs

Photos by Joel Martinez

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, commander of Air Education and Training Command, conducts a commander's call at the 802nd Force Support Squadron Academic Support Building during an immersion tour of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 20. The AETC commander, command chief master sergeant and their spouses were provided a 502nd Air Base Wing immersion tour across Joint Base San Antonio. Members of the 502nd Air Base Wing execute 49 installation support functions for 266 mission partners across JBSA.

"Airpower started here."

With those words, Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, commander of Air Education and Training Command, kicked off his visit Jan. 20 with several hundred Joint Base San Antonio service members, civilians and contractors at the Student Activity Center on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The general spent three days – Jan. 20 through Friday – immersing himself in the vast array of missions and activities the 502nd Air Base Wing accomplishes at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland. He was accompanied by his wife, Cheryl, as well as the new AETC command chief, Chief Master Sgt. David Staton and his wife, Kimberly

"It is an honor and a privilege to be commander of AETC," Roberson said. "Every one of you plays a vital role in the success of AETC and I'm here to learn what is important to you."

After talking about his life in the military and relating his father was a U.S. Navy Senior Master chief specializing in avionics, the general explained AETC's strategic focus areas.

The first area is motivational mission accomplishment, and he emphasized building up and inspiring people must be part of how we operate. "Our mission is to serve and protect our country," he stated, so it's vital that people feel committed and motivated to doing it.

"During times like now – with budget cutbacks, sequestration, etc. – we have to stay focused on taking care of our people," Roberson said of his second focus area of compassionate care of Airmen and their families.

His third area is innovation. "Innovation is the key in our ability to adapt and stay ahead of our enemy," he said. "Innovation comes from you. Change can be hard at times, but change is a constant."

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, commander of Air Education and Training Command, speaks to Soldiers during a tour of the Student Activities Center Jan. 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. The AETC commander, command chief master sergeant and their spouses were provided a 502nd Air Base Wing immersion tour across Joint Base San Antonio.

Leadership is the general's final focus area. "Leadership is the most important thing we have to pay attention to. We have to have strong leadership from an Airman's first supervisor level all the way to the top of the

See ROBERSON, P7

Air Education and Training Command releases 2016 Strategic Plan

Air Education and Training Command officials have released the command's 2016 Strategic Plan, designed to advance the First Command's vision of "forging innovative Airmen to power the world's greatest Air Force."

"The 2016 Strategic Plan links all Airmen – military and civilian – to core AETC missions that directly impact Air Force operations worldwide," said Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander.

The plan aligns activities across the command, complements Headquarters Air Force imperatives, and focuses on mission success while supporting Airmen and their families. The plan highlights four strategic vectors: Motivational Mission Accomplishment, Know Our Airmen and Families, Innovation, and Leadership.

"Airpower starts here in the First Command," Roberson said. "We are foundational to everything the U.S. Air Force does. This plan clearly articulates how we can be successful today and agile enough to meet future challenges to keep America's Air Force the strongest on the planet ... and it all starts with our extraordinarily talented Airmen."

Roberson stressed that the 2016 AETC Strategic Plan is designed to be practical and useful for all Airmen across the command.

"This plan is intentional – it intentionally aligns our mission to Air Force imperatives and it's intentionally short. Our Airmen's time is valuable and the guidance we give them must be clear, concise and usable," he said.

"I encourage every AETC Airman – military and civilian – to take a few minutes and look through it. Our continued success depends on everybody's involvement and commitment."

The command will establish a framework for assessing its progress toward meeting the strategic goals. An annex with measureable objects will be released in the Spring of 2016.

To read the 2016 Strategic Plan, visit https://aetc.usaf.af-pims.mil/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=j_uTIpNmCKY%3d&tabid=117&portalid=1&mid=536.

(Source: Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs)

ROBERSON from P6

chain of command."

Roberson transitioned into describing his own leadership philosophy. "What it comes down to for me are the three Cs … competence, care and character."

In regards to competence, he said, "Lead from the front and lead by example. Leave no doubt for the people you lead that you know what you're talking about. Make the effort to become competent in whatever position you may find yourself in.

"If you're going to lead, your people must know that you care about them," Roberson said. "It takes active mentoring and really getting to know and caring about your people and their families."

The general then stressed the importance of integrity and character and how all three Cs come together to equal trust.

Roberson also discussed some of the "big picture" concerns facing the Air Force and AETC.

Talking about threats posed by fighters with the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq, he said, "We take ISIS fighters off the battlefield routinely. We're using airpower to help Iraq and others defeat this ISIS threat.

Touching on the new T-X jet trainer that will replace the T-38 Talon as the primary trainer for Air Force undergraduate pilot training, Roberson said, "This is the next-generation trainer for the fighter and bomber pilots of tomorrow, so we need to get it right."

In talking about remotely piloted aircraft, he pointed out the differences between RPAs and drones. "RPAs always have a pilot. These pilots are becoming increasingly important to the Air Force. In fact, as of this year, we now have more RPA pilots in the Air Force than any other kind."

Wrapping up his "big picture concerns," Roberson turned to a somber subject: suicides and sexual assaults. "Until we get to zero in these two areas, we have a lot of work to do. Just know there are many people ready to work with you on these issues. Be that wingman who reaches out and says and does something to take care of your fellow wingman."

After taking a few questions from the audience, Roberson wrapped up by lauding the commitment and achievements of JBSA, the largest joint base in the Department of Defense.

"I could not be more genuine when I say I am so appreciative of what all of you do every day at JBSA," the general said. "You are setting the standard in so many ways for the rest of the Department of Defense."

Photo by Joel Martinez

Bryan Gillespie (left), 502nd Security Forces Squadron director, briefs Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, commander of Air Education and Training Command, his wife, Cheryl; and Chief Master Sergeant David R. Staton, AETC command chief master sergeant, on the 502nd SFS mission Jan. 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's Base Defense Operations Center.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Tax Center opens Monday

By Brian J. Novak
502nd Force Support Group Military Tax Assistance Center Director

With the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military Tax Assistance Center opening Monday, it is important to understand where we are located, who the MTAC serves and the scope of the services provided.

First, the main MTAC site is located on the second floor of building 131 at 1304 Stanley Road. The San Antonio Military Medical Center site is located in the SAMMC basement in room L44-06. Make sure to confirm the location of the MTAC sites when making your appointment.

Second, the MTAC serves all active duty military members, military retirees and their dependents.

Unless you are otherwise authorized services as an active duty military member, retired military or their family members; the MTAC cannot prepare returns for civilian personnel, military contractors and the general civilian population.

The center also does not provide services for Reservists and Guardsmen, unless they are on Title 10 orders for 30 days or more or just came off of extended active duty. The MTAC also does not provide services for "gray-area" retired Reservists. If a retired Reservist or Guardsman is receiving retirement pay, they are eligible for services.

If you are not sure if you are authorized to have your taxes completed at the MTAC, a good rule of thumb is if you can obtain medical treatment from SAMMC, then you are eligible to utilize MTAC services. If you are not sure, contact the MTAC at 295-1040 to clarify your authorization.

If you're authorized to have your taxes completed at the MTAC, what type of services does the MTAC provide?

The tax center can prepare most personal income tax returns and the staff is certified by the IRS to complete advance and military tax returns.

The MTAC can complete tax returns covering wages, interest, dividend, capital gains with basis, residential rental real estate, IRA distributions, pension, unemployment, and social security incomes and also complete Schedule C-EZ business income returns for Child Development Center daycare providers.

The MTAC can complete tax returns that require Schedule A itemized deductions and education, residential energy, dependent care, retirement savings, child tax, additional child tax and earned income credits.

The staff at the tax center is specifically trained to prepare tax returns for military members with combat zone excluded pay and other military unique tax situations.

There are certain services that are outside the scope of the MTAC. For example, the tax center does not provide tax services for day traders, capital gains without basis, people with three or more rental properties, sale of rental property, returns requiring K-1s beyond interest and royalties, farm income, foreign tax credits greater than $600 and other returns deemed outside the scope by the MTAC director.

The staff of the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military Tax Assistance Center looks forward to providing those eligible with outstanding personal income tax preparation services in the weeks and months ahead.

Appointments can be made beginning Friday at 295-1040 for the main tax site. Appointments for the SAMMC Tax Site can be made beginning Monday at 916-1040.

HOUSTON ASTROS VISIT WARRIOR & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Houston Astros outfielder Colby Rasmus (right) poses for pictures with a fan Jan. 19 at the Warrior & Family Support Center at Fort Sam Houston. Rasmus and teammate Brad Peacock talked to recovering service members and their families, posed for pictures and signed autographs during their visit.

Houston Astros player Brad Peacock signs autographs at the Warrior & Family Support Center at Fort Sam Houston Jan. 19. Peacock and teammate Colby Rasmus toured the facility and both remarked how impressed they were by the care given to wounded and ailing service members and their families.

Photos by Luis A. Deya

JBSA-Randolph packs nutrition session as part of agreement with BiblioTech

By Jose Garza
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Library will host a seven-week nutrition class starting at 4 p.m. Friday as part of JBSA's approved agreement with Bibliotech, Bexar County's Digital Library, which was created in October to provide digital resources to military families stationed at all three installations.

As part of the program instructed by the Texas A&M Extension Services, the class will cover the following topics:

- Healthy families
- Healthy foods
- Making the Most of MyPlate
- Play It Safe Mealtime Miracle
- The Power of Planning
- Setting Your Limits
- Foods that Pack a Phone
- The Choice is Yours

The nutrition program is the second of three scheduled quarterly special programming events to be held at each installation on a rotating basis per the agreement with the purpose of fostering the partnership between JBSA and BiblioTech so community members can learn how to use digital resources. JBSA-Lackland hosted a genealogy session in November.

"The library is an edifying environment for people to learn plus discover books, magazines and other resources that they might want to learn about and check them out," said Laura Cole, BiblioTech administrator for Bexar County.

