



WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 22 • JUNE 3, 2016



JBSA ramps up for hurricane season

PAGE 9

Members of media and the public tour a WC-130J Hercules from the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., during the Hurricane Awareness Tour May 16 at the San Antonio International Airport.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely



Photo by Senior Airman Stormy Archer

AF's newest master sergeants, page 4



Photo by Kemberly Groue

AETC vice commander retires, page 7



Courtesy photo

Tracking the Zika virus, page 8

COMMENTARY

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

New mantra must be 'People first, mission always'

By Senior Master Sgt. Claus Peris
660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

If you've been around long enough, you've heard the phrase "Mission first, people always."

Today's Airmen are busy. Whether its high ops tempo, constant deployments or low manning, our Airmen are being asked to do more and more every day. Nothing is more important than accomplishing the mission – except for taking care of the people you supervise.

For me, the phrase should read, "People first, mission always." Unfortunately, over the years I've seen supervisors at every level becoming more and more disconnected from our Airmen. It's time for us to re-engage, reconnect and interact with our people.

Supervisory actions speak volumes. How you interact, communicate and recognize your people sets the foundation for your relationships.

Do you recognize the Airmen's accomplishments with an email or do you leave your desk, seek them out, look them in the eye, shake their hands and thank them in front of their peers? Face-to-face interaction takes more time, but creates better relationships.

As supervisors, we need to train our Airmen to become independent thinkers.

Instead of a culture of conformity older leaders struggle to maintain, why not foster a climate which allows its members to use their experience and knowledge to make decisions at appropriate levels? Who knows better how to improve a product or process, the technician with boots on the ground or the supervisor who never leaves his desk?

Good ideas have no rank; the newest Airman may have the solution to your problems. It could also lead to mistakes, but allow your people to fail from time to time. Good Airmen make mistakes; great supervisors see them through the

"Today's Airmen are skilled multi-taskers, agile decision makers and social networkers, eagerly cooperative and extremely flexible to change. They are hungry to learn and apply their knowledge and want nothing more than to be a part of something bigger than themselves. As present day leaders, we must take every measure to ensure we develop their full potential."

process of learning and growth which comes from making mistakes.

As I have moved up in the ranks, I realize the single biggest impact I can make to the mission and my unit is to take care of my Airmen.

This does not mean doing the job for them, but giving them what they need to get the job done. You don't have to be their best friend, turn a blind eye to unprofessionalism or hook up your Airmen at the expense of the mission.

It means providing the guidance, resources and, many times, the top cover to allow them to succeed. It means mentoring folks when they make mistakes, rewarding them when they excel, celebrating accomplishments in public and addressing improvements in private. It means treating people with respect and dignity while keeping the bar high and supporting your Airmen as they accomplish something they never thought was within their reach.

It means, in the end, to ensure your Airmen are better when they leave the unit than when they came in. If you are able to deliberately

develop your Airmen this way, the mission will be accomplished.

Leading the Airmen of today can be one of the most challenging yet rewarding tasks. Today's Airmen are noticeably different than the Airmen who stepped off the bus with me 22 years ago at then-Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Today's Airmen are skilled multi-taskers, agile decision makers and social networkers, eagerly cooperative and extremely flexible to change. They are hungry to learn and apply their knowledge and want nothing more than to be a part of something bigger than themselves. As present day leaders, we must take every measure to ensure we develop their full potential.

Mission sets vary across a wide array of career fields, but the mission is and always will be there. The hard part is ensuring our Airmen stick around and go the distance.

Let's refocus on our supervisory relationships with our Airmen, get involved, mentor and groom future leaders. "People first, mission always" should be the new charge.

WINGSPREAD

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta

502nd Air Base Wing/JBSA Commander

Todd G. White

502nd ABW/JBSA Public Affairs Director

Karla L. Gonzalez

JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs Chief

Senior Airman Stormy Archer

Photojournalist Journeyman

Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely

Photojournalist Journeyman

Robert Goetz, David DeKunder

Staff Writers

Maggie Armstrong

Graphic Designer

Wingspread Office

1150 5th Street East

JBSA-Randolph, Texas 78150

Phone: 210-652-4410

Wingspread email

randolphpublicaffairs@us.af.mil

Wingspread Advertisement Office

EN Communities

P.O. Box 2171

San Antonio, Texas 78297

210-250-2052

This newspaper is published by EN Communities, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Wingspread are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or EN Communities, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of JBSA-Randolph. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are U.S. Air Force photos.

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

Check us out: • Facebook: Joint Base San Antonio, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Lackland JBSA and JBSA-Randolph
• Twitter: @JBSA_Official; @JBSAFSH; @JBSALackland and @JBSARandolph
• YouTube: Joint Base San Antonio • Flickr: Joint Base San Antonio Public Affairs



Distracted driving: Big consequences, easy fix

By Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

One moment to change the radio station; one moment to check the GPS; one moment to send that text; one moment to crash.

According to a 2009 Virginia Tech Transportation Institute study, five seconds is the average amount of time a person's eyes are taken off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, five seconds is enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded.

"While working I have seen many people come through the gate with their cell phones on their laps, friends being very rowdy in the backseat distracting the driver, music blaring as they come through the gate, even messing with their music source to change a song," Senior Airman Samantha Ponton-McAfee, 902nd Security Forces Squadron entry controller, said. "I have seen people fumbling for their ID cards and swerving because they are focused on looking for their ID card instead of paying attention to their driving."

