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A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING — JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON



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Annual Basura Bash cleanup of Salado Creek attracts hundreds of volunteers

By Steve Elliott
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

A record crowd of more than 300 military and civilian volunteers showed at the Salado Creek Park on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Saturday to help clean up the areas surrounding the creek and the waterway itself as part of the annual Basura Bash, now in its sixth year. The Basura Bash is a one-day, all-volunteer event to clean the San Antonio Watershed.

More than two tons of various kinds of rubbish were pulled out of

See BASURA, P6



Photo by Steve Elliott

Army Staff Sgt. Sy Smith, Company A, Academy Brigade (Provisional) instructor/writer, carefully maneuvers a kayak down Salado Creek while picking trash out of the waterway during the annual Basura Bash at Salado Creek Park at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Saturday. The kayaks were provided by JBSA Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

U.S. ARMY NORTH AT SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW & RODEO



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Scott D. Turner

Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins (left), U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commanding general and Senior Commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, leads a swearing-in ceremony atop his horse for a group of 15 Army inductees (above) during the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo at the AT&T Center in San Antonio Feb. 19. The ceremony was part of military appreciation night at the rodeo.



Leader perspective: NCOER to define tomorrow's leaders

By Command Sgt. Maj. Tomeka O'Neal
 U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command Sergeant Major

Since the start of this calendar year, noncommissioned officers across the Army have fallen under a new rating system that's unlike anything they've seen for a generation but will help ensure NCOs exemplify the Army Profession.

This is one of the greatest changes that have been implemented with our rating system as it now holds leaders accountable for who we are and how we set the example for our Soldiers.

The Noncommissioned Evaluation Report now stratifies promotion potential by holding NCOs, their raters and senior raters accountable for taking necessary actions to capture performance and potential. It's critical that each individual in this process understands his or her respective role for which they are now responsible.

NCOs and senior NCOs are the backbone of support capabilities who allow combatant commanders to conduct day-to-day deterrence and theater shaping operations. As supervisors and leaders in the evaluation process, we owe it to those commanders to provide our best Soldiers and finest operational contracting support.

I've learned quickly upon arriving at the Mission and Installation Contracting Command that NCOs in the "51 Charlie" military occupational specialty are already a cut above the

rest. The requirements necessary to even compete and remain qualified as a contracting NCO are some of the most stringent in the service.

However, it is my intent to make sure they are in the best possible position to continue serving our Army in the fullest capacity possible.

I am adamant about ensuring all personnel understand the importance of the new Department of the Army Form 2166-9 NCOER series, which is the new evaluation form.

It's all NCO-oriented, which makes it imperative that the rated NCO goes into the Evaluation Entry System, or EES, to build the initial 2166-9-1 counseling form. I can't emphasize enough the importance of getting the appropriate information and input populated in EES and making sure the rating chains are correct.

All NCOs should have already completed their professional development on the NCOER by now. Also, the Human Resources Command has provided additional training packages so that those involved in this process can gain a grasp of how to assess a leader's overall talent.

There are three forms as part of the 2166-9 series, each capturing the performance and potential for promotion. The developmental NCOER, 2166-9-1, is for sergeants; an organizational level form, 2166-9-2, evaluates staff sergeants, sergeants first class and master sergeants; and the strategic level NCOER, 2166-9-3, is for



Photo by Ben Gonzales

U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command Sgt. Maj. Tomeka O'Neal addresses various priorities with the command's senior enlisted leaders during the recent MICC Acquisition Leader Conference.

command sergeants major and sergeants major.

Formal evaluation of NCOs is not about checking the blocks any longer. You really have to step up to the plate to earn your rating. Leaders must understand and assess NCOs through critical thinking.

NCOs are now rated in six categories. You must have a clear understanding of character, presence, intellect, leads, develops and achieves. All leaders, uniformed and civilian, need to be familiar with Army Doctrine Publication 6-22, Army Leadership, and clearly understand the Leadership Requirements Model. It is those attributes and competencies outlined in that model on which we are weighing and basing our leader qualities and ensuring we maintain the best NCOs through talent management.

For sergeants, the NCOER now delineates simply between whether or not you meet the standard. Senior raters then determine whether you

are either most qualified, highly qualified, qualified or not qualified.

At the organization level, staff sergeants are rated in one of four categories, far exceeded the standard, exceeded standard, met the standard or did not meet the standard. Moreover, sergeants major and command sergeants major are rated at the strategic level through a narrative assessment instead of standardized bullets.

The new EES system builds a profile for every rater and senior rater. It mandates face-to-face contact between the rater, a senior rater when available and the Soldier during specific windows of counseling that must be accomplished, which eliminates an unfairly rushed, last-minute effort on behalf of our rated NCOs. This ensures a deliberate method of managing our most talented NCOs for the next level of responsibility.

This directed interaction is the most critical

part of the new system and demands honest counseling so that no one is surprised. That honest feedback should include an understanding that raters and senior raters cannot categorically rate everybody as far exceeds standards any more. It was similar inflation of evaluations under the previous rating system that prompted this new reporting system.

The new NCOER is the best way ahead in order to support the Army's Select-Train-Educate-Promote policy for enlisted Soldiers by forcing leaders to be accountable and make the hard choices.

At this time, it is no secret to anyone where and how we're supposed to be instituting and implementing the NCOER this year. I've had the opportunity to visit a few of our geographically dispersed offices and have met with NCOs and our leaders to ensure we're on track with the NCOER. I've also relayed critical information as I've received it through our leaders at the brigade and field directorate level.

As leaders, we have to stay abreast of the changes in our Army so that we can continue to further develop our NCOs as they strive for promotion. It's been a work in progress, but we'll continue to answer all of your questions through all means possible. And again, I can't say enough how important it is for command leadership and leaders at all levels to do the right thing. Be accountable for your Soldiers.

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News Briefs

Glow In The Park 5K Run At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

A "Glow In The Park" run is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Park. The run starts on the east side of MacArthur Field, near the intersection of Worth and Stanley Roads. Pre-race party begins at 5 p.m., people will start lining up at 6:45 p.m. and the first wave of runners start at 7 p.m. Runners will be released in waves of 250 people. Packet pick-up will be at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Clubhouse at 1050 Harry Wurzbach from 3-7 p.m. March 4 and there will be a limited number of packet pickups available at the event starting at 4 p.m. March 5. Cost is \$10 before March 4 and \$15 on March 4 and 5. All participants will need a Department of Defense ID card or be sponsored by a DOD ID card holder to participate in this event. Visit <http://nspplit.com/glow-run-jbsa/event-details/> for more information.

Transition Information Program Workshop

All service members transitioning or considering transitioning from military to civilian life are encouraged to attend the Joint Base San Antonio Transition Information Program workshop from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., March 7, held at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2979. Speakers from the Military and Veteran Community Collaborative, Texas Veterans Commission, Veterans Service Program and the Work Force Solutions Alamo are onsite to discuss networking opportunities, education benefits, health care, employment tips on career transitions, housing and property markets and more. This free event open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and their spouses. Registration is required. Call 221-1213.

Hiring Heroes Career Fair

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston hosts the Hiring Heroes Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 9 at the Sam Houston Community Center. Transitioning service members, veterans and their families are able to network with employers from the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, and private sector firms with positions available for wounded,

ARNORTH marks 10th anniversary of Defense Support to Civil Authorities course

By **Karen Lloyd**
U.S. Army North Operational Outreach

U.S. Army North marked its 10th year of leading the federal government's training efforts for military support to civil authorities in the United States.

Since February 2006, ARNORTH has trained almost 10,000 students from the Department of Defense, FEMA and numerous other federal, state, local, and tribal agencies on "Defense Support to Civil Authorities," or DSCA (pronounced DISK-uh).

DSCA encompasses support provided by federal military forces in response to requests for assistance from civil authorities. Those requests can be for special events, natural and man-made disasters, designated law enforcement support and other domestic activities that require more support than can be handled solely by civilian agencies and state national guards.

Lessons learned from disasters such as Hurricane Katrina showed the importance of planning and coordination between the military and its civilian agency partners in order to best support the Homeland.

Rather than trying to execute missions on the fly once a disaster strikes, the DSCA course teaches the necessary procedures and communication in order to maximize support in a minimum amount of time.

"ARNORTH takes its role as executive agent for the DSCA course very seriously," said Col. Mark Bertolini, ARNORTH chief of staff. "It allows for a common and shared understanding of a very complex mission which will ensure that actions are well synchronized and are never late to need."

The DSCA course is taught 14 times a year, with an average of 60 students in each

class. Senior instructor Mo Walton, who has been part of the DSCA course since the beginning, said that one of the things in which he takes the most pride is that the course is still in high demand.

"We normally have 120 applicants for each 60-seat course," Walton said. "That's because we are constantly updating the content to ensure it doesn't become stale."

Walton said that although the initial DSCA course was designed based on lessons learned from Katrina, the course has evolved to include other disaster scenarios, and now also includes response to terrorist threats.

Bob Townsend, DSCA course director since August 2006, said feedback from former DSCA students drives the changes to the lesson plan.

"For example, after some of ARNORTH's Defense Coordinating Elements were involved in supporting the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf, they pointed out to us that we had not covered the National Contingency Plan. Now, it's part of the course," he said, referring to the federal government's blueprint for responding to oil spills and other hazardous material releases.

Walton agreed that feedback from DSCA graduates is key.

"We frequently hear back from them that what they learned in the DSCA course helped prepare them for the situations they've been called to support," Walton said. In the past 10 years, DSCA alumni have responded to a wide variety of disasters, to include tornados, hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and earthquakes.

Bertolini commended the course and said, "The curriculum is very dynamic, covering the latest changes to the

operational environment and is constantly informed by the latest developments in the Homeland. As a past attendee of the course I can say that I learned a great deal and found it extremely valuable. It has

certainly allowed me to be better at my job."

For more information on or to register for the DSCA course, visit the ARNORTH website at <http://www.arnorth.army.mil/dsca>.

DEFENSE SUPPORT TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES DSCA COURSE PREPARING THE HOMELAND

10 YEARS **149** TOTAL CLASSES CONDUCTED

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE **60** STUDENTS

9561 TOTAL STUDENTS TRAINED

DEFENSE SUPPORT TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES IS SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE U.S. MILITARY IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM CIVIL AUTHORITIES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS, DOMESTIC EMERGENCIES, DESIGNATED LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT, AND OTHER DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES.