Besides the quarterly events, BiblioTech delivered 150 Nook e-readers, a BiblioTech Discovery Terminal kiosk and other digital resources to enhance each of the three libraries services in December 2015 under the agreement, which was described in a press release as the "first of its kind" for the Department of Defense.

Jennifer Robertson, JBSA's lead librarian and based at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, is "ecstatic" about the JBSA and BiblioTech partnership.

"I am happy we are able to bring these digital services to the JBSA community," she said. "As a JBSA library, we are technically an Air Force library, but we are also part of the Army General Library Program. We get to provide our patrons not only with Army digital resources but Air Force digital resources and e-resources provided by BiblioTech."

"We are able to be a triple threat for our community and help them in different ways to utilize e-resources. With this partnership, it puts us in a new age of librarianship as far as distributing better resources for our patrons because not only are we bringing them programming, resources and tablets, but we are

See BIBLIO TECH, P21

Families urged to learn about veteran military burial honors

By Terri Moon Cronk
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

Planning funerals for military veterans and retirees can be overwhelming for their families and the Department of Defense's director of casualty and mortuary affairs wants family members to familiarize themselves in advance when possible to know what to expect with military funeral honors.

Deborah S. Skillman said families should learn about military funeral honors eligibility ahead of time to know what choices are available. She also recommends that family members should ensure they have access to the veteran's discharge papers, also called DD Form 214, to prove eligibility.

It's also critical for family members who want military funeral honors to tell their funeral director, who can make the request for them, she said. The honors are not automatic, and must be requested through the veteran's branch of service, she noted.

"Families also need to know the DOD is going to be there when the honors are requested," Skillman added.

DOD policy is mandated by law to provide a minimum of a two-person uniformed detail to present the core elements of the funeral honors ceremony, and one service member must represent the veteran's branch of service, she said. The core elements comprise playing Taps, folding the American flag and presenting the flag to the family.

Burials with military funeral honors can be conducted at national, veterans' or private cemeteries, she said.

"While the DOD is required to provide a two-service-member detail, policy encourages each service secretary to provide additional elements, such as the firing team and pall bearers, if resources permit. However, full honors are always provided for active duty deaths," Skillman said.

"Military honors may consist of three rifle volleys by a firing team," she said, and added that veteran service organizations often participate in burials with military honors to serve as pall bearers and to provide a firing team.

The Veterans Affairs Department also offers other benefits, such as headstones, Skillman said.

"We want to honor every eligible service member," Skillman said, "and make sure the services are there to render honors."

Staff Sgt. Adam Nichols, 502nd Communications Squadron cable and antenna systems craftsman, climbs an antenna Sept. 14, 2015, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. 502nd CS members serve more than 40,000 joint military and civilian customers in more than 600 buildings at JBSA.

Photo by Sean Schroeder

NICHOLS from P3

mother's advice to enlist in the Air Force. Pursuing his career field choice, he studied electronic principles at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and attended technical school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, before applying his skills at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; Yokota Air Base, Japan; JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Nichols said 502nd CS members at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston serve more than 40,000 joint military and civilian customers and more than 600 buildings at their home location as well as JBSA-Camp Bullis and JBSA-Camp Stanley, attending to duties that include installing telephones on people's desks and local area network connections on the walls, installing and maintaining antennas, and maintaining communications towers. They're responsible for thousands of miles of copper and fiber-optic cable and infrastructure.

"We also trouble-shoot cable inside manholes, test fiber optics inside buildings and do a lot of LAN category-6 installations," he said. "Most of our work is preventive maintenance and repair."

Nichols' supervisor, Tech. Sgt. Kristofer Canales, 502nd CS NCO in charge of cable and antenna systems at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Camp Bullis and JBSA-Camp Stanley, called him a "very skilled and knowledgeable cable and antenna technician."

"Words can't explain how much of an asset Staff Sgt. Nichols is to this work center," he said. "He's not afraid to step up and get dirty. Whether it's climbing a 200-foot communications tower or splicing cable in a manhole, he's always ready to go. He has very strong communication skills and I haven't received one negative feedback from our customers or supervisors."

Nichols, who was 502nd CS NCO of the third quarter, said his squadron's work affects everyone – "anyone who depends on a computer or phone.

"You enable so many different people," he said. "You touch everything. Without us, nobody would be able to do their jobs."

New moms give high marks to SAMMC for labor, delivery care

By Elaine Sanchez
Brooke Army Medical Center
Public Affairs

The San Antonio Military Medical Center Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston remains the Department of Defense's highest-rated facility for maternal-child satisfaction, according to TRICARE Inpatient Satisfaction Surveys.

This means new moms are continually giving high marks to SAMMC for their labor, delivery and post-partum care, explained Army Col. Scott Kambiss, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology chief.

"We provide compassionate, state-of-the-art care every step of the way," he said. "We feel like we have the best to offer our active duty, retirees and veterans."

Kambiss credits the standout survey results to a highly qualified staff and top-notch amenities and services.

"Our staff is one of the most diverse groups of OB/GYNs I've seen," he said. "We have a mix of seasoned veterans who bring education and a vast amount of knowledge to the table, as well as recent graduates who bring with them the most modern approaches in the field."

Additionally, as a teaching hospital, SAMMC hosts Army and Air Force residents and medical students on clinical rotations, he added.

The robust team also includes obstetricians and certified midwives. This mix of specialties enables expectant moms to customize their birthing plan, whether they're set on natural childbirth or open to pain relief interventions, noted Army Col. Elizabeth Murray, Maternal-Child Nursing chief.

"We are very involved in collaborating with patients regarding their birth plans and supporting them as much as possible," she said.

The labor and delivery environment is an extension of that support, Murray said. With glossy wood floors and inviting colors, the unit has a home-like feel from the moment a family enters the double doors.

Expectant moms and their families stay in large, private rooms from labor throughout the post-partum experience.

"We really try to provide a family centered experience in an environment that reminds them of home," Murray said.

The unit is collocated with pediatrics' neonatal intensive care unit, which ensures state-of-the-art care for babies with health issues or born on the earliest side of maturity.

"We work hand in hand with the Department of Pediatrics," Kambiss said. "We wouldn't be able to do what we do without their great assistance."

Air Force 2nd Lt. Auriel Vokolek, a nurse, takes newborn Isabella's temperature as her mom, Air Force Staff Sgt. Keri Sorsby, holds her in the post-partum unit at San Antonio Military Medical Center.

Throughout the department, lactation consultants are on hand to encourage and facilitate breastfeeding for new moms, Murray added, noting SAMMC's commitment to breastfeeding initiatives. SAMMC is the Defense Department's first designated Texas Ten Step facility, meaning it has shown an exemplary effort to promote and educate patients on breastfeeding.

Both pre- and post-partum, patients have access to one of the city's only women's health physical therapists.

Patricia Rodriguez treats pelvic floor dysfunctions, such as urinary incontinence, chronic pelvic pain and a host of other women's issues.

"One of my main goals is to teach patients how to take care of themselves," Rodriguez said. "The more you understand about your body, the more effective you can be in taking care of it at every stage of life."

Air Force Col. Brian York, Department of OB/GYN assistant chief, calls it a "true honor" to work at SAMMC.

"We have the privilege of helping our patients bring a new life into their family," York said. "It's quite an honor to be a part of that."

Air Force Capt. Tiffany Prochaska, Emergency Department assistant team lead, also has high praise for SAMMC's childbirth services. She has the distinction of delivering the hospital's first baby of 2016: 9-pound, 2-ounce Evelyn Rose.

"Everyone was wonderful; very compassionate," she said. "I knew a lot of the people taking care of me which took a lot of the anxiety away. I'm thrilled to work and receive care here."

Obstetric services are open to all TRICARE beneficiaries.

Additionally, thanks to a new Veterans Affairs sharing agreement, VA beneficiaries are now welcome to give birth at SAMMC.

"We have a long-standing agreement with the VA to take care of veterans with gynecological issues," Kambiss said. "This new agreement in obstetrics will enable us to offer more services to our female veterans. We are excited to care for this deserving population."

Murray said she's proud to work at a facility that always puts the patients first. "When I ask the staff what they enjoy most about working here, I hear nearly the same answer across the board," she said. "It's the emphasis on safety and quality care that draws them to the organization. And if our staff is happy, our patients are happy."

Photos by Robert T. Shields

Air Force Maj. Nicholas Carr (left), a neonatologist, takes a break from his paternity leave to give Air Force Staff Sgt. Keri Sorsby a sleep sack for her newborn Isabella in the post-partum unit at San Antonio Military Medical Center. SAMMC is partnering with Bexar County on the Safe to Sleep campaign, which encourages parents to place babies on their backs on a firm surface free of pillows, crib bumpers and loose bedding.

Joint Base San Antonio FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events February

Bowling

Valentine drawing leads to dinner

Purchase a basket combo Feb. 9-12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center and be entered to win a $50 Visa gift card for a valentine dinner. Combo meals range from $6 to $8.50 and the winner is selected Feb. 13, 3 p.m. For more information, call 221-3683.

Seafood special available during Lent

Stop by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Feb. 10 to March 24 for a seafood basket. The catfish combo includes two 5-ounce fish fillets, fries and a soft drink for $8.50 or purchase a catfish sandwich for $4.50. The shrimp combo includes 8 ounces of shrimp, fries and a soft drink for $7. Hush puppies can be substituted for fries for an additional cost. A side order of hush puppies is $2. For more information, call 221-3683.

Presidents Day brings bowling specials

Come to the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center to celebrate Presidents Day weekend Feb. 13-15. The special bowling rate for the entire weekend is $2.50 per game, per person with a $2.50 shoe rental. Cosmic Bowling is not included. For more information, call 652-6271.

Sweethearts play in a tournament

Celebrate Valentine's Day at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Feb. 14, 12:30 p.m., with the Sweethearts' Mixed Doubles Tournament. Teams must include one male and one female and participants must register in advance. Cost is $30 per couple and doors open at noon. For more information, call 652-6271.