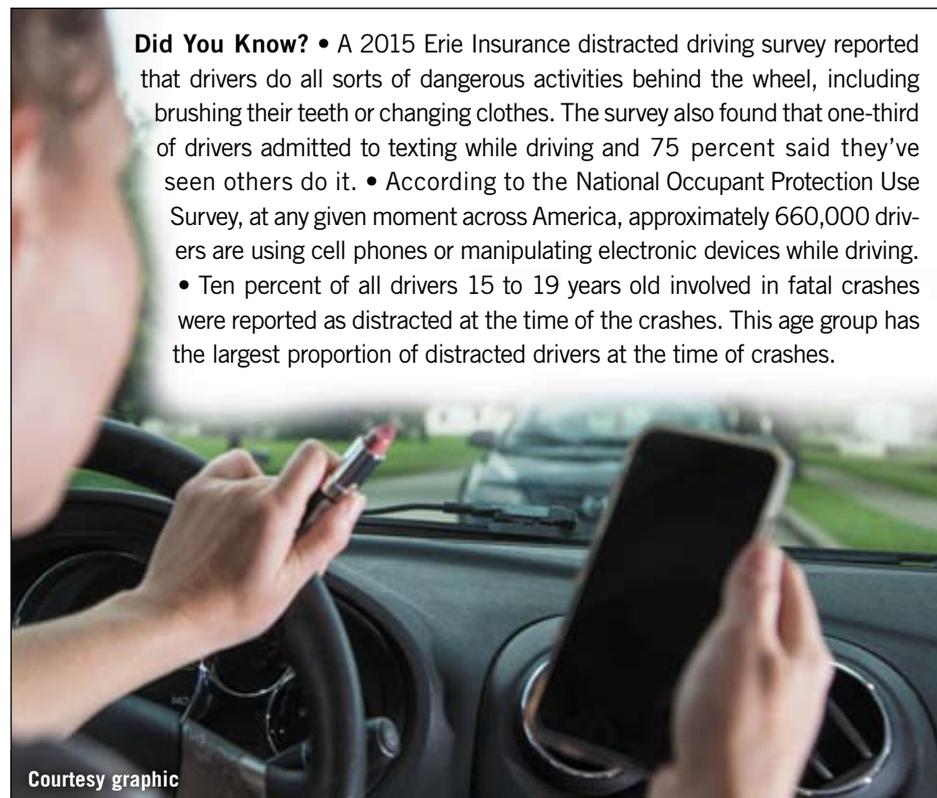
Although texting and driving is the most alarming distraction because it requires visual, manual and cognitive attention, it is just one of many distractions the U.S. Department of Transportation lists as common. Other distractions include talking on the phone, eating or drinking, talking to passengers, grooming, reading, using a navigation system, watching videos and adjusting a radio, CD player or MP3 player.

Ponton-McAfee said the consequence for being pulled over for distracted driving incidents is an Armed Forces traffic ticket. This citation equals four points each. If enough points are accumulated, the violator can have their installation driving privileges suspended or revoked.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, the best way to end distracted driving is to educate all motorists about the danger it poses.

"Some tips to end distracted driving include waiting until later to talk or text, use an app to disable texting when driving or safely pull over to the side of the road if a

See DRIVING P10



Courtesy graphic

Did You Know? • A 2015 Erie Insurance distracted driving survey reported that drivers do all sorts of dangerous activities behind the wheel, including brushing their teeth or changing clothes. The survey also found that one-third of drivers admitted to texting while driving and 75 percent said they've seen others do it. • According to the National Occupant Protection Use Survey, at any given moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving. • Ten percent of all drivers 15 to 19 years old involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crashes. This age group has the largest proportion of distracted drivers at the time of crashes.

NEWS

Air Force selects tech sergeants for promotion

From Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph



Photo by Senior Airman Stormy Archer

The Air Force selected 5,109 technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant May 25. The selection rate was 23.34 percent, with an average selectee overall score of 543.62. Selectees' average time in grade was 4.04 years and time in service was 14.59 years. Average decorations score was 11.47; U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination average score was 63.08; and the average board score was 378.50.

From Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marissa Garner

Air Force Medical Service seeks hero's name for tech school dorm

From 59th Medical Wing

The Air Force Medical Service is on a quest and it needs help from warrior medics across the Air Force. It wants a hero's name on the Air Force dormitory at the Medical Education and Training Campus on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Since establishing the dormitory for Air Force students coming from basic training in August 2010, it has been known only as the "Air Force dorm," said Chief Master Sgt. David Little, 59th Training Group superintendent.

"We can do better. We are on a mission to find a name that will resonate with those who start their Air Force medical careers right here at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston," he said.

The wing hopes to rededicate the building in honor of an Air Force enlisted medic who has made lasting and significant contributions to the enlisted medical corps, or who has made the ultimate sacrifice while performing the mission, said Senior Master Sgt. Scott Lowell, senior enlisted advisor for the department of diagnostic services and lead for the rededication project.

"They say you need to know where you came from to know where you're going," Lowell said.

The 59th TRG is responsible for educating 12,500 Airmen medics annually. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission directed the relocation of all medical technical training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The move ensured the world's finest medics, corpsmen and technicians would train under one roof, but nearly 60 years of Air Force Heritage was also lost, Lowell explained.

"We want our new warrior medics to learn about the medics who came before them and the challenges they had to overcome," he said. "That's why we need help finding the best candidates to name the dormitory building after."

The 59th TRG has worked with Air Force historians to find suitable candidates worthy of a building memorialization, but seeking input from Airmen around the world will help the wing make the best choice.

"We want to ensure we are considering all possible candidates," Lowell said.

To submit a nomination, forward the candidate's name and contributions to Lowell at usaf.jbsa.59-trg.mbx.inbox@mail.mil. The group would like all nominations by July 1, 2016. For more information, call 808-5308.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis

The 59th Medical Wing seeks input on a project to rededicate the Air Force dormitory at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

To ad

250-2052.

U.S. Department of Transportation expands air bag inflator recall

By Bryan Thomas

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

The United States Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is expanding and accelerating the recall of Takata air bag inflators.

The decision follows the agency's confirmation of the root cause behind the inflators' propensity to rupture. Ruptures of the Takata inflators have been tied to 10 deaths and more than 100 injuries in the United States.

Under the Amended Consent Order issued to Takata, the company is required to make a series of safety defect decisions to support vehicle manufacturer recall campaigns of an additional estimated 35 to 40 million inflators, adding to the already 28.8 million inflators previously recalled.

These expansions are planned to take place in phases through December 2019. The expansions mean all Takata ammonium nitrate-based propellant driver and passenger frontal air bag inflators without a chemical drying agent, also known as a desiccant, will be recalled.

"Today's action is a significant step in the U.S. Department of Transportation's aggressive oversight of Takata on behalf of drivers and passengers across America," said Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx.

"The acceleration of this recall is based on scientific evidence and will protect all Americans from air bag inflators that may become unsafe."

The five recall phases are based on prioritization of risk, determined by the age of the inflators and exposure to high humidity and fluctuating high temperatures which accelerate the degradation of the chemical propellant.

"NHTSA's aggressive actions in 2015 means this recall is already a year ahead of where it would have been if the agency had waited for this research," said NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind. "As a result, all of the most dangerous inflators responsible for the deaths and injuries are already under recall."

