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WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

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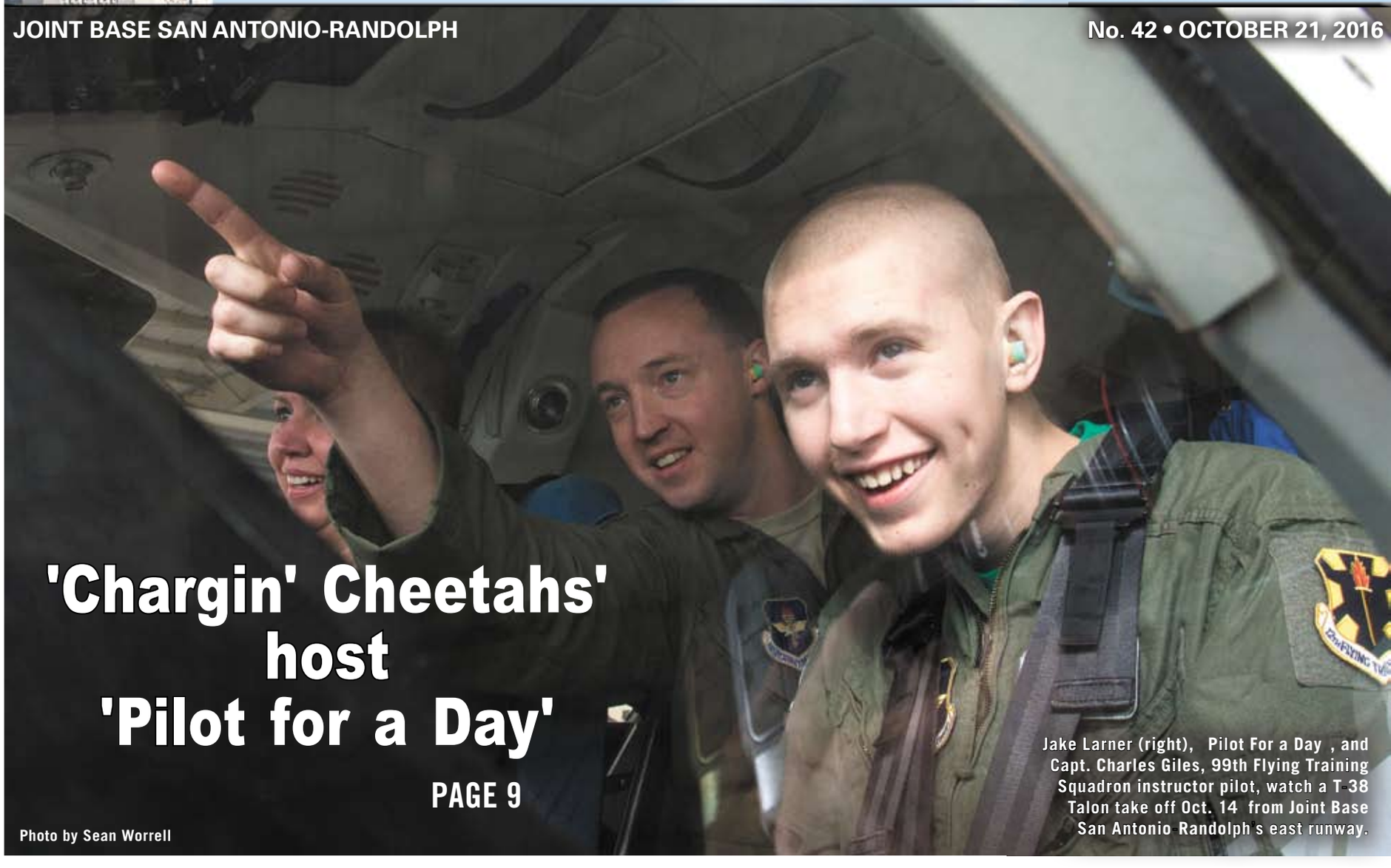

'Chargin' Cheetahs' host 'Pilot for a Day'

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Jake Larner (right), Pilot For a Day, and Capt. Charles Giles, 99th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, watch a T-38 Talon take off Oct. 14 from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's east runway.