COURSE GRADUATES COME FROM ACROSS U.S. & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Federal Agencies | Local or State |
| Def. Children | Army |
| State/County | AF Police |
| Naval | Police |

THE COURSE GOES ACROSS THE U.S. TO MEET DEMAND

THE MISSION OF THE DSCA COURSE IS TO EDUCATE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES ON THE PLANNING, COORDINATION AND EXECUTION OF DEFENSE SUPPORT TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES OPERATIONS.

SUPPORTED EVENTS BY DSCA GRADUATES

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| BIOTERRORISM | HAZARDOUS MATERIALS | DISASTER RESPONSE | HAZARDOUS WASTE |
| 2 | 2 | 10 | 31 |
| HAZARDOUS WASTE | HAZARDOUS MATERIALS | HAZARDOUS WASTE | HAZARDOUS WASTE |
| 11 | 12 | 2 | 7 |

Former BAMC commander first to use heart-lung machine in Army

By Lori Newman
BAMC Public Affairs

Almost 60 years ago, a young surgical resident at Fitzsimons Army Hospital, Colo., was assigned a daunting task. He was given three months to learn how to set up and operate a new piece of equipment that would save many lives in the years to come.

Similar equipment was being used at a few medical facilities throughout the U.S., but not at an Army hospital.

Now in his late-80s, retired Maj. Gen. Floyd Baker, former Brooke Army Medical Center commander, recalls the event as if it happened yesterday. He even has pieces of the original machine and a collection of photographs to document his achievement.

“In 1956, I was the first to set up and run a pump oxygenator in the Army,” Baker said. “We were doing some open heart surgery at Fitzsimons using hypothermia to cool the body down so we could close an atrial septal defect, but we only had four or five minutes to do it.”

An atrial septal defect is a hole in the wall that separates the top two chambers of the heart.

A select few surgeons at the University of Minnesota, Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic and a few other places were beginning to do open heart surgery using a pump-oxygenator machine, the general said.

A pump-oxygenator is a machine through which the blood is temporarily diverted, especially during heart surgery, to oxygenate it

and pump it throughout the body. It is also called a heart-lung machine.

“So our boss decided that we needed to do it,” Baker said. “For some reason or another they picked me. I was a first-year surgical resident.”

Baker visited the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic to see what they were doing before spending months in the lab learning how to run the new machine.

“We did the first case on July 27, 1956. Regrettably the patient died, but then the next two lived,” Baker said. “In the beginning, the cardiologists were only giving us patients who were near death, so unfortunately out of the first 15 cases we lost nine of them.”

After the first few cases, Baker realized running the venous blood through the pump didn’t make sense and was causing extra damage to the patient’s blood. They tested the machine again in the lab, doing away with the venous pump and letting the blood run out by gravity.

“Unfortunately we never wrote that up, but that became the standard,” he said.

Baker worked with the machine shop at Fitzsimons Army Hospital to design parts for the pump-oxygenator to make it run more efficiently. He even used his wife’s sewing machine to make a modified filter because the original filter was too harsh on the blood.

“The utilization of cardiopulmonary bypass using a pump-oxygenator machine has expanded dramatically since the early days of cardiac surgery de-

scribed by Dr. Baker,” said Army Col. (Dr.) Jeffrey McNeil, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at San Antonio Military Medical Center.

In 2013, more than 500,000 cardiac operations were performed with the assistance of cardiopulmonary bypass and more than 100 were performed at SAMMC.

“Like many areas of surgery, the technology has improved dramatically leading to better outcomes. Compared to the high mortality rates in the early days, with modern equipment and techniques, the risk of death with most types of heart surgery is less than 3 percent,” McNeil said.

“Today surgeons are able to perform much more complex operations than was ever envisioned when surgeons began operating on the heart.”

“Military medicine is



Photo courtesy retired Maj. Gen. Floyd Baker

Capt. Floyd Baker (center), first-year surgical resident, using the pump-oxygenator to close an atrial septal defect during a surgery at Fitzsimons Army Hospital, Colo., in 1956.

much better because of pioneers like Gen. Baker,” said Army Col. Evan Renz, BAMC commander. “If brave leaders didn’t take chances, we would not have the technologies we have today.”

“All of the capability we have today is

possible because of the early heroic work performed by General Baker and others who were pioneers in the development of cardiac surgery,” McNeil added.

Baker received the Army Commendation Medal because of the work he did with the pump-oxygenator.

“Back then, junior officers never got awards, and residents never ever got awards – it was unheard of,” he said. “I am more proud of that Army Commendation Medal than any other award, including the Distinguished Service Medal I received when I retired.”

Baker’s career as a general surgeon in the Army spanned more than 30 years. He was the BAMC Commander from 1974 to 1978 and commanding general of U.S. Army Health Services Command at Fort Sam Houston from 1983 to 1986.

“I think I did something that really contributed to Army medicine,” Baker said proudly.

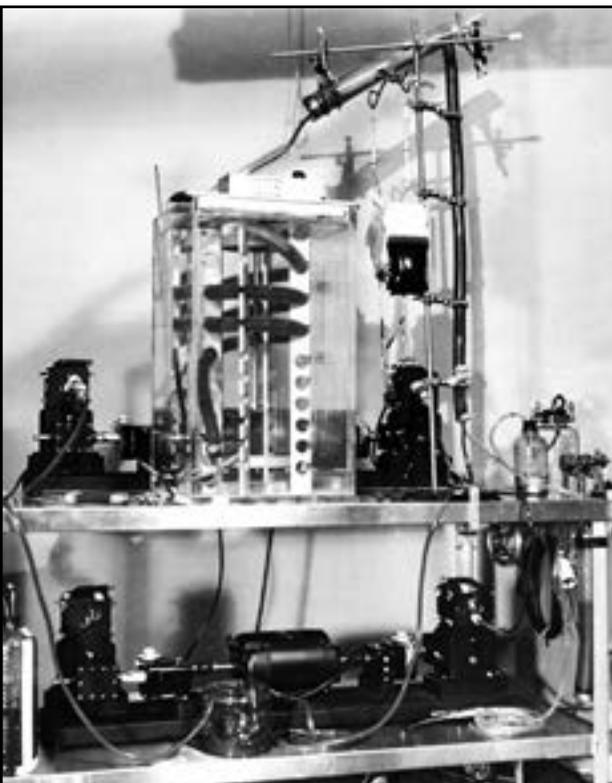


Photo courtesy retired Maj. Gen. Floyd Baker

A photograph of the pump-oxygenator machine used to perform a heart-lung bypass in 1956.



Photo courtesy BAMC Public Affairs

A photograph of the current heart-lung machine being using today.

Military members must know, understand rules regarding political activities

By Staff Sgt. AJ Hyatt
70th Intelligence, Surveillance
and Reconnaissance Wing
Public Affairs
Fort George G. Meade, Md.

As election season heats up, military members and federal employees must follow strict guidelines to ensure no wrongdoing.

Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 and Air Force Instruction 51-902 outline what active duty service members are permitted and restricted from doing while acting in personal and official capacity.

Service members who violate these directives could face punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, according to Capt. Lindsey Callahan, 70th Intelligence, Surveillance,

and Reconnaissance Wing deputy staff judge advocate. The Hatch Act (5 USC 7321-7325) applies to DOD civilian employees.

“It’s important to understand the rule regarding political activities because it is the duty of every military member to comply with these rules. Our system of government is structured to prevent politicized military,” Callahan added. “It is perhaps the most central tenet of our military that it should be neutral with regard to politics.

While it’s important to know the rules, Airmen must also understand the rules.

“We take an oath to the Constitution – not to any one political party or any one person,” Callahan said.

“Individual members of the military may have their personal preferences as to political parties or candidates, but the DOD or Air Force does not endorse a particular party or candidate.”

Members must be familiar with these regulations, because these rules also apply to social media.

“Often, people forget that social media is a public forum,” Callahan said. “Even though service members may believe only their friends will see something,

there is no guarantee to ensure that. People will forward and share posts. Once it is on the internet, it is available for the world to see.”

When it comes to political participation, it is important

to remember that military members

CAN:

- Register and vote
- Express their personal political opinions (just make sure it is clearly personal and no one could mistake it for being official)

- Encourage other to participate in the political process

- Sign a petition for a specific legislative action (again, in a personal capacity and not as SSgt Snuffy)

- Write a letter to the editor, but a disclaimer is required and the letter cannot solicit votes for a candidate

- Donate money to a political organization, party or committee

- Display a bumper sticker on their car, but just ONE and it has be a reasonable size

- Place a poster supporting a candidate or issue on their lawn, as long as they live off-base
- Become a “friend” or “like” the Facebook page or “follow” the Twitter account of a political party or partisan candidate, campaign or cause

When it comes to political participation, it is important to remember that military members

CANNOT:

- Participate in partisan fundraising activities
- Speak at a partisan political gathering

- Wear the uniform at a campaign or election event

- Publish articles or endorsements that solicit votes

- Participate in radio, television or other programs as an advocate for a partisan party,

candidate or cause

- “Like” or “re-tweet” a post soliciting for political contributions

- Display a campaign logo or candidate photograph as a profile picture

- Suggest that others “like,” “friend,” or “follow” the partisan account

- Forward invitations to partisan events, solicit or fundraise

“Every Airman plays a role in ensuring the U.S. military continues to be a non-political part of the government,” said Callahan.

For more information or questions, please contact the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Legal Office at 671-3362, the JBSA-Randolph Legal Office at 652-6781 or the JBSA-Fort Sam Legal Office at 808-0169.

News Briefs

Continued from P3

ill, injured and transitioning service members, Veterans, their spouses and primary caregivers. For more information, call 571-372-2123.

Ombudsman Training For Navy families

The Ombudsman is a unit family readiness program for Navy service members and their families. Basic training is required for all command ombudsman and open to service members and their families. The two-day workshop is slated for 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 24-25 and registration is due by March 7 to the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. For more information, call 221-2418.

Army Candidate School Structure Interview Panel Board

The 502nd Force Support Squadron's Military Personnel Branch conducts an U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Structure Interview Panel Board at 8 a.m. April 27 at building 2263, 1706 Stanley Road, room 117B. All Soldiers must have a bachelor's degree and can't be over the age of 33. Soldiers must also be U.S. citizens, have a general technical score of 110 or higher on the U.S. Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, a security clearance and cannot have more than six years active federal service. Soldiers are also 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. For a complete listing and checklist of the OCS requirements and forms, visit <https://www.hrcapps.army.mil/site/protect/branches/officer/Operations/Accessions/OCS/index.htm>. All OCS applicants must see their S1/ G1 prior to submitting their OCS packets. All OCS packets must be turned in by April 8. For more information, call 221-0885.