NHTSA and its independent expert reviewed the findings of three independent investigations into the Takata air bag ruptures and confirmed the findings on the root cause of inflator ruptures.

A combination of time, environmental moisture and fluctuating high temperatures contribute to the degradation of the ammonium nitrate propellant in the inflators. Such degradation can cause the propellant to burn too quickly, rupturing the inflator module and sending shrapnel through the air bag and into the vehicle occupants.

"The science clearly shows these inflators become unsafe over time, faster when exposed to humidity and variations of temperature," Rosekind added. "This recall schedule ensures the inflators will be recalled and

replaced before they become dangerous, giving vehicle owners sufficient time to have them replaced before they pose a danger to vehicle occupants. NHTSA will continue to evaluate all available research and will act quickly to protect safety."

NHTSA will also consult with affected vehicle manufacturers before revising the Coordinated Remedy Order that governs the accelerated program to obtain and install replacement inflators.

The Coordinated Remedy Program will continue to ensure replacement inflators will be made available to highest-risk vehicles first. The revised Coordinated Remedy Program, to be announced this summer, will detail the updated vehicle prioritization schedule and the schedule by which manufacturers are required to procure sufficient supply of replacement parts to conduct the required recall repairs.

This is the largest and most complex safety recall in U.S. history. Under the Coordinated Remedy Program, NHTSA and manufacturers have committed to seek a 100 percent recall completion rate.

"Everyone plays a role in making sure this recall is completed quickly and safely, including manufacturers, suppliers and vehicle owners themselves," Rosekind said. "People who receive notification that there is a remedy available for their vehicle should act immediately to have their inflator fixed. All vehicle owners should

See RECALL P10

Patrick reflects on 35 years of service on eve of retirement

By Tech. Sgt. Beth Anschutz

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, vice commander of Air Education and Training Command, retires here June 3 after 35 years of service.

The general has served 12 years within AETC and will have the chance to celebrate his achievements and memories in Military City USA where he held his first command role.

Patrick entered the Air Force in 1981, but he was no stranger to Air Force life. Son of an Air Force senior master sergeant and civil servant, the general has always lived a life deeply-rooted in the Air Force. Including a year in JROTC and four at the United States Air Force Academy, he has worn the uniform for 40 years.

Patrick has served in various base-level and headquarters assignments and has commanded at the squadron, group, wing and numbered Air Force levels, and has been a major command director twice. During his career, his assignments have varied, to include a tour with the Education with Industry program at the Illinois State Water Survey at Champaign, Ill., two years with the Royal Saudi Air Force performing construction management, and supporting Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, as well as assignments to Korea and Germany.

As a civil engineer, Patrick has supported recovery efforts after Hurricane Iwa, during his first active duty assignment at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and later in his career as the AETC command engineer after Hurricane Katrina.

All of his combined experiences have led him to describe his time in service as “diverse.”

“I really thought as a young engineer, I would be in the engineer community forever. I thought that would be the world I would live in ... construction management, planning, programming and construction projects,” Patrick said. “Then I was given the opportunity to command a unit, and I gained experience in setting a vision for an organization, giving them the direction and the resources they need to get the job done, then getting out of their way and letting them do it.”



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, then outgoing 2nd Air Force commander, renders a salute as troops march during pass and review following the 2nd Air Force change of command ceremony July 3, 2014, at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

The general said it's not possible to single out one accomplishment from his career. Instead, he says it is the recollection of teams he has served with, mentors who have shown him the way, and varied missions he had the opportunity to execute that he will take with him into the future.

“It's like a football game. You have assigned positions, but in the end, the object is to move the ball forward and score a touchdown as a team,” Patrick said.

He said he's been blessed to have served for eight consecutive AETC commanders in one capacity or another, dating back to 1999 and Gen. Lloyd “Fig”

Newton, culminating in his current position as the vice commander first to Gen. Robin Rand and now Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson.

Most of the general's command assignments have been within AETC. He said that although he served in prior assignments in the command, it wasn't until he became 37th Training Wing commander at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland that he understood the breadth of the AETC mission.

“It's easy to observe recruiting, basic training, flying training and education, but you don't always see our technical training, or coalition building with our partners at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy or the English instruction we provide our coalition partners so they can work and train beside us,” Patrick said.

Patrick went on to serve as the first 502nd Air Base Wing commander for Joint Base San Antonio and the 2nd Air Force commander at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. He said as his assignments continued in AETC, he realized that the mission of the “First Command” was the people, not the processes or production.

“I realized that we are the human capital pipeline for our nation's Air Force. We are involved in the acquisition of systems and equipment, but it's the people that make the Air Force work,” Patrick said. “We work very hard to attract the talent, develop them, mentor them and let them grow so that they can make the mission happen. We still need weapon systems and infrastructure that supports the mission and the quality of life that our Airmen deserve, but it's the Airmen that make the mission happen each day.”

