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WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

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New wash rack helps protect against corrosion, conserves water

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Daniel Perez, 12th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate, dries a T-38 Talon Feb. 2 at the new wash rack inside Hangar 42 at Joint Base San Antonio Randolph.

Photo by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

Photo by Randy Martin

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Libraries offer wealth of resources, page 5

Photo by Kathy Salazar

JBSA teams up with VIA, page 12

COMMENTARY

Who are AF Key Spouse volunteers?

By Patti Dybdahl
Air Force Personnel Center
Airman & Family Readiness Support Branch

"Our Air Force mission is to fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace. Our Airmen are really good at what they do and we need to be really good at taking care of their families. Our Key Spouses are essential to building that strong family and maintaining a resilient force!"

In today's Air Force you would be hard pressed to find a person who hasn't heard of the Key Spouse Program, but do you really know what a "key spouse" is?

The Key Spouse Program is made up of a cadre of volunteers committed to building a strong Air Force community. Key spouses work within a squadron to help connect families to information and support services.

A key spouse is a special kind of person. That person has a positive outlook on life and the military and is committed to making a difference within the unit.

Key spouses are not just appointed. They earn the position. A typical key spouse volunteer completes 16 or more hours of training annually between initial and continuing education. The specialized training they receive ensures they have the most up-to-date resources on their radar.

A key spouse is a force multiplier when it comes to connecting families to information and services. This sentiment is echoed from our senior leadership and their spouses: "We cannot effectively take care of our Airmen and their families without key spouses," tweeted Betty Welsh, wife of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, in a recent TweetChat.

At this point, you may be thinking, that's a lot of work for one volunteer. This is probably a good time to mention other individuals that are part of the key spouse team. Key spouses are executing the program with a great deal of unit assistance.

The unit commander owns the Key Spouse program. In addition to recruiting, selecting and appointing key spouse volunteers, the unit commander establishes goals and objectives for the program and assembles team members who make the endeavor positive for the entire unit. The commander's team can consist of several different people, but is usually a mix of the first sergeant, the unit superintendent, chief or a senior non-commissioned officer. The commander chooses a winning combination based on the personal and family readiness needs of the unit.

In addition, there is a key spouse mentor, who is also a volunteer, but one who possesses a good deal of experience making a life, a family and home within the challenges of the military lifestyle. The mentor assists key spouses by advising them and advocating when needed.

Not all units will have a mentor, but those fortunate to have this resource use the knowledge and experience of the mentor to further the program toward achieving the family readiness goals of the unit.

Interested spouses can get more information on the Key Spouse Program by speaking with a current key spouse or key spouse mentor. They will be able to tell you all about your unit's program. Another resource is your local Military & Family Readiness Center staff. The M&FRC staff provides training and resource information for Key Spouse Program volunteers.

Our Air Force mission is to fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace. Our Airmen are really good at what they do and we need to be really good at taking care of their families. Our key spouses are essential to building that strong family and maintaining a resilient force!

For more information on the Key Spouse Program visit the Air Force Personnel Center's Spouse Support website at http://www.afpc.af.mil/library/spousesupport/index.asp, contact your key spouse, key spouse mentor or visit your local Military & Family Readiness Center.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to the myPers website at https://mypers.af.mil/.

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Curbside car seat clinic reaches across Joint Base San Antonio

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

A parking lot overlooking the Family Advocacy/Mental Health Clinic at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph bustled with activity Feb. 8 as parents learned how to correctly install child safety seats in their vehicles.

The "Curbside Car Seat Clinic," a monthly event presented by the 359th Medical Operations Squadron Family Advocacy's New Parent Support Program, attained a milestone as 20 installations were completed – the most yet.

The clinic was unique in that it also attracted members of the JBSA-Lackland community, said Connie Wilson, 359th MDOS family advocacy assistant.

"In late spring, JBSA-Lackland will begin offering its own Car Seat 101 class and curbside clinic, but until then, JBSA-Randolph will provide the services to JBSA-Lackland," she said.

Car Seat 101, a bimonthly class at JBSA-Randolph, educates parents about laws regarding child safety seats and what to look for when they're purchasing a car seat for their infant, toddler, pre-school child or elementary school student, said Wilson, who is the JBSA senior child passenger safety technician. Attending Car Seat 101 qualifies parents for a free car seat when they attend the curbside clinic.

Audrey Thompson, 359th MDOS New Parent Support Program nurse and a certified child passenger safety technician, said five technicians assisted with last week's curbside clinic. In addition to Wilson and Thompson, Rose Padilla and Lisa Rocha from JBSA-Lackland's Family Advocacy Program and Patricia Starks, a retired military spouse, instructed parents on the proper installation of car seats. The clinic also includes an inspection of car seats parents already have in their possession.

"We show parents how to properly install the car seats, then they demonstrate that they know how to do it themselves," she said. "We help them through that process."

Proper installation is vital because nine out of 10 car seats are installed incorrectly, Wilson noted.

Thompson said most parents are not aware of all the knowledge they require to buy and install a child seat, so Car Seat 101 and the curbside clinic fill that void, providing them with the information they need.