Boy Scout Troop 23 Seeks New Members

The Boy Scout Troop 23 Alamo Chapter Association of the U.S. Army is looking for more participants and new members. Scouts meet weekly to have fun, prepare for monthly

BASURA from P1

the creek and collected from the park area, almost filling a 40-yard-long dumpster to the top.

Among the trash was a set of metal bleachers, seven tires, a partially full refrigerant tank, dozens of assorted pieces of metal in various sizes, along with hundreds of plastic bottles and

styrofoam containers. The bleachers were actually in good shape, according to event organizer Bryan Hummel, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron, and were placed back next to the others for continued use.

"We had the largest turn out ever for Basura Bash and were able to expand the clean-up area by a quarter mile," said Hummel, 502nd

CES pollution prevention manager and aquifer recharge specialist. "We actually did not gather the largest volume of trash ever, because the previous five cleanups have been so successful, so there is just not as much trash to clean up. This shows that our efforts are paying off and we are making a long-term difference for the waterways of the San Antonio River."

Hummel added that if trash is picked up out of the upland fields, parking lots and buildings around JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, there will be less trash to get washed down and pollute our natural waterways.

"The solution to our water issues start on the uplands, not in the actual creek," he said. "The condition of the creek is just a symptom of land stewardship practices in upstream water basin. The trash we cleaned up came from upstream, so if we keep this area cleaner, our river will be cleaner. This requires a constant community effort throughout the water basin."



More than 350 volunteers came out early Saturday morning to the Salado Creek Park on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston to help clean up the areas surrounding the creek and the waterway itself as part of the annual Basura Bash. The Basura Bash is a one-day, all-volunteer event to clean the San Antonio Watershed.



Seaman Apprentice Chris Polizzi collects a tire and other trash from the area around the Salado Creek Park area at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Saturday during the annual Basura Bash. A total of seven tires were found among the almost two tons of trash collected.



Pfc. Kyle Alexander, Company D, Brooke Army Medical Center Troop Command, removes a rusted propane tank from the area around the Salado Creek Park area at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Saturday during the annual Basura Bash.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Basura Bash was a part of a larger effort throughout San Antonio that saw local residents, community

groups and organizations collecting trash from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at 20 different locations that connect to San Antonio's watershed.



Civilian volunteer Gene Lysik reaches for a piece of trash along the banks of Salado Creek at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Saturday during the annual Basura Bash.



Bryan Hummel (left), 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron pollution prevention manager and aquifer recharge specialist, gives a safety briefing to the hundreds of volunteers assembled to help clean up the Salado Creek Park area at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Saturday. Hummel has organized the event at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston for the past six years.



Seaman Makayla Parris (left) and Seaman Stacey Taper right), Military Education and Training Campus students at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, work together Saturday to clean up trash around the Salado Creek Park area at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston during the annual Basura Bash.

Photos by Steve Elliott

ARNORTH CG SPEAKS AT 103RD BIRTHDAY OF MEXICAN ARMY

Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins (left), U.S. Army North commanding general, was the guest speaker Feb. 19 at an event at La Villita in downtown San Antonio celebrating the 103rd birthday of the Mexican Army. The event included representatives from the Consulado de México en San Antonio, the Instituto Cultural de México, members of the City of San Antonio municipal government and the San Antonio-Mexico Friendship Council. In the above photo, Wiggins presents a gift to Mexico's Acting Consul General, Jose Antonio Larios Ponce. The gift is a set of pens, each engraved with one of the seven U.S. Army values.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

Flag for Hope visits Fort Sam Houston Museum

The Flag for Hope project was started to help promote Unity and Peace among all Americans and is supposed to symbolically represent thousands of Americans holding hands without conflict or hatred and coming together as a country.

The Flag for Hope team is led by artist Marcos Antonio, a U.S. Army veteran, and executive director Chris Cavedon, and was started at the Indianapolis 500, May 23, 2015.

The goal is to collect approximately 3,000 to 4,000 American hand and finger impressions on a giant canvas to create the U.S. flag. Antonio and Cavedon are going to more than 150 cities and roughly 300 to 400 locations to accomplish their mission.

Each participant places their impression on the flag in red, white, or blue

paint. Lastly, the 50 stars will be photos of iconic Americans that have con-

tributed to the strength, well-being and solidarity of the nation.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

U.S. Army veteran and artist Marcos Antonio (right) explains the meaning behind the Flag for Hope to Fort Sam Houston Museum curator William Manchester (left).

JBSA swimming pools look to train lifeguards in March

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Public Affairs

Summer is not quite around the corner, but aquatic centers and pools throughout Joint Base San Antonio will soon be advertising for lifeguards to meet each facility's needs during the 2016 swimming season.

"The lifeguard announcement will be posted on USAJobs sometime around spring break," said Dave Waugh, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center manager. "The jobs will also be advertised with fliers at the different facilities."

The pools will hire lifeguards at three general schedule pay grades – GS-2 for lifeguards, GS-3 for lifeguard/water safety instructors and GS-4 for lead lifeguard/water safety instructors. WSIs are also certified to teach swimming lessons. Waugh said there is a need for lifeguards at JBSA facilities.

"There has been a real problem in previous years getting enough lifeguards to run all the programs and work during posted operating hours," he said. "I know that last year I was short 10 employees."

Waugh said he hopes to hire 31 lifeguards at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston – 23 at the GS-2 level, five at the GS-3 level and three at the GS-4 level.

JBSA-Lackland's facilities – the indoor Skylark Aquatic Center and the outdoor Warhawk Pool – and JBSA-Randolph's outdoor South and



Photo by Joel Martinez

Alex Pharris, Parr Club pool life guard, oversees pool safety June 22, 2015, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Lifeguards observe and supervise swimming areas to prevent accidents, make swimmers aware of dangerous situations and in an emergency carry out rescue procedures.

Center pools are also seeking lifeguards.

"We hope to hire a total of 23 positions, which include lifeguards, water safety instructors and lead lifeguard/water safety instructors," said Stephanie Soto, JBSA-Lackland aquatics manager. "We have not recruited in the past, but we are recruiting now and the summer looks promising."

Waugh said lifeguards must be currently certified as lifeguards by having successfully completed the American Red Cross Lifeguard Course within the last two years," he said. "The course certifies them in lifeguarding, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator operation. Certification is valid for two years."

The American Red

Cross course is taught at all three JBSA locations.

"The class has instruction in rescue skills in the aquatic environment," Waugh said. "A lot of time is spent on preventive lifeguarding and safety at the pool. We also teach first aid, CPR and AED."

The year's first lifeguard class at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center was taught Feb. 13-15. The next class is planned for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 12-13 and March 19-20, followed by a class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 26-27 and April 2-3.

A blended-learning lifeguard class is also scheduled 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 12-19 at JBSA-Lackland's Skylark Aquatic Center and Skylark Community Center. Soto said other classes will follow.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center

will also conduct water safety instructor classes in the weeks ahead. The first class is scheduled 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 14-18; the second class is planned for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 9-10, 5-9 p.m. April 13 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 16-17.

The lifeguard and water safety instructor courses cost \$160 each and require passing a pre-test. The lifeguard course is open to anyone 15 or older while the WSI course is open to anyone who is 16 or older on the last day of the class.

Waugh said lifeguard applicants must have a certification that will be valid throughout the summer. They also must be a student, at least 16 years old and able to pass a background check, physical examination and urinalysis.

Lifeguards need not be military dependents, Waugh said.

"At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, new employees tend to be high school students, and then they work every summer throughout college," he said. "Unfortunately, people have the idea that you have to be a military dependent to work, but that is not true. I have had my best luck recruiting from Junior ROTC and

ROTC units."

Waugh also said lifeguards serve as customer service representatives, cashiers and custodians in addition to their lifeguarding duties.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center, a heated outdoor facility, is open for lap swimming now and for recreational swimming starting Memorial Day weekend. For more information, call 221-4887.

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatic Center is open year-round, while the Warhawk Pool is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. For more information, call 671-3780.

The JBSA-Randolph South Pool is open from mid-June to mid-August for swim lessons and lap swimming; the Center Pool is open starting Memorial Day weekend for recreational swimming. For more information, call 652-5142, option 1.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Baylie Kraft, 502nd Force Support Squadron lifeguard, warms up before her shift June 12 at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club pool.

VETS GET VALENTINES, APPRECIATION



Photo by Kathy Salazar

Chief Master Sgt. Stanley C. Cadell (left), 502d Air Base Wing command shares a laugh with a retired veteran at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System Feb. 19 during the Annual National Salute to Veteran Patients. The Veterans Affairs National Salute program began in 1978 and this humanitarian effort pays tribute to veterans throughout the United States and Canada each year by providing Valentine cards from local communities to veterans in appreciation for their service.

NHRA DRAG RACER VISITS FORT SAM HOUSTON



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

Nancy Matter (left) had her National Hot Rod Association top alcohol funny car on display at the Warrior & Family Support Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 18. She also showed off the dragster and talked to troops Friday at Army North Headquarters in the Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle. Matter was in town to run the car at the San Antonio Raceway.

What does a Navy hospital corpsman know about the heart?

By Navy Lt. Louis Streb
Basic Medical Technician
Corpsman Program
Medical Education and
Training Campus Instructor

Marines know when they're sent to the front lines, a U.S. Navy corpsman will be right there with them. Hospital corpsmen, better known as "Doc," are medical specialists similar to civilian physicians' assistants, but without the years of training and under the added pressure of providing medical care in the field or anywhere else the Navy decides.

The Basic Medical Technician Corpsman

Program is a 14-week introductory course in the delivery of medical care.

Students are provided formal education and training that develops them into entry-level medical technicians and corpsmen within fixed and deployable medical facilities.

They receive instruction on medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, basic life support, emergency medical technician-basic curricula, as well as various aspects of nursing and primary patient care, including nutrition, cardiac life support, first aid proce-

dures, infection control, universal precautions, vital signs, intravenous care, wound care management, history taking and physical assessment, as well as customer service.

Corpsmen get a crash course on the cardiovascular, or circulatory system, which consists of the heart, blood, and blood vessels. They start with key terms such as atria, ventricle, artery, vein, capillary, red and white blood cells, plasma, blood pressure, hypertension, pacemaker and shock.

Students learn that the heart is a muscle about the size of your fist, located in the center of the chest; that it has four chambers, responsible for pumping blood through the heart, past multiple valves and out to the body via blood vessels. These vessels are described by their function, location and whether they carry blood away from or to the heart.

