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WINGSPREAD

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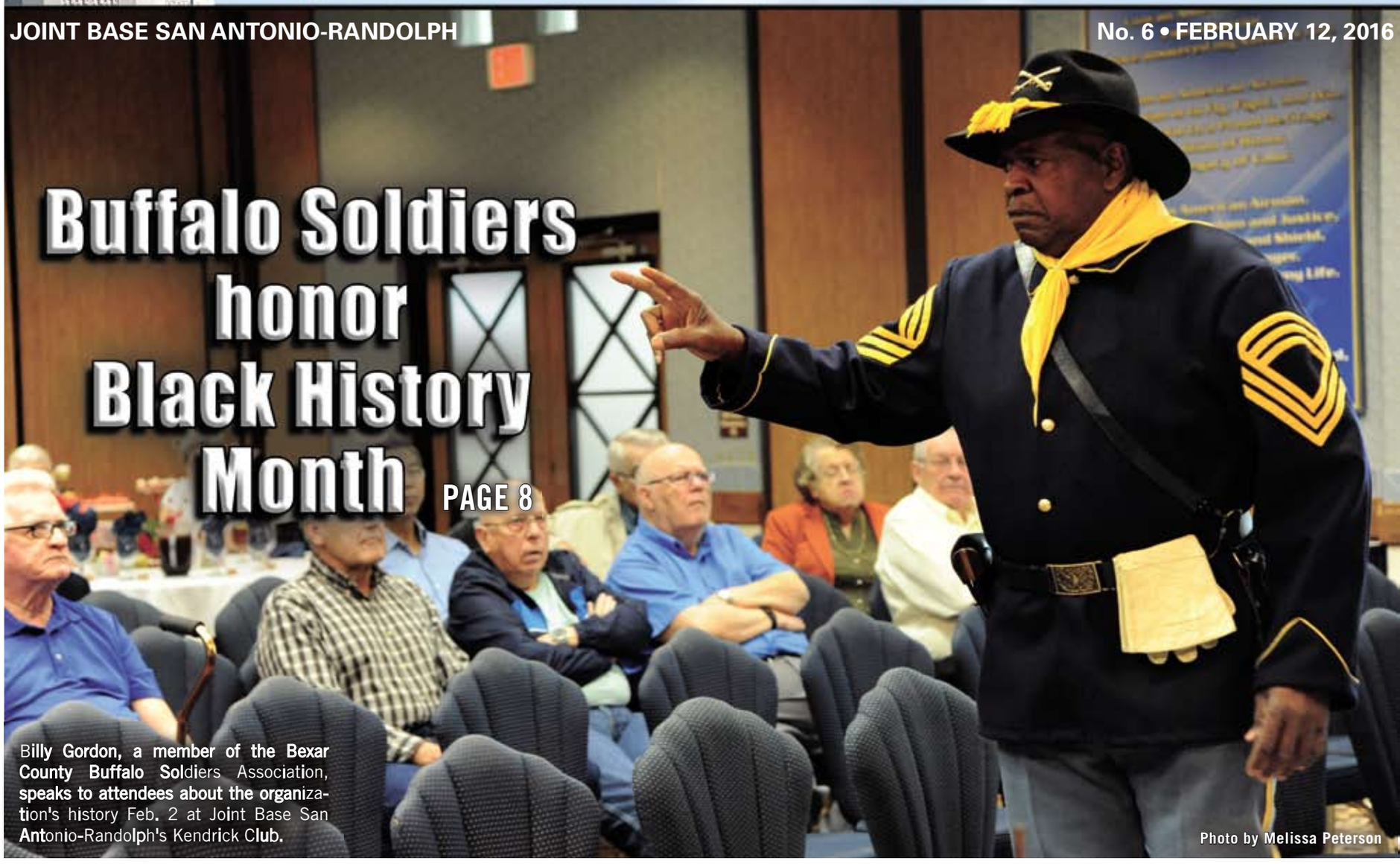

Buffalo Soldiers honor Black History Month

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Billy Gordon, a member of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association, speaks to attendees about the organization's history Feb. 2 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Kendrick Club.

Photo by Melissa Peterson

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Photo by Melissa Peterson

Chargin' Cheetahs to host Freedom Flyers, page 5

Photo by Sean Schroeder

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COMMENTARY

Analyzing failure, realizing success

By Col. Ryan Samuelson
379th Expeditionary Operations Group
Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

"We have an issue. I'll call him in and figure out why he failed to…" said the supervisor who walked into my office that sunny day.

"Stop," I said, "find out the facts, let me see the outcome of the mistake, and let me see if I own it before you say he failed."

A puzzled look from the supervisor ensued. The details of the individual and the failure are inconsequential. Tying failure immediately to an individual seemed too easy a conclusion for me. What mattered was the process of analyzing failure in hopes of realizing unit success. After all, in the military we are surrounded by amazing patriots every day who strive to make a positive difference.

A rush to judge the professional who experienced failure before engaging in a rational evaluation of all the details is detrimental to building a team who is eager to serve, learn, fix and better execute our Air Force's diverse missions. In more than 22 years of service, I have come to firmly believe nearly 97 percent of all events we deem as failures by a person or a team are attributed to one of three reasons; and supervisors and leaders own them. Let's evaluate:

First, did you properly set out expectations and provide appropriate and robust feedback?

It is the foundation for everything. Where those on your team finish is rooted in where you ask them to start. If you have not set out clear priorities, expectations, limitations and goals, take caution criticizing the paths they take. Course corrections ingrained with open and consistent communication are paramount to setting up professionals and their teams for success. If you are in charge, listen intently, ponder more and talk less. Seek feedback, provide it and make your expectations concise.

Second, did you properly train; but more importantly, educate the professionals with whom you serve?

The demands of training for the multitude of missions Airmen are asked to accomplish often drive us to one-on-one computer-based training modules and short slideshows. That is training and it is an important step, but it is not education. The bedrock of our military success is comprised of a professionally educated, not just trained, force. Only through consistent supervisor follow up, experience-driven opportunities, team discussions, leadership engagement and an open and collaborative review of failures are professionals truly educated. Click, click, click, print certificate doesn't work. Education is a multifaceted process. If you are provided with only a CBT to train you, then supervisors and leaders own any failures as a result.

Third, did you take time to see if the procedures by which your teams operate are broken, inefficient or ineffective?

Did the process fail the professional? In the military, we operate in one of the most dynamic environments on the planet. For those in the deployed environment, challenge what you see and how you operate if it is not leading to successful mission execution. When we apply an organize, train and equip "in-garrison" mentality to the deployed environment we run the risk of experiencing mission-impacting negative consequences. We risk failing. Processes must be challenged and fixed as we are not organized and resourced like the bases we left. Ensuring your team adheres to disciplined execution of their tasks starts with a sound process supervisors and leaders own. Repeat failures usually mean the process is broken and Airmen are being set up to fail. Unless a process is bounded by the laws of physics or chemistry, fix it if it's leading to repeated failure.