"It's great as parents to have that knowledge in their back pockets – and to know that their babies are safe," she said. "They learn a lot – and how to do it the right way."

Thompson said parents' education includes the kinds of car seats they need.

"There are so many car seats and cars on the market," she said. "You have to make sure it fits your vehicle and child correctly and meets the safety standards of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration."

State law requires all children younger than 8 years old, unless they're taller than 4-feet-9, to be restrained in a child safety seat. Categories are rear-facing infant seats, convertible seats that are rear- and front-facing, and booster seats for older children.

One of the parents at last week's curbside clinic was Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Clifton Alexander, Defense Language Institute English Language Center military training manager, who brought his 9-month-old daughter, Trista. He said he's learned about car seats from spending time with his siblings' children, but he and his wife attended Car Seat 101 "to help us learn from true professionals."

"My wife and I are very dedicated to our baby's safety and have done extensive amounts of research," Alexander said. "At the curbside clinic, I would say I learned how to properly install a convertible-style car seat."

Wilson said it is her hope that car seat services will be streamlined across JBSA so a class is available every month for anyone in JBSA to attend.

"Currently, JBSA-Randolph offers Car Seat 101 every other month, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston offers their class every month and JBSA-Lackland will come on board in late spring," she said.

Wilson said Car Seat 101 and the curbside clinic are important components of the New Parent Support Program.

"As new parents, there is so much information given to us about pregnancy, child development and other topics, but not much on car seat safety," she said. "Motor vehicle injuries are a leading cause of death in children under the age of 16."

"Many of our population are not aware of the state child restraint laws, as they move so often and, well, it's just hard to keep up," Wilson said. "With Car Seat 101, all of that is discussed and so much more."

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Patricia Stark (left), Curbside Car Seat Clinic volunteer, teaches Petty Officer 1st Class Clifton Alexander, Defense Language Institute English Language Center military training manager, how to properly install a car seat Feb. 8 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Combat systems operator innovates, designs tech training simulator

By Randy Martin
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

A combat systems operator at Naval Air Station-Pensacola let innovation be his guide in the creation of a low-cost simulator designed to make the career field's technical training more realistic.

With only user-manuals and support from his leaders and colleagues, Capt. Andrew Byrd, 451st Flying Training Squadron CSO flight commander, designed the "T-28" computer simulator, the name a nod to the aircraft he had previously served aboard.

"Sensor operators have to be able to think on their feet because the situation on the ground is always changing," said Byrd, a former U-28A tactical airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft crew member. "I hope the simulator will improve training, increase effectiveness and be an inexpensive solution for training realism."

To start, he figured out a way to allow two different in-house computers to "talk" to each other through a generic router. Next, to simulate airborne operations, Byrd combined software programs for gaming and one that portrays modern air combat.

All together, the simulator costs roughly $17,000, which is less expensive than a simulator requiring contractor support, Byrd said. Another added benefit is the fact the Air Force owns the design, so it can be updated or new scenarios can be created as needed or wanted, he said.

"Annually, 48 to 64 CSOs will train on the T-28 before assignment to U-28 and AC-130s," Byrd said.

Photo by Randy Martin
Capt. Andrew Byrd, 451st Flying Training Squadron combat systems operator flight commander, demonstrates the T-28 computer simulator he created.

Byrd thus far has designed scenarios where new CSOs learn the art of surveillance, direction finding and communication. Up to seven scenarios allow student CSOs to experience their role while orbiting a target area in support of realistic-looking friendly troops the CSO sees on a monitor.

"Walled compounds appear as they might at night with enemy and noncombatants arrayed throughout urban areas," Byrd said, further adding that while he and other experienced officers watch, new CSOs get experience communicating with a ground force commander and tactical air controllers using brevity codes exclusive to combat operations.

The idea to create the "T-28" came from a wealth of experience downrange. Byrd's experience aboard the U-28A supporting ground forces in actual combat gave him insight to the many missions a CSO might experience.

Byrd, who hails from Big Sandy, Texas, has spent 670 days overseas during eight deployments as a sensor operator. After joining the Air Force in 2007 with a degree in mechanical engineering and commissioning through the Oklahoma State University ROTC, he was intrigued by the opportunity to serve as a CSO because his particular program supported highly sensitive operations he thought would make a difference in the post-9/11 world.

After graduating CSO training in 2008, Byrd was assigned to the newly-procured U-28A. "We learned to innovate to make the computers aboard the new aircraft work together," Byrd said.

When the opportunity came, Byrd took his real-world experience to NAS-Pensacola as a CSO instructor with the 479th Flying Training Group, part of the 12th Flying Training Wing headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

"I was and continue to be excited to share my experience with new CSOs," Byrd said.

AF culture, standards now easily accessible with new mobile applications

By George Woodward
82nd Training Wing Public Affairs
Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

A series of mobile applications developed by the 367th Training Support Squadron at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, is giving Airmen ready access to Air Force standards, culture and basic doctrine.