Corpsmen must also understand that the heart does not work alone. It is paired closely with the lungs, and one without the other leads to death.

The functions and effects of these two systems are so intertwined that they are often referred to as the cardiopulmonary system. It becomes crystal clear that the main purpose of the heart is to deliver oxygen and nutrients to all the body's organs such as the brain, kidneys, eyes, liver and skin.

It is because of this newly obtained knowledge and hands-on training that our hospital corpsmen are then able to iden-

tify and treat cardiac emergencies, such as coronary artery disease, aneurysm, dysrhythmia, angina pectoris, acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), congestive heart failure and cardiac arrest.

As a BMTCP instructor, registered nurse and prior hospital corpsman myself, I know about the effectiveness of the training students receive in our program, but I think a student's perspective speaks volumes

"What I already knew about the heart is that without it we would die," said one Navy student. "What I didn't understand was how it was like a pump, automatic at first, but when necessary, could be run manually."

"Something which I found extremely interesting was that when you have a myocardial infarction it actually kills a little bit of your heart muscle," another



Seaman Christopher Hawthorne (right), Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program student, is evaluated by Navy Lt. Louis Streb (center) while being tested on his ability to assess fellow student Airman 1st Class Kendra Labonte (left) in the Emergency Medical Technician Medical Assessment practicum during a BLS course at the Medical Education and Training Campus on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Navy student noted. "That bit of the heart is now incapable of ever functioning again

and now the rest of the heart is having to compensate for normal productivity."



Seaman Luke Wagner, Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program student conducts basic life support skills training during a course at the Medical Education and Training Campus on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.



Photos by Lisa Braun

Navy and Air Force students in the Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program conduct basic life support skills training during a BLS course.



Joint Base San Antonio FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

March

Arts and Crafts

Framing offers competitive pricing

The JBSA-Randolph Frame Shop, located in the Community Services Mall, building 895, offers 25 percent off select frames March 1-31. Expert framers help with custom frames for special occasions and the shop matches any off-base price on comparable custom framing jobs, plus there is no sales tax. For more information, call 652-5142.

Frame special memories or create a gift with help from the JBSA-Lackland Frame Shop. Framing professionals are ready to help make selections to highlight art, photos, prints and more. For more information, call 671-5503.

Bowling

The Easter Bunny joins in bowling fun

Come to the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center March 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and bowl with the Eater Bunny. Cost is \$10 per child, which includes two games of bowling, rental shoes, a picture with the Easter Bunny and a goodie bag. For more information, call 652-6271.

Special-priced bowling available during spring break

Make plans to visit the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center during spring break, March 14-18. Bowl for the reduced rate of \$2.50 per person. Rental shoes are \$2.50. For more information, call 652-6271.

Easter brings bowling special

Spend Easter at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center March 27 and bowl one game for \$2.50 and get a second game free. This special does not include rental shoes. For more information, call 652-6271.

Healthy options available

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center has introduced a new, healthier menu option in support of the Air Force Kids Live Well® initiative. The goal of this initiative is to help parents and children select healthy menu options while dining out. A particular interest is to increase fruit, vegetable, lean protein, whole grain and low-fat dairy consumption while decreasing unhealthy fats, sugars and sodium. For more information, call 221-3683.

Bosses and buddies receive a special

Bring the boss or a buddy to the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m., and receive \$1 off any 10- or 20-piece wing order or large pizza. For more information, call 671-1234.

Special offer encourages safety

Wear a reflective belt while in uniform to the JBSA-Lackland Bowling Center Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m., and rental shoes are free. For more information, call 671-1234.

Clubs

Nightlife entertainment offered at the club

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 March 4, 5-8 p.m. Enjoy bar food, cold drinks, friends and music.

Sing and enjoy entertainment and a frosty beverage at Karaoke night in the Lone Star Lounge featuring DJ Dee Dee March 5 and 19, 8 p.m. to midnight.

Check out We're Halfway There Night at the Maverick Lounge March 18, 5-8 p.m. DJ LJU entertains while guests relax and enjoy music.

Close out the month in the Maverick Lounge March 25, 5-8 p.m. with DJ LJU for music, relaxation and a game of pool. For more information, call 645-7034.

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 Fridays, 5-8 p.m., with satisfying menus for all. The March 4 menu includes bacon-wrapped filet mignon stuffed shrimp, duchess potatoes, broccoli florets, house salad and dessert. For March 11, enjoy a porterhouse steak topped with sautéed mushrooms, baked potato, grilled corn on the cob, a house salad and dessert. The March 18 menu features a 16-ounce portion of prime rib au jus, baked potato, asparagus with red peppers, a house salad and dessert. The March 25 menu includes a New York strip steak, fried shrimp, seasoned steak fries, broccoli florets, a house salad and dessert. Cost is \$16.95 for members and \$18.95 for nonmembers. 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 the Tobias Band March 4 and by Bugz Garza and the Alliance March 18, 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.

Bingo is played throughout the month

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club holds Bingo Extravaganza March 7 and 21 with \$15,000 in total jackpots, a complimentary buffet at 5:30 p.m. and Early Bird bingo at 6 p.m.

Birthday Bingo is held March 8 in the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club. Birthday members receive one free machine, cake and champagne. This event is for Randolph club members only and ID and club card are required.

Children are invited to bingo March 20, 11 a.m., at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club for a chance to win several

prizes. Entry is free for Club members' children. Cost is \$5 per child for nonmembers' children. A complimentary children's buffet is available for children up to 12 years. The Gil's Pub grill menu is available for all others. For more information, call 652-3056.

Easter meals are made to go

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club offers Easter meals to go March 13-26. A turkey is \$45 for members or \$50 for nonmembers. A ham is \$50 for members or \$55 for nonmembers. The club also offers a turkey meal, which is \$75 for members or \$80 for nonmembers and a ham meal, which is \$75 for members or \$80 for nonmembers. These meals include cornbread stuffing, whipped potatoes with gravy, macaroni and cheese, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce and apple pie. Add \$15 to pick up freshly prepared hot meals; be sure to specify this while placing the order. Orders must be submitted two days in advance. The last day to order is March 24 and the last day for pick up is March 26. Coupons are not accepted for this promotion. For more information, call 645-7034.

March 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 March birthdays are honored March 15 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 March, \$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.

Special lunch buffet offered for Saint Patrick's Day

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club invites guests to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day in the food court March 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a special lunch buffet. Enjoy stuffed pork chops with green pepper and onion strips, fried chicken, shrimp Alfredo with green fettuccine plus an assortment of sides including whipped potatoes with brown gravy, buttered new potatoes, green beans almandine, corn O'Brien, soup and baked rolls. The dessert selection includes key lime pie, lime Jell-O parfaits, green velvet cake, apple pie with whipped topping, green sherbet and Saint Patrick's Day cake. Cost is \$10.95 per person. For more information, call 645-7034.

Club offers Saint Patrick's Day special

Head to Gil's Pub in the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club March 17 wearing green and get \$1 off any beverage. For more information, call 652-3056.

JBSA FSS

Club hosts live musical entertainment

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick club hosts live music by PM Soul March 18, 5-7 p.m., in the Ballroom. Social Hour is 5-7 p.m. This event is free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information, call 652-3056.

Meals are prepared to go

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club offers adult and child portions of meals to go. Staff is staged outside of the main entrance in the drive-through driveway to greet customers, take orders and provide meals. Meals are available 4-5 p.m., while supplies last. The March 21 dish includes Chicken Marsala with mushrooms, egg noodles and steamed broccoli. Cost is \$9.95 for nonmembers, \$7.95 for members and nonmembers' children and \$5.95 for members' children. For more information, call 658-7445.

Easter is celebrated early

Come to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club Food Court to enjoy a pre-Easter buffet March 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$10.95 per person and the menu includes champagne-basted turkey with cranberry chutney, baked ham with orange glaze, baked tilapia with white wine sauce, fried chicken and rosemary garlic roast beef. Sides include cranberry pecan stuffing, whipped potatoes with giblet and brown gravy, yams with golden brown marshmallow, macaroni and cheese, broccoli with Hollandaise sauce, mixed vegetables, soup and salad bar and clam chowder. The dessert selection includes coconut cake, Easter treats, carrot cake, bread pudding with bourbon sauce, Boston crême pie, peach cobbler, pecan pie and more. For more information, call 645-7034.

Guests fly in to the Auger

Join the party at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Auger Inn for "old school" camaraderie, free light refreshment and great music March 25. Meet neighbors, folks from other squadrons and leadership. There is no cover to join the fun. For more information, call 658-7445.

Easter brunch includes a special visit

Make reservations for Easter brunch at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club March 27. The Easter Bunny passes out candy and children 12 years and younger may be entered into a drawing to win free Easter Baskets. Seating times begin at 10:30 and are every half hour until 2 p.m. Cost is \$24.95 for adult members, \$12.50 for members' children, 6-12 years, \$27.95 for adult nonmembers and \$14.50 for nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children 5 and younger eat for free. Reservations and prepayments are required. Refunds are issued up to 48 hours prior to the event. For more information, call 652-3056.

Club appreciates members

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts Customer Appreciation Night in the Fiesta Ballroom March 29, 5-8 p.m., with entertainment provided by Doggin' Dave Productions. The menu features a salad bar, beef tenderloin with béarnaise sauce, chicken Bordeaux, pork chops Marsala, rosemary roasted potatoes, broccoli spears, mixed vegetables, freshly baked rolls, fresh fruit, red velvet cake and pecan pie. Cost is \$10.50 for members and \$12.50 for nonmembers. For more information, call 645-7034.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston • Equestrian Center

COWBOYS FOR HEROES



SATURDAY April 2
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders.
For more information, call 652-5763

MyJBSA.FSS-MPW.com

SECURITY SERVICE FORCE

Community Programs

Community Center hosts flea market

Shop for bargains or treasures at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Community Center quarterly flea market in the Warhawk Fitness Center parking lot March 5, 8 a.m. to noon. Enjoy shopping, food and music. Sellers can rent spaces for \$10. Tables are \$5 each. For more information, call 671-3191.

Runners and walkers glow in the park

Put on neon war paint and light up the night for the second annual JBSA Glow in the Park 5K at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston MacArthur Parade Field March 5, 5 p.m. Enjoy lighting effects and themed party stations on this illuminated nighttime course. Warm up with Zumba® and cardio fusion sessions. Then, show off dance moves and glow spirit at a celebratory dance party afterwards. Registration is \$12 and each participant receives a goody bag with a T-shirt, glow gear and bib number. Participants may register at the event for \$15. For more information, call 652-5763.

