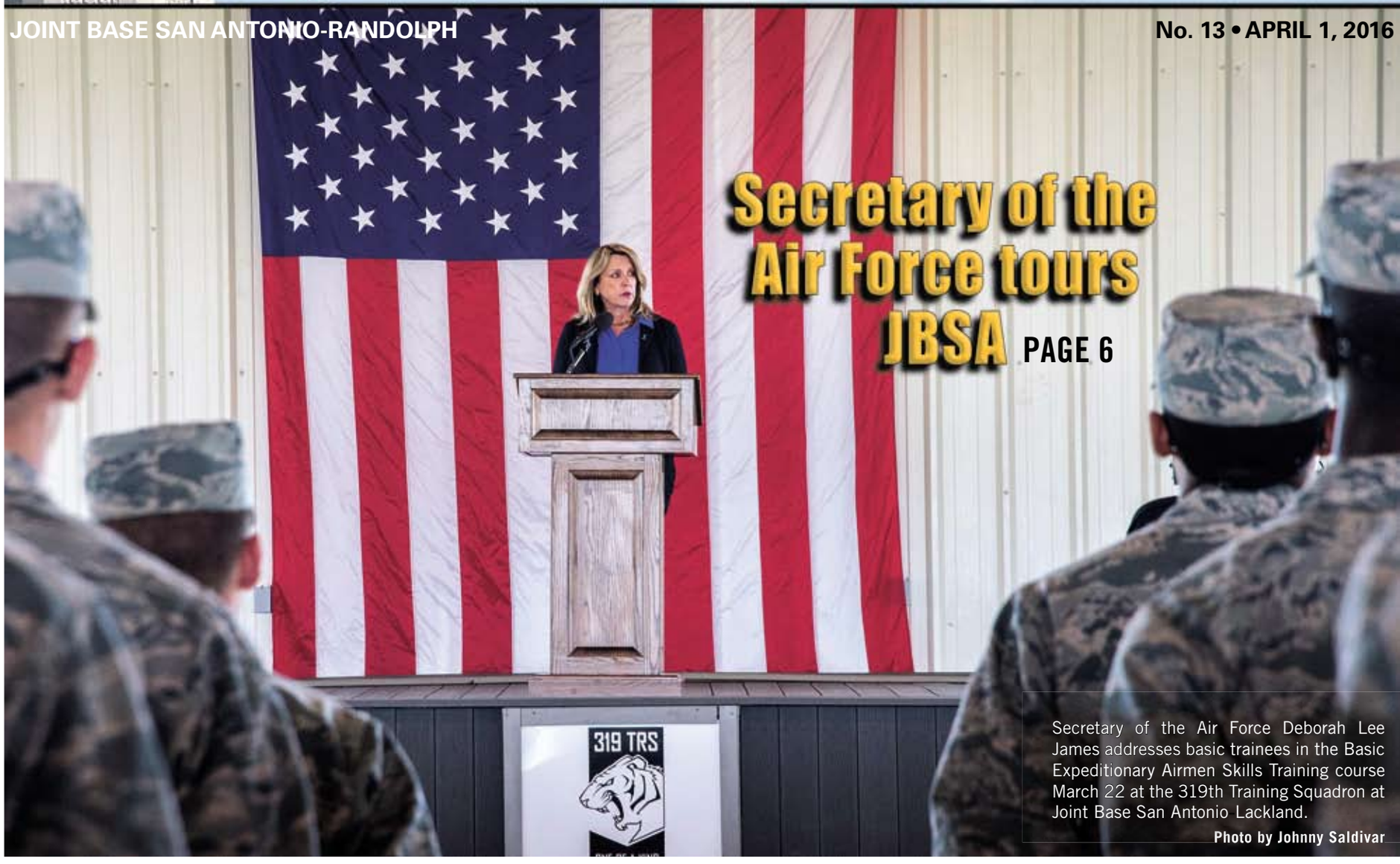
A publication of the 502nd Air Base Wing – Joint Base San Antonio

WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 13 • APRIL 1, 2016



Secretary of the Air Force tours JBSA

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Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James addresses basic trainees in the Basic Expeditionary Airmen Skills Training course March 22 at the 319th Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland.

Photo by Johnny Saldivar

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Brandon May

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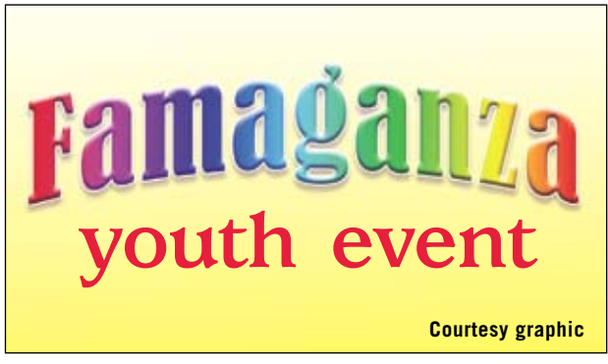

Month of the Military Child, page 8

COMMENTARY

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

Becoming the best Airman: Be the 'wolf'

By Col. Robert Novotny
48th Fighter Wing commander
Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England

There are three meetings I attend every week and they're the most important meetings in my current job.

The first is wing stand-up held three days a week, where we cover the status of our aircrew, pararescuemen, all 81 combat aircraft, the airfield, communications and logistics.

Our mission is simple – deliver precise combat power from the air – and stand-up sets the tone. This, my most important meeting, lasts about 20 minutes, except when we fold in weekly intelligence updates, which adds 10 more.

My second important meeting is the newcomers welcome, held every Tuesday morning. There are no slides. The command chief and I speak to all base newcomers for only 30 minutes.

It's important because everyone needs to "hear it from the horse's mouth" about how important the Liberty Wing is to the national security of the United States and NATO. We don't talk about DUIs, reflective belts or policy letters. We talk about the mission of the wing.

The final important meeting is on Thursdays, when I have lunch with our first-term Airmen, or FTAC, graduates.

After a few days of base indoctrination and adjustment, the command chief and I eat lunch with the FTAC'ers to, again, "hear it from the horse's mouth." I talk for about 10 minutes and the remaining 50-minute lunch is spent answering questions and dispelling rumors. I want them to know exactly how to make a good first impression and how their individual actions impact the wing's mission.

During a recent FTAC lunch, I was asked a well-meaning question by a young Airman. It was actually quite disappointing.

Essentially, this Airman asked if there were any volunteer activities that the chief and I could point him toward so he could highlight himself for below-the-zone promotion consideration.

Regrettably, this was not the first time I'd been asked a question about "extracurricular activities" that might be regarded for promotion or advancement. About half of his lunchmate's ears perked up, while the other half had expressions of disdain. I waited a few seconds to respond.

My answer was simple: "Stop! Wrap yourself in the mission, and become the 'wolf.'"

He looked at me confused, so I went on to explain.

Volunteerism or extracurricular activities are exactly the things I am not looking for. Instead, I want this young American to dive headfirst into their new job. Become the very best Airman: skilled, motivated, optimistic and aggressive about getting the mission done. In my opinion, raising your right hand at basic military training satisfies the volunteerism category for a good couple of years.

As a young pilot, I was consumed by my profession. I spent weekends in our vault, flying the little desktop trainer with classified copies of the tactics manuals open next to the machine. I read countless weapons school papers and never passed up an opportunity to deploy with the squadron.

While there were numerous pilots more talented than me, I would wager that I worked harder than many of them. I also crushed my additional duty as the chief of squadron training. If the operations officer gave me a task, it got done quick.

And suddenly, I became a go-to officer. Unknowingly, I became one of the "wolves."

I told this young Airman about becoming the best in their flight, section or squadron. Be the Airman who, when the squadron deploys, your name will be high on the list because you know your craft, you work hard, you're a good teammate and, if there's a crappy job to get done, leadership can count on you to "git 'er done."

Harvey Keitel said in "Pulp Fiction," "I'm Winston Wolfe. I solve problems."