While the unit – part of the 82nd Training Wing's 782nd Training Group at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas – typically focuses on computer-based training in support of aircraft maintenance, its unique skill set proved a perfect match when the Air Force was looking for a way to put the "little blue book" and other core Air Force documents literally into the hands of Airmen.

"Our focus is mainly on developing computer-based training or videos for maintainers on the flightline," said Tech. Sgt. Kaimi Pacheco, the application designer. "So developing mobile apps is a little out of the norm for us, which is challenging. The other products we create are mostly linear, or step by step, in nature, but when you're developing apps you have to include functionality that lets the user go in many different directions."

Still, the team was confident it could not only get the job done, but get it done quickly and exceed expectations.

"The little blue book was the first project, which they completed on a tight timeline to coincide with the book's release," said Tech. Sgt. Zach Davis, the Android developer.

"It was definitely a challenge," he continued. "But with our strong, cohesive teams, we were confident we could satisfy all the requirements and exceed a few."

One way they exceeded expectations was by adding audio narration for all the text included in the app.

"That's not something we routinely incorporate into our products," said Master Sgt. Kasey Lynch, the project manager, "and it did prove challenging. Once we started producing audio assets, we realized how much work goes into producing a perfect vocal narration."

The most critical audio decision was choosing the voice actor.

"We needed someone with a pleasing sound, but who had a neutral accent that would appeal to the widest audience," Lynch said. "Now we jokingly refer to our voice actor, Staff Sgt. Scott Summers, as 'The Voice of the Air Force.'"

The variety of devices and screen sizes was another issue the team had to consider.

"Developing mobile apps requires a lot more graphics support than a computer-based product because we have to produce multiple versions of the same image to ensure the app looks good and works for every potential device," said Tech. Sgt. Rudy Gonzalez, a graphic designer.

Despite the challenges, the team completed the application on time and ensured it was available for Apple and Android devices when the book was released to the Air Force.

"The team truly came together to deliver an excellent product for our Air Force and Airmen," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody, who worked with the team to finalize the app. "Our Airmen now have access to the little blue book in a format they often prefer."

The success of the little blue book app led to three additional projects for the 367th TSS:

- Air Force Instruction 1-1, "Air Force Culture: Air Force Standards," which is complete and available on Apple and Android markets (search for AFI 1-1)
- Air Force Instruction 1-2, "Air Force Culture: Commander's Responsibilities," also complete and available for Apple and Android (search for AFI 1-2)
- The Professional Airman's Development Guide, which is given to new recruits in delayed enlistment status to help them prepare for basic military training, is 80 percent complete and in validation by Air Force Recruiting Service.

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

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

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

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

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

JBSA library users can set up an account to check-out materials and resources in person or online.

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

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

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

These resources include Fold3, Hoopla, 3M Cloud Library, Comics Plus, Lynda and the ability to self-publish books. Included in the partnership with BiblioTech is a Discovery Terminal for browsing materials and 50 tablet computers available for checkout at each JBSA library location.

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

Children's programs include Storytime, held at each JBSA library location once a week. Storytime includes

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

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

Sugar wars: Why is sugar so harmful to your mouth?

By BethAnn Cameron and Col. Georgia Rogers
U.S. Army Public Health Center (Provisional)

February is National Children's Dental Health Month and the 2016 observance promotes good oral health for military children and adults in the war against sugar.

American people, including military families, are frequently consuming foods and drinks high in sugar and starches. Junk foods and drinks have slowly replaced healthy, nutritious beverages and foods. Sugar is the enemy of the mouth.

Question: Many people say they have cavities because they have inherited "soft teeth" from their parents. Is it true that people who get more cavities have "soft teeth?"

Answer: There is no actual condition called "soft teeth." Some rare genetic conditions can cause weak, brittle teeth but in the vast majority of cases they are not the cause of tooth decay. We know tooth decay is usually a sign that something is out of balance. Several factors can cause tooth decay, alone or in combination. Figuring out what is going on requires you to give a little time and attention to your diet and your daily hygiene regimen. Most tooth decay is caused by not using fluoride toothpaste the right way or by exposing your teeth to sugars too often.

Question: How should we use fluoride toothpaste?

Answer: An adult should always assist children under the age of 8 with tooth brushing. Use a rice-sized amount of toothpaste for children less than three and no more than a pea-sized amount for children aged three to six. Brush the toothpaste on all surfaces of the teeth for two minutes at least twice a day – just before bedtime is the most important. Then rinse the brush and brush the tongue and the roof of the mouth. Do not rinse with water after brushing. Just spit several times to remove the excess toothpaste. Have small children say "Patooey!" very forcefully if they have difficulty spitting. Do not eat or drink for at least 20 minutes after you brush. This lets the fluoride stay on your teeth longer and fight decay. Brushing right before bedtime is particularly important to prevent decay.

Question: Why is sugar so harmful to your mouth?