Lunch is combined with bowling

Stop by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Tuesdays-Fridays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., for a lunch special and fun, friendly bowling competition. Games and rental shoes are $1.50 each. For more information, call 221-3683.

Spend lunchtime at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center. Bowl for $1 per game with $1 rental shoes Fridays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 671-1234.

Clubs

Chef creates special dinners at the club

The chef at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club creates a special evening dining experience in the Mesquite dining room, 5-8 p.m., with satisfying menus for all. Cost is $16.95 for members and $18.95 for nonmembers.

The Feb. 5 menu includes filet mignon with Gorgonzola cream sauce topped with bacon and green onions, sautéed jumbo shrimp, Duchess potatoes, broccoli spears, a house salad and dessert. The Feb. 12 menu features lobster tail, bacon-wrapped filet mignon, Duchess potatoes, roasted asparagus spears and a house salad. For Feb. 19, enjoy prime rib au jus, rosemary roasted potatoes, asparagus spears with red peppers and house salad. The Feb. 26 menu includes a porterhouse steak with mushrooms and onions, baked potato, grilled corn on the cob and a house salad. For more information, call 645-7034.

Guests attend Monte Carlo Night

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Club hosts Monte Carlo Night Feb. 5, 6:30-11 p.m. Enjoy a night of gaming, food and the chance to win several prizes including a flat-screen TV, tablets, gift cards, gift baskets, wireless fitness trackers and more. Cost for this event is $20 and space is limited. Reservations are required. For more information, call 222-9386.

Club offers entertainment and drinks

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club is the hot spot on base for nighttime fun all month.

Kick off the month with First Friday at the Maverick Lounge with Doggin' Dave Productions Feb. 5, 5-8 p.m. Enjoy bar food, drinks, friends and music.

Musical entertainment is provided in the Lone Star Lounge with DJ LJU, Feb. 12, 5-6 p.m., and 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. with the 4th Quarter Band playing 6-9 p.m.

Check out "We're Halfway There Night" at the Maverick Lounge Feb. 19, 5-8 p.m. DJ LJU provides entertainment while guests relax.

Close out the month in the Maverick Lounge Feb. 26, 5-8 p.m., with music by Doggin' Dave Productions. Relax and play pool. For more information, call 645-7034.

Sky Lounge hosts live entertainment

Stop by the Sky Lounge in the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club for musical entertainment provided by Bugz Garza & The Alliance Feb. 5 and the Tobias Band Feb. 19, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres 5-6 p.m. Admission is $3 for members and $5 for nonmembers. For more information, call 658-7445.

Football fans watch the "Big Game"

Watch the "Big Game" and cheer for a favorite team at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club Feb. 7, 3 p.m. Large-screen TVs capture every play-by-play moment. Purchase items from the bar menu during the game. For more information, call 645-7034.

Join the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club for the "Big Game" 50 Feb. 7. The Nite Club is open 11 a.m. to the end of the game for a tailgate party. Food specials are offered all day and coupons are accepted. Halftime includes a hot wings eating contest and the winner receives a $100 Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift card. This event is sponsored by Budweiser®. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 652-3056.

Valentine's Day is celebrated early with a meal

Visit the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club for a pre-Valentine's Day buffet Feb. 11, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is $10.95 per person and the menu includes roast beef au jus, chicken breast with mushroom sauce, fried chicken, cranberry-kissed pork chops, baked tilapia with white wine sauce, mixed wild rice, whipped potatoes with brown gravy, macaroni and cheese, corn O'Brien, glazed carrots with snow peas, soup, a salad bar, fresh fruit, red velvet cake, Boston cream pie, Hershey kisses, Valentine's Day cake, carrot cake, chocolate cake and cherry cobbler. For more information, call 645-7034.

Sweethearts dine at the club

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club treats sweethearts to a romantic dinner in the Mesquite Dining Room Feb. 13, 5-8 p.m. Enjoy shrimp cocktail, a spring-blend salad with strawberries, mandarin oranges, pecans, feta cheese with raspberry vinaigrette, Chateaubriand for two, Duchess potatoes, roasted asparagus spears, rolls, chocolate sorbet, New York cheesecake topped with mixed berries and champagne. Cost is $30 for single members, $55 for member couples, $40 for single nonmembers and $65 for nonmember couples. For more information, call 645-7034.

Bingo fun is at the club

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick club hosts a bingo extravaganza Feb. 1 and 15 with $15,000 in jackpots and a complimentary buffet at 5 p.m. Early Bird bingo beings at 6 p.m.

Join in Birthday Bingo at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club Feb. 9. Birthday members receive one free machine, cake and champagne. This event is for Randolph club members only and ID and club card are required.

Valentine's Day bingo is held at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club Feb. 14. The Wheel of Fortune doubles any prize landed on. A dessert and coffee station is available.

A mini bingo extravaganza with $5,000 in jackpots is played Feb. 29 at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club. A complimentary buffet is offered at 5 p.m. with Early Bird bingo at 6 p.m. For more information, call 652-3056.

February birthdays are celebrated with a buffet

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club offers a complimentary buffet every month for members with birthdays in that month. Members with February birthdays are honored Feb. 16 and the buffet includes salad, two vegetables, two starches, two entrées, soup and birthday cake. This is free for birthday members. Cost is $11.95 for members without a birthday in January, $5.95 for members' children, 6-12 years, $13.95 for nonmembers and $7.95 for nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children 5 years and younger eat for free. For more information, call 652-4864.

The content and layout in the Force Support Squadron section of this newspaper was provided by the Joint Base San Antonio FSS Marketing Team. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

JBSA FSS

Community Programs

Sports fans watch the "Big Game"

Watch the "Big Game" at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Community Center Feb. 7, 5:25 p.m. Prizes are given out during halftime and food and drink specials are available throughout the game. For more information, call 671-3191.

Fitness

Lifters compete in challenge

The Fitness Center on the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Medical Education and Training Campus hosts a 100-Ton Challenge Feb. 1-28. Contestants lift 100 tons or 200,000 pounds in one day using free weights or plate-loaded machines. This event is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders 16 years and older. This program is completed during normal business hours. No registration is required. For more information, call 808-5713.

Join the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center and try to join the 100-Ton Club Feb. 17, during normal business hours. Stop by the front desk to pick up a 100-ton logbook to track progress and use any free weight or plate-loaded machine to lift 100 tons of weight in one day. Take the amount of weight used for an exercise and multiply it by the number of repetitions completed. Then, add up the totals of every exercise performed throughout the day. Once the total equals 100 tons, turn the logbook in at the front desk and become a member of the Rambler 100-Ton Club. For more information, call 652-7263.

Runners and walkers take on a 5K

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Feb. 13, 7 a.m., for a Presidents Day 5K run or walk. This event is free. For more information, call 221-1234.

Fitness celebrates Valentine's Day

Push the limits with the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center with a Valentine's Day run, bike, run Feb. 13, 8 a.m. at Eberle Park. Participants run a 5K, bike 10 miles and run an additional 1.5 miles. For more information, call 652-7263.

Zumba® gets the body moving

Join the Fitness Center on the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Medical Education and Training Campus Feb. 27, 9:30-11:30 a.m., for a two-hour Zumba® Fest. Get the heart pumping to energizing music while dancing. This event is free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 808-5709.

Golf

The "Big Game" is honored with a tournament

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course hosts a "Big Game" Tournament Feb. 7, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. This is a two-person-team format tournament. Cost is $40 per person plus cart and green fees. Enjoy prizes, food and beverages. For more information, call 671-3466

Golfers compete in a scramble

Golfers are invited to play in the monthly JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Warrior four-person scramble Feb. 8 with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is $25 for members, $35 for nonmembers and includes 18 holes of golf, green fees, golf cart, dinner and gift certificates for the winners of longest drive and closest to the pin. The first-, second- and third-place winners also receive gift certificates. For more information, call 222-9386.

Golf is played Valentine's night

Visit the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Feb. 12, with a 4:30 p.m. shotgun start, for a nine-hole game. Enjoy a buffet afterwards and finish the evening with a night putting tournament. Cost is $25 for members, $35 for nonmembers and includes golf, a shared cart, a social and prizes. For more information, call 222-9386.

Presidents Day comes with a tournament

Visit the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course for a Presidents Day tournament Feb. 15, with 7-9 a.m. tee times. This is a low-net, low-gross tournament and entry fee is $10 per person plus green fees and cart rental. For more information, call 652-4653.

Lunch is served

During the renovation of the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course kitchen, a limited lunch menu is served Tuesdays-Sundays, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The menu includes hamburgers, hot dogs, ham, turkey and tuna sandwiches, chips and sodas. Coffee may be purchased in the pro shop. For more information, call 671-3466.

Pro shop offers score specials

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course offers all members a $15 discount and nonmembers a 10 percent discount on all in-stock golf bags during February. Also, order or purchase a new grip and installation of the grip is free during February. For more information, call 671-3466.