Without a doubt, your section chief or first sergeant has an additional duty or project that has command interest – like running the next retirement ceremony, leading the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign in the squadron or something

Those are important tas commander needs to get d she can continue to focus c sion. Like flies that need to the "wolf" makes light of t alleviating the burden on t

Be the first Airman into training – the one who kno orders and Air Force Instru ter than anyone. Always be help with the toughest surg broken jet, longest mission session, rainiest guard post weekend shift or what hav dependable, competent, eff aggressive. Understand how where you fit into the wing sion and why your job is in

Finally, be the Airman w to say "yes."

I firmly believe these i being captured by our en evaluation system change the roll-out has been roc we're far from perfect, I' ibly pleased with the cha ward recognizing "wolves

At Lakenheath, we've m to our quarterly awards, p ing mission accomplishmen other categories. We are lo identify and promote "wolv

Don't get me wrong, v ing because you have tim you genuinely want to vo awesome. Events like ou awards party, the Air Fo the maintenance professi the year banquet, our 9/1 brance ceremony and mo made possible because o But volunteering because to round out an awards p not what we need. Spend time learning more abou

Wing commanders coin "wolves." Squadron comma ers promote "wolves" to Se nior Airman below the zon

There is no secret. It's s best in your section, flight Evolve into the "wolf" and antee you will find what yo

WINGSPREAD

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

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

Committed to change: What is #STOP107?

By Daniel R. Katka
502nd Air Base Wing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response deputy program director, community relations director

By now, you've probably seen a red and black "#STOP107" sign at one of the Joint Base San Antonio locations.

You may have even called the telephone number listed on the sign (808-8986) to find out what it means. If you did, you found out that every 107 seconds someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. Yes, you read that right, every 107 seconds!

Below is an excerpt from the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network's website (http://www.rainn.org) explaining where this staggering statistic comes from:

Every 107 seconds, another American is sexually assaulted.

Here's the math: [According to the U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey, there are an average of 293,066 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year.] There are 525,600 minutes in a non-leap year. That makes 31,536,000 seconds/year. So, 31,536,000 divided by 293,066 comes out to one sexual assault every 107 seconds.

How often does sexual assault occur?

There is an average of 293,066 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year.

There is some good news.

Sexual assault has fallen by 49 percent in recent years.

Because of the progress made in the last 20 years, there are an estimated 5.5 million less Americans who have become victims of sexual violence.

While we should be happy that we're making progress, we are still a very long way from solving this problem.

(The entire article can be found at https://rainn.org/get-information/statistics/frequency-of-sexual-assault.)

So, the mystery of "#STOP107" is solved. Unfortunately, the issue it references isn't.

But, what if we could stop a sexual assault from happening by the 106th second? What if 107 never happened? Would you stop it from happening if you could? It will take courage to tell others to stop inappropriate behaviors.

It will take guts to step in if you see someone in trouble. But, no matter what military uniform we wear, if we help each other, if we watch each other's backs, then we can stop 107 from happening. One hundred seven needs to stop. We can do it! Do your part … STOP 107!

The JBSA Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program is committed to supporting those affected by sexual violence and putting an end to this horrific crime. April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and the #STOP107 initiative complements the Department of Defense's SAAPM campaign: "Eliminate Sexual Assault; Know Your Part, Do Your Part."

Courtesy graphic

Throughout the month, there will be many events promoting awareness and educating the community on sexual violence. There will be information tables set up every week at exchanges, fitness centers, dining facilities and shoppettes. Talk with a staff member or volunteer to learn more.

To report a sexual assault, call the JBSA 24/7 Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline at 808-7272 or the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247. For more information, call the JBSA-Randolph SARC office at 652-4386, the JBSA-Lackland office at 671-7273 or the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston office at 808-8990.

• For a complete list of Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month events, see page 13.

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.

Event recognizes importance of wingmen all year #notjustApril

By Tech. Sgt. Bryan Franks
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

Senior leaders kicked off the Air Force's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response #notjustApril campaign March 17 during an event at the Pentagon.

The Secretary, Chief of Staff and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force joined other Airmen to read testimonies from sexual assault survivors and discussed Airmen's roles in supporting sexual assault survivors and preventing this crime.

The event promoting the #notjustApril campaign came in front of the Department of Defense's official recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April to highlight the importance of Airmen's engagement all year.

Using the Air Force core values as the foundation for her comments, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James said integrity is imperative in this issue and the Air Force needs to look in the mirror and accept the fact that there is a problem.

"I think it's getting better," James said. "However, we need to look at ourselves and our shortcomings and identify ways we can continue to improve."

James went on to say that Airmen's 'service before self' is not only answering the nation's call to serve, but also the call to serve each other.

"Survivors of sexual assault deserve the support of the institutional Air Force, but they also deserve the support of their peers and their wingmen," James said. "Wingmen play a vital role in building and restoring units' climate and in supporting victims in their recovery."

James challenged leaders from commanders to frontline supervisors to demonstrate excellence by setting a professional atmosphere, enforcing the standards of conduct and being prepared to walk the walk.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III spoke about members of one Air Force – active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, officer, enlisted and civilian Airmen – who stand side by side and shoulder to shoulder to provide whatever is needed to prevent sexual assault.

"We have lots of numbers in the business, as we track different things," Welsh said. "I would offer to you that the only number that really matters is one. One victim, one criminal, one event, one life shattered, one family shattered, one unit forever affected … now multiply that one person by all the lives that they touch and then multiply that number by 2,400. That's the impact."

Welsh also said that prevention starts with averting one sexual assault, and it must continue one by one until all are stopped.

"It's about one and the only number more significant than that one is zero," Welsh said. "When we get there, we will celebrate and we will work harder the next day to make sure it stays there."

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody said that in his time as the highest ranking enlisted member in the Air Force, he has evolved how he looks at sexual assault prevention after hearing a friend's story.

"You are going to go out, you are going to experience life. Our Airmen have to trust each other enough so they know we will always be there for each other. We're never ever going to blame them for something horrific that's happening. We are just going to be there to try and help them. We can never rewind the clock, but we can be there to support them."

Chief Master Sgt. James A. Cody
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