Popular artists are captured in a musical

Visit the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Harlequin Dinner Theatre March 11 to April 16 and view London Calling, a high-energy musical revue featuring breakout artists from the United Kingdom such as The Beatles, Dusty Springfield, Rod Stewart, Elton John, Shirley Bassey, Adele and more. Make your reservations today. Group rates are available. These shows are sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 222-9694.

Fitness

Bikers are challenged

All bikers are invited to participate in the 15-mile bike ride at JBSA-Randolph Eberle Park March 5, 7:30 a.m. For more information, call 652-7263.

Swimmers train to save

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatic Center offers a lifeguard certification course March 12-15. Cost is \$160 per student for participants 15 years and older. The class is a total of 32 hours and students must be able to pass a prerequisite swim test.

The Aquatic Center also has a heated indoor pool available for lap swimming Monday, noon to 1 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open swim hours are Monday to Friday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 12:30-4:40 p.m. Swim lessons for individuals 3 years and older, including adults, are available at the center. For more information, call 671-3780.

Bracket contest hosted by Fitness Center

Join the Fitness Center on the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Medical Education and Training Campus for a brackets contest March 17. Brackets must be submitted before the start of the first game. \$250 in prizes is awarded to the first-, second- and third-place finishers. In the event of a tie, a free throw contest is held. For more information, call 808-5709.

Runners and walkers wear green

Join the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center for a Saint Patrick's Day 5K run or walk March 17, 7:30 a.m., at Eberle Park. For more information, call 652-7263.

JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club

Easter Sunday Brunch

March 27 • 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Adults: Member \$21.95 • Nonmember \$23.95

Children ages 6-11
Member \$9.95
Nonmember \$10.95

Children age 5 & younger Free



For more information, call 645-0771

Basketball players play in tournament

Participate in a three-on-three basketball tournament at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center March 19, 9 a.m. Teams consist of three players and an alternate player. This event is free and is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders 18 years and older. If an individual does not have a team, event coordinators can assemble a team the day of the event. For more information, call 221-1234.

The JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center hosts a free March Madness three-on-three basketball tournament March 25, 11 a.m. This event determines the "King of the Hill" on the basketball court. Registration ends March 24. For more information, call 977-2353.

Units serve, bump, set and spike

Intramural volleyball begins March 21 at the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center. For more information, call 652-7263.

Golf

Golfers compete in a scramble

Golfers are invited to play in the monthly JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Warrior four-person scramble March 4 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.

Low Ball Tournament decides a winner

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course hosts a low ball tournament March 12. The entry fee for this two-person best ball tournament is \$30 per person. For more information, call 671-3466.

Spring brings on Randolph Dual

Join the JBSA-Randolph Golf Course for the Spring Randolph Dual March 19 and 20, with 7-9 a.m. tee times. This is a two-person event; day one is a scramble and day two is a shamble. It is pre-flighted based on Golf Handicap and Information Network®. A barbecue lunch is provided by Carl Null and Son, after the first round Saturday and golfers have a chance to win golf merchandise during a drawing. All golfers who place in this tournament receive a certificate for pro shop merchandise. Cost is \$90 for members and \$125 for nonmembers and includes green fees, cart fees, lunch Saturday, a prize drawing, a goody bag and gift certificates for the placing teams. For more information, call 652-4653.

Golfers try out new equipment

Head to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course driving range and putting green March 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to try the latest equipment from Ping, Taylor Made, Mizuno, Nike and others before making any golf equipment purchases. Special demo-day pricing is available on select items. For more information, call 671-3466.

JBSA Golf Club
Membership Drive
March 1 to May 1

Golf Course membership includes several benefits:

- Preferred advance tee times
- No daily green fees (does not cover cart rental)
- Five free rounds of golf at each of the other two JBSA golf locations
- 10 percent discount off all merchandise purchased in the Pro Shops (excluding Ping)
- Priority for club storage and locker rental (if offered)
- Free handicap service
- Discounted entry fees for all JBSA sponsored tournaments
- Access to member only tournaments and events
- 5 percent discount for catered events at the club house
- Membership referral program, one month free dues for every new member referred
- Annual membership appreciation day with a tournament and food
- Pro-rated membership for "Scrubs"

Contact a local JBSA golf course and sign up now. For JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 222-9386. For JBSA-Lackland, call 671-2517 and for JBSA-Randolph, call 652-4653.

www.myjbsa-hq-mwt.com

FORCE

Information, Tickets and Travel

Tourists travel to Costa Rica

Book a spring trip to Costa Rica through the JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel. Enjoy four nights and five days April 3-7. This all-inclusive package travels from San Antonio to Riu Guanacaste Beach Resort Area, via the Liberia Airport. This package includes round trip airfare, airport transfers and all-inclusive hotel accommodations. Rates start at \$961 based on double occupancy. Full payment and a \$10 service fee is due at the time of booking. For more information, call 671-7111.

Cruise lovers sail the exotic western Caribbean

The JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel offers a western Caribbean cruise May 29 to June 15. Sail from Galveston, Texas to Cozumel, Belize and Mohogany Bay Isla Roatan. Rates start at \$687 per person for an inside cabin and \$1,017 per person for a balcony. Gratuities are not included. Full payment and a \$10 service fee are due at booking. For more information, call 671-7111.

Group tour highlights European destinations

Travel through London, Paris, Lucerne Switzerland, Venice, Florence and Rome June 16-26. The JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel offers this tour with rates starting at \$3,800 per person, including airfare. A \$350 per person non-refundable deposit and a \$10 per person service fee is due at booking. Final payment is due April 13. 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.

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

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.

Library

Libraries offer story time

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. Story time helps reinforce a lifelong love of learning in children and includes stories, songs, rhymes and movement activities. A parent or caregiver is to remain in the library during story time. 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.

Military & Family Readiness

Service members make a transition

All Service Members transitioning or considering transitioning from military to civilian life are encouraged to attend the JBSA Transition Information Program workshop, March 7, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. Speakers from the Military and Veteran Community Collaborative, Texas Veterans Commission, Veterans Service Program and the Work Force Solutions Alamo are on site to discuss networking opportunities, education benefits, health care, employment tips on career transitions, housing, property markets and more. This event is free and is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and their spouses. Registration is required. For more information, call 221-1213.

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

Career fair for service members offered

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center hosts the Hiring Heroes Career Fair March 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Sam Houston Community Center. Transitioning service members, veterans and their families are invited to network with employers from the Department of Defense, other federal agencies and private sector firms with positions available for wounded, ill, injured and transitioning service members, Veterans, their spouses and primary caregivers. For more information, call 571-372-2123.

Members move from the battlefield to the classroom

Join the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center March 11, 1-3:30 p.m., for Troops to Teachers, a U.S. Department of Defense Transition program that helps eligible military personnel begin a new career as teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are most needed. Patrons review eligibility, licensing requirements, certifications and more. For more information, call 671-3722.

Homecoming and reintegration brief held

Military spouses review the reintegration and reunion process at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center March 18, 9-10 a.m. This briefing includes the importance of reunions, common reactions to reintegration, changes that may result from deployment, positive coping strategies, potential roadblocks and tips for a successful reunion. For more information, call 652-5321.

Officers attend mandatory financial training

The Officer First Duty Station Financial Training is required for officers assigned to their first permanent duty station. Training is slated for March 2, 9-11 a.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center and March 15, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC. For more information, call the JBSA-Lackland M&FRC at 671-3722 and the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC at 652-5321.

Ombudsman training available for Navy families

Ombudsman is a unit family readiness program for Navy service members and their families. Basic Training is required for all Command Ombudsman. The two-day workshop is slated for March 24-25, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and registration is due March 7 to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. For more information, call 221-2418.

Newcomers are welcomed

Spouses, services members and employees are invited to the Spouse Information Fair March 10, 9 a.m. at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. Learn about services and meet with 20 agencies on Joint Base San Antonio. For more information, call 221-2705.

Outdoor Recreation

Concealed handgun licence class offered

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center provides concealed handgun license classes March 5 and 19, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Successful completion of this class is required for a Texas CHL. To register for a class, visit

<http://www.chlregistration.com>. Once on the website, select "register for class." Then select "Dan Willis-Leatherneck Arms." For more information, call 363-2332.

Participants wear green and receive a discount

Wear something green to play Saint Patrick's Day paintball at the JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation Center March 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and receive all-day play and 1000 balls for \$30 a person. This event is held while temporary repairs are in place. The paintball field is undergoing repairs for damages caused by recent high winds. 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 March 26-27, 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 March. Completion of the Boater's safety course is required for rental. This course can be completed at guest reception for \$2 per person. Please allow a minimum of 90 minutes to review the video and test. For more information, call 1-800-280-3466.

Pavilions and covered picnic areas are half price

Rent one of the large pavilions or a covered picnic area for half price during March at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake. The covered picnic areas are ideal for groups of 20-25, while the pavilions accommodate groups of 40-50. For more information, call 1-800-280-3466.

Youth and Children

Preteens participate in themed lock-in

Youth, 9-12 years, are invited to an overnight adventure March 4, 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs. The theme for this event features games and activities inspired by the Star Wars movies. Cost is \$30 per person and a midnight snack and breakfast-to-go is provided. For more information, call 672-2388.

Teens attend party

All teens are invited to attend a teen party at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs, building 1630, March 11, 7-10 p.m. Enjoy music, games, refreshments and contests. Cost is \$2 per person for members and \$3 per person for nonmembers. For more information, call 221-3502.

Spring break camp offers entertainment and fun

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs offers spring break camp March 14-18. Camp for children in kindergarten to fifth grade is at School Age Services, building 1703. Camp for children in sixth and seventh grade is held at building 2515. Camp for children in eighth grade to 12th grade is held at the Youth Center, building 1630. Pre-registration is required for all ages and Cost for children in kindergarten through seventh grade is based on total family income. For more information, call 221-4871.

Youth are encouraged to choose a healthy lifestyle

The JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs celebrates Kick Butts Day March 16, 3:30-5 p.m. Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism that empowers youth to stand out, speak up and seize control against tobacco. This is an event to raise awareness, encourage youth to stay tobacco free and urge strong action to protect kids from tobacco. For more information, call 672-2388.

Basketball is played at midnight

Play midnight basketball March 19, 7 p.m. to midnight, with the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs. This program is free and youth 11 years and older may participate. Youth in sixth to eighth grade play until approximately 9 p.m. and youth in ninth to 12th grade play until midnight. A healthy snack is provided during the games. For more information, call 221-3502.