Answer: When sugar is consumed in food or drinks, it provides food for bacteria, which produce acid. The acid can eat away the enamel of the teeth, allowing the bacteria to penetrate and cause more damage. If nothing disrupts the bacteria, the damage gets a little deeper every time you consume sugar. It eventually reaches the nerve causing an infection. Drinking water or brushing after taking liquid medicine can also reduce your child's risk for decay.

Question: Is there a safe amount of sugar that you can have?

Answer: The new U.S. Department of Agriculture Dietary Guidelines have decreased the recommended limit for added sugars to no more than 10 percent of daily calorie intake. If a child eats 1,500 calories a day, that is no more than 150 calories from sugar or about nine teaspoons. A recent survey showed children between the ages of 9 and 18 have the highest sugar intake – about 17 percent of their total calories come from added sugar.

Question: Where do you find hidden sugar in foods?

Answer: Almost half of the sugar in the diets of Americans age 2 and over comes from beverages such as soda and fruit drinks. The next third comes from sweets, snacks and grains such as crackers, bread and cereal. Condiments like ketchup or salad dressing can also add a few extra teaspoons of sugar to your diet each day.

Question: How can you find out if your food or drinks have sugar added?

Answer: Read the nutrition facts label. The amount of sugar in each serving is listed under the section "Total Carbohydrates" as "Sugars" in grams. One teaspoon of sugar is a little over four grams. Also, look at the list of ingredients. There are more than 60 names for sugar but you can learn to spot them at http://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/nutrition. Use the number "3" as a guide. If a word for sugar is one of the first three ingredients listed or if there are more than three names for sugar on the list, then the product probably contains too much sugar. Another important source of sugar is children's liquid medications for congestion, allergies, pain or fever.

Question: Teens and adults also eat snacks and drinks throughout the day. Are they at risk for tooth decay?

Answer: Anyone who eats sugary snacks and drinks between meals throughout the day is at risk for tooth decay. Consuming snacks or drinks right before bedtime is the most dangerous, because your saliva flow slows down when you go to sleep, so the acids produced by the bacteria in your mouth are not washed away or neutralized. That is why it is critical to always brush with fluoride toothpaste before sleeping.

See SUGAR WARS P7

Common names for added sugar

Dextrose	Sucrose	Maltose	Date sugar
Treacle	Fruit puree	Brown rice syrup	Diastatic malt
Brown sugar	Honey	Fructose	Sorghum
Trehalose	Fruit juice concentrate	Glucose solids	Panocha
Fruit sugar	Beet sugar	Molasses	Turbinado sugar
Evaporated cane juice	Galactose	Raw sugar	Natural sweetener
High-fructose corn syrup	Corn syrup	Demerara sugar	Nutritive sweetener
Invert sugar	Maltodextrin	Malt syrup	Agave nectar

Healthy habits promote cavity-free teeth, healthy gums

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Iinuma

Capt. Christina Wengler, 59th Dental Training Group pediatric dentist, examines a patient's teeth Jan. 20 at Dunn Dental Clinic at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

By Capt. Christina Wengler
59th Medical Wing Dunn Dental Clinic Pediatric Dentistry

Did you know tooth decay is the leading chronic infectious disease among children in the U.S.? February is National Children's Dental Health Month; take some time this month to focus on cavity-free teeth and healthy gums for your children.

According to the American Dental Association and American Academy of Pediatrics, all children should have their first dental check-up by their first birthday. The purpose of this first check-up is to establish a dental home, educate parents about infant oral care and establish good dental habits.

Much like health and wellness-baby visits with the child's pediatrician, most of the appointment involves talking with the doctor. If your child does not have a dentist, ask friends and neighbors for recommendations. Also check your dental insurance for a list of pediatric and family dentists located near you.

If your child has health care needs, is extremely anxious or has a large number of cavities, consider going to a pediatric dentist. Pediatric dentists have two to three years of additional training in taking care of children's teeth. That training includes prevention, advanced behavior management, growth and development, care of medically complex patients, hospital dentistry and pharmacological management.

At home, help your child develop healthy oral habits early by brushing as soon as the first tooth appears. Establish family routines to encourage brushing twice a day, morning and night, with a small amount of fluoridated toothpaste.

Use a smear of toothpaste for children under 3 and a pea-sized amount for kids 3 and up. Young children will need help from an adult to properly brush. By the age of 6 or 7, most kids have the manual dexterity to brush on their own but might still need help with motivation.

Proper eating and drinking habits are also key to a healthy mouth. Most people know eating too much candy can lead to dental decay. But sipping on diluted apple juice, sweetened ice tea and sports drinks can also lead to cavities. Putting a baby or toddler to sleep with a bottle or sippy cup containing milk, formula, juice or anything besides water can quickly lead to decayed teeth.

Frequent snacking on simple carbohydrates like crackers and cereal, which are broken into sugar by the body, can also be detrimental. Avoid these common dental pitfalls by offering better food and drink choices.

Keep your refrigerator and pantry stocked with nutritious, kid-friendly food options like string cheese, precut fruit and vegetables, peanut butter, water and white milk.

The JBSA Dental Clinic staff are ready to help parents and children get on the right track toward healthy oral hygiene habits. For more information, call pediatric dentistry at 652-1846.