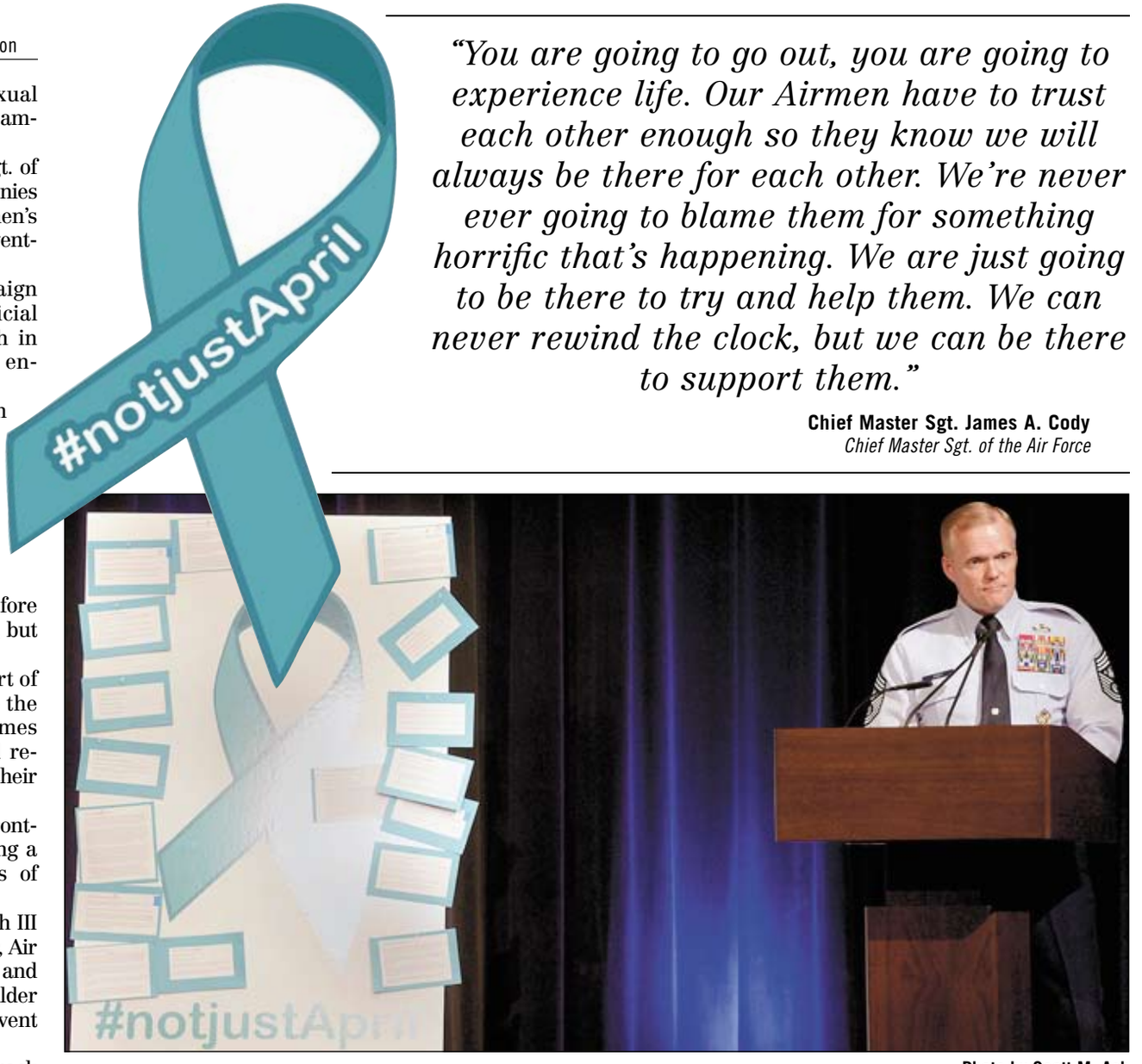


Photo by Scott M. Ash

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody shares a story that influenced him, both as a senior enlisted leader and the father of a college-aged daughter, March 17 during a Sexual Assault Awareness Month event at the Pentagon. The event included participants who read actual testimonials of victims.

His friend's daughter was excited about joining the Air Force, but as she was getting ready to leave home, she told her father she was afraid of being raped. When her father asked why, she confided she had been sexually assaulted at a high school party after having a drink. Despite their great relationship, she had been ashamed to tell her father before because he had warned her not to drink and how to dress, and she blamed herself.

That's when Cody realized he had often said the same things to his daughter.

"I wasn't helping her be any safer," Cody said. "I was really just building up an environment where if something happened, she couldn't feel she could come to me because I had already told her it was her fault every single time I watched her walk out that door."

Cody said the experience changed his dialogue with his daughter and helped him better understand prevention. They began talking about the wingmen she was going out with and who would have her back.

"You are going to go out, you are going to experience life," Cody said. "Our Airmen have to trust each other enough so they know we will always be there for each other. We're never ever going to blame them for something horrific that's happening. We are just going to be there to try and help them. We can never rewind the clock, but we can be there to support them."

AETC command chief shares vision, priorities

By Tech. Sgt. Beth Anschutz
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command's newest senior enlisted leader, Chief Master Sgt. David Staton, recently shared his vision of a successful tour as command chief.

Staton took the reins as command chief in January, but is no stranger to the First Command.

Service to AETC is woven throughout Staton's career. In all, he has spent more than half of his 28 years of service within AETC, to include assignments as a military training instructor, an instructor at the MTI schoolhouse, a basic military training squadron superintendent and two command chief positions, one at the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., and most recently for 2nd Air Force at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

Staton said although he is familiar with the majority of what the command accomplishes daily, he is looking forward to learning even more about certain mission areas, such as Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., where he immersed himself in the AU mission during a recent base visit.

"I have learned the AU machine is very complex and what they do day-to-day is critical to the success of the professional development and education of our Airmen across the Air Force," Staton said. "I am very excited to learn more and support the first-class, intellectual and leadership center of the Air Force."

Staton said he is also eager to learn more about the recruiting mission, where the command's mantra of "Airpower starts here" couldn't be more true.

"I look forward to learning more about how the recruiters operate and attract our country's finest, and how I can best help them accomplish their mission," he said. "Recruiters are the face of the Air Force where there is little to no Air Force presence. It's important for me to know how I can best support them."

Staton said AETC is on a great path and his goal is to keep moving forward with the command vision to forge innovative Airmen to power the world's greatest Air Force.

"I plan to pick up the ball and move it forward, as best I can, by working very closely with our phenomenal commanders, chiefs and leaders in AETC," Staton said. "As the Air Force's First Command, we must continually help our Airmen to be more creative and find innovative means to effectively and efficiently prepare our newest Airmen to fly, fight and win."

The chief said his main priorities are in line with and support the strategic goals of Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander. Roberson released the command's 2016 Strategic Plan in January listing his vector areas as motivational mission accomplishment, taking care of Airmen and families, innovation, and leadership.

Staton believes the key to leadership is support and communication.

"I have a very basic leadership mentality; lead your Airmen, support them in their professional and personal life and help them grow," he said. "The most important and meaningful way to do this is simply good old fashioned, day-to-day, face-to-face contact with our Airmen, at all levels. I want supervisors to see their subordinates face-to-face every day, to the largest degree possible."

Photo by Airman 1st Class Brandon May

Chief Master Sgt. David Staton (left), command chief of Air Education and Training Command, and Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson (center), AETC commander, speak to Senior Airman Samuel Hahn, 47th Medical Group Public Health technician, during a base tour March 16 at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

Staton said he is also focused on the Developmental Special Duty Program for which AETC plays a huge role. In 2013, 10 positions were designated as DSD because of the unique leadership roles and responsibilities they hold, which involve mentoring and molding future Air Force leaders.

"Being that AETC has more than 90 percent of DSD positions I am extremely invested in continual improvement of the program. We are right in the middle of taking a hard look at the number of military training leaders in the command, as well our professional development of these outstanding non-commissioned officers," he said. "It doesn't stop with MTLs though. We need to make sure we have the right manning and opportunities for our ROTC cadre and staff, as well as our recruiters. Trust me, there is plenty to do, and we have the right leaders in place to get after these opportunities."

The chief said he believes the basics of Airmanship are what sets us up for success; following and trusting in the chain of command, pride in appearance, taking care of each other and properly supervising are the tasks Airmen should be striving to do right every day.

Staton said if the Airmen of AETC should know anything about him, it's that he is a product of what he learned from his MTIs in basic training.

"I still stand up when a second lieutenant, who is as young as my son, walks into a room because that is what we are supposed to do. I take pride in my uniform because it represents the United States of America and our great Air Force. I walk on the left side of someone senior to me. I am a loyal servant to those I follow and those I lead and I take out my own trash," Staton said. "In other words, I don't ever want to forget where I came from and I make an effort to conduct my business with that in mind."

The chief concluded by expressing his thanks for the opportunity to lead the enlisted men and women of AETC.

"I couldn't be more proud of the Airmen and families that make up this command. From our men and women in uniform, to our civilians and contractors, every single person and job counts and has a direct influence of keeping our Air Force the greatest in the world," he said. "My family and I will do our best to make our Airmen proud."

SECAF visits forward operating base of future

By Staff Sgt. Marissa Garner
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Public Affairs

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James visited the 319th Training Squadron's Forward Operating Base of the Future site at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 22.

The FOB of the Future, located at the 737th Training Group's Basic Expeditionary Airmen Skills Training site, is an energy saving initiative that reduces the use of non-renewable energy used at the site by the addition of solar power technologies, according to 1st. Lt. Jason Goins, Air Force Research Lab's Advanced Power Technology Office project engineer, who helped the FOB of the Future go from a concept to reality.