Before rushing to judgement, as a supervisor and a leader, regardless of rank, apply some critical thinking and ask yourself those three basic questions when analyzing failure.

For the three percent who do not know the difference between a mistake and a crime, who willingly disregard technical order guidance and instructions, or who refuse to uphold the standards required in the profession of arms, we have ways of holding them accountable and we should to the maximum extent possible. We are all responsible for our actions. For the 97 percent, I believe supervisors and leaders owe them the flexibility to learn from mistakes, make the team stronger from those mistakes, and foster a culture which allows the discussion of those mistakes void of unnecessary repercussions to realize unit success.

If you do not encourage a systemic look at failure when it occurs, you run the risk of destroying effective chain of command communication, team cohesion, honest feedback and also the prospect of the building of effective learning organizations. Honest mistakes are part of everyone's learning process. High performing professionals and teams are not driven by a fear of the consequences of their actions, but rather by the belief they are accomplishing something of importance with the support of their leadership.

Standards must be set and followed. Failure is rare when taken into context with the billions of actions and decisions our military professionals make daily. However, if an Airman or team fails, first ask yourself, "Do I own it? Have I looked at the big three – expectations, education and process?" Analyze failure, then watch your team realize success. If you start there, you may find the great people who have chosen to join the world's most effective air, space and cyber force will bring forward more issues to solve and ideas for success than you can handle. But that is a risk worth taking.

By the way, the failure I first mentioned above was mine to fix. I owned it. As a supervisor and a leader, will you?

(Editor's note: The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Air Force, Defense Department or the U.S. Government.)

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

Bexar County passes resolution to adopt 2015 JLUS, recommendations

By 2nd Lt. Avery Larkin
502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Bexar County became Joint Base San Antonio's newest partner in resolving incompatible development near military locations by adopting the 2015 JBSA-Randolph Joint Land Use Study.

In a public meeting at the Bexar County courthouse Jan. 26, the Bexar County Commissioner's Court unanimously passed a resolution adopting the 2015 JLUS and its recommendations toward supporting the 12th Flying Training Wing's mission in the future.

"We are happy to support the flying mission at JBSA-Randolph and encourage compatible development that helps the military and the county," said Tommy Calvert, Bexar County commissioner for Precinct 4. "Randolph is an important part of our community and contributes over $1 billion to the local economy."

Completed in July 2015 and funded by the Department of Defense and the Office of Economic Adjustment, with contributions from Bexar County, the JLUS fosters open communication between military locations and community partners to find solutions for issues concerning both parties, such as plans for residential developments near airfields with high noise levels.

JBSA is proud to continue working with the local community to solve these issues and looks forward to more cooperation in the future. Bexar County has been a strong advocate in supporting the military mission, and signing this resolution reflects their continued dedication and support, said Meg Reyes, JBSA installation encroachment manager.

Cities around JBSA-Randolph have also been showing their support for the mission. The cities of Schertz, Live Oak and Selma have all adopted the JLUS and its recommendations with resolutions that passed unanimously.

"I'm proud to help Bexar County promote future growth for JBSA-Randolph and the cities around it by adopting the Joint Land Use Study. It's an honor to work with and support our military," Calvert said.

Photo by Melissa Peterson
Col. Matt Isler (right), 12th Flying Training Wing commander, thanks the Bexar County Commissioner's Court for their support Jan. 26 during its meeting at the Bexar County Courthouse.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Chapel Protestant and Catholic Lenten Lunches Schedule

Lenten lunches are every Wednesday through March 23 at noon at the Chapel Center, following the 11:30 a.m. Mass at Chapel 1. Lenten devotions are also at 11:30 a.m. in Conference Room 1 of the Chapel Center.

For the complete JBSA-Randolph Chapel Easter and Lenten schedule, see page 13.

For more information, call the Chapel at 652-6121.

NEWS

Storm water runoff triggers San Antonio's 22nd Annual Basura Bash

By Scott B. Reed
502nd Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight

The Basura Bash is a one-day, all-volunteer event to clean the San Antonio Watershed. Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston will be hosting the event beginning at 8 a.m. Feb. 20 at the Salado Creek Park. For more information and registration, go to http://www.basurabash.org/ or call 221-1142.

The effects of storm water runoff are one reason the Basura Bash creek clean-up is necessary. Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation comes down faster than our soils can soak it up and this rain flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground.

Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants before it flows into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal waterway. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged, untreated, into the bodies of water we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water.

Polluted storm water runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediments also fill up the storage capacity of our reservoirs and can destroy aquatic habitats.

Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels. This is called eutrophication and may result in fish kills and toxic algae blooms.

Debris such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts washed into bodies of water can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles and birds.

Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. People can become sick from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

What are some solutions for storm water pollution?

In residential areas, properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents and used motor oil and other auto fluids (i.e. antifreeze). Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains. Dispose kitchen grease in garbage to prevent sewer overflows and backups. As always, dispose of trash properly and recycle paper, plastic, glass, metal and electronics.

In regards to lawn care, excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. Yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams. When possible, compost or mulch yard wastes. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams. Also, cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.

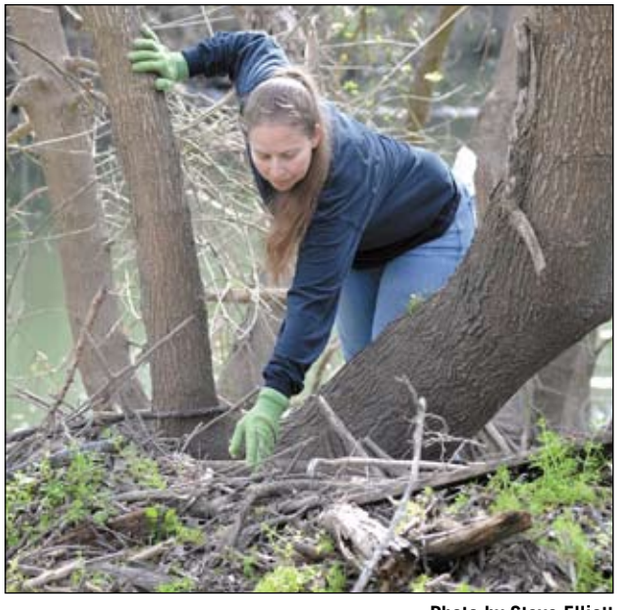


Photo by Steve Elliott
Army Staff Sgt. Aryn Goodrich, Medical Education and Training Campus medical lab instructor at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, picks up trash during the 2015 Basura Bash.