Youth are invited to participate for free

There is no membership needed to participate in the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs clubs, activities or open recreation during March 21-25. Check out the preteen game room, teen zone, club meetings and activities. This program does not include instructional classes, league sports or School Age care programs. Stop by for a monthly calendar of events to see what is offered during these weeks. Membership cards cost \$36 per year. For more information, call 652-3298.

Youth participate in day camp

Register children, 5 years, and in kindergarten, to 12 years for day camp March 25 at the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs. Cost varies according to household income. Check school calendars before making reservations. Registration after March 14 is subject to a \$15 late fee. For more information, call 672-2388.

Baseball basics are introduced

Registration for First Steps Spring baseball is March 28 to April 1 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 are required to participate in the six-week session as an extension of the instructor so that the element of fear is eliminated. For more information, call 671-2388.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay current on Joint Base San Antonio 502d Force Support Squadron events, specials and daily activities.
<http://www.myjbsa-fss-mwr.com>



Electrical system failure a leading cause of home structure fires

By Ricardo S. Campos
Public Fire and Life Safety
Educator 502nd Civil
Engineer Squadron

It's second nature for many of us to flip a light switch, plug in a laptop computer or charge your mobile phone. Electricity makes our lives convenient.

Nevertheless, we need to be careful and keep electrical safety in mind. Across Joint Base San Antonio plenty of electricity is being used. Electrical fires remain one of the leading causes of home structure fires as reported by the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA.

The electrical fires report calculates that an electrical failure or malfunction factored in 45,000 to 55,000 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments every year since 2000.

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

Any type of equipment that uses electrical power can have an electrical failure or malfunction. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment accounted for 48 percent of home electrical fires in 2007-2011. Outnumbering overheating by at least 2-to-1 and as much as 7-to-1, arcing appears to be the explanation for most home electrical fires.

Here are some electrical safety tips:

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.



Courtesy photo

- When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by qualified electrician.

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

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

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

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

All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.

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

- Do not attach multiple extension cords together. This can cause a fire.

- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets.

- Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more electrical outlets so you won't have to use an extension cord.

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

Contact a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers.

- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance.

- Discolored or warm wall outlets.

- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance.

- Flickering or dimming lights.

- Sparks from an outlet.

Refrigerators, ovens, washers, clothes dryers, and dishwashers are in most households. Each appliance should come with instructions upon purchase, as well as safety guidelines that should be read and kept for reference.

A safety hazard in large appliances that it can gather lots of dust.

Periodically dust and dirt should be cleaned off of vents at the bottom of refrigerators to permit these appliances to run more effortlessly. After every load of clothing the lint screen of the clothes dryer should be cleaned of dust and dirt. A major contribution to a fire in a laundry room is the build-up of lint.

Also to be checked periodically is the dishwasher in the home to see that it is in good working order. If water isn't draining properly, or if there is a problem with water intake, the dishwasher can poten-

tially heat up, leading to problems.

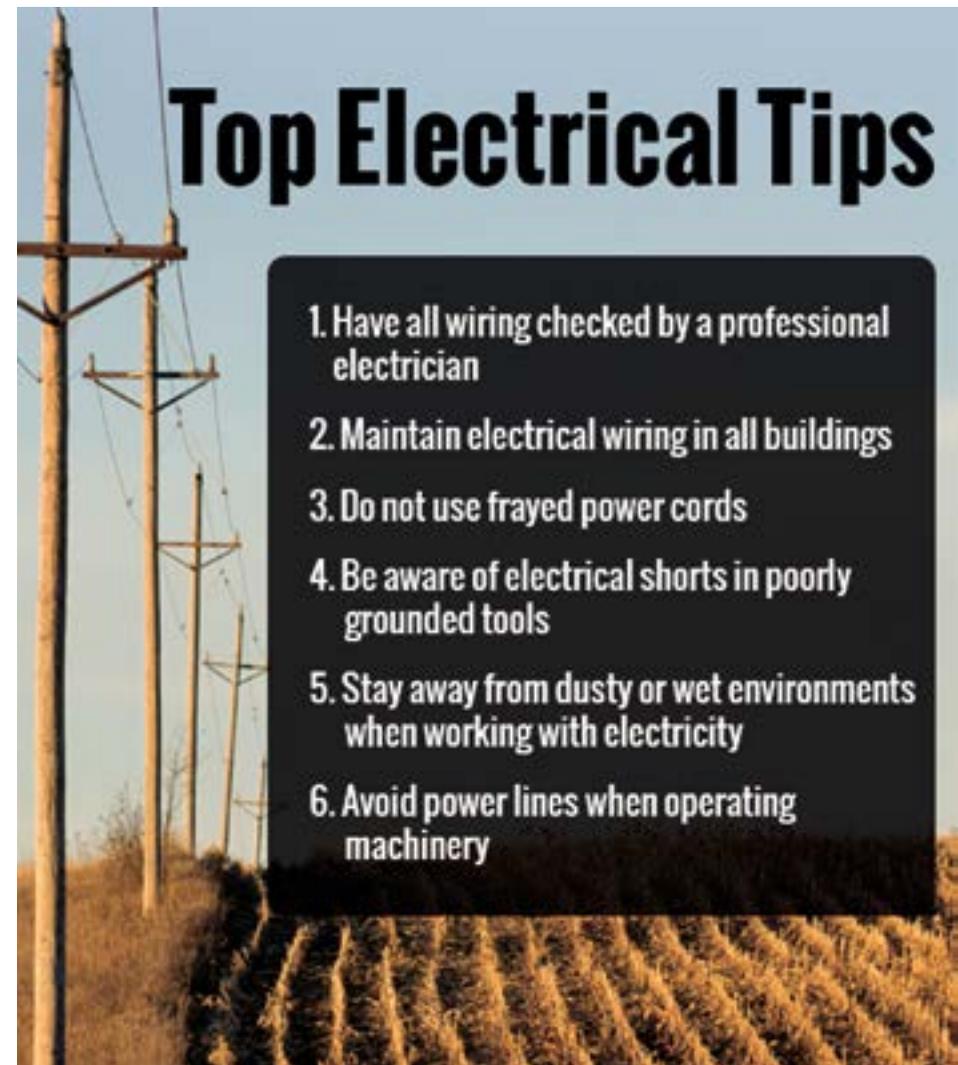
Ovens should be cleaned regularly to avoid a build-up of burnt food on the floor of the appliance. To avoid falling on top of a hot burner and causing a fire oven gloves and pot holders (along with any other flammable objects) should be kept clear of the stovetop.

To avoid a little one opening an oven door and getting hurt, oven locks should be used if there are children in the household.

These safety precautions are simple to put

into practice and simply require periodic inspection to ensure that they are in safe, working order. One can never be too safe when it comes to home and kitchen appliances.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit the National Fire Protection Association website at <http://www.nfpa.org/education> or contact the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron's fire prevention division offices at 221-2727 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 671-2921 at JBSA-Lackland or 652-6915 at JBSA-Randolph.



1. Have all wiring checked by a professional electrician
2. Maintain electrical wiring in all buildings
3. Do not use frayed power cords
4. Be aware of electrical shorts in poorly grounded tools
5. Stay away from dusty or wet environments when working with electricity
6. Avoid power lines when operating machinery

Courtesy illustration

Department of Defense plans benefit revision with 'blended retirement'

By Karen Parrish

DOD News, Defense Media Activity

Upon taking office almost a year ago, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter promised reforms, saying "that a blended retirement system is a key step in modernizing the department's ability to recruit, retain and maintain the talent we require of our future force."

An overhaul of the current military retirement system is slated to take effect January 1, 2018. The new system has three elements: a 401(k)-style component with Department Of Defense matching funds for entry-level and other service members, a mid-career continuity bonus, and a retirement annuity similar to the one now in place for service members that complete twenty or more years of eligible service.

DOD News spoke with Army Sgt. Maj. Mike Schultz while he was the senior enlisted advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs about the details of the new modernized retirement system.

One key point, Schultz said, is that many of those now serving will have the choice to opt into the new blended retirement plan.

The first critical step in the change, he said, is educating senior leaders about the program's provisions. Those leaders will then ensure training takes place at the "camps, posts and stations" where service

members work.

Training tools now in the works will include online classes and benefits calculators for troops and their families, as well as classroom and distance learning, Schultz added.

He said the "deliberate approach to educate the force" will be a key effort from now until rollout.

The sergeant major said the question he hears most often about blended retirement is: "What will it mean to me?"

First, he said, all troops now serving are grandfathered and will be allowed to remain in the current system.

Those who have served in uniform for fewer than 12 years as of December 31, 2017, will have a choice to stay in the current system or to opt into the new retirement plan, Schultz said, and those who enter service after the blended retirement rolls out will automatically be covered by the new modernized retirement system.

The phase-in will, Schultz noted, both keep faith with those who could retire under the current system, and offer new options for what he termed a "portable" retirement benefit plan to those who will serve in the future.

The aspects that make the plan "blended" are automatic and matching government contributions in the Thrift Savings Plan, similar to a 401(k) and transferable on leaving service, for

FSHISD TECHNICIAN RECOGNIZED



Photo by Dr. Roland Rios

At the Texas Computer Education Association State conference in Austin Feb. 1-5, Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Technician Jacob Martinez was recognized as one of three finalists for technical support person of the year. Nominated by his FSHISD peers, Jacob assists teachers and students throughout the district with technical issues and earned the nickname of "The Stealth Technician" for his quick responses to technology issues.

Phishing remains on the IRS "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams for the 2016 filing season

By Lea Crusberg
IRS Media Relations

The Internal Revenue Service has warned taxpayers to watch out for fake emails or websites looking to steal personal information. These "phishing" schemes continue to be on the annual IRS list of "Dirty Dozen" tax scams for the 2016 filing season.

Criminals pose as a person or organization you trust and/or recognize. They may hack an email account and send mass emails under another person's name. They may pose as a bank, credit card company, tax software provider or government agency.

Criminals go to great lengths to create websites that appear legitimate but contain phony log-in

pages. These criminals hope victims will take the bait to get the victim's money, passwords, Social Security number and identity.

"Criminals are constantly looking for new ways to trick you out of your personal financial information so be extremely cautious about opening strange emails," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "The IRS won't send you an email about a tax bill or refund out of the blue. We urge taxpayers not to click on any unexpected emails claiming to be from the IRS."

Scam emails and websites also can infect your computer with malware without you even knowing it. The malware can give the criminal access to your device, enabling them to access all your sensitive files or track

your keyboard strokes, exposing login information.