"The project will completely modernize one zone (of the BEAST complex) to demonstrate the benefits associated with smart controllers, microgrids, advanced batteries, solar cells, improved HVAC units, and other energy efficiencies," Goins said.

"Our goal in these kinds of demonstrations is to prove that we can generate electricity on site and control it in such a way that our operations continue no matter what the circumstances," said Lt. Col. Scott Fitzner, AFRL material leader and contributor to the project.

James spoke to trainees attending the course at the BEAST complex about the significance of innovation in regard to the safety and operation of military installations around the globe, as the Air Force relies heavily on diesel generators to provide installation and operational power.

"I want to impress upon each and every one of you that energy is integral to everything that we do in the Air Force," James said. "Our installations are critical to Air Force and joint military operations around the world and our networked total force requires uninterrupted access to energy to fulfill our missions.

"We are a very busy Air Force. More resilient, cleaner cost effective energy resources utilizing innovative technologies will play a vital role in ensuring that we remain strategically agile to meet the demands of today and to also prepare for the challenges of tomorrow."

Traditionally, FOBs in deployed locations rely heavily on diesel generators to provide installation and operational power. Additionally, military convoys are commonly used to supply diesel fuel in contested FOB environments, exposing service men and women to further danger. The AFRL's Advanced Power Technology Office hopes to develop technologies from this prototype to develop a world-wide roll-out of this energy-saving concept, according to Goins.

The demonstration location provides an excellent opportunity to foster and grow an energy-aware culture and consciousness in the 33,000 Air Force enlisted recruits that train at the BEAST facility each year, according to 737th TRG leaders.

Building a prototype of this vision helps guide remaining technology maturation efforts and potentially accelerates the modernization of FOB, Goins said.

"Through renewable and advanced energy technologies, we can ensure our bases have the power to execute their missions, even when traditional energy resources are disrupted," James said. "The same technologies, self-sustaining approach, and energy-aware culture we're demonstrating here at BEAST are just as important across all our bases."

The project falls in line with the U.S. Air Force Energy Strategic Plan, which seeks to improve resiliency, reduce demand and foster an energy aware culture.

The FOB of the Future will undergo a 12-month demonstration or trial run. Data will be compared to a baseline site and evaluated for its effectiveness in its ability to meet energy demand reduction goals. If successful, this project could potentially expand across the Air Force at other deployed locations across the globe.

"If we make these zones 50 percent more efficient, that is a significantly less amount of fuel that we have to convoy in to sustain forward operating base locations," Fitzner said. "We view this as critical to not only reducing our operating costs of these forward operating bases, but also in protecting the lives of our service members."

"I want to impress upon each and every one of you that energy is integral to everything that we do in the Air Force. Our installations are critical to Air Force and joint military operations around the world and our networked total force requires uninterrupted access to energy to fulfill our missions."

Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force

Photo by Johnny Saldivar

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James (left) speaks with two basic trainees before a demonstration at the Basic Expeditionary Airmen Skills Training (BEAST) course March 22 at the 319th Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

AETC, JBSA leaders make pledge to Air Force Assistance Fund

From left: Col. Dana James, 359th Medical Group commander; John W. Snodgrass, Air Force Personnel Center executive director; Chief Master Sgt. David Staton, command chief of Air Education and Training Command; Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander; Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander; Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Cadell, 502nd ABW and JBSA command chief; Col. Michael Gimbrone, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Kathleen McCool, 502nd SFLSG superintendent, sign their Air Force Assistance Fund pledges March 25 in front of the Taj at JBSA-Randolph. The AFAF is an annual effort to raise funds for the charitable affiliates that provide support to our Air Force family in need. The charitable affiliate organizations provide support in an emergency, with educational needs, or a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of our Air Force members in need of financial assistance.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Vietnam War pilots visit 558th FTS, share life experiences

By Randy Martin
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Retired U.S. Air Force Colonels Bob Horne and Ed Garland ambled down the corridor of building 743 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph March 16. At the junction of two halls, they passed model pilotless airplanes and a medieval suit of armor.

"I think it's a flight suit," one said to the other and both laughed like brothers who shared some saga long ago.

Horne and Garland, both search and rescue pilots during the Vietnam War, were meeting with members of the 558th Flying Training Squadron to share their experiences.

"I didn't want to talk about it for the first 15 years afterward," Horne said during a meeting with Lt. Col. Jack Stallworth, 558th FTS commander.

Horne opened a manila folder to show maps, photos and logs from missions in Vietnam. In one log from December 1969 when Horne was a HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopter pilot, he said he was an eyewitness to the legendary search and rescue mission known as "Boxer 22."

Stallworth listened as the older pilot recounted the maneuvers to attempt an extraction for a desperate aircrew stuck behind enemy lines. Ultimately, one of two men was rescued, but the other pilot was later determined to have been killed in action and his remains were recovered in 2003.

"Your voice gets higher," Horne said, laughing about his composure while his aircraft was riddled by anti-aircraft fire. "I was just focused on the mission and trying to get those two men out."

Horne's aircraft was in the air eight hours and was refueled three times in flight.

The rescue mission spanned three days and one other American, pararescueman Airman 1st Class David Davison, was also killed.

"Boxer 22" was just one chapter of Horne's experience as a SAR pilot in Vietnam. He went on to rescue at least seven men while supporting other missions.

"Training is the most important thing," Garland said.

When Garland's F-4 fighter plane was downed by a MiG fighter, he was wounded and rescued by a SAR helicopter. A fellow crewmember however, was not and his remains were recovered years later.

Garland lauded the training the Air Force instituted post-Vietnam, including crew resource management, which he said didn't have as much emphasis during his time in Vietnam.

Horne and Garland toured the remotely piloted aircraft schoolhouse while Stallworth shared icons that serve as a reminder to current students and faculty of the legacy Air Force flyers over Vietnam left.

Horne then called a group of instructors together, and he read from Garland's record of his doomed aircraft and successful extraction.

"You didn't know this, but the helicopter that brought you out is the same one they deliberately crashed at the Son Tay prison raid in November of 1970," Horne said to Garland with a grin.

"I did not know that," Garland said, full of surprise.

Son Tay, a prisoner of war camp operated by North Vietnam during the war, holds a special significance to all Vietnam War veterans. The camp was the site of a major raid designed to rescue American POWs late in the war.

"Hosting these gentlemen reconnected us to our squadron heritage, which is something we don't get enough of," Stallworth said.

Famaganza celebrates Month of the Military Child

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The military child will be in the spotlight this month as Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Youth Programs hosts its 20th annual Famaganza.

Set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 9 at the Youth Programs complex on Main Circle, the spring family festival features food, games, interactive activities, bounce houses, entertainment, arts and crafts, a book fair and information booths with handouts, giveaways and demonstrations. The event is free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders.

"Famaganza celebrates Month of the Military Child," said Andrea Black, JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs director. "Thirty different organizations and helping agencies will take part in the celebration and provide information about their services."

Agencies on hand at Famaganza will include the Military & Family Readiness Center, the Family Advocacy Office and Mental Health Flight, Military and Family Life Counselors and the JBSA-Randolph Chapel.

The event will also showcase the services of organizations such as the JBSA-Randolph Veterinary Clinic, 359th Medical Group clinics, the JBSA-Randolph Library, the 902nd Security Forces Squadron and JBSA-Randolph Fire Emergency Services as well as the contributions of Youth Programs' youth organizations, including the Keystone Club, Torch Club and 4-H Club.

The 902nd SFS will present military working dog demonstrations and the fire department will set up a bounce house shaped like a fire truck, Black said.

A community organization that will be represented for the first time at Famaganza is Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas, she said. The Big Brothers Big Sisters network provides children ages 6-18 with positive relationships through the mentorship of adult volunteers.