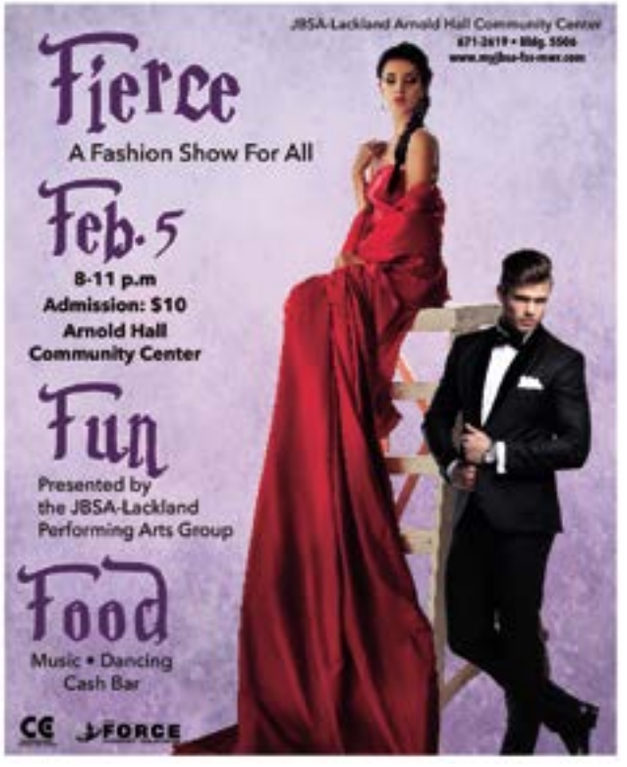
Information, Tickets and Travel

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo® tickets available

The San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo® has grown to become one of the largest events in San Antonio with animals and agriculture, family entertainment, food, live music, shopping, special events, youth activities and a Texas wildlife exposition. The 2016 Rodeo dates are Feb. 11-28 and the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Ticket Office has discounted tickets. For more information, call 808-1378.

Military pricing available for Disney

Disney World® and Disneyland® have announced a military salute program for 2016. Place an order for tickets through the JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel office. Prices are $194 to $228 for Disney World® and $140 for Disneyland®. The new dates end Dec. 19, 2016. The limit per active or retired ID card is six. Both parks have blackout dates in the spring. For more information, call 671-7111.



Valentine's Day cruise goes to Mexico

Make Valentine's Day a day to remember with tickets from the JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel for a five-day Western Caribbean Valentine's Day cruise Feb. 13-18. The cruise begins in Galveston, Texas, travels to Progresso and to Cozumel. Rates start at $394 per person for an inside cabin, $444 per person for an ocean view and $574 per person for a room with a balcony. Gratuities are not included. Full payment and a $10 service fee are due at booking. For more information, call 671-7111.

Renaissance fare takes visitors back in time

Pick up discount tickets at JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel office and step into the Renaissance era at

The content and layout in the Force Support Squadron section of this newspaper was provided by the Joint Base San Antonio FSS Marketing Team. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

the Sherwood Forest Fare. Enjoy music, games, entertainment, shows and crafts. The Fare is open weekends February through March. For more information, call 671-7111.

Special offer extended

Universal Orlando has extended the military or Department of Defense special offer. Stop by the JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel office to purchase a one-day, park-to-park ticket and get two days free. Tickets must be purchased by May 18 and used by May 31. There are no blackout dates. This offer is valid for all DOD ID cardholders and an eligible member must activate the tickets at the park gate and accompany guests. There are no limits on the number of guests that may join. Adult tickets are $147 and tickets for children 3-9 years are $142. For more information, call 671-3059.

Travelers visit Italy

The seven-day Jewels of Italy Cost-Saver Group Tour travels to Rome, Florence and Venice March 12-20. JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel has rates starting at $2,100 per person, including airfare. Additional discounts are available. Full payment and a $10 service fee per booking is due at booking. If airfare is purchased via Trafalgar, a $300 non-refundable air deposit is required at time of booking. For more information, call 671-7111.

Tourists take a trip to Costa Rica

Spend spring break in Costa Rica for four nights and five days March 13-17. This all-inclusive package travels from San Antonio to Riu Guanacaste via the Liberia Airport. JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel offers this trip with round-trip airfare, airport transfers and all-inclusive hotel accommodations. Rates start at $1,360 per person or $5,435 based on two adults and two children, 10-12 years. Full payment is due at booking. For more information, call 671-7111.

Aransas Queen brings the casino closer to home

The JBSA-Lackland Information Tickets and Travel has tickets for the Aransas Queen Casino. This floating casino offers Las Vegas-style gaming with a Gulf Coast convenience. It is 20 minutes from Corpus Christi and three miles from Port Aransas. Enjoy two sailings seven days a week, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and a complimentary snack buffet, three full bars, live music, sun deck, in addition to more than 200 slots, live blackjack, craps, roulette, three-card poker, Let It Ride and Sportsbook. The Aransas Queen is proud to salute the military with discount tickets available for $20, a savings of $7.05, at all JBSA ITT offices. For more information, call 671-7111.

Library

Library provides more than books

The JBSA Libraries offer a variety of resources for the military and their families to include: books, audio-books, magazines, newspapers, videos, music, video games and more. A computer lab with printing and scanning capabilities and conference rooms are also available. E-resources such as e-books, e-audiobooks, e-subscriptions and informational databases are also available in-person and online at http://www.jbsalibraries.org.

Enjoy a story or two and an activity at the JBSA libraries. Story time is hosted at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library Thursdays, 10 a.m., the JBSA-Lackland Library Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and the JBSA-Randolph Library Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Registration is not required. For more information, call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library at 221-4702, the JBSA-Lackland Library at 671-2673 and the JBSA-Randolph Library at 652-5578.

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Presents

To Go

Dinners

Baked Lasagna

Made from scratch with layers of noodles, marinara sauce, ground beef, Italian sausage and four cheeses. Served with garlic toast and a garden salad.

- Feb. 24, 4-5 p.m., or until sold out
- $9.95 for adult meals and $7.95 for kid meals
- $2 off for club members

WWW.MYBSA-FSS-MWR.COM For more information, call 652-4864. FORCE

Military & Family Readiness

Workshop teaches basic military customs

Civilian employees new to the military workforce and military spouses interested in learning more about rank structure, chain of command and basic military structure are invited to attend the Army Family Team Building Military Knowledge workshop, Feb. 3, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. Participants review military acronyms, terms and the similarities between branches. For more information, call 221-2380.

Married patrons review financial matters

JBSA-Lackland hosts a Matri-Money and Marriage workshop Feb. 3, 1-2:30 p.m., at the Wilford Hall Annex, building 4600. Participants review financial concerns, challenges, emotional connections to financial matters, goal setting strategies and practicing effective communication. For more information, call 671-3722.

Soon to be parents are introduced to recourses

The Air Force Aid Society, in partnership with the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center, provides information on budgeting for a baby, dental and pediatric clinics, the New Parent Support Program and more Feb. 5, 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. All active-duty service members and their expecting spouses may attend. For more information, call 652-5321.

Exceptional Family Member workshop offered

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Exceptional Family Member Program hosts a workshop Feb. 11, 1-3 p.m. Patrons explore how three pillars of the program, medical, human resource and family support, work and what each pillar offers to Exceptional Family Member sponsors and their families. For more information, call 221-2705.

Survivor benefit plan workshop available

The JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center holds a Survivor Benefit Plan workshop Feb. 16, 8-9:30 a.m., or 1-2:30 p.m. Military personnel and spouses meet with a SBP counselor to become familiar with the options, effects, and advantages of SBP. For more information, call 652-3633.

Course focuses on leadership training

The Briefer Training Course, Feb. 17, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. This course teaches how to prepare and deliver effective, impactful presentations and is required for all volunteer speakers. Registration is required. For more information, call 221-2380.

Workshop helps nominate volunteers for awards

Review the new nomination form for the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award and the Volunteer Excellency Award and learn to write a winning nomination Feb. 10, 9-11 a.m., and Feb. 17, 1-3 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. Nominations submitted on forms from previous years are not accepted. The deadline to submit is Feb. 29. For more information, call 221-2380.

Facilities close for holiday

All JBSA Military & Family Readiness Centers are closed Feb. 15 due to the federal holiday. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC is closed the first and third Thursday, 1-4 p.m., for in-service training. JBSA-Lackland M&FRC is closed the first and third Thursday, 2-4 p.m., for in-service training.

Military members, civilians and families pledge to save

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center honors Military Saves Week Feb. 22-27 with free events to help save money and avoid debt. The Military Saves program encourages service members, their families and civilian employees to take the Military Saves pledge at http://www.militarysaves.org. For more information, call 221-2380.

Outdoor Recreation

Paintball special offered for sweethearts

Play a game of paintball with a valentine at the JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation Center Feb. 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The special for couples is $36, which includes

The content and layout in the Force Support Squadron section of this newspaper was provided by the Joint Base San Antonio FSS Marketing Team. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

The content and layout in the Force Support Squadron section of this newspaper was provided by the Joint Base San Antonio FSS Marketing Team. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

two markers, 1,000 paintballs, all day play and a box of chocolates. Singles play for $20 for the package with 500 paintballs. For more information, call 925-2998.

Archery takes on another dimension

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center hosts a three-dimensional archery competition Feb. 27-28, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is 8-10 a.m. and the course must be completed by 1 p.m. The fun shoot is $15, the competition shoot is $20 and children 12 years and younger participate for $5. For more information, call 295-7529.

Boat rental prices are reduced

Rent any boat at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake for half price during February. Cost includes required safety equipment but does not include fuel. Rentals are on a first-come, first-serve basis and renters must have completed the Boater's Safety Course through the State of Texas, the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake or through an outdoor recreation facility at any of the JBSA installations. For more information, call 830-964-3576.

The JBSA-Lackland Equipment Rental offers half-price weekend boat rentals during February. Prices vary based on size and type. Weekend checkout begins Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and ends Monday, 3 p.m. For more information, call 925-9112.

Guests stay two nights and get the third night free

During February, rent any lodging unit at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake and stay three nights for the price of two. For more information, call 830-964-3576.

Annual passes help save money

Purchase an annual JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake pass for $65 and receive access to both the Sunny and Hancock Cove sides of the park with a vehicle and boat or tailor pass, valid for one year from the date of issue. Daily entry fee without an annual pass is $7 per visit, per vehicle. For more information, call 1-800-280-3466.

Youth and Children

Membership cards are renewed for the new year

Remember to renew JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs membership cards. Membership cards are for children 9 years and older and can be used to participate in clubs, activities or open recreation during the year. Check out the preteen game room or the Teen Zone and join in club meetings and other fun activities. This program does not include instructional classes, league sports or School Age Care programs. For more information, call 652-3298.