Compiled annually, the "Dirty Dozen" lists a variety of common scams that taxpayers may encounter anytime but many of these schemes peak during filing season as people prepare their returns or find people to help with their taxes.

Illegal scams can lead to significant penalties and interest and possible criminal prosecution. IRS Criminal Investigation works closely with the Department of Justice to shut down scams and prosecute the criminals behind them.

If a taxpayer receives an unsolicited email that appears to be from either the IRS or an organization closely linked to the IRS, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment

System, report it by sending it to phishing@irs.gov. Learn more by going to the Report Phishing and Online Scams page at <https://www.irs.gov/uac/Report-Phishing>.

The IRS generally does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS has information online (<https://www.irs.gov/uac/Report-Phishing>) that can help protect taxpayers from email scams.

Each and every taxpayer has a set of fundamental rights they should be aware of when dealing with the IRS. These is your Taxpayer Bill of Rights, at <https://www.irs.gov/Taxpayer-Bill-of-Rights>.

Joint Base San Antonio libraries offer up more than just books

By David DeKunder
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Whether it's reading the latest best-selling book, preparing for an exam or story time for children, Joint Base San Antonio libraries are the places JBSA members can go to learn, study or be entertained.

Active-duty service members, dependents, military retirees and Department of Defense cardholders have access to 142,000 items of resources, including books, audio books, DVDs, video games, children's books, e-readers, magazines and newspapers at libraries at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland, said Jennifer Robertson, 802nd Force Support Squadron lead librarian.

"The JBSA libraries provide a variety of resources in a safe, supportive environment for our community to pursue their own personal and educational needs," Robertson said.

JBSA libraries provide computers with Internet and Wi-Fi access, community rooms, study rooms and children's areas. Community rooms at each library can be reserved for gatherings and meetings for free.

JBSA library users

can set up an account to checkout materials and resources in person or online.

With a library account, users have access to eResources. The online database includes eBooks, eAudio, family and local histories, practice tests for college admission, skill-building courses, videos, music, repair manuals, encyclopedias, reference materials and online periodicals. The database is located at <http://www.jbsalibraries.org>.

By having an account, Robertson said active-duty service members and JBSA members can access library materials from anywhere in the world, whether they are at a duty station, being deployed or on temporary duty. JBSA libraries are part of the General Library Information System, which is connected to 70 libraries around the world.

Through an agreement with Bexar County that started in December, JBSA library users can access resources through BiblioTech, the county's digital library.

These resources include Fold3, Hoopla, 3M Cloud Library, Comics Plus, Lynda and the ability to self-publish books. Included in the partnership with BiblioTech is a Discovery Terminal



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Melanie Torres, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Library volunteer, reads a book to children Feb. 3.

for browsing materials and 50 tablet computers available for checkout at each JBSA library location.

Robertson said JBSA libraries have programs geared towards adults and children, including a new seven-week nutrition class title "New Year! New You!" at the JBSA-Randolph Library being taught by a member of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Food and Nutrition Program. The nutrition class is being provided through BiblioTech.

Children's programs include Storytime, held at each JBSA library location once a week. Storytime includes books, songs, rhymes and movement activities that engage children and their parents, Robertson said.

Tiara Safic-Martin, JBSA-Randolph Library aide and Storytime coordinator, said the Storytime activities help bring children and parents from the JBSA-Randolph community together.

"It's a bonding experience for the parents with their kids and other par-

ents," Safic-Martin said.

Additional programs for elementary and middle school aged children offered by JBSA libraries include Traveling MakerSpace. Robertson said Traveling MakerSpace activities teach and help children learn about science, technology, engineering and math through the use of legos, robots and circuits.

Victoria Hart, 802nd FSS supervisory branch librarian for JBSA-Randolph and Lackland libraries, said JBSA libraries provide accessible

resources, information and activities to the JBSA community.

"There's something for everybody at the library," Hart said. "They can find and check out the newest best seller to the current brand new movies."

Elizabeth Wood, a parent of three children, comes often to the JBSA-Randolph Library.

"It's nice because it is so small, but it has a huge selection of books," Wood said. "You get a little more personal attention for the kids at activities like Storytime."

Stephanie Kepley brought her 1-year old son to Storytime Feb. 3 at the JBSA-Randolph Library. Kepley said story time gives her son the opportunity to listen to stories, play with toys and do activities, including crafts.

Kepley said she liked the way library volunteer Melanie Torres read a book to the children.

"She's really enthusiastic and gets the kids engaged," Kepley said.

Information on JBSA libraries, including hours, events and activities, can be found at <http://www.jbsalibraries.org>. Library

contact numbers are JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 221-4387; JBSA-Randolph at 652-2617/5578; and JBSA-Lackland at 671-2678.

RETIREMENT from P16

service members in the new retirement plan, and retaining lifetime monthly retirement pay for those who serve at least 20 years.

The government will automatically contribute 1 percent of a member's basic pay into the mem-

ber's TSP account even if the member contributes nothing. After 24 months of service, the government will match member contributions, dollar-for-dollar, up to the first 3 percent the member contributes and fifty cents per dollar for the next 2 percent the member contributes.

Thus, if a member

contributes 5 percent into the member's TSP account, the government will contribute an additional 5 percent (1 percent automatic plus 4 percent matching), Schultz said. Members who serve at least 24 months and then separate will be able to keep the government contributions and transfer them

to a new employer's retirement plan.

For service members that stay in the military for a full career of 20 years or more, the new plan continues to offer monthly retired pay similar to today's system, although it will be computed based on a length-of-service factor of 2 percent per year, instead

of the 2.5 percent per year used in the current system.

"A midcareer bonus is in addition to the TSP account and the 20-year annuity modeled on the current plan," Schultz said. The DOD will pay a bonus of at least two and a half months' basic pay (one-half month for reserve and National

Guard members not serving in a full-time capacity) to those service members who have served 12 years and who agree to remain in uniform for four more years.

A video explaining the new blended retirement system is available at <http://www.defense.gov/Video?videoid=449935>.

Airman's bond with 'man's best friend' benefits Air Force

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Public Affairs

A senior airman assigned to the 802nd Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland said he has the best job in the Air Force.

He works with "man's best friend" on a daily basis.

Senior Airman Jordan Fuller, 802nd SFS military working dog handler, called Rocco, his MWD, "the best partner I've ever had and literally my best friend."

"The amount of time spent together is a big key factor in the reason why our bond is so great versus a human counterpart you may work with one day or two days out of your work cycle," he said. "The bond you build with a dog that you're working with every single day of that work cycle is going to be so much greater.

"It's a very close bond," Fuller said. "It's something special, that's for sure – almost indescribable, at least to me."

Fuller, who grew up in Conroe, Texas, enlisted in the Air Force after graduating from high school and attending college for two years.

"I enlisted in the Air Force when I realized college wasn't for me and I wanted to serve my country," he said.

Fuller said he didn't even consider being a MWD handler until he was a few years into his enlistment.

"I had become a very



Photo by Johnny Saldivar

Senior Airman Jordan Fuller, 802nd Security Force Squadron military working dog handler, poses with Rocco, his MWD, Feb. 23 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Medina Annex. Canines with the MWD program are trained in various skills such as detecting explosives and narcotics and apprehending suspects.

good patrolman and gotten a lot of drug busts working at the gates and while on patrol, and it just seemed fitting for me to apply," he said.

Dedication is one of the attributes of a proficient MWD handler, Fuller said.

"Coming in on days off to conduct training

or care for your dog is a regular occurrence," he said. "It also helps if you are detail-oriented and very meticulous. For the purpose of substance detection, you have to be able to think like a criminal in order to find a productive place for your dog to search, therefore increasing the likelihood

to find the substance."

Rocco, 4-year-old German shepherd, is more than up to the task, Fuller said. A dual-purpose dog, he's trained in patrol work and detection work. He's fast, too.

"My dog's average speed is 18 miles an hour," he said. "Not very

many humans can run that fast. And if they do run that fast, it won't be for long, especially with my dog behind him. He's constantly looking for something, some type of hostile act, something that could possibly hurt me or him. He's always alert."

Fuller said every day is different for him and Rocco.

"There really is no typical day per se," he said. "For instance, one day I could be working a law enforcement patrol responding to incidents throughout JBSA and the next day I could be conducting K-9 demonstrations for future members of the military and attached to a distinguished visitor as a personal security detail."

Fuller said he's had the privilege of conducting motorcade sweeps for Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, President Barack Obama and Pope Francis.

"We as a MWD team are very versatile and can be implemented in numerous roles as a force multiplier," he said.

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Isom, 802nd SFS MWD trainer supervisor, called Fuller "a self-motivated and motivating young man."

"Senior Airman Fuller is a very meticulous and dedicated person," he said. "He is one that loves his job and goes above and beyond daily requirements without being asked."

Isom also said Fuller has progressed quickly as a MWD handler.



"Senior Airman Fuller is a very young handler," he said. "He's only been on leash for a little over a year, but he is already handling his MWD at a level of one who has been working a MWD for three or four years. This is largely due to his tireless work ethic and dedication to his MWD."

Fuller said his bond with Rocco helps motivate him.

"I enjoy being able to come to work every day and, regardless of what may be bothering me or on my mind, I have my dog to cheer me up," he said. "Every morning he is anxiously awaiting my footsteps and is always excited to see me."

Isom said Fuller was an asset to the 802nd SFS from day 1.

"Senior Airman Fuller has been a great assist to the security forces as a whole prior to joining the elite ranks of a military working dog handler," he said. "Once he made that commitment to become an MWD handler, he has not looked back and has pushed himself to be the best that he can be. Along with pushing himself, he has encouraged those around him to be better."

It's a bird, it's a plane ... it's a UAV

By Dave Smith

21st Space Wing Public Affairs
Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Due to popularity and past holiday sales, the amount of unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, have soared.

The Federal Aviation Administration estimated more than one million UAVs were sold during the year-end holiday season. With that many new drones added to existing numbers, federal, state and local officials are concerned about safety, security and privacy related to these remotely-piloted craft.

Some of the biggest concerns are UAVs being used in close proximity to aircraft, personal privacy and terrorist attacks. There are numerous accounts of commercial jets reporting drones in close proximity and even accounts of

explosives and radioactive material loaded into them. The overall message is to think about where the UAV is flying and act accordingly.

"UAVs are highly capable machines and can be abused. Privacy is a basic right and some people feel that their rights are being violated should the UAV have a camera," said Victor Duckarmenn, 21st Space Wing Program Management Division quality assurance manager and operations security expert. "The rules are quite specific in the use of drones and permissions, certifications and registration are for the public good."