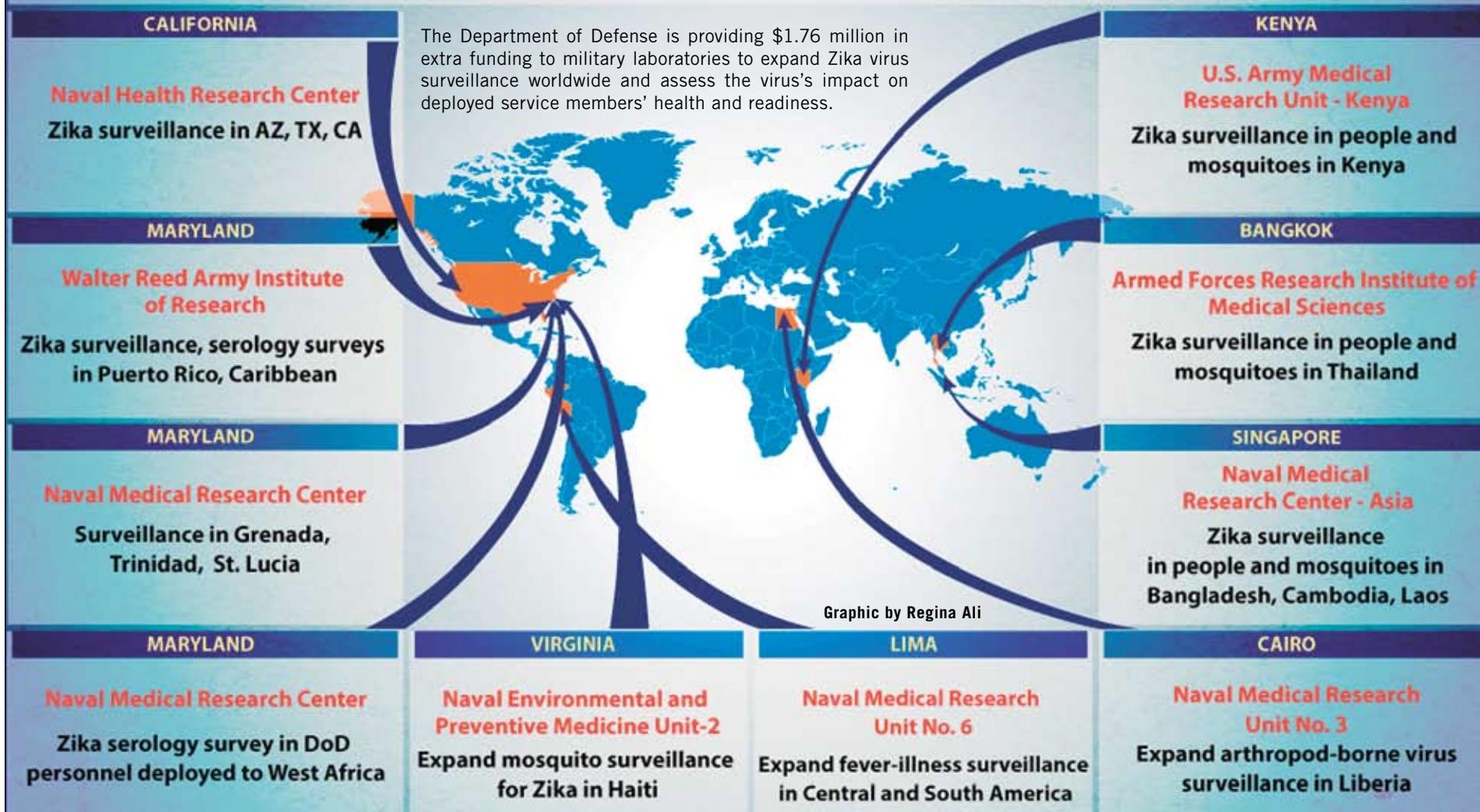
The general said as a core civil engineer, he has been given unique opportunities outside of his career field since 2008, and he is thankful to those who trusted him and paved the way for his opportunities.

“There have been many before me who blazed the trail for Air Force leaders to see civil engineers not just as installation experts, but as officers who have skills beyond installation management,” he said.

The general plans to stay in San Antonio with his wife, Lynne, after his retirement. Maj. Gen. Mark Brown, currently 2nd Air Force commander, is projected to be the next AETC vice commander.

DoD LABS ENHANCE SURVEILLANCE FOR ZIKA VIRUS

10 PROJECTS, 18 COUNTRIES, \$1.76 MILLION IN EXTRA FUNDING



Department of Defense adds funding to enhance Zika surveillance

By Cheryl Pellerin
Department of Defense News, Defense Media Activity

The Department of Defense is providing \$1.76 million in extra funding to military laboratories to expand Zika virus surveillance worldwide and assess the virus's impact on deployed service members' health and readiness, said Navy Cmdr. Franca Jones, chief of the Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response, or GEIS, section of the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch in the Defense Health Agency's Public Health Division.

The enhanced Zika virus surveillance will involve 10 projects in 18 countries and territories by four lab partners based in the United States and five located overseas.

Jones said the labs receiving more Zika virus funds are part of the GEIS integrated worldwide emerging infectious disease surveillance network which includes core Army or Navy medical research labs in Egypt, Georgia,

Kenya, Peru, Thailand, Cambodia and Singapore and Army, Navy and Air Force labs in the United States, working in more than 60 countries around the world.

In the current fiscal year, she added, GEIS already has provided its network partners with more than \$51 million to support a range of emerging infectious disease surveillance programs.

Zika virus disease spread to people through the bites of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, usually shows mild symptoms – fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes – that last several days or a week, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects, the CDC said.

In May 2015, the Pan American Health Organization issued an alert about the first confirmed Zika virus infection in Brazil. Three months ago, the WHO declared Zika virus a public health emergency of international

concern. Local transmission has been reported in many other countries and territories.

Zika virus likely will continue to spread to new areas, CDC says. Some 4,905 confirmed and 194,633 suspected cases had been reported in 33 countries and territories in the Western Hemisphere, according to an April 6 Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch summary.

Jones said DOD labs will use the Zika money provided by the branch's GEIS section for three kinds of surveillance studies. One will look retrospectively for Zika virus exposure among DOD personnel through serum repository samples. A retrospective study looks backward in time, in this case using serum samples of patients who had been deployed in areas with high rates of Zika virus infection.

The other surveillance studies will leverage existing work in the GEIS lab network in different parts of the world to expand clinic-based surveillance for Zika virus

See ZIKA P11

Hurricane Awareness Tour kicks off in San Antonio

By Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The 12th Operations Support Squadron Weather Operations Flight at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph attended the annual Hurricane Awareness Tour, which kicked off May 16 at the San Antonio International Airport.

Hosted by the National Weather Service Forecast Office and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Hurricane Center, the HAT's purpose is to increase public awareness about hurricane threats and impacts before the start of hurricane season, which began Thursday.

Due to collaborative efforts between the 12th OSS and the NWS, Alvin Hill, 12th OSS Weather Operations Flight chief, attended the event as a VIP guest.

Hill said he was aware of the U.S. Air Force Reserve WC-130J Hercules, an aircraft used to collect weather reconnaissance data by the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., but did not know about the NOAA aircraft before attending the HAT.

"Each aircraft has different operating altitudes which allows them to conduct simultaneous weather recon data collection," Hill said. "This helps tremendously in reducing the margin of error in the forecasted storm movement and strength, which in turn benefits us, the local weather forecaster, in providing accurate, timely and reliable tropical storm information, which we relay to key senior leaders to make actionable decisions regarding personnel or aircraft evacuation."