Youth participate in day camp

Register children, 5 and in kindergarten to 12 years, for day camp with JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs. Cost varies according to household income. Late registration is subject to a $15 fee. Registration for the Feb. 12 camp ends Feb. 1 and registration for the spring break camp ends Feb. 29. For more information, call 671-2388.

Young soccer players begin to learn the game

Registration for First Steps Spring Soccer is Feb. 1-5 at JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs. First Steps teaches the basic fundamentals of soccer to children, 3-5 years, in harmony with the gross motor movements of preschool and early school-age children. Cost is $35 per child and a sports physical and shot record is required at the time of registration. Parents must participate in the six-week session as an extension of the instructor to eliminate the element of fear. For more information, call 671-2388.

Sports registration is here

Youth, 5-14 years, sign up for baseball Feb. 1-26 at JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs. Coed t-ball is for youth 5-6 years and costs $45; youth must be 5 years by March 15. Coach Pitch is for youth 7-8 years and costs $50. Baseball and softball are for youth 9-18 years and costs $50. Athletes must have a current physical at the time of registration. Practices begin April 11. Season play begins April 23. Coaches are needed. For more information, call 671-2388.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Sports registration is Feb. 1-29. Youth 3-14 years are eligible to participate and registration is completed at Parent Central, building 2530, or at the Youth Center, building 1630. A current physical is required. Baseball, softball and t-ball season runs March through May. For more information, call 221-5513.

Spring sports registration for JBSA-Randolph Youth Sports is Feb. 1-29. Coed t-ball is for youth 5-6 years and costs $60; youth must be 5 years by March 15. Coach pitch is for youth 7-8 years and costs $70. Baseball and softball is for youth 9-18 years and costs $70. All youth must have a current annual physical, immunizations record and sports registration form on file to participate. For more information, call 652-3298.

Art is displayed

All entries, photography, drawings and sketches for the Image Makers and Fine Arts contests must be brought to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center, building 1630, by Feb. 5 to be entered in the competition. All youth on the installation may join. For more information, call 221-3502.

Basketball clinic focuses on improving skills

All JBSA military dependents can join JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs Sorts to improve basketball skills Feb. 5 at the Annual African-American Heritage Committee Youth Basketball Clinic. Youth practice dribbling, shooting, conditioning, offense and defense. Youth 5-9 years practice 4:30-6 p.m. and youth 10-15 years practice 6-7:30 p.m. A maximum of 60 kids per age group may participate and cost is one canned good. All participants must bring a basketball. For more information, call 671-2388.

Youth attend football party for the "Big Game"

Cheer on a favorite football team and enjoy food and games at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston football party Feb. 7, 4-9 a.m. All middle school and high school youth are invited to attend. For more information, call 221-3502.

Sweethearts celebrate Valentine's Day early with a dance

All preteens are invited to celebrate Valentine's Day early at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs Feb. 12, 6-9 p.m. Bring dancing shoes and dance the night away with friends. Cost is $3 for members and $5 for nonmembers.

Give Parents a Break program is offered

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs hosts Give Parents a Break and Kids Adventure Night Feb. 19, 6-10 p.m. Registration is Feb. 1-17. This event is at the Child Development Programs Annex for children 2 years and younger and at Youth Programs for children 3 years and older. Cost is $25 with a multiple-child discount and free for GPAB waiver holders. For more information, call 652-4946.

Youth register for spring break camp

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs School Age Spring Break Camp Registration is Feb. 15-26, during normal business hours. Camp runs March 10-14, 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., and youth 5-12 years may participate. Fees are based on total family income and all required paperwork must be on file including pay stubs and shot records. For more information, call 652-3298.

Red is the color to dance in

Youth, 9-12 years, grab a friend and wear red in support of deployed troops at the Rad Red Dance Feb. 19, 7-9 p.m. at the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs. Cost is $5 and door prizes are given away. For more information, call 671-2388.

Middle school lock-in held

All JBSA-Fort Sam Houston middle school youth in 6-8th grade are invited to attend the middle school lock-in Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 7 a.m. Cost is $10 per person for registered members. Permission slips are required to attend and sign up ends Feb. 24. For more information, call 221-3502.

Youth go for the gold

Attention 14-23 year olds: sign up at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs for the Congressional Award Program and set goals in personal development, voluntary public service, physical fitness and expeditions or explorations. Earn an award presented by Congress after reaching the bronze, silver or gold medal level. Participation in this program is a great addition to college applications. For more informaiton, call 652-3298.

Clubs are educational and fun

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs offers leadership clubs including Keystone and torch, 4-H, photography, Smart Girls, Passport to Manhood, robotics and sports clubs. All clubs are working on Service Learning Projects and have a variety of activites and trips planned. Meetings are held at 4:30 p.m. and participants are eligible to become club leaders. For more information, call 221-3502.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay current on Joint Base San Antonio 502d Force Support Squadron events, specials and daily activities.

http://www.myjbsa-fss-mwr.com

502 FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

IRS Free File launches; offers more free federal and free state tax software options

By Lea Crusberg
IRS Media Relations

The Internal Revenue Service and Free File Alliance announced the launch of Free File with many changes and updates for 2016, including more free state tax return options and easier Form W-2 imports.

For 2016, there are 13 brand-name tax software providers making their federal tax return products available for free. Taxpayers whose adjusted gross income was $62,000 or less during 2015 are eligible for at least one, if not more, of the 13 tax software products. The income limitation is $2,000 higher than last year.

For taxpayers who earned more than $62,000, there's Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms.

"You don't have to be an expert on taxes. Free File software can help walk you through the steps and help you get it right," said John A. Koskinen, IRS Commissioner. "For 13 years, this partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance has helped taxpayers. The real winner in this partnership has been the nation's taxpayers."

"We are proud to once again offer the industry's most innovative and secure tax software at no cost to 70 percent of American taxpayers. Tax time can be stressful, but Free File makes step-by-step help accessible to everyone making $62,000 or less," said Tim Hugo, Free File Alliance executive director. "The website at http://www.IRS.gov/FreeFile is the one place where taxpayers can choose from a variety of industry-leading tax software options in order to prepare and e-file their federal tax returns at absolutely no cost."

Free File is available only at http://www.IRS.gov/FreeFile. Since 2003, more than 46 million people have used Free File, saving nearly $1.4 billion based on a conservative $30-fee estimate.

The Free File Alliance and its members also are active participants in the Security Summit Initiative to provide additional identity theft safeguards for tax filing and for the Security Awareness campaign – Taxes. Security. Together. – that encourages taxpayers to take steps to better protect their data.

For 2016, more Free File software providers are offering both free federal and free state tax return preparation for states with income tax requirements. Some providers also are offering state tax return preparation for a fee. State tax return offers are at the discretion of the providers.

Additionally, new for this year, several software providers also are offering the easy importation of Form W-2 information which can help reduce errors.

More than 70 percent of all taxpayers — 100 million people — are eligible for the software products. Each of the 13 companies has its own special offers, generally based on age, income or state residency. Taxpayers can review each company offer or they can use a "Help Me" tool that will find the software for which they are eligible, including which companies offer a free state return.

Free File also can help taxpayers with the new health care requirements. Just as last filing season, almost everyone will need to do something when filing a tax return this year. For each month in 2015, taxpayers and everyone on their return must:

- Report health care coverage, or
- Claim an exemption from coverage or
- Make a shared responsibility payment with their tax return.

Most people will simply have to check a box to report health care coverage for the entire year.

If a taxpayer or anyone on their return purchased coverage from the Health Insurance Marketplace, they may be eligible for the premium tax credit. If they opted for any advance payments of the premium tax credit to help with their monthly insurance premium payments, they must file a tax return, even if they were not required to file. Taxpayers must reconcile their advance payments with the amount they were due. Learn more at http://www.IRS.gov/aca.

Taxpayers have the option to prepare their return at any time and schedule a tax payment as late as the tax deadline, which, for 2016, is April 18. Taxpayers who cannot meet the April 18 tax filing deadline can also use Free File to file a six-month extension.

Remember, the fastest way to get your refund is through e-file and direct deposit. Direct deposit is fast, safe and easy. Just have your routing number and account number handy. Nine out of 10 taxpayers will receive their refunds within 21 days.

For 2016, Free File can also help taxpayers with myRA (https://myra.gov/) a new, free, retirement savings account from the Treasury Department. Taxpayers who have a myRA account may use Free File to deposit their tax refund or a portion of their refund into their myRA account. Just use Form 8888 or follow your software product's instructions.

Free tax services available to military members, families

By Lisa Ferdinando
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

With the holidays now over, service members and their families might start looking toward another annual event, albeit one that generally garners far less excitement: filing taxes.

The Department of Defense wants service members and their families to know they can get free tax consultations and tax-filing software through Military OneSource, according to Erika Slaton, Military OneSource program analyst.

"The financial environment in which we live is very complex," Slaton said. "When you combine that with the realities of military life that includes frequent moves and deployments, it can present some special challenges for service members and their families."

The DOD, through Military OneSource, has teamed up, as it has in previous years, with H&R Block to offer the free tax services.

The services could save members and families hundreds of dollars, Slaton said. She encourages all those who are eligible to consider using the services.

"It's extremely important because of those challenges [including] frequent moves and deployments, and because tax laws change every year," she said.

Military OneSource tax consultants are available through April 15, seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. eastern time at 800-342-9647. After April 15, the consultants can be reached Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. eastern time.

While Military OneSource tax experts are available only via the phone, Slaton points out that other tax experts are available in person at military installations with a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, or VITA, location.

The Military OneSource free tax software, which can be found at www.militaryonesource.mil, is available at VITA locations as well.

The software is self-paced and walks users through a series of questions to help them to prepare their return. It allows individuals to electronically file a federal return and up to three state tax returns.

"If at any time during the course of completing their return, the user has any questions about their own tax situation, they can call Military OneSource," Slaton said.