San Antonio Dusty Paws will return to Famaganza for the third time, Black said. The nonprofit, foster-based rescue organization offers shelter dogs for adoption.

Famaganza's opening ceremony will feature Youth Programs' baseball and softball players and other sports program participants. Also during the event, Youth Programs' 2016 Youth of the Year, Khadyajah Jenkins, a 17-year-old senior at Randolph High School, will present her Youth of the Year speech and entertainment will be provided by former JBSA-Randolph You Got Talent Family and Teen Talent Contest winner Katryna Marttala, Sharlee and Baylee Krkosa, along with Youth Programs gymnastics and dance program participants.

Black said more than 30 volunteers throughout JBSA-Randolph contribute to the success of Famaganza.

"We depend on our volunteers to help us," she said. "They help us set everything up and keep things running during the event."

For more information on the event, call Youth Programs at 652-3298.

April events at JBSA focus on safety of children

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Classes that help couples manage their emotions and improve their parenting skills are provided on Air Force installations throughout the year, but activities throughout Joint Base San Antonio this month will especially shine a light on the welfare of children.

"Zumbathons" at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph and family festivals at both JBSA locations will headline events observing Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child.

Both Zumbathons are Saturday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at JBSA-Randolph's Rambler Fitness Center.

"The Zumbathon is meant to raise awareness of child abuse and child abuse prevention," said Norma Leal, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Family Advocacy Program outreach manager. "Not only does this exercise offer a positive way for parents to release stress, it also promotes a healthy lifestyle and self-care."

Leal said Family Advocacy Program representatives will give parents tips during water breaks, offer resources and time-out suggestions and talk about the period of "purple crying," the time in babies' lives when they cry more than at any other time.

Angela Nance, JBSA-Randolph Family Advocacy Program intervention specialist, said Zumba and other forms of exercise help parents relieve the stress that comes with parenting and daily life in general.

"Exercise increases your overall health, your sense of well-being and improves your mood," she said. "We know parenting can be a challenge; however, incorporating exercise in your life can relax you and lower your stress level.

"So if you are feeling frustrated or stressed out, it is important to get some exercise to relieve those feelings," Nance said. "Zumba is a great way to get your body moving."

Nance said the Family Advocacy Program will have a table outside the Zumbathon exercise room to provide information about child abuse and child abuse prevention as well as services and classes provided across JBSA.

Month of the Military Child will be observed at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph with family events.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs will celebrate baseball opening day at 9 a.m. April 9 at the Dodd Field Youth Sports Complex. The event will feature music, information booths, food and games.

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs will host its 20th annual Famaganza from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 9 at the Youth Programs complex on Main Circle. The event will include food, games, bounce houses, arts and crafts, entertainment, demonstrations, a book fair and information booths.

The month's events will also feature classes offered throughout the year at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph. These include "Master Your Emotions," "Effective Communication," "Stress and Time Management," "Love and Logic" and "Anger Management."

Nance said the JBSA locations will again join the Cardboard Kids Campaign created by ChildSafe, a Bexar County trauma-focused care center for child victims and child survivors of abuse and neglect and their non-offending family members.

According to ChildSafe, Cardboard Kids are "2-foot-tall cardboard figures shaped like children that represent one of the thousands of children that are abused and neglected at the hands of adults in our community each year."

Starting April 7, the Cardboard Kids will be seen at locations throughout JBSA, Nance said.

"You'll see them at banks, child development centers, youth centers, base and post exchanges and commissaries," she said. "Each Cardboard Kid will have a child's

See EVENTS P9

Runners gearing up for April 24 JBSA Half Marathon

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Hundreds of runners are expected to turn out April 24 for the third annual Joint Base San Antonio Half Marathon, which begins at 7:30 a.m. at JBSA-Randolph.

The course for the 13.1 mile race will start on Harmon Drive near the main gate and take runners by the Taj, around Perimeter Road, through the housing area and end at Air Heritage Park.

Marlin Richardson, JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center chief of fitness and sports, said JBSA-Randolph provides a historic setting for the runners participating in the half marathon.

"The atmosphere is going to capture you," Richardson said. "You get to run through a very historical route and base."

JBSA-Randolph has hosted the last two half marathons, with 390 runners competing in last year's race.

Water stations will be placed every two miles on the race course and first aid stations will be located at the start and finish lines. Both the water and first aid stations will be manned by volunteers from the JBSA-Randolph Company Grade Officers Council, who will also help with traffic control.

Officers from the 902nd Security Forces Squadron will set up road closures and help maintain traffic flow around JBSA-Randolph during the race.

Curtis Sparrow, Air Force Personnel Operations Agency computer system administrator at JBSA-Randolph, is training for the event. Sparrow said he is looking forward to running on the race course he trains on. He runs six days a week on Perimeter Road, averaging more than 160 miles a month.

"I love this course because it's flat," Sparrow said. "It makes it a lot easier to complete."

Sparrow, who is 62 years old, ran his first marathon 15 years ago at the age of 47. He has participated in 21 marathons and ran the first two JBSA half marathons, finishing as the top male runner in his age group each time.

Sparrow said two individuals he met in the early 2000s – John Calvaresi and Bill Hamm – inspired him to continue running. He went on walks with both men, who were in their 80s, at JBSA-Randolph and walked with them in 5K races. Calvaresi and Hamm had also run in marathons, with each participating in at least 100 of them.

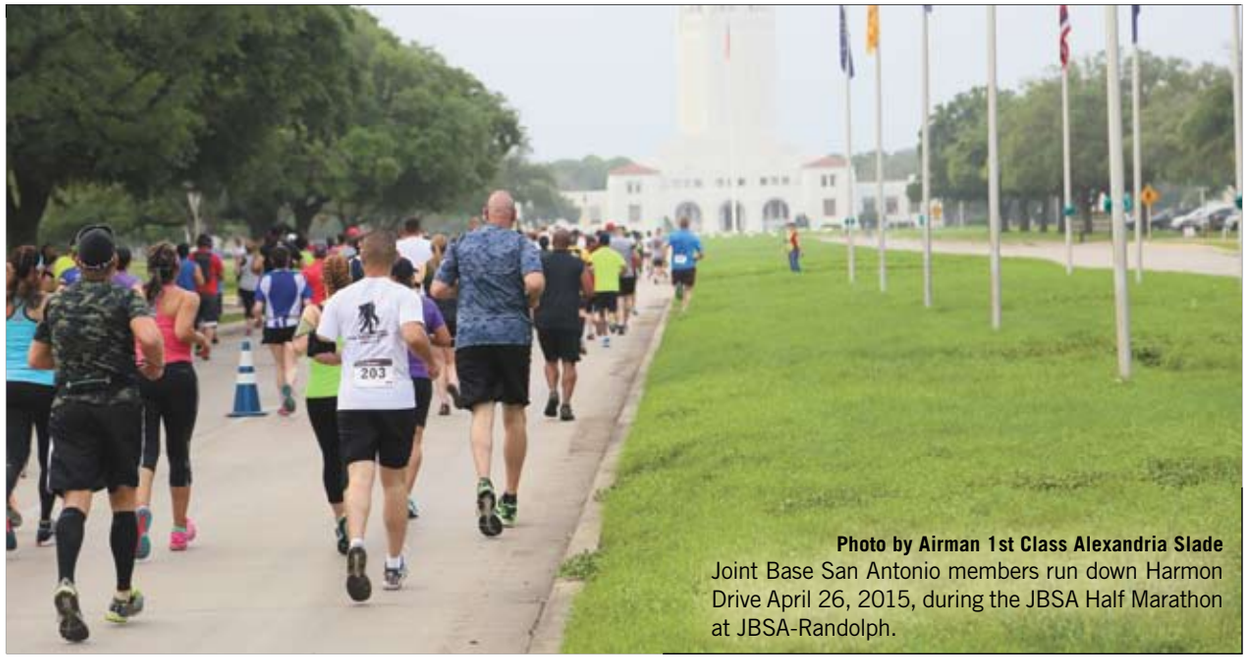


Photo by Airman 1st Class Alexandria Slade
Joint Base San Antonio members run down Harmon Drive April 26, 2015, during the JBSA Half Marathon at JBSA-Randolph.