When poor weather arises, the NWS Austin-San Antonio office collaborates with the 12th OSS by provid-



Alvin Hill (left), 12th Operations Support Squadron Weather Operations Flight chief, speaks with Loyce Clark, San Antonio Airport System assistant aviation director, after touring a National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Gulfstream IV aircraft during the Hurricane Awareness Tour May 16 at the San Antonio International Airport.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely
Col. Frank Amodeo (center), 403rd Wing commander, gives a tour of a WC-130J Hercules during the Hurricane Awareness Tour May 16 at the San Antonio International Airport. The WC-130J's primary mission is hurricane hunting, but it is also used for basic cargo loading and aeromedical purposes during the off-season.

ing "heads up" emails with expected weather threats, timing and weather discussions. There is also severe weather training, Skywarn, conducted annually by the NWS at JBSA-Randolph which teaches personnel how to spot and report severe weather, Paul Yura, NWS Austin-San Antonio warning coordination meteorologist, said.

"The NWS relies on these trained weather spotters to verify the severe weather, such as hail wind or tornadoes, at the ground level," Yura said.

Yura also said because San Antonio is an inland city, people don't realize the impact that a land-falling tropical system can have and that having HAT in San Antonio offers real benefits.

"Not only is San Antonio an evacuation spot for thousands of coastal residents, we ourselves are vulnerable to the wind, rain and tornadoes that a land-falling tropical system can bring," Yura said. "In fact, inland flooding is typically the No. 1 killer in tropical systems. The city of San Antonio has a history of dealing with these tropical systems."

Some key topics discussed during the event were having a preparedness kit ready, having a conversation with family members before the storm and making sure to double check insurance.

"Ultimately, this is really about people and families and individuals," Dr. Rick Knabb, NOAA's National Hurricane Center director and HAT keynote speaker, said. "I've got a home. I've got a wife and son. I've got friends and family members in hurricane prone areas, and we want people doing things now to get ready for the next hurricane, not waiting until the last minute."

HAT also gave the community the opportunity to learn

about the aircraft, the WC-130J and the NOAA Gulfstream IV, which are used to fly in and around storms to gather data. The WC-130J Hurricane Hunter aircraft and the NOAA G-IV were both on display and members of the aircraft's crew were available to answer questions and give tours.

Senior Master Sgt. Jay Latham, 53rd WRS loadmaster, said there are 10 WC-130J aircraft with 20 crews located at Keesler Air Force Base that are ready within a 16-hour lead time to hunt hurricanes.

"We fly right through the storm," Latham said. "We don't fly over it or around it to gather the data we need; we fly right through at 10,000 feet, primarily during a strong hurricane. While we're flying we'll drop instruments into the storm and measure the wind speed direction, temperature, humidity and air pressure, and we'll send all of that to the Hurricane Center as fast as we can get it."

While the WC-130J is flown through the storm, the NOAA's nine G-IVs are flown above and around the perimeter of the storm, Dr. Jim McFadden, NOAA Aircraft Operations Center chief of programs, said.

"The Air Force airplane does just about all of the hurricane reconnaissance and the Gulfstream does all of the hurricane surveillance," McFadden said. "We get about 20 to 25 percent improvement on forecasts of storms on the data sent back from the Gulfstream."

According to NOAA, the HAT has been conducted for more than 30 years, alternating between the U.S. Gulf and Atlantic coasts. The tour continues through May 20 and also included stops in Galveston, Texas; New Orleans, La.; Mobile, Ala.; and Naples, Fla.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

JBSA-Randolph Technology Expo

The 502nd Communications Squadron hosts a Technology Expo June 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parr O'Club. All military, civilian and contractor personnel are invited to attend this free event. To pre-register, visit www.FederalEvents.com, click on the "JBSA-Randolph Tech Expo" link and select the pre-register button. For more information, call Rachel Miller at 443-561-2418.

AAFES service station operational status

The following is an overview of the projected timeline to return the JBSA-Randolph AAFES Service Station to full operational status:

- Regular unleaded is available at pumps 1-4; super unleaded is available at pumps 5-8; midgrade is not yet available.
- 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron repair of the asphalt surface around the service station takes place in two phases:

Phase 1 – The area behind pumps 4 and 5 should be nearing completion and all pumps are accessible.

Phase 2 – Projected dates: June 6-25. The area behind the service station. This will impact traffic flow, but all pumps will still be accessible.

JBSA SAPR advocate training

Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Prevention and Response training Victim Advocates and Community Advocates training takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 20-24 at each JBSA location. Applicants must have leadership approval, a background check and interview by SAPR. The 40-hour training class must be completed to serve. Call 652-4386 for details.

JBSA-Randolph Library

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Library offers a host of resources to JBSA-Randolph members. Library hours are Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday: closed; Story Time: Wednesday at 10 a.m. For more information, call 652-5578.

DRIVING from P3

phone call or text cannot wait," Anthony Lightner, 502nd Air Base Wing safety and occupational health specialist, said.

In 2013, the National Safety Council estimated a minimum of 341,000 crashes resulted because of texting while driving. Due to this alarming number, among other statistics, a distracted driving campaign began last fall and concluded in January, Col. Dean W. Lee, Air Education and Training director of safety, said.

The campaign released several videos and linked Airmen to resources and statistics to inform them on the consequences of distracted driving in hopes to deter them from these dangerous habits.

The AETC Distracted Driving Campaign also encouraged people to go three weeks

without using a phone while driving in order for it to become a habit. It also said to be a good passenger and speak out if the driver in a car is distracted and to encourage family and friends to drive phone-free.

"It's working, because we haven't had any known incidents of distracted driving – that's in AETC," Lee said. "Put your phone in your trunk, put it on silent or airplane mode while you drive, put it in the back seat, just put it down."

For more information, visit <http://www.distracted.gov> or visit the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Safety Office webpage at <http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Safety.aspx>.

RECALL from P6

regularly check (<http://www.SaferCar.gov>) for information about any open safety recall on their vehicle and what they can do to have it fixed free of charge."

The recall expansion does not include inflators that include a chemical desiccant that absorbs moisture. There have been no reported ruptures of the desiccated inflators due to propellant degradation.

Under the Amended Consent Order, Takata is required to redirect its research toward the safety of the desiccated inflators. Absent proof that the desiccated inflators are safe, Takata will be required

to recall them under the November 2015 Consent Order.