Those eligible for the Military OneSource tax services include National Guard members, and active duty and reserve members of the Army, Air Force, Marines and Navy.

Immediate family members of those eligible and non-remarried survivors from any era can also use the services. Military members who retired or were discharged honorably are eligible up to 180 days after leaving the service.

Other groups are eligible, Slaton explained. She encourages people to check the website for further information or call Military OneSource to find out about eligibility.

The free tax preparation and filing software is available through the end of June.

The Military OneSource tax software is secure, as the vendor uses industry-recognized security safeguards, she said. The vendor stands by the filer in the event of an audit or mistake.

Military OneSource, which is a confidential DOD-funded program, offers many other resources, Slaton said, including counseling and services related to family and relationships, finances, health and wellness, education and employment.

"We encourage service members and their families to call Military OneSource and just explore everything that Military OneSource has to offer," she said. "They can call, click and connect with Military OneSource today."

FSHISD Board of Trustees recognized as superheroes

By Jayne Hatton
Associate Superintendent
Fort Sam Houston
Independent School District

January 2016 is School Board Recognition Month and the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District joins other districts across Texas as they honor the countless contributions of these local advocates for public education.

"Our Fort Sam Houston ISD school board members truly care about our students' education," said FSHISD superintendent Dr. Gail Siller. "They are advocates for both our students and staff and have a huge impact on virtually every aspect of our schools.

"Not only do they establish policies that provide the framework for our schools, but they impact what our students learn, who teaches them, and what kind of facilities house their classrooms," Siller added.

Each year the Texas Association of School Boards encourages communities to show appreciation to school board members for their unfailing commitment to the success of all students.

This year, we celebrate our "Super Heroes for Schools." While our board of trustees may not wear capes or have superhuman powers, their decisions have an important impact on the lives of children as they govern the district.

Our superheroes work as a team and include President Dr. Eustace Lewis, Vice President Willie White, Secretary Jeanne Warren, and Trustees Andrea Nicholas and Rebekah Sanchez.

As citizen leaders, they function as a team working toward a common goal of helping FSHISD military students achieve. The board's role is to establish a vision for the education program, design a

See SUPERHEROES, P21

Photo by Jayne Hatton

Fort Sam Houston Elementary fourth-grade student Aedan Borgkvist presents Jeanne Warren, Fort Sam Houston Independent School District board secretary, with her superhero cape during School Board Recognition month.

Blood donor month: Be a silent hero with gift of life

By Lt. Col. Julianna L. Olson
94th Aeromedical
Staging Squadron
Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

The Air Force has a long history when it comes to the national blood donation system. The system dates all the way back to World War II when the Army Air Corps created the capabilities to transport much needed blood products from the United States into campaign theaters.

This capability significantly increased the survival rate of wounded troops demonstrated from the previous war. From then until today the Air Force still provides this lifesaving capability not only in war, but during peacetime operations.

Blood donations truly are "the gift of life." Not only whole blood, but blood products such as plasma, can be rapidly infused into a severely injured person or given as treatment for various blood disorders. This provides lifesaving treatment to those who otherwise would not have survived.

For those who have been deployed or watched a wounded warrior commercial, you have most likely seen firsthand recipients of this valuable gift. However, without people that are willing to "roll up their sleeves" and donate, these survivors would not be with us.

The American Red Cross/International Red Crescent are the largest civilian blood donation organizations, with locations in all major cities, and a constant "army" of mobile donation sites.

In addition, the U.S. military has their own blood donation organization: the Armed Services Blood Program, which collects blood specifically for the military community, answering the need 24/7 when a service member is wounded.

During this National Blood Donor Month, you too can be a silent hero by giving the gift of life. Locate your local American Red Cross at http://www.RedCross.org, or the ASBP at http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/Donors/where_to_give.aspx.

'A blood transfusion saved my life'

By Staff Sgt. Debbie Lockhart
50th Space Wing Public Affairs
Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.

Many children dream of taking a trip to Disneyland, and in 2001, 1st Lt. Fanita Schmidt's family set off to make it a reality. But the family's dream suddenly turned into a nightmare when Arizona winds blew their minivan off the road, causing the vehicle to roll down a hill.

"I lost my brother that day," said Schmidt, a 4th Space Operations Squadron orbital analysis engineer. "My sister's knee cap was sliced off, my father's ribs broke ... everyone was hurt."

Schmidt was immediately knocked unconscious. She suffered six broken bones above the hip and lost a large amount of blood.

"Because I passed out, I wasn't able to control my body, which is why I had so many more injuries than the others," she said.

Due to the extent of her injuries, Schmidt was airlifted to a hospital in Las Vegas, Nev., where she could be properly cared for.

Her outlook was grim at the time, she said, but doctors knew what they needed to save her life: blood.

"I was told I had less than a few hours to get a blood transfusion so that I could live," Schmidt said. "If that wasn't available to me, I would've died."

Schmidt received a blood transfusion that helped save her life, and now, 14 years later, she said she pays it forward by donating blood every chance she gets.

"I try to go to all the blood drives I can," she said. "I've even stopped myself from getting tattoos so I am actually able to donate."

According to the Red Cross, "although an estimated 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, less than 10 percent actually do each year."

Schmidt encourages everyone who is physically able to donate blood.

"I do understand that it is a scary process for a lot of people to actually sit in that chair, have a needle put in and feel like a part of you is draining out, but you have to understand that it just takes a small part of you to make a whole of someone else," she said.

The Red Cross says one pint of blood is taken during a blood donation, which can save up to three lives.

"I was a child when a blood transfusion saved my life, and look where I am now," Schmidt said.

Schmidt insists that all it takes is time and courage to become someone's hero – something she learned by watching her father.

"My father graduated from the first class of the Air Force Academy in 1959," she said. "He was a fighter pilot and he actually saved a lot of peoples' lives – maybe not by donating blood – but he earned four Distinguished Flying Crosses, so he's a true hero."

Her father's legacy inspired her to follow in his footsteps and serve in the Air Force, she said.

"If you have the physical, mental and psychological capability to serve and help others, then why not do it?" she asked. "And that correlates to donating blood – I really do believe that even if you don't get the chance to go into a cockpit, you can still save someone's life."

Photo by Christopher DeWitt

First Lt. Fanita Schmidt, 4th Space Operations Squadron orbital analysis engineer, donates blood at the 3rd annual blood drive hosted by the 21st Medical Dental Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., Oct. 6, 2015. Schmidt explained her decision to donate was based on personal experiences from her childhood, when she received a blood transfusion after a devastating car wreck.

Donating blood is a safe process and typically takes about 10 minutes, according to the Red Cross.

"We couldn't save lives without our donors," said Army Lt. Col. Jason Corley, Armed Services Blood Program deputy director of operations. "As a program, we have saved thousands of lives this year and that happened because of our donors' support. They are the silent heroes."

A timeline of Operation Desert Storm

On Jan. 16, 1991, Operation Desert Storm began. The conflict, as know as the Gulf War, was waged by a U.N.-authorized coalition force from 34 nations led by the United States, in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. On Feb. 28, 1991, President Bush declared suspension of offensive combat and laid out conditions for permanent cease-fire.

Day 1: Wednesday, Jan. 16

• Desert Storm begins at 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (3 a.m. Jan. 17 in Iraq) with massive air and missile attacks on targets in Iraq, Kuwait.

• President Bush: "We will not fail."

Day 2: Thursday, Jan. 17

• Iraqi President Saddam Hussein declares: "The great showdown has begun! The mother of all battles is under way."

• Iraqi Scud missiles strike Israel.

• Scud fired at Saudi Arabia is downed by U.S. Patriot missile – first anti-missile missile fired in combat.

Day 3: Friday, Jan. 18

• Amid retaliation speculation, President Bush says Israel has promised not to respond to Iraq's attack.

Day 4: Saturday, Jan. 19

• At least three Scuds explode in Tel Aviv, Israel, injuring about 17. Israel vows to defend itself but refrains. United States rushes in Patriots, making Army crews first U.S. soldiers to defend Israel.

• U.S. troops raid oil platforms off Kuwait, capturing first Iraqi prisoners of war.

Day 5: Sunday, Jan. 20

• Iraqi TV airs interviews with captured allied airmen.

• Iraq fires 10 Scuds at Saudi Arabia; nine are intercepted, one falls offshore.

Day 6: Monday, Jan. 21

• U.S. officials say despite more than 8,000 sorties in five days, elusive mobile Scud missile launchers remain a threat.

• Iraq says it has scattered prisoners of war as shields at allied air targets.

Day 7: Tuesday, Jan. 22

• Iraq fires six Scud missiles at Saudi Arabia; one is destroyed by Patriot, others fall harmlessly.

• Iraq torches Kuwaiti oil wells, tanks.

• A Scud eludes U.S. Patriot missiles and hits Tel Aviv. Three people die.

Day 8: Wednesday, Jan. 23

• U.S. officials deny Saddam Hussein's claim that allies bombed baby-formula plant, saying plant was a chemical factory.

• Iraq fires Scuds at Israel and Saudi Arabia; no casualties.

• President Bush urges Saddam Hussein be brought to "justice," suggesting removal of Iraqi president could be a goal.

Day 9: Thursday, Jan. 24

Number of allied sorties surpasses 15,000.

• Saudi officials report two oil slicks moving south of Kuwait. Allies say Iraq released oil; Iraq blames allied bombs.

Day 10: Friday, Jan. 25

• Japan says it will send military aircraft to assist allies in non-combat situations.

• Scud missiles are fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia. Two people killed.

Day 11: Saturday, Jan. 26

• Massive oil spill grows, threatening Saudi Arabia's industrial and desalination plants and gulf environment.

• Iraqi warplanes land in Iran. Iran says it has seized them.

• U.S. F-15s enter war's first major dogfight, shoot down three Iraqi MiG-23s.

• Pentagon confirms USS Louisville is first sub to launch cruise missile in combat.

• Scuds fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia; no casualties.

• More than 75,000 protesters march in Washington, D.C.