"They inspired me to do what I'm doing right now," Sparrow said. "They have inspired me to inspire other runners."

Sparrow runs and works out with co-workers at JBSA-Randolph. Any time he spots a runner, whether it's during a race or on his daily run, who needs to be encouraged to finish, he will run with them at their pace.

"I enjoy running," Sparrow said. "I want other people to be able to enjoy it like I do. For a lot of people to run with somebody else, or walk with somebody else, it just makes it that much easier to do it."

Sparrow said the ultimate reward he gets from running is finishing the race.

"I've never worried about time," Sparrow said. "My goal is to complete whatever race I'm doing."

Active-duty service members and Department of Defense ID cardholders have until April 20 to register for the half marathon at https://www.athleteguild.com/running/randolph-afb-tx/2016-3rd-annual-jbsa-half-marathon. The registration fee is $25 per runner. The race is open to runners 12 years of age and over.

Runners can pick up their registration packets April 23 at the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or on the day of the race at the JBSA-Randolph main gate from 6-7:15 a.m.

Trophies will be awarded to the top male and female runners in each of the six age group categories; 12 to 17, 18 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59 and 60 and over. Each runner will receive a commemorative T-shirt and all runners who complete the race will earn a medal.

Parking for the event is free and will be available at Air Heritage Park, Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union and the base exchange.

For more information on the JBSA Half Marathon, contact the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center at 652-7263.

EVENTS from P8

first name on it. When you turn it over, you'll see a message asking you to join in the campaign to stop child abuse."

Nance said the purpose of the campaign is to "bring awareness to the different kinds of abuse that children in Bexar County have suffered."

"In 2014, there were more than 5,000 documented cases of child abuse in Bexar County," she said.

JBSA is also part of Prevent Child Abuse America's Pinwheels for Prevention campaign, Nance said. Blue pinwheels will be placed at locations throughout JBSA.

"The color blue represents child abuse awareness," she said.

JBSA-Randolph will also present two Child Development Lunch and Learn sessions at the Child Development Annex on H Street, Nance said. The sessions are "Nutrition and Development" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 14, presented by Capt. (Dr.) Sarah Donigan, San Antonio Military Medical Center pediatric resident, and "Child Maltreatment Recognition" from 12:30-2 p.m. April 28, presented by Dr. Shelly Martin, child abuse pediatrician.

Nance said the Air Force offers numerous resources – Military OneSource, family advocacy programs and mental health flights among them – to help build resilience in its families and prevent child abuse.

"A majority of what we do is outreach and prevention," she said. "There are classes out there to help parents. We also offer individual counseling to active-duty members and their families. If we have healthy parents, we can have healthy children."

Family Advocacy Program intervention specialists also respond to child abuse allegations, Nance said.

"Child abuse affects children of all ages, races and incomes," she said. "It happens in all types of families."

JBSA-Randolph road closure

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Crossover Road will be closed April 1 at approximately 2 p.m. It will reopen April 2 at approximately 3 p.m. The airfield and roadway will undergo a restriping operation. Motorists are advised to find alternative routes during this time.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
News Briefs

RESC spouse scholarships

The Randolph Enlisted Spouses' Club is accepting scholarship applications for enlisted military spouses in the amount of $1,000 per recipient. Applications are available at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Education Center and the Military & Family Readiness Center. Applications must be postmarked no later than today. Questions or requests to receive an application by email should be sent to Randolphesc@hotmail.com.

Public speaking seminar

The next public speaking seminar is 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday at the Gaylor Professional Development Center. The course is open to all enlisted, officers, NAF/GS employees and contractors. To register, visit https://cs3.eis.af.mil/sites/OO-ED-AE-15/default.aspx.

Retiree Appreciation Day

A Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Retiree Appreciation Day is 9 a.m. to noon April 23 at the Kendrick Club. There will be representatives from government agencies, veteran organizations and local organizations attending. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet with fellow retirees and obtain valuable information. For more information, call the JBSA-Randolph Retiree Activities Office at 652-6880 or 877-282-2441.

Child safety seat class

A car seat safety clinic is 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, call 221-0349 or 652-6308.

JBSA hosts Proud Week Clean-Up

Joint Base San Antonio will conduct the Spring Proud Week Cleanup April 11-15 in order to promote pride and maintain a high beautification standard throughout JBSA. Proud Week provides a specified time period where resources are allocated to conduct general area building maintenance, environmental maintenance (landscaping), clean-up of work areas and enhance the appearance of JBSA and its facilities.

Key tasks will be to remove trash, old furniture, fallen tree limbs, brush, grass from sidewalks and non-household trash. Personnel will sweep sidewalks and curbs, and conduct a general inspection of fields, streets and parking lots in areas of responsibilities to include assigned work areas, storage and warehouse areas. Bag and bundle all trash as appropriate and transport to trash collection points or nearest dumpsters. This is a four-phased operation (phases may overlap if additional time is required) that includes pre-inspection, cleanup operations, final inspection and after action review.

Street construction planned

The 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron is conducting a re-pavement 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:

- Monday – 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.

12th FTW team tackles problems in use of AIR Card

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

A 12th Flying Training Wing Continuous Process Improvement team recently brainstormed ways to address inefficiencies in a program that requires the use of a federal government credit card to purchase jet fuel at off-station locations.

The CPI team, which met March 15-18 and March 23, identified 11 possible solutions, or countermeasures, in response to an Air Force Audit Agency analysis of the Aviation Into-plane Reimbursement Card program that revealed problems such as inaccurate and duplicate transactions as well as purchases that exceed an aircraft's fuel capacity.

CPI event facilitator David Bernacki, 12th Operations Support Squadron lead Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals weapons system civilian simulator instructor, said some of the countermeasures incorporate automation and new technologies for efficiency to ensure savings.

"The process will ensure stewardship of Air Force resources by validating the accuracy of transactions worth millions of dollars," he said.

CPI team member Angi Werley, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate resource adviser at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., said she believed the best countermeasure "would be appointing a wing refueling document control officer who can devote time and energy to the program and ensure that the wing is properly billed for its aircraft fuel usage."

Among the other countermeasures identified were using electronic processes to expedite the forwarding of fuel receipts to the WRDCO, appointing a squadron-level RDCO to collect receipts, acquiring a software program that reduces receipt verification time by 95 percent, ensuring all fuel receipts are maintained in accordance with Department of Defense and Air Force directives and restricting the AIR Card limit to not exceed the maximum fuel capacity of each aircraft, Bernacki said.

Another CPI team member, Rachel DeMone, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate resource adviser at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, said a key to improving efficiencies with using the AIR Card is "standardization of squadron practices in regard to receipt control."

"The team felt it was imperative to assign RDCOs at the squadron level to ensure a sound flow of receipts for validation," she said. "Formal assignment of the 12th FTW WRDCO is pending, but the team created an interim process to guarantee billing systems and receipts are reconciled prior to acceptance of payment. The appointed WRDCO will champion wing guidance in the form of an operating instruction to fill procedural gaps in the existing Air Force Instruction 11-253, which governs off-station purchases of aviation fuel and ground services."

DeMone said the audit, which covered the period Oct. 1, 2014, to Aug. 31, 2015, revealed deficiencies such as 116 duplicate transactions valued at $120,000, 10 transactions valued at $13,000 that exceeded the aircraft fuel capacity, 682 fuel charges against unassigned tail numbers valued at $28,000 and missing receipts valued at $92,000.

In addition, the lack of designation of a WRDCO equated to no validations of 39,792 transactions.

"Based on the number of missing receipts, it was projected that 26,529 of 39,792 transactions, valued at $19.5 million, were not validated for accuracy," DeMone said.