In 2015, NHTSA imposed the largest civil penalty in its history for Takata's violations of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, and for the first time used its authority to accelerate recall repairs to millions of affected vehicles. NHTSA also appointed an Independent Monitor to assess, track and report the company's compliance with the Consent Order and to oversee the Coordinated Remedy Program.

Consumers can find complete information about the Takata air bag inflator recall at <http://www.safercar.gov/rs/takata>.

ZIKA from P8

disease among DOD and civilian populations, and expand testing for Zika virus in mosquitoes.

The Defense Department collects a range of blood serum samples from all service members before, during and after their military service, and maintains the samples in the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch's Department of Defense Serum Repository.

Serum is a clear fluid that's part of a person's blood. It's used in many medical diagnostic tests and in blood typing. The repository is the world's largest of its kind, with more than 60 million serial serum samples from more than 10 million service members.

For the retrospective Zika virus surveillance study, military virologists – scientists who study viruses – and public health officials will check the serum samples of service members stationed in the United States and in high-risk regions in the Caribbean and overseas.

The scientists will be looking for prior exposure to Zika, chikungunya and dengue viruses, all of which are transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. In recent years, according to CDC, dengue and chikungunya cases have begun to appear in the United States, most of them brought in from tropical areas of the world.

"For the service members, I can talk from personal experience," Jones said. "Our blood is drawn when we enter active duty, prior to and following all deployments and occasionally during acute illness for the purpose of storing in the serum repository, allowing for later analyses of a service member's serum over his or her time in service. So the serum repository keeps a history of a service member's serum on tap."

She added, "When looking to understand exposure to our service members, the repository provides a unique resource for helping to determine if, when and where there was any exposure to a variety of pathogens."

This serum surveillance effort will examine 500 samples from service members stationed in Puerto Rico during a time when some of the viruses were transmitted, and 500 from service members deployed to West Africa, Jones said.

"We're trying to understand the baseline risk for service members," she added.

Other lines of effort for surveillance for the labs include looking for Zika virus in mosquitoes in the Caribbean, East Africa and Southeast Asia, Jones said, and also looking for Zika virus in service mem-

bers and in military beneficiary and civilian populations who go to medical facilities with a fever, medically known as a febrile illness.

The febrile surveillance will be done in the southwestern United States – California, Arizona and Texas – and in the Caribbean, Central and South America, East and West Africa and Southeast Asia, she said.

In mosquito surveillance, scientists capture mosquitoes in traps and take them to the DOD labs to be processed to get their genetic material for testing.

"By testing the genetic material, we can understand where mosquitoes are carrying the virus," Jones explained. "We won't necessarily be able to tell quantitatively the percentage of mosquitoes carrying the virus, but in relative terms we'll learn about the population that's carrying the virus, in what parts of the world, and the risk to DOD populations."

Human surveillance focuses on service members and military beneficiary and civilian populations who go to the hospital with febrile illnesses.

"Most of these are efforts where we are already conducting surveillance for other febrile pathogens," Jones said.

"For example, we have a study in Peru where they're already doing clinic-based febrile surveillance activities in South America. These are people in the population who come to the clinic with a febrile illness. Their blood will be drawn and sent to the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 6 in Lima for testing for Zika virus, along with other pathogens the scientists there have been looking for," she added.

Jones said officials don't know what they're going to find in the GEIS-funded effort. "It's very possible that the actual number of mosquitoes that are carrying the virus or the number of patients that we get is so small that the chance of finding something could be small," she acknowledged. But she said GEIS still wants to do the work, because the lack of Zika virus in the samples is also valuable information and helps to determine the risk to service members.

"For us in GEIS, because infectious diseases can emerge anywhere, it's very important to us to understand what diseases are currently in what geographic locations in the world, and understand what disease may emerge and spread rapidly," Jones explained. "Our forces are present globally, and we need to make sure they are able to complete their mission. Infectious diseases are one of the things that can impede their ability to do their mission."

Gold star represents service

By Larry Haggerty

U.S. Army Installation Management Command
Survivor Outreach Services

At the Fort Sam Houston post gas station I saw a vehicle, with a young girl driving it, stop to fill up at the pump next to me. I noticed a small flag in the window with two blue stars on it and assumed that the stars reflected the rank of the Soldier who owned the vehicle. I was surprised a major general would have a daughter that young.

Soon after the incident, I was hired to support an Army program called Survivor Outreach Services. In my first field work, I noticed a gold star on a car that had a little purple ribbon on it. I had worn all the time, and I had seen a pin that was a variation of the gold star seen at the gas station.

I was curious. The flag on the car had two blue stars, while the flag on the other car had one blue star and another simply gold star. Why were all the flags different? Why were there two different colors? Why did only these two ladies have the flags? I, in my infinite wisdom, was too embarrassed to ask what any of these things meant.

Fortunately, one of my first assignments was to develop a web page that clearly defined the difference versions of the flags and pins for the American public.

I am an Army veteran with one deployment and was married to an active duty Army Soldier with 11 deployments. I never understood the momentous meaning these symbols had. It blew my mind I'd never learned about what these symbols represented.

The service flag was designed and patented by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio

Infantry whose two sons were serving on the front line. The flag was designed to be displayed in the front window of peoples' homes to indicate the number of family members serving the war effort as members of the Armed Services.

In 1918, President Wilson approved a request from the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense which allowed mothers who had lost a child serving in the war to wear a gold gilt on their traditional black mourning dress. This practice led to the blue star service flag being covered with a gold star to indicate the service member

was much more common during World War II, when families took great pride in displaying banners indicating members of the organization, serving in the war.

World War II and today, the wearing or displaying service stars had diminished greatly. The meaning of the symbols is a sign of respect that was 100 years ago.

Each time you see a blue service star, you should be aware that the person displaying it has a loved one – possibly in harm's way – supporting the freedoms we enjoy every day. A gold service star indicates someone in that person's family has lost their life while serving our armed forces and our Nation.

Please take a moment, when appropriate, to thank the bearer of the star. A simple "I appreciate your family member's service," or "My sympathies for your loss," is all it takes to remind the bearer that the service or sacrifice means something... even if the practice isn't widely recognized anymore.

For more details, visit <http://www.symbolsofhonor.org>.

JBSA pools offer summer swimming lessons

By David DeKunder

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Throughout the summer, active-duty members, dependents and Department of Defense cardholders can take a dip, cool off or take swimming lessons at Joint Base San Antonio aquatic centers and pools.