Day 12: Sunday, Jan. 27

• Allies bomb Iraqi-held oil facilities in Kuwait to stop Iraq from dumping oil into gulf.

• Amid fears of terrorism, Super Bowl XXV goes off without a hitch.

Day 13: Monday, Jan. 28

• Iraq says captured allied pilots have been injured in allied bombing raids.

Day 14: Tuesday, Jan. 29

• In largest ground battle yet, battalion-size force of U.S. Marines (up to 800) fire artillery, mortars, TOW missiles, at Iraqi bunkers half-mile away in Kuwait. No U.S. casualties.

• United States, Soviet Union issue communique offering Iraq cease-fire if it makes "unequivocal commitment" to withdraw.

Day 15: Wednesday, Jan. 30

• Scores of Iraqi tanks, thousands of troops advance into Saudi Arabia. Attacks are countered by U.S. Marines, Saudi and Qatari troops. Eleven U.S. Marines die.

• Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, allied commander, says allies have air supremacy and are reducing Scud threat.

Day 16: Thursday, Jan. 31

• Saudi and Qatari troops, backed by U.S. artillery, retake Khafji, Saudi Arabia.

• Sheik Abdul-Aziz Bin Baz, Saudis' leading interpreter of Islamic law, calls Saddam Hussein "enemy of God."

Day 17: Friday, Feb. 1

• Allies bomb 10-mile-long Iraqi armored column headed into Saudi Arabia.

Day 18: Saturday, Feb. 2

• Two Scuds hit central Israel; no casualties. Patriot downs Scud over Saudi Arabia; two injured.

Day 19: Sunday, Feb. 3

• Allied air campaign passes 40,000-sortie mark – 10,000 more missions than were flown against Japan in final 14 months of World War II.

Day 20: Monday, Feb. 4

• Iran offers to mediate peace talks, resume official relations with United States.

• Battleship Missouri fires at Iraqi positions inside Kuwait – first time ship has fired in combat since Korean War.

Day 21: Tuesday, Feb. 5

• Iraq suspends fuel sales to civilians, worsening heating and transportation problems.

• Syrian troops, in first combat action, repulse Iraqi probe at Saudi-Kuwait border.

Day 22: Wednesday, Feb. 6

• U.S. F-15 fighters shoot down four Iraqi jets as they try to join 120 Iraqi aircraft that have been flown to Iran.

Day 23: Thursday, Feb. 7

• President Bush's top two war advisers – Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Colin Powell – leave for gulf to assess war.

• Battleship Wisconsin joins Missouri in firing huge 16-inch guns at sites in Kuwait – first combat firing for Wisconsin since Korean War.

Day 24: Friday, Feb. 8

• Dick Cheney, en route to Saudi Arabia, gives strongest indication to date ground war is coming. Open question: when.

Day 25: Saturday, Feb. 9

• Cheney and Powell meet for more than eight hours with Desert Storm commander, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, other military leaders.

• Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev warns that military operations in Persian Gulf war threaten to exceed U.N. mandate; he says he's sending envoy to Baghdad for talks with Saddam Hussein.

Day 26: Sunday, Feb. 10

• Saddam Hussein addresses his nation for first time since three days after war started, pledging victory and praising "steadfastness, faith and light in the chests of Iraqis."

Day 27: Monday, Feb. 11

• President Bush, after meeting with top two military advisers, says alliance

See DESERT STORM, P19

U.S. Army photo

Chapparal missile system during Operation Desert Storm.

DESERT STORM from P18

is in no hurry to begin ground war.

• News reports in Egypt say Iraq's government estimates privately that more than 15,000 Iraqi troops have been killed.

Day 28: Tuesday, Feb. 12

• Allied forces open combined land-sea-air barrage against Iraqis in Kuwait – largest battlefield action to date.

• Officials say cost of fighting effects of oil slick lapping at Saudi Arabia's coast will be $1 billion over next six months.

Day 29: Wednesday, Feb. 13

• U.S. Stealth fighters drop two bombs on fortified underground facility in Baghdad. Iraqi officials claim at least 500 civilians are killed in facility, which they describe as public bomb shelter. U.S. military officials release information they say proves underground facility was military command center.

Day 30: Thursday, Feb. 14

• Pentagon says allied planes have destroyed at least 1,300 of Iraq's 4,280 tanks, 800 of 2,870 armored vehicles and 1,100 of 3,110 artillery pieces.

• United Nations Security Council meets in closed session to discuss war.

Day 31: Friday, Feb. 15

• Iraq says it is prepared to withdraw from Kuwait, but adds conditions, including Israeli pullout from occupied Arab territories, forgiveness of Iraqi debts and allied payment of costs of rebuilding Iraq. President Bush dismisses Iraqi offer as "cruel hoax." – Allied forces continue moving supplies toward front in preparation for launch of ground war.

Day 32: Saturday, Feb. 16

• U.S. attack helicopters make first nighttime raids on Iraqi positions.

• Iraqi authorities claim 130 civilians were killed by British Tornado jet strikes.

• Iraq fires two Scuds at Israel, hitting southern part of country for first time; no injuries.

• Iraq's ambassador to U.N., Abdul Amir al-Anbari, says Iraq will use weapons of mass destruction if U.S. bombing continues.

• Pentagon says Iraq deliberately staged damage of civilian areas as propaganda.

Day 33: Sunday, Feb. 17

• President Bush says Iraq's takeover of Kuwait will end "very, very soon."

• U.S. and Iraqi troops clash in seven incidents along Saudi-Kuwait border; 20 Iraqis surrender to Apache helicopter fire.

• Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, arrives in Moscow for talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He is quoted en route as saying it's up to allies to act on Iraq's peace proposal.

• U.S. military, intelligence officials estimate 15% of Iraq's fighting forces in Kuwait area have been killed or wounded.

Day 34: Monday, Feb. 18

• Floating mines strike two U.S. warships in gulf. USS Tripoli and USS Princeton damaged but still operational.

• Air Force helicopter search team rescues U.S. pilot who parachuted from disabled plane 40 miles north of Saudi border.

Day 35: Tuesday, Feb. 19

• Baghdad Radio reports Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz has returned to Baghdad with Soviet peace proposal.

• President Bush says Soviet proposal falls "well short" of what's needed to end war.

• Iranian newspaper cites Iraqi official as saying Iraq has suffered 20,000 dead, 60,000 wounded.

• U.S. Marines bombard Iraqi targets inside Kuwait with heavy artillery fire for second consecutive day.

• Saudi officials say gulf oil slick is smaller than originally feared – 60 million gallons, not 400 million.

Day 36: Wednesday, Feb. 20

• One American killed, seven wounded in fighting along Saudi border. U.S. helicopters destroy Iraqi bunker complex; up to 500 Iraqis taken prisoner.

• U.S. planes attack 300 Iraqi vehicles 60 miles into Kuwait, destroying 28 tanks.

• Baghdad Radio says Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz will travel to Moscow "soon" with Saddam Hussein's reply to Soviet peace proposal.

• Schwarzkopf is quoted as saying Iraq's military is on "verge of collapse."

• U.S. officials want Iraq to announce specific timetable for withdrawing from Kuwait as condition for peace settlement.

Day 37: Thursday, Feb. 21

• Soviet spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko announces Iraq, Soviet Union have agreed on plan that could lead to Iraqi withdrawal.

• Saddam Hussein declares Iraq remains ready to fight ground war.

• Defense Secretary Dick Cheney says allies are preparing "one of the largest land assaults of modern times."

• Seven U.S. soldiers killed in helicopter crash – war's deadliest non-combat accident to date.

Day 38: Friday, Feb. 22

• President Bush rejects Soviet peace plan, deplores Iraq's "scorched-earth" destruction of Kuwaiti oil fields. He demands Iraq begin withdrawal from Kuwait by noon Feb. 23 to avoid ground war.

• Iraqi information official brands U.S. position "shameful ultimatum."

• Soviet Union announces eight-point withdrawal plan.

• Iraq sets ablaze one-sixth of Kuwait's 950 oil wells.

Day 39: Saturday, Feb. 23

• Allies' ground offensive begins at 8 p.m. EST (4 a.m. Feb. 24 Saudi time).

• Cheney halts news briefings on war.

• At 10:02 p.m. EST, President Bush tells nation, "The liberation of Kuwait has entered the final phase." Bush authorizes commander Norman Schwarzkopf to "use all forces available, including ground forces, to expel the Iraqi army from Kuwait."

• U.S. officials say Iraqi soldiers are rounding up Kuwaitis to torture, execute.

• At least 200 oil wells and facilities are ablaze in Kuwait.

Day 40: Sunday, Feb. 24

• Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf hails first day of allied ground offensive as "dramatic success." Allied casualties are very light; more than 5,500 Iraqis are captured.

• Saddam Hussein urges troops to kill "with all your might" in radio speech.

• More than 300 attack and supply helicopters strike more than 50 miles into Iraq, largest such assault in military history.

• Queen Elizabeth II, in first wartime broadcast of 39-year reign, tells her country she has prayed for victory.

• Iraq fires two Scud missiles into Israel; no injuries.

Day 41: Saturday, Feb. 25

• Baghdad Radio reports Saddam Hussein has ordered troops to withdraw from Kuwait in accordance with Soviet peace proposal.

DOD photo

An OH-58D Kiowa helicopter departs from a communications site in the desert during Desert Shield.

• Says White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater: "The war goes on."

• On Kuwait's Independence Day, allied forces are reported on outskirts of Kuwait City, poised to liberate capital as more reports surface of Iraqi killings of civilians and torching of buildings.

• Iraqi Scud missile hits barracks in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia. Eventual toll: 28 U.S. soldiers killed, 90 wounded.

• U.S. officials report four U.S. soldiers killed, 21 wounded in first two days of allied ground assault; nearly 20,000 Iraqis taken prisoner; 270 tanks destroyed.