Use local climate appropriate lawn maintenance techniques when maintaining your lawn. More information is available at the San Antonio Water System's Garden Style San Antonio website at http://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com.

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a body of water. Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground. Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local bodies of water. Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.

Residential landscaping presents its own challenges when it comes to storm water runoff. Traditional concrete and asphalt doesn't allow water to soak into the ground. Instead, these impervious surfaces rely on storm drains to quickly rush unfiltered runoff into local creeks, thus contributing to flash flooding. Permeable pavement systems allow rain to soak through, decreasing stormwater runoff.

Rain gardens and grassy swales are specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground. Rain from rooftop areas or paved areas can be diverted into green infrastructure features rather than into storm drains. Landscape elements that slow, spread and sink runoff into the soil, will convert storm water runoff into a free non-Edwards Aquifer water supply. Some examples can be seen in front of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's Quadrangle and near the 502nd Air Base Wing headquarters building.

Another landscaping technique is the use of vegetated filter strips, which are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. Vegetation cleans the storm water by trapping pollutants runoff picks up from impervious cover as it flows across driveways and streets. Homeowners are encouraged to use rain barrels to collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito-proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.

In commercial areas, dirt, oil and debris that collect in parking lots and paved areas can be washed into the storm sewer system and eventually enter the local water supply. Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains. Cover grease storage and dumpsters and keep them clean to avoid leaks.

At JBSA locations, report any chemical spill to the applicable JBSA Fire Department. The 502nd Civil Engineering Squadron's Environmental Flight knows the best way to keep spills from harming the environment.

In construction areas, erosion controls that aren't maintained can cause excessive amounts of sediment and debris to be carried into the stormwater system. Construction vehicles can leak fuel, oil and other harmful fluids that can be picked up by stormwater and deposited into local bodies of water.

Construction workers should divert storm water away from disturbed or exposed areas of the construction site. Properly maintain silt fences, vehicle mud removal areas, vegetative cover and other sediment and erosion controls, especially after rainstorms.

Prevent soil erosion by minimizing disturbed areas during construction projects and seed and mulch bare areas as soon as possible.

For facilities where auto repairs are performed, clean up spills immediately and properly dispose of cleanup materials. Properly maintain vehicles and utilize a drip pan to prevent oil, gas and other discharges from being washed into local water sources. Recycle paper, plastics, used motor oil, batteries and antifreeze.

By keeping our upland areas clean and free of pollution, we can proactively keep our creeks and waterways clean and healthy.

Chargin' Cheetahs to host 43rd annual Freedom Flyer Reunion March 4

By Lt. Col. Joel DeBoer
560th Flying Training Squadron commander

On Monday, February 12, 1973, the first three flights of U.S. Air Force C-141 Starlifters brought home American prisoners of war from their captivity in North Vietnam. Some of the men had been POWs for nearly nine years. This was the start of Operation Homecoming.

Eventually, 591 POWs were released. Of those, 509 were from Hanoi in North Vietnam, 69 were from Loc Ninh in South Vietnam, nine were from Laos and three were from China. In all, 332 of the 591 POWs released were Air Force servicemen. According to Air Force records, there are still 511 Air Force service members missing and unaccounted for from the conflict in Southeast Asia.

Soon after Operation Homecoming began, the Air Force decided to honor former POW pilots with a "fini" flight in keeping with a tradition that celebrates the last flight a pilot makes during a tour. In 1973, the Air Force designated the 560th Flying Training Squadron, nicknamed the Chargin' Cheetahs, at then-Randolph Air Force Base to re-qualify pilots who were recently released from captivity.

The first flight with the Chargin' Cheetahs was called a "Freedom Flight." The "Freedom Flyers" were met with cheers and champagne as they celebrated their return to the "wild blue yonder."

Over the next 37 years, the Chargin' Cheetahs flew 195 Freedom Flights and developed a close bond with the Freedom Flyers that continues to this day with an annual reunion and dining in.

The Chargin' Cheetahs of the 560th Flying Training Squadron will host the 43rd annual Freedom Flyer Reunion March 4. More than 30 Freedom Flyers are expected to return to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph for the event.

For some, March 4 has added significance. On Sunday, March 4, 1973, three Starlifters lifted off from Hanoi, North Vietnam, with 108 newly released POWs. Twenty-nine future Freedom Flyers were on those flights and some will be celebrating their 43rd anniversary here this year.

The Chargin' Cheetahs invite you to join us in honoring those who made it home while we continue to remember those who did not. A wreath-laying ceremony and fly-by will take place at the Missing Man Monument from 10:15 to 11 a.m., and a POW Symposium in the Fleenor Auditorium, building 100, from 1-4 p.m.

Photo by Harold China

Col. Matthew Isler (right), 12th Flying Training Wing commander, speaks during the 42nd annual Freedom Flyer Reunion wreath-laying ceremony March 20, 2015, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Military Saves Week events offer bounty of financial advice

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

A full schedule of activities, including classes focused on credit scores, savings and investments and an event for teens, will highlight Military Saves Week at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Feb. 22-26.

Service members and their families, retirees, Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors will also have an opportunity to visit a certified financial counselor at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center from 1-3:30 p.m. each day to receive their free credit report, credit score and an interpretation of their score.

"Military Saves is a yearlong effort, but Military Saves Week gives us a chance to really focus on finances and offer some classes and events that you will not find the rest of the year," said Kathleen Moree, JBSA-Randolph M&FRC chief. "It is a great chance for the Military & Family Readiness Center to partner with our on-base financial institutions Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union and Broadway Bank to increase financial awareness and visibility."

The weeklong observance also provides the M&FRC team with an opportunity to remind Airmen and civilians of the resources they offer throughout the year, said Criselda Smith, JBSA-Randolph M&FRC community readiness consultant.

"It's a yearly reminder for our customers to pause and look at their finances and to take advantage of the programs we offer to help them become more money-smart," she said. "We want them to be proactive – not reactive – with their finances."

Classes kick off from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 22 with "Credit When Credit is Due," a four-part series that will continue each Monday through March 14 at the M&FRC, building 693.

Other classes planned at the M&FRC are "Thrift Savings Plan," 5:30-7 p.m. Feb. 23, and "Wise Investment Strategies," 5:30-7 p.m. Feb. 26.

"Credit When Credit is Due" helps participants improve their credit management skills through a variety of topics, from establishing and rebuilding credit to mortgage loans and bankruptcies, Smith said.

If participants attend all four sessions, they will have a positive statement added to their credit reports, she said.

The "Money Smarts Youth Rally," planned for 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs, building 585, will help provide teenagers with a financial foundation.