SUGAR WARS from P6

Question: Are babies and toddlers at risk for tooth decay since they only use a bottle or a sippy cup?

Answer: Yes, milk, formula or juice all contain some form of sugar. Babies should never be put to bed or allowed to fall asleep with a bottle of milk or formula. Prevent cavities in babies by wiping their gums with a clean, wet gauze pad or soft washcloth after each feeding – breast, bottle-fed or sippy cup. Cleaning the gums and teeth removes the sticky film that contains bacteria which cause tooth decay.

Question: How do we protect older children's teeth?

Answer:

- Give them a healthy diet, so they have all of the vitamins and minerals that they need to keep their teeth and gums healthy.
- Limit sugary or starchy snacks between meals; offer nutritious snacks instead of crackers.
- Avoid sugary drinks such as sodas, juices, lemonade and sports drinks; provide water or low-fat milk.
- Help your children brush twice daily for two minutes and floss each day.
- Take your children for regular dental check-ups.

Join the Sugar Wars! Defeat the effects of sugar and maintain good oral health by brushing at least two minutes, two times a day, flossing and eating healthy meals and snacks.

For more information about "Sugar Wars" for National Children's Dental Health Month and for tips to protect your teeth, visit http://www.ada.org/en/public-programs/.

For more information, visit https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/searchResults.aspx?hotlist=65 or http://www.MyPlate.gov.

Rudy Olivarez, 12th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate, rinses a T-38 Talon Feb. 2 at the new wash rack inside Hangar 42 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Daniel Salinas, 12th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate, peels masking tape off the tail of a T-38 Talon Feb. 2 at the new wash rack at JBSA-Randolph.

Photos by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

Members of the 12th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate wash a T-38 Talon Feb. 2 at the new wash rack inside Hangar 42 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Lewis Gonzalez, 12th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate, sprays a T-38 Talon Feb. 2 at the new wash rack inside Hangar 42 at JBSA-Randolph.

Indoor wash rack for aircraft increases productivity, conserves water

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

For years, members of the 12th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate corrosion control section washed the wing's trainer aircraft outdoors, where temperature extremes, inclement weather and water-use restrictions often interfered with their work.

Those days are over.

The 14-member corrosion control team now has its own indoor wash rack in Hangar 42 with benefits that include washes unimpeded by weather conditions and an environmentally friendly water-recycling system that conserves water, saving the Air Force $174,000 per year, said Lincoln Sundman, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate aircraft maintenance supervisor.

The new wash rack represents the merger of two projects, he said.

"We've got a good news-good news story here," Sundman said. "We have two different contractors … and we're able to meld the two projects together – one to turn the building into the wash rack and capture the water through the ditch system that's already in the building and the other to provide the water recycling, which saves 1.4 million gallons of water per year."

Not only does the water-recycling system conserve water, it prevents contaminants from entering the San Antonio River Authority wastewater system, he said.

Yet another benefit is the availability of soft and warm water during washes and rinses, Sundman said. Soft water during the final rinse helps prevent spotting, which can lead to corrosion.

Vernon Turnbull, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate Fabrication Branch chief, sees three distinct advantages to the indoor wash rack.

"First and foremost is getting the folks out of the elements – San Antonio's summer weather," Turnbull said.

He said the optimum temperature range for washes is 40 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

Another plus is the wash rack's new recycling capabilities, Turnbull said.

"Recently we've been under water-usage restrictions and had to defer washing aircraft for several months," he said. "The new wash rack allows us to keep the wash schedule mandated by Air Force Instructions."

Turnbull said the wash rack also enhances efficiency.

"Going back to San Antonio's weather, before we had to wash each aircraft in sections as to not allow the soap to dry," he said, noting that soap drying on the aircraft causes corrosion. "This would effectively turn a two-hour job into a four-hour job, so indirectly it increases productivity by freeing up personnel sooner to focus on other maintenance tasks."

The washing process begins with masking the aircraft for water intrusion, followed by washing it with soap using scrub pads that won't scratch the paint, said Danny Rodriguez, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate corrosion control supervisor.

"We then rinse the aircraft with recycled water as we move along, not letting the soap dry," he said. "Once the aircraft is completely washed and rinsed, we do a spot-free rinse. Then we de-mask the aircraft and do a corrosion inspection."

Water captured in the drain first goes to an oil-water separator, where contaminants are captured and removed for disposal, and travels through piping to the recycling system, which was installed by a company that specializes in large-scale wash technologies and corrosion control facilities designed for aircraft, military and other applications.

The recycling system is housed in a shipping container near the front of the hangar and features a series of filters ensuring water in a 2,300-gallon water holding tank meets minimum filtration standards. The wash rack also contains eight electric rewind hose reel stations.

"Water from the drain goes into the filtration tanks," Rodriguez said. "The tanks are stainless steel settling and oil-separation modules. Water is filtered, then run through a reverse-osmosis system before being introduced back into the wash cycle."