• Iraqi-launched Silkworm anti-ship missile shot down by allied warships.

Day 42: Tuesday, Feb. 26

• Brig. Gen. Richard Neal in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, says Iraqi forces are in "full retreat" with allied forces pursuing; Iraqi POWs number 30,000-plus, number to climb to 63,000.

• Saddam Hussein announces Iraqi occupation forces will withdraw completely.

• Residents of Kuwait City celebrate end to occupation. Resistance groups set up headquarters to control city.

• U.S. Marine in Kuwait City says U.S. Embassy is back under U.S. control.

Day 43: Wednesday, Feb. 28

• Kuwaiti troops raise emirate's flag in Kuwait City.

• President Bush declares suspension of offensive combat and lays out conditions for permanent cease-fire.

(Source: http://www. armylive.dodlive.mil/index.php/2013/02/operation-desert-storm)

Air Force looks back at Desert Storm, 25 years later

By Senior Airman Hailey Haux
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

Twenty-five years ago, the Air Force participated in Operation Desert Storm, the largest air campaign since the conflict in Southeast Asia. The campaign's purpose was to drive the Iraqi military out of Kuwait, release the country from Saddam Hussein's invasion and reestablish its sovereignty.

On the morning of Aug. 2, 1990, Iraq invaded nearby Kuwait. In less than four hours, Iraqi forces occupied the capital, Kuwait City, and Hussein soon annexed the country as the 19th province of Iraq. The U.S. government initiated Operation Desert Shield in response.

Several months later on Jan. 16, 1991, following Congressional concurrence with United Nations efforts to enforce a resolution that demanded Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, Desert Storm was launched.

"The real mission, the immediacy of that mission … was to deploy as many forces as possible to deter further aggressiveness by the Iraqi military and of course the Air Force was the first on the list, along with the Navy and the aircraft carriers, to deploy in the region," said retired Lt. Gen. Bruce A. "Orville" Wright, Desert Shield/Storm veteran. "It was a rapid deployment of forces from the continental United States (and some forces from Europe) to put enough airpower in place so the Iraqi military would be discouraged, if not deterred.

"We took out their eyes and ears, their control capability," he continued. "The entire ground operations lasted about 100 hours and that's a credit to the joint coalition airpower that was employed against the Iraqi military. We were all excited, that's what we trained for our whole career. To take 24 F-16s and a squadron of very capable highly-trained pilots and maintenance professionals … and defeat what was then the largest ground force."

The air campaign marked the initial phase of the war and for the Air Force, air superiority was the goal. With more than 68,800 total force Airmen being rapidly deployed in support of Desert Storm, there were approximately 69,406 sorties flown by 30 different types of aircraft.

"I remember thinking, 'Saddam Hussein has no idea what's coming,' and after the first 60 minutes of the war, he will be largely disconnected from his tactical forces and he was. They tried to reconnect, but in many ways we began the decapitation of the leadership within the first 15 minutes of the war," said Maj. Gen. Paul T. Johnson, an operational capability requirements director and Desert Shield veteran. "I really hope we can remember how we came together as a joint and a coalition team, nations from all over the world, all of the services supporting each other, generating effects for one another to achieve an effect in an incredibly short period of time."

Desert Storm marked the first conflict in history to make comprehensive use of stealth and space systems support capabilities against a modern, integrated air defense, allowing the Air Force to succeed in their endeavor of air superiority.

"Over time I have come to understand the enabling capabilities that came to us from space, came to us out of stealth and that came to us out of new weapons and ammunitions that allowed us to do things in ways that we hadn't done them before," Johnson said. "Our ability to dynamically command and control across an entire theater there were things that, looking back now in hindsight, fundamentally began the transformation of airpower. There are so many things that we take for granted today … that saw their beginnings in Desert Storm."

As with any mission, operation or task, there are lessons learned. Desert Storm taught the Air Force that being on the cutting edge of revolutionary technology is critical to success.

"That was the first time the investments, that had been made in some cases a decade or two decades earlier, came together on the battlefield and for the first time the world saw what the United States Air Force could do," said Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James. "Looking back and learning from Desert Storm, it is more important than ever before that we continue to modernize our force, gaining the advantage to defeat any adversary we may face in the future."

On Feb. 28, 1991, following six weeks of air attacks and 100 hours of a ground campaign, President George H.W. Bush declared a cessation of operations and announced that Kuwait had been liberated.

"The memories and lessons learned from Desert Storm continue to define today who we are," Wright said. "We have the ability to defend the nation that's founded on, not just the history of Desert Storm but the history of airpower from World War I to World War II to Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and today. We have been in this fight now for 25 years and those Airmen who are out there today are critical. They are critically important to the safety of our fellow citizens and critically important to the future of the United States of America."

U.S. Air Force archive photo

F-16 Fighting Falcon, F-15C Eagle and F-15E Strike Eagle fighter aircraft fly over burning oil field sites in Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm.

U.S. Air Force graphics

BIBLIO TECH
from P9

able to have more one-on-one interactions with them to teach them how to use the resources and better serve this community."

Before the agreement, BiblioTech already staged a presence in military community.

BiblioTech opened a library branch at the Warrior and Family Support Center located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in July 2014.

Both JBSA and BiblioTech library officials are optimistic about the partnership's future.

"I hope we continue to expand our programming efforts with JBSA," Cole said. "We will do what we can to help them out."

"I feel this is the beginning of a beautiful partnership," Robertson added. "I think we will grow in regards to helping each other in our communities, especially in programming elements. We are going to find a way to link programs that are applicable not only for the JBSA community but the San Antonio community."

Active duty members and dependents with a Bexar County address are eligible to register for a BiblioTech library card and use BiblioTech digital resources at http://www.bexarbibliotech.org.

OUTSIDE THE GATE

Warrant Officers Meeting

The Lone Star Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association meets at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Longhorn Cafe, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active duty, retired, Reserve and National Guard warrant officers and their families are welcome. Call 571-4967.

Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets at 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited. Call 539-1178.

Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Reunion

The Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association has announced a 75th U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Diamond Anniversary celebration and reunion April 24-28 at the Double Tree Hotel, 5321 Sidney Simmons Blvd., in Columbus, Ga. The association represents all Army officers commissioned through the Officer Candidate School, regardless of previous school locations and branches. Demonstrations and briefings related to OCS, tours, a grand opening of the remodeled Wigle Hall, Memorial/Monument Walk, OCS Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, and Patterson Award dinner at the National Infantry Museum. For reservations, call 706-327-6868 and use "OCS Alumni Association Reunion 2016." For more information, call 813-917-4309 or visit http://www.ocsalumni.com.

SUPERHEROES
from P16

structure to achieve that vision, ensure the schools are accountable to the community and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning.

Lewis is an instructional systems specialist with the Medical Education and Training Campus on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Lewis joined the FSHISD school board in May 2000 and has served in the roles of president, vice president and secretary. In September 2003, he was one of only 36 board members from Texas to graduate from the Leadership Texas Association of School Boards program, earning him the prestigious "Master Trustee" designation. Lewis is a member of the Bexar County School Boards Coalition, the National Caucus of Black School Board Members, the National Alliance of Black Educators and the National Association of Health Services Executives.

White is a management analyst for the U.S. Army Installation Management Command at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Appointed to the board of trustees in September 2015, White serves on the San Antonio Chapter of President Barack Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative, the San Antonio Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and is a member of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members.

Warren has been a board member since May 2001. Warren is the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Services director. Her commitment and dedication to the children of JBSA Fort Sam Houston military personnel has remained strong and enduring. She has been with the Youth Services Program since 1989 and has served on many advisory groups to include the Robert G. Cole Campus Improvement committee, providing her insight into the dynamics of an educational environment. Warren has a deep understanding of the ever-changing needs of the military child.

Nicholas, a former graduate of Robert G. Cole High School, is a training and curriculum specialist for JBSA Child and Youth Programs. She joined the team 26 years ago and has been committed to age and developmentally appropriate growth of children and youth in our community. She was appointed to the Fort Sam Houston ISD Board of Trustees in September 2015.

Rebekah Sanchez is a Family Life Program educator at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and has supported the military community in various roles for more than 10 years. Sanchez has most recently supported youth at Fort Hood, JBSA-Lackland and now JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. She was appointed to the school board in September 2015.

"We are thankful to have such a wonderful group of citizens provide vision and leadership in their roles as advocates and volunteeers, and appreciate the countless hours they commit to our community," Siller added.

Photo by Lisa Simunaci

Army Deputy Chief of Staff G-1 Lt. Gen. James C. McConville addresses Soldier and civilians at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., in December 2015.

SHRINKS
from P2

ber of incoming troops matches the level Army leadership wants to see, changes are in progress, from the initial recruitment of young civilians to the time they're sworn in at the Military Entrance Processing Station.

"We're going to start at the initial screening with the Occupational Physical Assessment Test. This is brand-new, and it's based on a scale," McConville said. "So, for example, if you want to go infantry, armor or artillery, you're going to have to score a certain level on each test. We're screening for physical fitness, and we're also trying to develop tests that determine who's resilient, who's mentally fit to do the job and who can actually do the job."

And when Soldiers have finished their commitment, the Soldier For Life program continues to help them by ensuring they have the right tools to succeed outside the military. The program took the place of the Army Alumni and Career Program, or ACAP, in 2014.

McConville said 10 percent of enlisted Soldiers stay 20 years, versus 30 percent of officers who stay in until retirement. With Soldier for Life, troops have the opportunity to get involved with Fortune 500 companies and other agencies.

"Most folks are not going to be career Soldiers. We want them to serve, and we want them serve at least their first term, and then we want them to get ready to be go out there and become great civilians," McConville said.

"Right now, the Soldier for Life program is really focused on transitioning Soldiers. We owe folks the opportunity to have a good job when they leave the military," McConville said.

CLASS
6X9.75 1

CLASS
6X9.75 1

3 x 4.75 AD

3 x 9.75 AD

3 x 4.75 AD