"It is never too early to start talking about finances, and the Military & Family Readiness Center really enjoys partnering with our youth center to offer the 'Money Smarts Youth Rally' for our teens," Moree said. "The teens that attended last year's event loved it and wanted the dates for this year so they could make sure they could attend again."

Military Saves Week, with its 2016 theme of "Make Saving Automatic," kicks off the 2016 Military Saves Campaign.

In a memo addressing the 2016 Military Saves Campaign, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Marine Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Total Force command program "provides an excellent opportunity for leaders at all levels and in all components – active duty, National Guard and Reserve – to motivate and educate service members and families."

They called Military Saves Week "an opportunity for our military community to come together with federal, state and local resources to focus on the financial readiness of military members and their families and help them reduce debt and save their hard-earned money."

They also urged members of the military community to sign the campaign's Saver Pledge at http://www.militarysaves.org.

Smith encouraged anyone with a DOD ID card to attend Military Saves Week events and use the services offered at the M&FRC.

"Hopefully they'll take advantage of the activities during Military Saves Week, but at any point during the year we're here to take care of them," she said.

Joint Base San Antonio Military Saves Week Activities

Feb. 22
- Investing for Retirement, 11:30 a.m.
JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249
- Credit When Credit is Due, 5:30 p.m.
JBSA-Randolph M&FRC, building 693

Feb. 23
- Using Credit Wisely, 9 a.m.
JBSA-Lackland M&FRC
- Planning for Retirement, 2 p.m.
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC, building 2797
- Thrift Savings Plan, 5:30 p.m.
JBSA-Randolph M&FRC

Feb. 24
- Using Credit Wisely, 9 a.m.
JBSA-Lackland M&FRC
- Are You a Smart Consumer? 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., JBSA-Lackland M&FRC
- Money Smarts Youth Rally, 5:30 p.m.
JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs, building 585

Feb. 25
- Using Credit Wisely, 9 a.m.
JBSA-Lackland M&FRC
- Credit Building, 11:30 a.m.
JBSA-Lackland M&FRC
- Coupon Strategies for Savings, noon
JBSA-Randolph M&FRC

Feb. 26
- Car Buying Workshop, 9 a.m.
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC
- Home Buying Workshop, 10 a.m.
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC
- Are You a Smart Consumer? 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., JBSA-Lackland M&FRC
- Wise Investment Strategies, 5:30 p.m.
JBSA-Randolph M&FRC

For more information, call:
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC at 221-2705
JBSA-Lackland M&FRC at 671-3722
JBSA-Randolph M&FRC at 652-5321

DLA Document Services: More than a printer for DOD

From Defense Logistics Agency Document Services

As a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency, DLA Document Services has been serving the Department of Defense for more than 60 years. While some refer to the organization as the DoD's printer, it offers much more than that basic description implies.

DLA Document Services provides printing and copying at many installations around the world. However, its core services reflect its mission to transform the DoD from high volume print and duplication to lower volume print on-demand and the use of on-line documents, electronic content and records management. In other words, DLA Document Services enables customers to increase functionality of their documents, while lowering costs.

Core capabilities include the conversion of hardcopy documents and media to standard digital formats, building libraries of digital content with online access and the provision of networked multifunctional devices that print, copy, scan and fax in customer workspaces.

DLA Document Services provides scanning and conversion services for all types of documents. Skilled technicians scan documents of any size, from business cards to large format engineering drawings, and convert them to a host of digital formats. DLA Document Services has converted, and indexed for easy search and retrieval, over one-half billion images to customer-specified digital formats.

DLA Document Services' Electronic Document Management program is a service to build digital libraries of documents with online access. EDM solutions are DoD 5015.2 records management compliant and enhance business processes by providing advanced content lifecycle management and workflow functionality. One example, the Electronic Document Management Service, assists DLA Distribution sites worldwide with digital capture, processing, management and storage for millions of shipping documents.

DLA Document Services is also one of the government's largest providers of office document equipment solutions. Its Equipment Management Solutions program provides networked MFDs that print, scan, copy and fax all in one compact system. With its leveraged buying power and all-inclusive flat rate pricing, DLA Document Services provides the best value solutions at the lowest possible cost. DLA Document Services currently manage more than 34,000 devices DOD-wide.

The organization's EMS equipment assessment program helps agencies eliminate and consolidate costly single-function, desktop devices and replaces them with networked MFDs. Assessments are a value-added service that benchmark existing device inventory and operating costs, identify the organization's document equipment needs and deliver a set of recommendations on the optimal rightsizing mix of equipment. On average, assessments identify an annual savings potential of 25-30 percent for customers, while increasing capacity and capability.

DLA Document Services is co-located with customers at over 150 production facilities, primarily located on U.S. military installations around the world. The organization also has a facility in the Pentagon, in support of DoD senior leadership, and in the White House, serving as the document solutions provider to the President of the United States. For example, each year DLA Document Services produces the booklet containing the script of the president's State of the Union speech to Congress. It is provided for duplication within just a few hours of the president's address.

With the production of many sensitive and classified documents, DLA Document Services places a great amount of focus on security. All employees have background checks that qualify them for security clearances and are well versed in security procedures. Information Assurance, the security of networks and systems, is a major thrust for the organization – ensuring protection of customer's documents.

Whether it is printed or digital media, DLA Document Services is counted on as the trusted document solutions provider to the President of the United States, the DoD, other Executive Branch Federal agencies and the American service men and women stationed around the world.

For more information about DLA Document Services products and services, visit http://www.documentservices.dla.mil or call/visit the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston facility at 221-3317, located at 2216 Engine House St., Suite 17.

History of Buffalo Soldiers remembered at JBSA-Randolph

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph members got a history lesson on the contributions of African-American soldiers who served in the American West during the 1800s at a Feb. 2 forum at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club.

Members of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association told about the significance all African-American units had in helping to settle and protect the frontier in the American West, from 1866 until the early 1890s, at the forum hosted by the Randolph Enlisted Spouses Club.

The club held the forum in recognition of African-American History Month at JBSA-Randolph.

Buffalo soldiers was the nickname given to the African-American soldiers, who served in U.S. Army outposts in the Great Plains and Southwest regions, including Texas, by Native Americans supposedly out of respect for the troops' fighting ability. The troops were members of the all-black U.S. Army units formed by Congress in 1866 after the end of the Civil War, giving former slaves, freedmen and African-American Civil War veterans an opportunity to serve.

Forum speakers Turner McGarity, Billy Gordon and Cynthia Johnson, were dressed in replica blue army uniforms worn by the buffalo soldiers of the late 1800s time period.

McGarity said the black troops who served on the western frontier helped protect wagon trains, stage coaches, settlers and ranches from outlaws and Indian attacks, to keep white settlers from fighting each other and Native Americans from fighting white settlers.