Bernacki said the audit covered 12th FTW flying operations at JBSA-Randolph, NAS Pensacola and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The CPI event featured Col. Michael Snell, 12th FTW vice commander, as champion and Col. Matthew Isler, 12th FTW commander, as process owner. Champions dedicate resources, assets and people to an initiative, while process owners lead an organization or group, a team lead and other members.

CPI team member Lt. Col. Keith Eveland, 99th Flying Training Squadron assistant director of operations, said the event resulted in "some new processes that will close the gaps found in our current process."

"The team worked well together to solve a complex problem that affects accountability for a large portion of the wing's mission and resources," he said.

DeMone said she foresees action plans stemming from the CPI event "that will positively change the way we are doing business while saving the government thousands, if not millions, of taxpayer dollars."

"The process will ensure stewardship of Air Force resources by validating the accuracy of transactions worth millions of dollars."

David Bernacki
12th Operations Support Squadron lead Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals weapons system civilian simulator instructor

Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Lt. Col. Keith Eveland (right), 99th Flying Training Squadron assistant director of operations, briefs Col. Michael Snell (left), 12th Flying Training Wing vice commander, and David Bernaki, 12th Operations Support Squadron lead Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals weapons system civilian simulator instructor, March 18 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO OBSERVES EARTH DAY

How the Edwards Aquifer affects everyone

By Brian Hummel
502nd Civil Engineer Squadron pollution prevention manager and aquifer recharge specialist

Joint Base San Antonio is celebrating Earth Day and National Environmental Education Week by publishing an environmentally focused article each week in April. Earth Day is April 22, but since there is only one earth, we should treat every day as Earth Day and incorporate earth-friendly actions into our everyday lives.

Water is vital for all the plants and animals on the earth, including humans, but what we might not know is where much of Central Texas gets its water and how it gets there.

Directly under much of Central Texas lies the Edwards Aquifer, one of the most abundant artesian aquifers in the world. Water from the Edwards Aquifer bubbles up from the ground in numerous significant springs that provided water to Native Americans for thousands of years.

Along with prehistoric stone tools, there are bones of mastodon, dire wolves, giant tigers, Colombian elephants and extinct horses indicating that these springs were attractive to wildlife as well as ancient humans.

Central Texas has a hot, semiarid climate and clean water is vital for people, plants and other wildlife. These springs are the reason many Central Texas cities are located where they are and why the Spanish chose to establish San Antonio in the early 1700s.

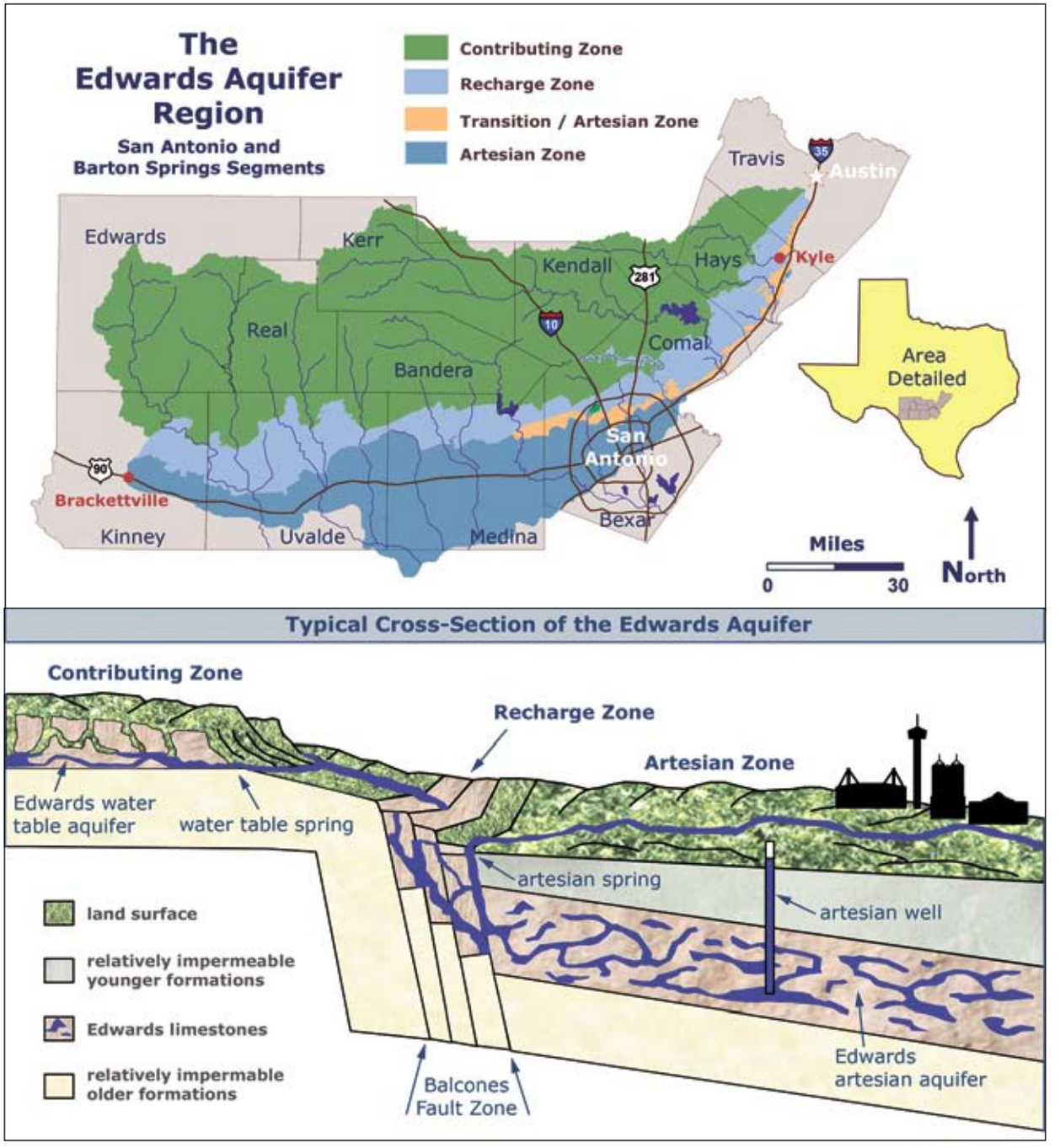
Water that lands directly over the 800,000-acre recharge zone has the opportunity to infiltrate directly into the Edwards aquifer, but this is just 18 percent of the story.

When rain falls onto our porous uplands anywhere in the contributing zone (a 3.45-million acre drainage area), millions of gallons filter into the Upper Edwards Water Table Aquifer. If there is more rain than can be immediately absorbed in the contributing zone, surface water flows downhill until it crosses the recharge zone and it has another opportunity to get into the Edwards aquifer.

If too much rain comes down too fast, muddy flash flooding occurs like what happened last May and October. When this happens, all the rain quickly rushes down the rivers and spends too little time over the recharge zone to recharge significant volumes of water.

If we implement land management practices that slow, spread and sink water into the contributing zone uplands, we dramatically raise the groundwater tables and release this water as crystal clear spring flow.

Because this water flows out of the water table springs for days, weeks and months after the rains have gone, this naturally filtered spring water flows into the creeks as base flow and these creeks flow over the recharge zone for much longer periods of time, recharging significantly more water into the Edwards Aquifer than if it rushes by during a flood.



Courtesy graphics

Geographically, the Edwards Aquifer extends through parts of Kinney, Uvalde, Zavala, Medina, Frio, Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe and Hays counties and covers an area approximately 180 miles long and five to 40 miles wide. The total surface area overlying the aquifer is approximately 3,600 square miles. The aquifer is the primary water source for much of south central Texas, including the City of San Antonio and its surrounding communities.

This is how we are working to secure sustainable groundwater supplies for JBSA which will be discussed in more detail in forthcoming articles.

The early Spanish settlers brought the knowledge of how to construct large scale irrigation systems called acequias, or aqueducts, and they started one of the earliest engineered water projects in North America.