The corrosion control section washes aircraft at a rate of two per day, four days a week, Sundman said. Most of the wing's aircraft have a 90-day wash cycle.

Sundman said aircraft are subjected to temperature extremes and condensation, which causes metals to corrode, so washing aircraft on a regular basis is important to combat corrosion.

"The last thing you want for high-performance aircraft is for the structure to get weakened by corrosion," he said.

Sundman said converting Hangar 42 into a wash rack was challenging, but the conclusion of that 15-month project merged seamlessly with the installation of the recycling system, which was completed in one month.

"You don't see what this building used to look like," he said. "It used to have insulation sprayed everywhere inside that had to be removed. So we had about three or four months when people were in here in spacesuits trying to take all that insulation off everywhere – from the roof, the walls and all over.

"By the time the building was released to us," Sundman said, "the water recycling system was also done, so we were able to start our very first washes with recycled water and not ever waste any water or put any contaminants into the sewage from this operation."

Although the hangar, which had most recently been used for storage, was challenging to retrofit from an environmental standpoint, it already had a drain ditch to capture water from the washing and rinsing process for recycling.

Sundman concurred with Turnbull that being indoors is one of the big advantages of the new wash rack.

"This allows us to wash aircraft year-round," he said. "We don't have to worry about it being too cold, too wet, too hot or too sunny. We also don't have to worry as much about corrosion on the aircraft."

Mario Tarin, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate corrosion control work leader, gave the hangar and recycling system high marks.

"We really like it," he said. "It takes us out of the elements and makes our job easier."

JBSA Sexual Assault Prevention, Response

To report a sexual assault, call the 24/7 Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Hotline at 808-7272 or the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

Munitions offices closure

Munitions offices and munitions storage area will be closed to normal business March 7-11 to conduct a semi-annual 100 percent inventory of ammunition and explosives. Only emergency issues can be honored during this period. Call 652-6780/3361 with any questions or concerns.

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.

Glow In The Park 5K Run

A "Glow In The Park" run is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Park. The run starts on the east side of MacArthur Field, near the intersection of Worth and Stanley Roads.

A pre-race party begins at 5 p.m., people will start lining up at 6:45 p.m. and the first wave of runners start at 7 p.m. Runners will be released in waves of 250 people. Packet pick-up will be at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Clubhouse at 1050 Harry Wurzbach from 3-7 p.m. March 4 and there will be a limited number of packet pickups available at the event starting at 4 p.m. March 5. Cost is $10 before March 4 and $15 on March 4 and 5. All participants need a Department of Defense ID card or be sponsored by a DOD ID card holder.

Visit http://nsplit.com/glow-run-jbsa/event-details/ for more information.

Youth spring-break camp registration

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Youth Programs School Age Spring Break Camp registration runs 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.

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 adjacent jogging path is also closed until the end of the project.

Military Saves Week 2016: Meet the challenge in three steps

By Laura Roler
Military Saves Associate

Military Saves Week 2016 is fast approaching! Every year, military installations and organizations around the world join forces to motivate, support, and encourage servicemembers and military families to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth through a week of financial focus and education.

Since 2007, more than 200,000 Savers have accepted the challenge of Military Saves Week. What is that challenge? The Military Saves Pledge. The pledge (http://militarysaves.org/for-savers/savings-tools-and-resources/take-the-pledge) is a commitment to exercise good financial habits, improve financial readiness, and encourage other Americans to do the same.

"I will help myself by saving money, reducing debt, and building wealth over time. I will help my family and my country by encouraging other Americans to Build Wealth, Not Debt."

Military Saves encourages all servicemembers, their families, and civilian employees to take the Military Saves Pledge, and to "Set a Goal. Make a Plan. Save Automatically."

Step 1: Set a Goal

Why is a goal important? If you don't know what you're saving for, you haven't established what you won't spend it on. By saving for a car down payment, you've established that you won't spend that saved money on a new TV instead. When you take the Military Saves Pledge, you're asked to identify a savings goal. The top two goals selected by our Savers are:

- Saving for a rainy day with an emergency fund
- Saving for retirement

If you have another goal in mind, that's OK – in fact, it's great! The important thing is that you have a goal, and that you commit to it. That's what the Military Saves Pledge is about – deciding what's important to you, and taking action. One small step can lead to another, then another, until your goal is met.

Step 2: Make a Plan

To take action, you need to save money. How do you go about doing that? This may be the most difficult part of the challenge - finding money to save. It's most likely in your paycheck (somewhere) - the problem is that so many priorities are fighting over the same dollars. Housing, transportation, food – all are essential needs that MUST be met.

However, when something is a priority, you plan for it. Plan to save for your goal, whatever it is, just like you plan for your rent, for your car, and for your groceries. To do that, create a budget or spending plan for your monthly expenses. Assign each and every dollar of your paycheck to a category - including savings. By including savings in your monthly spending plan, you're committing to paying one very important bill – to yourself.