"They were there to try to make the West a better place than what it was," McGarity said. "They were known as peacekeepers of the West."

Despite dealing with discrimination in the areas they served, McGarity said the buffalo soldiers served with distinction and had a low desertion rate from their units. According to the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association website, http://www.bcbsatx.com, 18 African-American soldiers and their officers were awarded the Medal of Honor for their service during the Indian Wars in the West.

"They just wanted to prove to people they could fight and do things as well as anybody else, regardless of the color of their skin," McGarity said.

McGarity said the history of the buffalo soldiers has a connection to San Antonio, as the 9th Cavalry, one of the units they served in, took their basic training at present day San Pedro Springs Park. He also spoke about Henry Flipper, the first African-American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. in 1877. Flipper was a second lieutenant in the 10th Cavalry and served at Fort Sill, Okla., and several outposts in Texas.

Gordon said the segregated units the buffalo soldiers served in were active from 1866 until 1952, serving in several conflicts, including the Spanish-American War, protecting the U.S. border during the Mexican Revolution, World War II and the Korean War.

Photos by Melissa Peterson

Cynthia Johnson (standing), guest of the members of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association, speaks to attendees in honor of Black History Month about Cathy Williams, the only known documented woman of the Buffalo Soldiers, Feb. 2 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Kendrick Club.

From left: Lesley Clay, Curtis Gregory and Turner McGarity, members of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association wear the traditional uniform of a Buffalo Soldier during a presentation in honor of Black History Month about the history of the Buffalo Soldiers Feb. 2 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Kendrick Club.

"For eighty-six years they gave service to this country as a dedicated, segregated all black unit," Gordon said.

Johnson spoke about Cathay Williams, the first documented female buffalo soldier who served from 1866-68. Since women were not allowed to serve then, Williams disguised herself as a man to enlist in the army.

During her talk, Johnson spoke from the viewpoint of Williams. Johnson said speaking in first person allows her audience to experience what Williams had to go through during the time she served and after she was discharged when it was found out she was a woman.

"I think it brings a little more realness to it," Johnson said. "I could talk about her all day long, but I think when you try to put it in the context of the day, people actually get it a little bit better, and it puts them in the setting of the 1800s."

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO FRONT AND CENTER

Airmen work as team at JBSA-Randolph aerospace physiology flight

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Two Airmen who embarked on Air Force careers after graduating from California high schools define teamwork as aerospace and operational physiology flight technicians with Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's 359th Aerospace-Medicine Squadron.

Senior Airman Heather Uman and Airman 1st Class Ariana Rodriguez serve as instructors, teaching pilots and other aircrew members the skills they need to function safely at altitude and handle any emergencies they encounter. They also work together to manage the schedules of the flight's 18 instructors and the 6,000 students who come for training each year.

"They develop and maintain administration and scheduling operations for both the flight and the six pipelines we provide training for," Staff Sgt. Rhea Stitham, 359th AMDS Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight NCO in charge of administration and scheduling, said. "They are very efficient, deliver high-quality customer service and come up with innovative ideas."

Rodriguez, who attended high school in the Orange County coastal city of Huntington Beach, Calif., said she and Uman have different personalities, but they also share important traits.

"I'm Type A and she's Type B, but we're both pretty positive and we both like to work a lot," she said. "We can clash, but it's also a good thing. We balance each other."

Uman, who went to high school in California's capital, Sacramento, said she enjoys working with Rodriguez.

"She likes to get things done now," she said. "I understand her work ethic."

Uman said she and Rodriguez are responsible for the entire scheduling section, but "do a lot more than that."

"We have to check which instructors are available, because there are days when people aren't available," she said. "It's very busy, with a lot of moving pieces."

Neither Uman nor Rodriguez envisioned the aerospace physiology career field when they were in high school.

Uman, who aspired to be an artist and was not interested in a military career, took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery only because it was common practice for students at her high school to take the test due to Sacramento's proximity to Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

Four months after she took the test, Uman found out the Air Force was interested in her. With encouragement from her mother, who told her about the educational opportunities – not to mention the paycheck – the service would offer her, Uman visited a recruiter whose career field happened to be aerospace physiology. She soon entered basic training and attended technical school in that same career field.

When Uman reached technical school at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, she found out something the recruiter had not told her about the career field: She would have to teach.

"I had to get stage fright out of the way," she said. "But I got more comfortable with it and now I like teaching. It just took practice."

Unlike Uman, Rodriguez knew she wanted to join the military. Her brother was a Marine, but she felt the Air Force provided her with the best job opportunities and more stability, so she enlisted in 2013 after graduating from high school in 2012.

Rodriguez said her recruiter found her an "awesome opportunity" in the career field of aerospace physiology, which suited her because of her ability to work with people and her social nature. Her stumbling block was science.

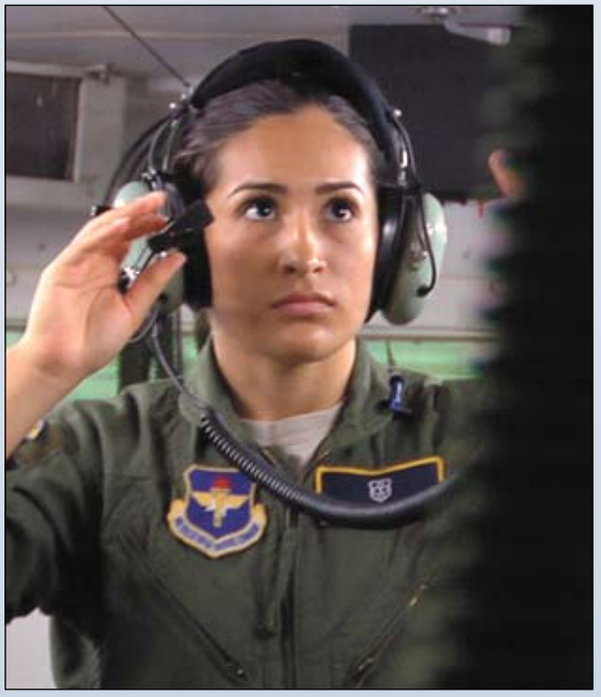
"I've always been a good public speaker, but I've never been a science person," she said. "Tech school was fun, but difficult at times. I like the hands-on portion as far as actually working with a student and instructing, but getting through the academic portion definitely required a lot of studying.

"I was told that once I got through my upgrade training at my first duty station and received my five-skill level that everything would be a lot easier, and it was," Rodriguez said. "It was just a matter of understanding and memorizing the information, then regurgitating it in a way for students to understand easily."