See AQUIFER P13

Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention Month Events

Friday

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation Ceremony, Academic Support Building, building 1467, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, 1:30 p.m. Senior leaders from each service branch will come together to mark April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month for the Joint Base San Antonio community. Open to the public. Register at https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=279672&k=0064B0F7C55.

Thursday

"The Hunting Ground"

Dormitory dayroom, 525 C Street East, JBSA-Randolph, 6-8 p.m. "The Hunting Ground" viewing and discussion. An expose of rape crimes on U.S. college campuses, the viewing of the film will be followed by interactive discussion. Refreshments and/or small giveaways may be provided. For more information, call 652-4386 at JBSA-Randolph or 875-1284 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

April 8

"Strike Out Sexual Assault" Bowling Event

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center, 2521 Schofield Road, noon. Join in the fun at this year's "Strike Out Sexual Assault" bowling event. Awards and door prizes to be given. Open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and dependents. To register, call 336-4532 (Army), 513-309-0142 (Navy) and 919-344-2254 (Air Force). Bowlers must pay for ticket at registration.

April 9

Second Annual Student Poetry Slam

Medical Education and Training Campus Student Activity Center basement, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 6 p.m. In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, this poetry competition will feature original works by METC students while their peers judge from the audience. Army, Air Force and Navy students are all welcome. Free food, drinks and door prizes. For more information, call 542-4115.

April 15

"Kill the Silence. A Survivor's Life Reclaimed"

Brooke Army Medical Center Auditorium, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 2 p.m. Guest speaker Monika Korra is the founder and chief executive officer of The Monika Korra Foundation. After she was kidnapped and raped in 2009, she decided she would not live her life defined as a victim. She has grown into a national speaker and author since her trauma, empowering others who hear her. Open to the public.

April 16

Color Run SAAPM 5K Run/Walk, Aquatics Center, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 9 a.m. A SAAPM 5K "Paint the Post TEAL!" color run/walk to raise public awareness and spread the message about the prevention of sexual violence. Free race, food, drinks and door prizes; must register online at https://www.athleteguild.com/running/fort-sam-houston-tx/2016-saapm-5k.

April 20

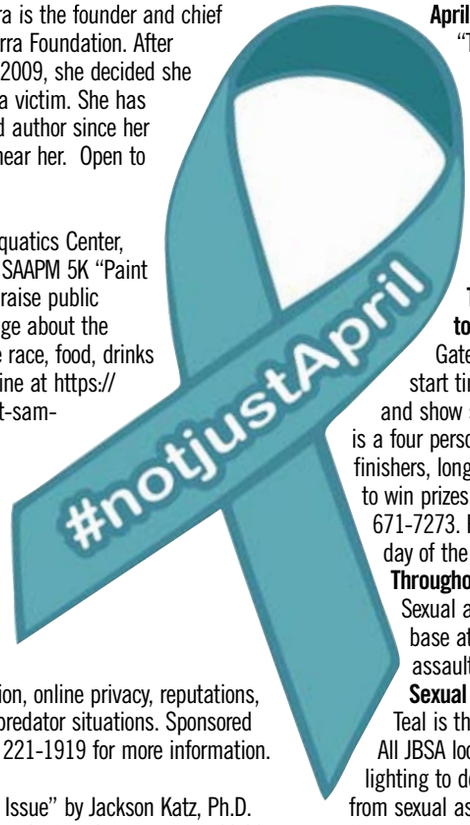
"Netsmartz"

Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Provided by the Texas Office of the Attorney General Criminal Investigations Unit, session will cover human trafficking, exploitation, online privacy, reputations, cyberbullying, sexting and online predator situations. Sponsored by the 106th Signal Brigade. Call 221-1919 for more information.

April 21

"Gender Violence as a Leadership Issue" by Jackson Katz, Ph.D.

Blesse Auditorium, building 2841, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 10:30 a.m. Katz is a nationally acclaimed speaker and activist against sexism and gender violence. His works include the award-winning film "Tough Guise" and book titled The Macho Paradox. He will speak to senior leaders, SAPR/SHARP program personnel and other personnel who work in the area of violence prevention.



April 23

"The Hunting Ground" viewing and discussion.

12:30-2:30 p.m. - Evans Theatre, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. An expose of rape crimes on U.S. college campuses, the viewing of the film will be followed by interactive discussion. Refreshments and/or small giveaways may be provided. For more information, call 652-4386 at JBSA-Randolph or 875-1284 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

April 29

The fourth annual "Drive Out Sexual Assault" golf tournament

Gateway Hills Golf Club, JBSA-Lackland, 1 p.m. shotgun start time. The tournament is an event to heighten awareness and show support to those affected by sexual assault. The format is a four person scramble with prizes for first-, second and third-place finishers, longest drive and closet to pin. Golf goodies and chances to win prizes. To register, email 502abw.cvk.ola@us.af.mil or call 671-7273. Preregistration ends April 22 and will be accepted the day of the event.

Throughout April at All JBSA Locations

Sexual assault awareness information will be distributed on base at various locations. Staff will share info about sexual assault realities, victim services and prevention tips.

Sexual assault awareness ribbon, flag displays

Teal is the color representing Sexual Assault Awareness Month. All JBSA locations will have teal ribbons and flags or special teal lighting to demonstrate support to those JBSA survivors recovering from sexual assault.

The Department of Defense 2016 SAAPM theme is "Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part."

The JBSA SAPR hotline number is 808-7272. Additionally, the other JBSA numbers are 808-8990 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 671-7273 for JBSA-Lackland, and 652-4386 for JBSA-Randolph. Soldiers can call 221-0598, while Navy personnel can call 221-1496.

AQUIFER from P12

They constructed many miles of acequias that slowly transported water long distances through water harvesting ditches with a very minimal slope. This irrigation network brought water to the early Missions and slowed, spread and sunk runoff into the landscape like the veins of a leaf spreading water throughout the leaf landscape.

This water was used to irrigate approximately 3,500 acres of cropland. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston has a section of these acequias running through it, but this section is no longer active. You can see numerous examples of early Spanish acequias around the city and several of these aqueducts are still functioning today after 300 years of use.

The San Antonio Missions were just named the first "World Heritage Site" in Texas and you can visit these sites that are managed by the National Park Service.

Three hundred years later, we continue to use a similar technique to slow, spread and sink storm water runoff into the landscape as free gravity powered irrigation.

In front of the Quadrangle, you can see a grant-funded project that uses the runoff from the downspouts to deeply irrigate some small rainwater gardens filled with plants that have attracted butterflies and other pollinators since 2011.

In 2013, we got three grants to install rainwater irrigated gardens and rain barrels at each JBSA elementary school to help teach school children about the importance of the water cycle, native plants and pollinators.

In 2015, we received a grant to install 1,600 feet of raised pollinator gardens laid out on contour near the Cunningham gate on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. The 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron did the heavy lifting, delivering dirt that was excavated during the elementary school construction and laying the material out to make a raised water harvesting berm on contour.

Girl Scouts and volunteers from the Earth Repair Corps helped plant butterfly plants, cover crops and wildflower seeds that quickly vegetated the exposed soil without any artificial irrigation, whose roots tenaciously hold onto the soil and biologically filter pollutants from the runoff and whose blooms should provide food for pollinators for many years to come.

Each of these projects capture storm water runoff and use it as free gravity powered irrigation instead of rushing it to the San Antonio River and contributing to downstream flooding.

Water is a precious resource and if we use simple ancient practices, we can infiltrate many thousands of gallons of water with every inch of rain, create a healthier JBSA landscape with habitat for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators, reduce the volume of water we withdraw from the Edwards Aquifer and reduce the destructive flooding that comes with large rain events.

You can come and learn more about environmental issues and steps you can take to be friendly to our planet by attending one of our upcoming JBSA Earth Day events happening April 17-22.

To advertise in the Wingspread, call 250-2052.