In 2015, the FAA released rules for hobbyists operating UAVs. Drones must be operated within sight of the remote pilot during

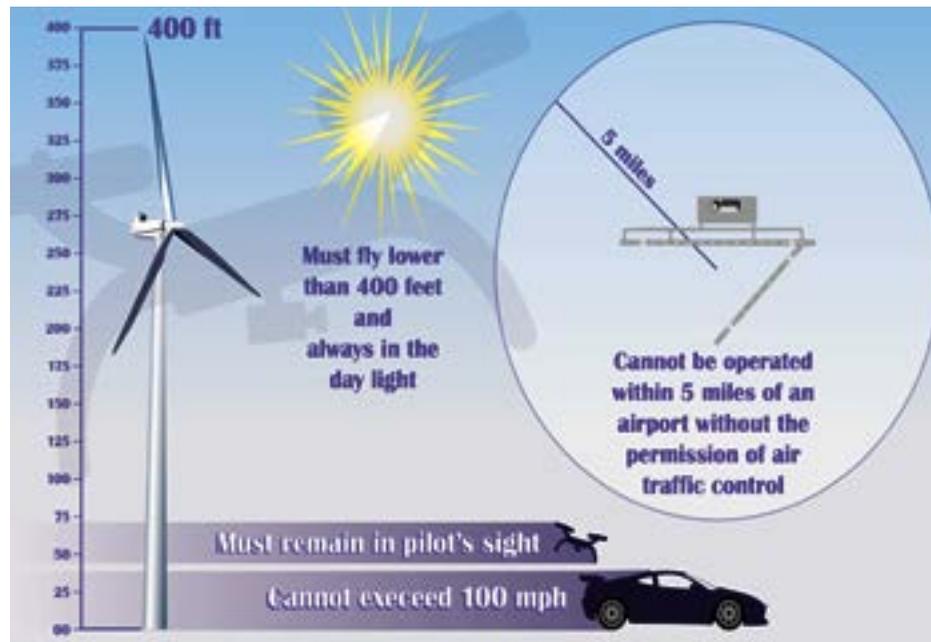


Illustration by Philip Carter

The Federal Aviation Administration estimated more than one million UAVs were sold during the year-end holiday season. With that many new drones added to existing numbers, federal, state and local officials are concerned about safety, security and privacy related to these remotely-piloted craft.

daylight hours. This rule allows for corrective lenses worn by the pilot,

but not the cameras on the craft itself.

The aircraft cannot

fly higher than 400 feet in altitude and must be operated at less than

100 mph. They have to give way to all other aircraft and local air traffic control must be notified when UAVs are operated within 5 miles of an airport.

The rules also say operators must not fly over sensitive areas and structures, such as power facilities, prisons and water treatment plants and remain 25 feet away from individuals and vulnerable property.

All UAVs that are heavier than .55 pounds must be registered and documents displayed upon request. Drones between about a half a pound and 55 pounds in weight must be registered and the FAA has a website to help in taking care of that requirement.

"The most important

See UAV, P21

Soldiers will soon be able to wear earbuds in the gym

By Pablo Villa

NCO Journal

It's news that is music to many ears.

A proposal that allows Soldiers to wear earbuds with the physical training uniform was approved Feb. 8 by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley. The proposal still needs to be incorporated into Army Regulation 670-1 before it becomes official policy. Thus, Soldiers will need to wait a little longer before adding musical accoutrements to their gym wear.

"Until the new policy is published, as an Army directive or as an update to AR 670-1, soldiers are to adhere to the current policy," said Paul Prince,

an Army spokesman, after the announcement. "We are working diligently to implement the change as soon as possible while making sure we have properly vetted the proposed guidance through the Army Publishing Process."

Nonetheless, the announcement brings to fruition an effort made by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey that began in 2015. After listening to feedback from Soldiers during town hall meetings, solariums and troop visits throughout the course of the year, Dailey issued the recommendation regarding the listening devices to Milley earlier this month.

Currently, AR 670-1

prohibits Soldiers from wearing wireless or non-wireless devices or earpieces while wearing Army uniforms. But a Soldier dressed in civilian clothes is able to work out in the same gym and wear his headphones. Dailey called that notion "pretty hypocritical."

"What's preventing them from wearing their PT uniform when they have the choice is the fact that they like to listen to their headphones when they work out, and so do I," Dailey told the Army Times last June. "I want them wearing their PT uniform."

Less than eight months later, a plan to allow earbuds with the uniform has taken its first step

to becoming reality. The new policy does come with exceptions. First, the new rule allows in-ear headphones only. Large, over-the-ear devices are not permitted.

Also, Soldiers will not be permitted to wear earbuds while doing PT outdoors.

Lastly, if Soldiers are conducting physical fitness training indoors as part of a unit event, their squad leader could deny the use of earbuds.

Approval of earbuds is the second uniform or appearance policy that Dailey has helped implement. In November, the Army authorized the use of black socks in combination with the PT uniform.



Courtesy photo

A proposal that allows Soldiers to wear earbuds with the physical training uniform was approved Feb. 8 by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley.

Cole basketball teams surpassing expectations this season

By **Samantha Lee**
Robert G. Cole High School

Basketball fever is running rampant at Robert G. Cole High School with both the boys and girls varsity teams in the playoffs. Although this isn't the first year that both teams have made it this far, this season is a standout one for the Cole Cougars.

This year is unique for the Lady Cougars because it's the first time the players have been together for multiple seasons. At a military-based school, this is a rare occurrence.

Lady Cougars head coach and new athletic director Tina Guerrero relates that she struggles with the amount of students that have a permanent change of station each year.

"It affects our programs in general because we have no guarantee that our kids are going to stay and that's what make it

challenging," Guerrero said. "We have been fortunate enough to keep a certain group for four or five years, which has helped us build our team."

This group, made up mostly of seniors, includes Antoinette Barnes, Dalesia Booth, Loreany Hernandez, Chandre Nuñez and Cara Taliaferro.

"Since we've been playing together for such a long time, we know how to work together," Booth said. Booth recently committed to the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to play basketball next year.

Being able to grow as a team is definitely a benefit that the Lady Cougars haven't had before. Most importantly, it represents cohesion on the court.

"In my opinion, our biggest strength is our chemistry," Guerrero said. "We are a very unselfish team; the players work well together, they know what

they have to do and they're ready to play."

The boy's basketball team is in an equally interesting and admirable situation. This is Justin Morrett's first year as a head coach and he had the challenge of coaching a team of mostly underclassmen.

"We only have two returning lettermen from last year, so we are really young this year," Morrett said. "It's kind of special that people didn't expect us to do so well since we were going to be so young and inexperienced."

The team has already surprised many people by tying for the district championship with Randolph High School.

"I feel like we've got to make a mark and we've already done that with the district championship," said senior Phillip Neal. "And now it's about not settling and using all of our abilities and not backing off from this challenge."

U.S. Capitol. In another report from last year, the news network said a drone containing a small amount of radioactive cesium was found on the roof of the Japanese prime minister's office.

More recently, the Agence France-Presse reported from the DEFCON hacker conference in Las Vegas that a demonstration showed a drone could be loaded with equipment to break into wireless networks.

"Remember – the

system is wireless and can be commandeered. Firmware on these devices has not evolved as much as its popularity," Duckarmenn said.

He recommends joining local drone clubs to learn about, and stay up on, rules and to avoid making legal mistakes.

For more information, check out the FAA website (<https://www.faa.gov/uas/>) or the Small UAV Coalition website (<http://www.smalluavcoalition.org/>).

CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PROTESTANT SERVICES

Sundays

Main Post (Gift) Chapel
Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way
8 and 11 a.m. - Traditional

Dodd Field Chapel
Building 1721, 5584 Dodd Blvd.
8:30 a.m. - Samoan
10:30 a.m. - Gospel

Army Medical Department

Regimental Chapel
Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.
9:20 a.m. - 32nd Medical Brigade
Contemporary Service
11:01 - Contemporary "Crossroads"

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel

Building 3600,
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.
10 a.m. - Traditional

CATHOLIC SERVICES

Daily Mass

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel
Building 3600,
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.
11:05 a.m., Monday through Friday

Main Post (Gift) Chapel
Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way
11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday

For worship opportunities of faith groups not listed here, please visit the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Chaplain's website at <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/jbsachapel/samhouston.asp>.

Saturday

Main Post (Gift) Chapel
4:45 p.m. - Reconciliation
5:30 p.m. - Evening Mass

Sunday

8 a.m. - Morning Mass, AMEDD
8:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC
9:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, MPC
11:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC
12:30 p.m. - Afternoon Mass, DFC

JEWISH SERVICES

8 p.m. - Jewish Worship,
Friday, MPC
8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat,
Friday, MPC

ISLAMIC SERVICE

2:00 p.m. - Islamic Services
(Monday through Thursday) BAMC
1:15 p.m. - Jummah, Friday,
AMEDD

LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES

1 p.m. - LDS Worship, Sunday,
AMEDD

BUDDHIST SERVICES

10 a.m. - Buddhist Services,
Saturday, AMEDD

News Briefs

Continued from P6

camping/hiking trips and community service projects. Boys are challenged to achieve their ideals physically, mentally, and socially. No experience necessary and boys don't need prior scouting experience to join. Boys must be at least 10 years old and having completed sixth grade, but they may join later on in high school (must be 18 or younger). Troop 23 meets at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Main Post Chapel on Wilson Road from 4-6 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call 571-309-2403.

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.osd.mil>.

LENT AND EASTER CHAPEL SCHEDULES

March 24

Holy Thursday

Main Post Chapel

5:30 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper

BAMC Chapel

11:05 a.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper

AMEDD Chapel

7 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper

March 25

Good Friday

Main Post Chapel

11:30 a.m. - Good Friday services (Catholic)

BAMC Chapel

11:05 a.m. - Good Friday services
12:15 p.m. Protestant service

AMEDD Chapel

7 p.m. Good Friday services

March 26

Easter Vigil

Main Post Chapel

8 p.m. - Catholic Mass

March 27

Easter Sunday

Main Post Chapel

7 a.m. - Easter Sunrise service

9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass

11 a.m. - Protestant service (traditional)

AMEDD Chapel

Regular Sunday schedule

UAV from P20

thing to remember is your training in safety," Duckarmenn said. "There is available drone flight training and annual shows where you can pick up pointers from experienced flyers."

The terrorism concerns are serious. In 2011, CNN reported that the FBI arrested a man who was trying to use a model fighter jet loaded with explosives to attack places like the Pentagon and the

Did you know?

One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service.

It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



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