In their roles as instructors, Uman and Rodriguez educate aircrew members, whether they're taking initial or refresher training, on combating the effects of high altitude on the human body through the use of the altitude chamber, which simulates those effects, including hypoxia. Uman said she and Rodriguez cover a variety of equipment, but focus on the oxygen regulator; oxygen mask; CRU-60, a piece that helps connect the regulator and mask; and helmet.

"We also cover the types of oxygen cylinders the students will encounter when flying operationally," she said.

See FRONT AND CENTER P13



Photos by Sean Schroeder

Airman 1st Class Ariana Rodriguez (left) and Senior Airman Heather Uman (right), 359th Aerospace-Medicine Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight technicians, check an oxygen regulator and mask Aug. 6 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

ROSC spouse scholarships

The Randolph Officer's Spouses' Club is accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded to military spuses in amounts ranging from $1,000-$2,000 per winner. Applications are located at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Thrift Store, Education Center and the Military & Family Readiness Center. Applications are due by March 11. For questions or to receive an application by email, send a request to roscscholarships@gmail.com.

U.S. Naval Academy 2016 Summer STEM Program accepting applications

Applications for the 2016 Naval Academy Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics summer program are available at http://www.usna.edu/admissions/STEM. Session dates are June 6-11 for rising 9th graders; June 13-18 for rising 10th graders; and June 20-24 for rising 11th graders.

This annual summer program is designed to expose young people to STEM concepts and technologies and to encourage 9th-11th graders to pursue a course of study in engineering and technology throughout high school, college and beyond.

Valentine's Day fitness event

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center hosts a Valentine's Day run, bike, run event 8 a.m. Saturday at Eberle Park. Participants run a 5K, bike 10 miles and then run an additional 1.5 miles. For more information, call 652-7263.

Golf tournament

The JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course hosts a Presidents Day tournament Monday, with 7-9 a.m. tee times. For more information, call 652-4653.

Youth spring-break camp registration

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Youth Programs School Age Spring Break Camp registration is Monday through Feb. 26 during normal business hours. Camp runs March 14-18, 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., and youth 5-12 years may participate. Fees are based on total family income and all required paperwork must be on file including pay stubs and shot records. For more information, call 652-3298.

Volunteers needed

The 359th Medical Group and American Red Cross seek volunteers who would like to give back to the men and women in the Armed Forces. For details, call 652-6372.

Child safety seat class

Almost 75 percent of all car seats are installed incorrectly and car crashes are the leading cause of preventable death in children. A car seat safety seat clinic is taking place March 21, April 18, May 16 and June 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Prior to taking part in the car seat safety clinic, participants must complete the car seat 101 class at one of the JBSA locations. For more information on the Car Seat 101 class or the car seat safety clinic call: 221-0349 or 652-6308.

Street construction planned

The 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron is conducting a repavement project on 5th Street West, including replacement of existing pavement, curbs and sidewalks from F Street West to C Street West. Demolition and construction will occur in various phases and will require street and parking closures on 5th Street West for the time periods below:

- Saturday and Sunday: Asphalt will be milled off the roadway from F Street to C Street.
- Phase I, through Feb. 26: 5th Street West will be closed from F Street to E Street.
- Phase II, Feb. 29 – April 1: 5th Street West will be closed from E Street to D Street.
- Phase III, April 4 – May 13: 5th Street West will be closed from D Street to C Street.
- Repaving, May 21: 5th Street West will be closed from F Street to C Street for paving.

Detour routes will be marked.

For more information, call 652-1224.

Golf Road construction delayed 30 days

All access to the area continues to be restricted, directing all South Gate traffic to East/West perimeter roads. Motorists are encouraged to use the Main, West and East Gates.

Construction staging for the project is on the crossover road intersection of Golf Road, North of Taxiway Echo and Delta and South of Taxiway Foxtrot and Delta.

The West Perimeter Road detour for drivers is on the second left entering the South Gate. Traffic exiting the South Gate will also use West Perimeter Road as a detour route. Traffic to and from Randolph Oaks golf course is accessible from the South Gate and West Perimeter Road. Airfield traffic is not affected by the project.

The outbound lane being used for early morning traffic is closed from 6-8:30 a.m. until construction is completed. The jogging path close to the construction is also closed until the end of the project.

IRS phone scams continue to be serious threat

By Lea Crusberg
Internal Revenue Service Media Relations

Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain a major threat to taxpayers, headlining the annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams for the 2016 filing season, the Internal Revenue Service announced Feb. 2.

The IRS has seen a surge of these phone scams as scam artists threaten police arrest, deportation, license revocation and other things. The IRS reminds taxpayers to guard against all sorts of con games that arise during any filing season.

"Taxpayers across the nation face a deluge of these aggressive phone scams. Don't be fooled by callers pretending to be from the IRS in an attempt to steal your money," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "We continue to say if you are surprised to be hearing from us, then you're not hearing from us."

"There are many variations. The caller may threaten you with arrest or court action to trick you into making a payment," Koskinen added. "Some schemes may say you're entitled to a huge refund. These all add up to trouble. Some simple tips can help protect you."

The Dirty Dozen is compiled annually by the IRS and lists a variety of common scams taxpayers may encounter any time during the year. Many of these con games peak during filing season as people prepare their tax returns or hire someone to do so.

This January, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration announced they have received reports of roughly 896,000 contacts since October 2013 and have become aware of more than 5,000 victims who have collectively paid more than $26.5 million as a result of the scam.

"The IRS continues working to warn taxpayers about phone scams and other schemes," Koskinen said. "We especially want to thank the law-enforcement community, tax professionals, consumer advocates, the states, other government agencies and particularly the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration for helping us in this battle against these persistent phone scams."

Scammers make unsolicited calls claiming to be IRS officials. They demand that the victim pay a bogus tax bill. They con the victim into sending cash, usually through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. They may also leave "urgent" callback requests through phone "robo-calls," or via a phishing email.

Many phone scams use threats to intimidate and bully a victim into paying. They may even threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the license of their victim if they don't get the money.

Scammers often alter caller ID numbers to make it look like the IRS or another agency is calling. The callers use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to appear legitimate. They may use the victim's name, address and other personal information to make the call sound official.

Here are five things the scammers often do but the IRS will not do. Any one of these five things is a tell-tale sign of a scam.

The IRS will never:

• Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.

• Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.

• Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.

• Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

• Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what you should do:

If you don't owe taxes, or have no reason to think that you do:

• Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.

• Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page at https://apps.irs.gov/app/scripts/exit.jsp?dest=https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml or call 800-366-4484.

• Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on http://www.FTC.gov. Add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

If you know you owe, or think you may owe tax:

• Call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you.

Stay alert to scams that use the IRS as a lure. Tax scams can happen any time of year, not just at tax time. For more, visit "Tax Scams and Consumer Alerts on http://www.IRS.gov.