JBSA members can purchase summer passes for pool usage and sign up for swimming lessons at the following locations: the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center, Building 3302, noon to 8 p.m. Sunday-Saturday; the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center, Building 6482, noon to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday; JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Pool, Building 2502, 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and the JBSA-Randolph Community Services Mall, Building 895, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Season passes are \$45 for individuals, \$35 for military training students, \$85 for a family of three and \$50 for a family of three E-1 through E-4 and \$10 each for additional family members. Family season passes are limited to immediate family members, including sponsors and dependents. A one day pool pass is \$3, \$2 for children 10 years of age and under.

The passes are good at all JBSA pool and aquatic center locations.

Swimming lessons are being offered at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center and the JBSA-Randolph South Pool, next to the Rambler Fitness Center, from June to August.

Costs for each lesson, which lasts two weeks, is \$65 per person and \$35 for active-duty family members E-1 through E-4. For registration information and a schedule of lessons, contact the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center, 221-4887; JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center, 671-3780; or JBSA-Randolph Community Services Mall, 652-5142, option 2.

JBSA aquatic centers and pools will be open for the summer until Sept. 7, except for the JBSA-Randolph South Pool, which will be open from June 13 to Aug. 12, the JBSA-Randolph Center Pool, which will be open until Sept. 5, and the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center, open year-round.

Summer pool hours for the following JBSA locations: JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center, noon to 8 p.m. Sunday-Saturday; JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Pool, Building 2502, 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center, noon to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-5 p.m. Saturday; JBSA-Randolph South Pool, Building 980, next to the Rambler Fitness Center,

8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, June 13 to Aug. 12; and JBSA-Randolph Center Pool, Building 502, next to the Parr Club, 1 to 8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center is open for lap swimming from 5-8:30 a.m. Monday-Friday and 7 to 11 a.m. on Saturday. Lap swimming is allowed at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatic Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

When school year starts in August, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center will open at 4 p.m. on school days and school day hours for the JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Pool will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

The JBSA-Randolph South Pool can be reserved for private parties on Saturdays from 12 to 2 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m. Reservations must include a \$150 rental fee and a \$25 per hour, per life guard fee. Both fees must be paid at the time of the reservation. Two lifeguards are required for 50 people at each party with an additional lifeguard needed for every 25 people added. Alcohol is prohibited at parties. For information on South Pool reservations, call 651-5142, option 2.

For information on JBSA aquatic centers and pools, including summer hours, season passes and swimming lessons, go to <http://www.myjbsa-fss-mwr.com>.

JBSA courses host youth golf camps for all skill levels

By David DeKunder

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The 502nd Force Support Squadron is hosting several summer golf camps at Joint Base San Antonio courses in which children will learn basic golf skills and get the opportunity to play with their peers.

Children can participate in one of several Junior Golf Camps being held at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Salado-Del Rio Golf Course or the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course.

The camps are open to children of active-duty service members, dependents, retirees and Department of Defense civilians. Junior Golf Camps teach children the fundamentals of golf, including etiquette, safety, driving, chipping and putting.

The first session of the Junior Golf Camps will be June 6-10 at JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course, for ages 6 to 17 years, and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Salado-Del Rio Golf Course, for ages 8 and over. JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course will hold their Junior Golf Camp June 13-17, for ages 6 to 12 years.

Clay Kauha, 502nd FSS JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course pro shop manager, said children of all skill levels, from beginner to experienced, can participate in the camp.

"We've had some kids that have been in our camp since the age of six and they are now 11 years old," Kauha said.

Once they have finished honing their skills in the Junior Golf Camp, Kauha said several of the young golfers have went on to play golf in college.

Kauha said instructors make the camp fun for the children by including a putting and chipping contest on the putting green in which the golfer whose ball is closest to the hole receives a prize.

"We are trying to show that golf is fun and get the kids interested in the game," Kauha said.

Steve Griffith, 502nd FSS JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course manager, said the Junior Golf Camp can teach children discipline as they work on their golf skills. Griffith said the camp is also a good place for children to make friends.

Junior Golf Camp registration is at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Salado-Del Rio Golf Course, 6:45 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday-Sunday; JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily; and the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Sunday.

Camp registration fees are \$100 at both the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Salado-Del Rio and JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills golf courses and \$50 at the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course. For children who need to

be provided golf clubs, the fees for the camp are \$150 at both JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills and JBSA-Randolph Oaks courses.

The camp sessions will be held in the mornings at the JBSA courses, including 9-11 a.m. at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 10 to 11 a.m. at JBSA-Lackland. The JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course will hold their sessions from 8 to 9:45 a.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, which includes children playing one game and a pizza party.

Additional sessions of the Junior Golf Camp will be held at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Salado-Del Rio Golf Course July 4-8 and August 1-5, and the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Golf Course June 20-24.

Children 9 to 13 years of age can also join the summer PGA Junior League Golf program at the JBSA courses. The program allows golfers of every skill level to play in a weekly match in a team scramble format.

A registration fee for the PGA Junior League Program is included. The fee covers golf and range balls, team jerseys, PGA bag tags and weekly practice sessions and matches for the children.

For information about the Junior Golf Camp and PGA Junior League Program, contact the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course, 652-4653; the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Salado-Del Rio Golf Course, 222-9386; or the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course, 671-2517.

Scientists probe traumatic brain injury effects at research lab

By Amaani Lyle

Department of Defense News Features, Defense Media Activity

Obscured beyond installation gates, an understated brown building at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Md., houses a state-of-the-art lab where a team of scientific researchers investigates “invisible war wounds” – long- and short-term effects of blast-induced mild traumatic brain injury, which has become increasingly prevalent in recent military conflicts.

Thuvan Piehler, a research chemist with the Army Research Laboratory’s Explosive Technology Branch, said her team’s critical experiments and data collection reveal brain damage thresholds necessary to develop, refine and test protective equipment.

“For mild traumatic brain injury there is currently no treatment available, so we need to assess the mechanism of injury to find out how we can mitigate it,” Piehler said.

Though pinpointing a brain injury mechanism is painstaking, the lab’s team of physicists, engineers and chemists has taken a multiscale approach to leverage unique explosive testing capabilities that closely resemble actual circumstances the warfighter might experience, she explained.