Step 3: Save Automatically

The theme for Military Saves Week 2016 is "Make Savings Automatic." Automating your savings will allow you to save regularly without having to think about it. Here are four ways you can set it and forget it:

- Contribute to the TSP, and have a portion of your paycheck transferred into your retirement account before you get paid. Many other employer retirement plans offer a similar option – simply decide how much you want to contribute each month to meet your savings goal.
- Set up allotments via myPay (https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx). Designate an amount go to an account that is separate from a regular checking account – preferably a savings account. If you are paid through a different system, your employer may still allow you to divide your paycheck into different accounts.
- Set up regular transfers using your financial institution's bill pay system. Automatically transfer money from a checking account to a separate savings account each payday.

Tax time is a great opportunity to save for those who receive a refund. Use Form 8888, Allocation of Refund, to direct deposit your refund in up to three different accounts – make sure one is a savings account! Another incentive to this option? Visit SaveYourRefund at https://saveyourrefund.com/home/ to learn how saving at least $50 of your tax refund could win you $25,000 in 2016.

Military Saves Week 2016 is Monday through Feb. 27 – one week out of the year to focus on paying yourself first by saving. Your installation or an organization near you may be participating in the week, offering educational workshops, events, and resources to help you meet the challenge of saving.

Take advantage of these opportunities to build financial knowledge and ability. Only you can accomplish the challenge. It all begins with the Military Saves Pledge and making the commitment to save.

Photo by Steve Elliott

From left: Army Col. Mark A. Lee, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio vice commander; Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd ABW and JBSA commander; and Command Chief Master Sgt. Stanley C. Cadell, 502nd ABW and JBSA Command Chief, sign the Military Saves Pledge to "Set A Goal. Make a Plan. Save Automatically."

Joint Base San Antonio Military Saves Week Activities

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 locations Monday through Feb. 26.

Monday
- 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

Tuesday
- 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

Wednesday
- 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

Thursday
- 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

JBSA, VIA team up for new P4 community partnership initiative

By Kathy Salazar
Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston
Public Affairs

VIA Metropolitan Transit celebrated their continued support to Joint Base San Antonio Public/Public/Public/Private Community Partnership Initiative at VIA headquarters Feb. 8 with a new "Active Duty, Act of Thanks" initiative.

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, expressed his thanks on behalf of JBSA for VIA's continued support by paying it forward, providing affordable and reliable transportation to the military in his speech.

"Historically, in 1917, the city's very first motorized buses transported service members from Fort Sam Houston to the city of San Antonio and back," LaBrutta said. "Today, VIA continues to serve the military, first with their JBSA Express initiative, which transports our workforce to-and-from JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Lackland Monday through Sunday; and now, by offering reduced prices to our active duty military members."

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta (right), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, thanks VIA bus and van operators (from left) Shantella Williams, Jeffery Wishert and Jesse Quintero, who were featured in the "Active Duty, Act of Thanks" campaign.

VIA's extension of their P4 will offer reduced rates, allowing all active duty members to ride VIA transportation at half-price fares throughout San Antonio or for a special monthly rate.

"Anytime military members get half the price on anything is a good thing for our service members and their families," LaBrutta said. "This is a win-win, not just for the military but for the city of San Antonio as well."

"The military is an important part of our city and this is our way of giving thanks to the military," Jeffrey C. Arndt, VIA President and CEO, said. "After all, we are Military City USA."

"The relationship that we have across the city and region is just magnificent," LaBrutta said. "Military City USA is not just a slogan; our community partners provide incredible support to JBSA and walk the walk through actions … not talk … every single day!"

The P4 permits the 502nd ABW and JBSA to enter into partnerships in the community in order to provide, receive or share installation support services for many of its municipal and morale, welfare and recreation functions.

Active duty members must be in uniform to receive VIA's special rate, or obtain special monthly reduced fare cards at any one of the VIA service centers.

SecAF, CSAF testify on FY 2017 AF posture

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

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee on the fiscal year 2017 Air Force posture on Capitol Hill Feb. 10.

James and Welsh stressed that the need for airpower continues to rise and the gap between the U.S. Air Force and its closest pursuers is closing.

"Bottom line here is that … we are fully engaged in every region of the world, in every mission area, across the full spectrum of military operations," James said. "Put simply: we have never been busier on such a sustained and such a global basis."

The Fiscal Year 2017 Air Force Posture Statement states the president's fiscal 2017 budget aims to build, train and equip an Air Force capable of responding to today's and tomorrow's threats.

"The United States can't fight, much less win, today's wars without airpower," Welsh said. "That's just the way modern warfare has moved. The demand signal for that airpower continues to rise. While we work hard to continually become more efficient, which we must, and to minimize the cost of effectively operating our Air Force, if less capability or less capacity or less readiness eventually means we lose even one more young American on the battlefield, we'll all wish we'd made better investments."

In her opening statement, James outlined her three priorities: taking care of people, balancing readiness and modernization, and making every dollar count, which are the foundation of the president's fiscal year 2017 budget.

"Airmen and their families are the Air Force's most important resource and our budget reflects this truth," James said.

The Air Force stopped downsizing and started right-sizing total force end strength to address a number of key areas to include cyber, nuclear, maintenance, intelligence, battlefield Airmen and the remotely piloted aircraft community.