Each and every taxpayer has a set of fundamental rights they should be aware of when dealing with the IRS. These are your Taxpayer Bill of Rights (https://www.irs.gov/Taxpayer-Bill-of-Rights). Explore your rights and our obligations to protect them on http://www.IRS.gov.

Scholarships for legal secretary training available to Air Force spouses

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center is taking applications through 4 p.m. Feb. 22 for an employment program offering spouses of active-duty Air Force members an opportunity to take the first step toward a legal career.

Funded by the Air Force Aid Society, the Spouse Employment Program provides scholarships for entry-level job training so recipients can gain immediate, viable employment.

"Military and family readiness centers throughout the Air Force have an opportunity to submit a proposal to the Air Force Aid Society to get these scholarships," said Mike Bell, JBSA-Randolph M&FRC community readiness consultant and AFAS officer. "The purpose of the program is to get spouses trained and ready for work."

Community readiness consultants at M&FRCs work with local colleges to tailor training to the needs of local employers, so the proposals submitted to the Air Force Aid Society vary from base to base, he said. Fifty-six bases are receiving scholarships this year.

In 2014 and 2015, the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC submitted proposals for scholarships that would allow spouses to seek opportunities as fitness trainers, Bell said. For this year's scholarship round, the M&FRC chose a legal secretary certificate course for spouses.

"We moved away from fitness training because we wanted to give others an opportunity to get employed," Bell said. "In addition, the training that is being offered this year is online, so it gives people more flexibility."

Six $700 scholarships will be awarded through the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC this year, he said. Four scholarships were presented in 2014, six in 2015.

This year's scholarship recipients will have five opportunities to complete the Center for Legal Studies' legal secretary certificate online course, which will be offered in conjunction with the University of the Incarnate Word. The Center of Legal Studies is a legal education company based in Golden, Colo., that offers instruction in a variety of formats.

Remaining seven-week sessions start March 7, May 2, June 27, Aug. 22 and Oct. 17. Bell said recipients must complete their course this year.

Completing the course is a "foot in the door" of the legal profession, Bell said.

"It may be their first step toward becoming a paralegal," he said.

Bell said the scholarship application process is easy.

Applications are available at the M&FRC and ask scholarship hopefuls for general information, including name, home and email addresses, phone number and spouse's unit name; colleges and university they have attended; and current and past certifications and honors. They also must write a one-page essay telling how the scholarship would assist them with their goals.

Applications must be turned in by 4 p.m. Feb. 22. They may be dropped off at the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC, 555 F Street West.

Bell said applicants will be notified of the results by Feb. 26. A ceremony honoring scholarship recipients is set for Feb. 29.

For more information on the program and how to submit an application, call 652-5321.

3-time Super Bowl champ, AF pilot reflects on America's game

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross
Air Force News Service
Fort George G. Meade, Md.

With Super Bowl 50 still fresh in our minds, it's hard not to wonder how one of the U.S. Air Force Academy's best all-time players fits into that history.

Chad Hennings won three Super Bowls with the Dallas Cowboys during the 1990s, and his first appearance was within a year's time of flying his A-10 Thunderbolt II in a combat sortie in northern Iraq.

Hennings, a 1988 Academy graduate, led the nation with 24 sacks and was awarded the Outland Trophy during the 1987 season – an award that recognizes the nation's best interior lineman.

Committed to serve

Following graduation, Hennings – now a member of the College Football Hall of Fame – was drafted by the Cowboys in the 11th round of the 1988 draft. Before he could even suit up in the NFL, Hennings had to first fulfill his military commitment, a move that was initially hard to accept.

"I wouldn't say there were regrets, but it was an emotional struggle because I wanted to be able to compete," Hennings said.

From a character perspective, he knew without a doubt what he needed to do because he made a commitment and he was going to stick to it. The drive to compete, however, made his transition from school to pilot training and then into his active-duty squadron a difficult one. That void would eventually be filled with friendly competition as an A-10 pilot.

"We did compete on the range; we competed for performance," he said. "There was always competition and it was a healthy competition."

After pilot school, Hennings was stationed in the United Kingdom and deployed twice to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, in 1991 and 1992. While deployed, he flew 45 combat sorties in northern Iraq in support of Operation Provide Comfort, an international relief effort after the Gulf War.

After getting settled into the Air Force, Hennings said he contemplated making a career out of it.

"Football was a distant memory and something in the past that I never really thought about until the Air Force went through the reduction in force and they started the waivers in the spring of '92," he said.

Pro player

Hennings separated from the active-duty Air Force in April 1992 and transitioned to the Air Force Reserve. He continued to serve in the Reserve individual mobilization augmentee program for almost 10 years.

The next month, Hennings found himself in Dallas working out for the Cowboys.

"It was extremely stressful, initially transitioning in '92, because I'm leaving one career for another," he said. "I'm moving from one continent to another, taking on a whole new different position. There were a lot of just stress factors there, and it wasn't assured that I would make the team."

Hennings said it was tough coming into the league and competing at a level of competition that was much higher than he experienced before.

Courtesy photo

Chad Hennings (right) graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1988 and went on to fly 45 combat sorties over northern Iraq in an A-10 Thunderbolt II in support of Operation Provide Comfort.

But all the downtime spent in the weight room and working out when he wasn't flying during his deployments and TDYs paid off. He would go on to secure a spot on the team, and kick off what would eventually be a nine-year career with the Cowboys, playing in 119 games and recording 27.5 sacks.

In his first season, Hennings and the Cowboys would go on to beat the Buffalo Bills in Super Bowl XXVII.

"It was pretty surreal," he said. "I essentially flew a combat mission and then played in the Super Bowl all within a year's time."

He compared that Super Bowl experience to his first combat mission. He said he knew he had a job to do, and being around a set of guys who were experienced made it easier to navigate and process all of his emotions.

During his next three seasons, Hennings would go onto win two more Super Bowls with the Cowboys.

"You got to a point in our culture of being a Dallas Cowboy, that that's what was expected. We knew we were the best team out there,"

Hennings said. "I kind of compare that analogy to being a fighter pilot. It's kind of that confident arrogance, where you know you're good, you know your abilities; you walk out there, you don't flaunt it, but you walk with an extreme amount of confidence."

It wasn't until the latter part of Hennings' career that he fully appreciated winning three Super Bowls, he said.

Two decades after he appeared in his last Super Bowl, beating the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl 30, Hennings has a sincere admiration for those moments in time and truly appreciates how special those teams really were.

"As a kid growing up, all your heroes, the role models that you looked up to on the gridiron – you know those guys – they were able to hold that trophy up," Hennings

See HENNINGS P13

Courtesy photo

Chad Hennings (center right) played for the Dallas Cowboys for nine seasons.