The Army Research Laboratory’s specialized experiments use smaller explosives and offer cost-conscious, repeatable parameters to attain more reliable data and to complement strides made by the Veterans Affairs Department and the medical and academic communities. “When you use a smaller explosive, the duration will be different, but the advantage is that we can see similar impact compared to the big scale,” Piehler said.

For example, she cited the aquarium model used by researchers to depict the brain’s soft tissue, which floats in fluid.

“We designed the aquarium so we can test in vitro what the brain cells actually experience under a very controlled environment and use it with real explosives,” Piehler said. “We are the only ones in the country to conduct these experiments, and that’s how they’ve been done for the last few years.”

Piehler stressed taking a bottom-up approach to assess low-pressure impact as key components of brain cells change through morphology or impact response.

“That may lead to damage that will eventually accumulate over time,” she said. Mild cases of TBI are very localized, Piehler said, adding that the basics of how brain cells are injured still need to be figured out.

Piehler said clinical data suggests that many warfighters diagnosed with mild TBI, or MTBI, sometimes did not present symptoms for years after a blast, so understanding, protection and treatment will be long-term goals.

“We know it’s a very slow process,” she said. “The brain has billions of cells, so we need to figure out which part of the brain is affected.”

Piehler’s colleague, Nikki Zander, an Army Research Lab chemist, said experimental parameters call for analyzing brain injury within a simplified, short-term model, typically about 24 to 48 hours after a blast.

“We’re looking at individual brains cells, not part of

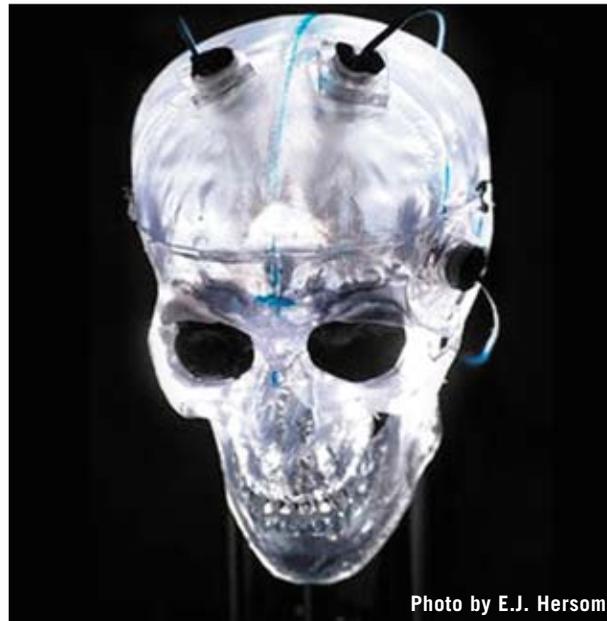


Photo by E.J. Hersom

a complex tissue,” she said. “We’re trying to get rid of a lot of confounding factors to understand each cell type’s contribution to potential injury.” This type of data focus can hold the key to treating brain injury symptoms a warfighter may sometimes present years following the trauma, she added.

Zander said scientists assess different outcome measures such as changes in morphology, swelling and edema to correlate experimental data to human data and disseminate those findings to the medical community.

“Ultimately,” she said, “we hope we can use this technology to better test our equipment and understand if it is suitable for the theater environment that the warfighter would be exposed to.”

And while the research and focus on treatment by medical and academic communities is relatively nascent, the vulnerability, Zander said, has persisted for decades. Many warfighters were dealing on their own with suicidal thoughts and post-traumatic stress, as well as other types of issues related to sleep, memory, concentration and mood that scientists now associate with a brain injury, she noted.

Zander noted the condition is far less stigmatized in modern society than it used to be, and warfighters are taking charge to get treatment.

“In the past, we didn’t have an understanding that a blast wave, although there was maybe no outward physical damage, could actually cause a lot of long-term mental and cognitive damage,” she said.

Zander acknowledged the difficulty in distinguishing between post-traumatic stress disorder and MTBI.

“They have very similar symptoms, so we really need this research to understand the physical differences in the brain between the two for better treatment and diagnosis,” she said. “With MTBI, there’s a lot of long-term, neuropsychiatric symptoms, as well as much higher risk for neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s ... which obvi-

ously may not be the case for PTSD patients.”

In the future, she said, scientists hope to have better knowledge of mechanisms to better understand treatment methods.

“Hopefully, we’ll come up with drugs that we can administer immediately after exposure, and have better blast gauge sensors,” she said. “People may not even know they’re exposed if it’s a very low-level blast exposure.”

As the researchers continue to build the complexity of the models, collaborative efforts will also persist with academic institutions such as Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore to develop from stem cells “mini-brains” which provide three-dimensional human brain tissue aggregates. “We’re hoping to have better data that can be more comparable to the human brain,” Zander said.

Richard Benjamin, the Army Research Laboratory Detonation Science Facility’s lead physical science technician, said the team uses primarily optically or electronically based technology in their experiments.

“We used a technique called an Edgerton Shadowgraph, which allows us to visualize shockwaves in a transparent medium so we can see the shockwaves in the air,” he said.

Upon visualizing the shockwaves, he explained, researchers can measure their locations and use the timing from high-speed video cameras to determine a velocity, which is critical in indicating the shockwave’s pressure. “Once we have all that information, we can tell you what the pressure impacted on our test subject was,” he said.

The researchers will seek enhanced cameras as technology progresses, which he said will greatly improve imaging and data collection. “Ninety percent of our equipment is commercially available,” he added, “but the team has been able to adapt it to research needs.”

Rohan Banton, a mechanical engineer at the lab, then complements his team’s experimental findings through the use of computational models and simulations. In this capacity, he investigates computationally the interactions of pressure waves – generated from laboratory scale live explosive impact – with dissociated brain cells placed in the aquarium experiments.

In his models, Banton provides crucial load impact data on the dissociated brain cells that are otherwise inaccessible from the experiments. Through modeling and simulations, he is able to complement the experimental findings and present useful information which can be shared among academic realms.

“It’s important to be able to use numbers from simulation and modeling in a scientific way to achieve your research goals,” Banton said. “That will help you design better helmets, better personal protection equipment and assist the warfighters.”

Brain study is a societal issue, he said, and he’s grateful for warfighters who put their lives on the line each day in defense of the nation.

“I salute them – it’s a tough job,” Banton said. “Working at the ARL gives me an opportunity to expand my horizons and work with world class scientists inside and outside the lab.”