James stated her second priority is getting the balance right between readiness and modernization.

"As we have explained in the past, less than half of our combat air forces are ready today for a high-end fight," James said. "Our aircraft inventory is the oldest it's ever been, and our adversaries are closing the technological gap on us quickly so we simply must modernize."

In 2013, sequestration put a strain on the Air Force, forcing the service to park jets, delay upgrades and halt training, which created a gap in readiness.

"For the last two years we have been trying to rebuild that readiness but of course our Airmen have needed to respond to real-world events across the globe," James said. "If we return to sequestration in fiscal 2018, this will exacerbate the readiness problem and set us even further back. If this happens, our Airmen could be forced to enter a future conflict with insufficient preparation."

In order to equip the force, the Air Force has invested in the F-35 Lightning II, KC-46 Pegasus and the long-range strike bomber, but modernization doesn't stop there.

"The platforms and systems that made us great over the last 50 years will not make us great over the next 50," Welsh said. "There are many other systems we need to either upgrade or recapitalize to ensure viability against current and emerging threats. Without additional funding, the only way to do that is to divest old capability to build the new. That requires very difficult, emotional decisions – decisions that simply must be made if we are truly to provide for the common defense."

According to the Fiscal Year 2017 Air Force Posture Statement, as the challengers of the Air Force employ increasingly sophisticated, capable and lethal systems, the Air Force must modernize to deter, deny and decisively defeat any actor that threatens the homeland and its national interests.

"Twenty-five years of combat operations have dramatically impacted our total force readiness, significantly aged our equipment and has shown the brilliance of our Airmen and the loyalty of their families," Welsh said. "The world is changing, the threat is changing and our Air Force must change with it if we're to remain relevant. Today, American airpower is a given and I believe it's our job, collectively, to ensure this nation's ability to deliver that airpower, when and where it matters most, does not diminish over time."

The posture reflects the third priority, which is the Air Force's commitment to preserving taxpayer dollars with a number of initiatives that include streamlined energy usage and cost saving ideas directly from our Airmen.

Youth club members collecting jeans for homeless teens

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Youth Programs' Keystone Club is leading a drive throughout February to collect and donate jeans for area homeless teenagers.

The Keystone Club is participating in Teens for Jeans, an annual effort to provide jeans for children 18 and under who are in homeless shelters. The Keystone Club is a Boys & Girls Club of America teen leadership program based at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Center.

Collection boxes for donated jeans have been set up at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Center, chapel and medical clinic. Donations of gently used jeans will be accepted in collection boxes until the end of February.

"We take any size of jeans as long as they are gently used and in good condition," said Andrea Black, JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs coordinator and Keystone Club sponsor.

Black said the Keystone Club is participating in Teens for Jeans for the sixth year in a row. In the previous five years, the club has collected and donated 118 pairs of jeans to area homeless youth.

While looking for a community service project to get involved in six years ago, Black said the club members chose Teens for Jeans because a pair of jeans is one of several clothing items requested by teenagers in homeless shelters.

"Giving someone a pair of jeans can change a person's life," Black said. "It means a lot. It is very impactful to someone who doesn't have a simple thing as a pair of pants."

Black said members of the Keystone Club are required to donate two pairs of jeans, whether it's their own pair of used jeans or from their parents or peers.

Teens for Jeans is a program that teaches JBSA-Randolph youth how to give back to their community, Black said.

"It is a way to give back to others who are in need," Black said. "There are people out there that need simple necessities, but don't have them. It instills in the youth to take an active role in their community and to make a change in their community."

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Bryttney London (left), Keystone Club president, and Darian Elkins, Keystone Club secretary, place a Teens for Jeans donation box at the Joint Base San Antonio Youth Center Feb. 3.

Darian Elkins, Keystone Club secretary, said she enjoys seeing the reactions of the homeless teenagers when they receive a pair of jeans.

"They are extremely thankful," Elkins said. "Sometimes it can make me emotional because not everyone has everything I have. It gives them hope that people out there are willing to help."

Bryttney London, Keystone Club president, said Teens for Jeans allows club members to connect with and help homeless teenagers.

"We get to reach out to teenagers like ourselves and make a difference," London said.

Black said Teens for Jeans is held in February because it is Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month at JBSA-Randolph, which includes forums and activities put on by JBSA-Randolph Mental Health Clinic members educating teenagers on how to prevent or stop abusive relationships.

LIBRARIES from P5

books, songs, rhymes and movement activities that engage children and their parents, Robertson said.

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

"It's a bonding experience for the parents with their kids and other parents," Safic-Martin said.

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

Victoria Hart, 802nd FSS supervisory branch librarian for JBSA-Randolph and Lackland libraries, said JBSA libraries provide accessible resources, information and activities to the JBSA community.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information on JBSA libraries, including hours, events and activities, can be found at http://www.jbsalibraries.org. Library contact numbers are JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 221-4387; JBSA-Randolph at 652-2617/5578; and JBSA-Lackland at 671-2678.