JBSA-Randolph Chapel Lent & Easter Schedule

PROTESTANT Lent and Easter Services

March 25 – Good Friday service

3:30 a.m., Chapel 1

March 27 – Easter Sunday service

7:30 a.m., Chapel 1 and 11 a.m., Religious Activity Center

CATHOLIC Lent and Easter Services

Feb. 25 – Lent Penance service, First Reconciliation

7 p.m., Chapel 1

Feb. 27 – Confirmation Mass; 4:30 p.m., Chapel 1

March 24 – Holy Thursday; 7 p.m., Chapel 1

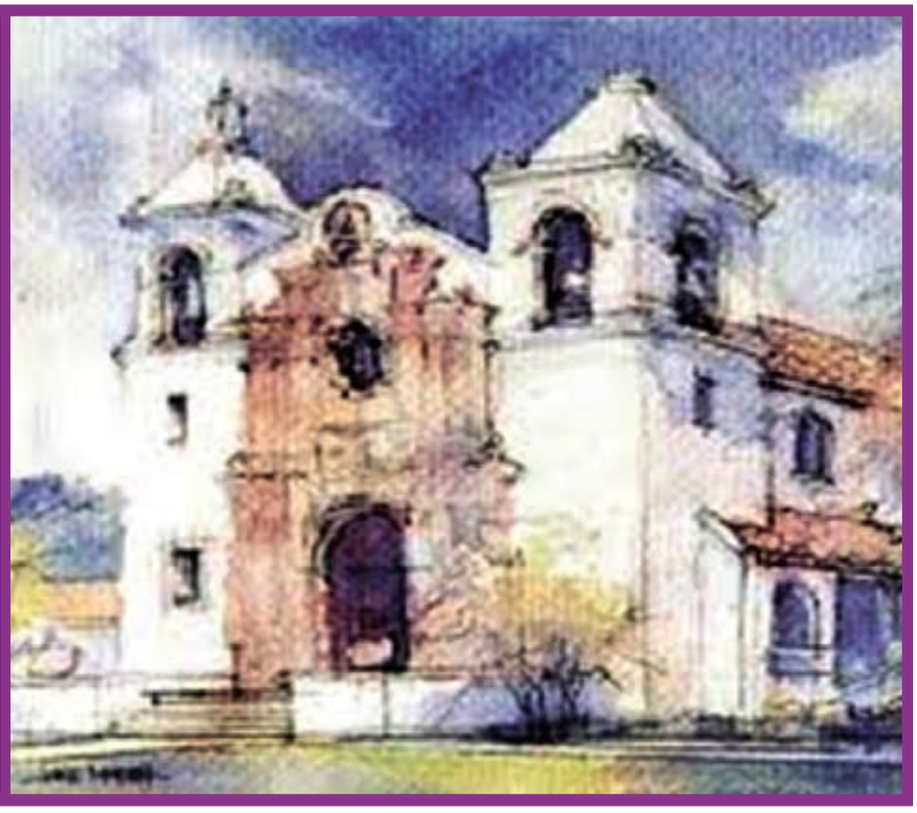
March 25 – Good Friday; 11:30 a.m., Chapel 1

March 26 – Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil; 7:30 p.m., Chapel 1

March 27 – Easter Sunday; 8:30 a.m., RAC (building 975)

11:30 a.m., Chapel 1

Fridays – Stations of the Cross; 5:30 p.m. beginning today, Chapel 1



FRONT AND CENTER from P9

In addition, they instruct students on the use of the Barany chair, which helps aircrew members combat the different forms of spatial disorientation.

In the classroom, the technicians cover items and topics such as how cabin pressurization works, how eyes dark-adapt, emergency equipment, parachutes, how to inspect equipment and basic survival techniques to survive a plane crash.

Stitham described Uman and Rodriguez as "highly motivated individually," but also said they "encourage each other to excel professionally and personally."

Both of them are active in community service efforts, including membership in the Team Randolph Airmen's Council. Rodriguez served as president last year, while Uman was the organization's secretary.

Their work and service efforts have not gone unnoticed. Uman has received coins for coordinating a promotion ceremony and participating in American Indian Heritage Month; Rodriguez has earned a coin for her work as TRAC president and was honored by the New Braunfels, Texas, Chamber of Commerce as JBSA-Randolph Airman of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2014.

Uman said she, Rodriguez and other aerospace and operational physiology technicians are "directly impacting the Air Force.

"We're teaching them life-saving techniques," she said. "If they didn't have this information, who knows how they would react."

(Editor's note: Joint Base San Antonio Front and Center is a series of stories highlighting outstanding members of the community while showcasing their impact on the missions that take place at JBSA.)

HENNINGS from P12

said. "I was a Minnesota Vikings fan, so they went there four years and they never won one and that's where I realized too how difficult it is, not only to just get to the Super Bowl, but to win one – how truly special that is."

Hennings said one of the best memories is from Super Bowl XXX, where he recorded two sacks – a Super Bowl record that he shared with several other players before it was broken the next year.

Humble beginnings

Being a solid performer on the gridiron and in his jet, Hennings has always tried to strive for excellence.

Growing up in Elberon, Iowa, Hennings would sometimes put in 12-plus-hour days helping his father and grandfather on their farm, where they predominately raised corn and a feedlot operation for cattle. He'd help wherever needed, whether feeding the cattle, bailing hay, driving tractors, or performing maintenance.

"The work ethic came from watching my father, my grandfather, but a lot of it I can attribute it to my older brother, who really pushed me to workout with him," he said.

Hennings' older brother, Todd, was a couple years older and was the quarterback for their high school football team. Hennings said he was a tight end, and he recalled his brother dragging him off to run routes and lift weights.

"When I started to see the success of all the hard work that I put in, then it became more of a self-driving motivation than having somebody externally motivate me," he said.

That motivation to be a better player and better person carried over when it was time to attend college. Hennings had several scholarships, but said he wanted a "holistic experience." He yearned to be challenged academically and wanted to have the experiences a typical college graduate wouldn't have.

Looking back, the leadership skills gained, the experience of flying jets, and the camaraderie within his fighter squadron are things that gave him skills he used on the gridiron and in his everyday life.

"You know, it all worked out great," Hennings said. "I had an experience flying that I would never trade. If I had to do it all over again, I would do it exactly the same."

Where he is now

Today, Hennings lives outside of Dallas, where he's a partner in a commercial real estate company and does a lot of public speaking, which he said is his way of giving back.

"That's my passion now in this last half of my life, is to be an evangelist, in essence, for that aspect of a need of character in our community and for us as individuals," Hennings said.

An author of three books, he's also married with two children, who are both in college.