Photo by Sean Worrell

Courtesy graphic

JBSA Halloween events, safety tips, page 3

Photo by Joel Martinez

Wingman Café opens after renovation, page 7

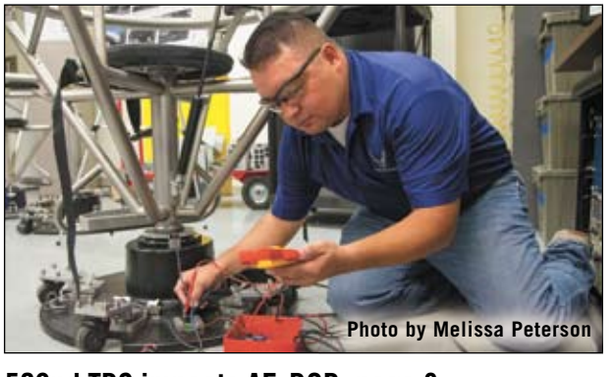

Photo by Melissa Peterson

502nd TDS impacts AF, DOD, page 8

COMMENTARY

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

Core values keep Airmen on track for success

By Chief Master Sgt. Steve Vaughn
9th Air Refueling Squadron superintendent
Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

It was a cool, crisp fall day in west Tennessee as I climbed into my pickup truck.

Only minutes before, I had signed up with the Air Force under the Delayed Enlistment Program at the Armed Forces recruiting station near my hometown. I could hardly contain myself during the drive home as I imagined what life would be like as a member of the United States Air Force.

I had taken a big step, but literally had no idea just how much that simple act would alter the course of my life. Six short months later, I quickly found out the moment I stepped off the bus after arriving at basic military training.

My fellow trainees and I managed to survive the disorienting greeting from our military training instructor that night. After a week or two, we gradually learned to adapt and actually function as a team.

During the third week, my training took another step as I was made dorm chief. From that point on, I experienced many lessons in leadership as I was accosted by our MTI almost daily, not only for my own occasional failure to meet standards, but for the rest of my flight's as well.

Over the course of the following weeks, our transformation from civilians into Airmen was so subtle, we hardly recognized it until we were approaching the end of our training.

I was 27 years old and in great shape, so I didn't mind marching everywhere, but after conducting drills under the warm Texas sun then scarfing down lunch, we were primed for a nap. Naturally, this would be the time the Air Force would have us sit in a comfortable classroom for academic modules.

Staying focused was sometimes challenging, but I always made a concerted effort to pay close attention during these academic instructions. One lesson I found particularly interesting was the module on Air Force core values: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.

The reason why the core values resonated so much with me was because of their similarity to some of the "rules of behavior" my parents had taught me and my siblings. In my family of 10, I was number seven of eight children. With a family that large, we had to learn to get along and play together.

The rules were not cosmic, but simply common sense ways to conduct ourselves when interacting with others. Oddly enough, some of them closely matched the core values.

The first rule I learned growing up was "always tell the truth and do the right thing." This is what the core value "integrity first" is all about. It incorporates honesty, courage and accountability. Do the right thing even when no one is watching.

While not universal, this is probably something we all learned in school, church or the home we grew up in. A person with integrity will invariably behave in a manner that is forthright and truthful, which is the ideal for all Airmen.

When subordinates, peers and leaders see us as being honest and accountable for our actions, we earn their trust while providing a model of behavior for them to emulate. We must always strive to have integrity both at work and off duty, regardless of the situation or circumstance.

The second rule was to, "make personal sacrifices for the good of others." Sacrifice is synonymous with the core value "service before self." It incorporates duty, loyalty and respect.

Staying true to this value can be easier said than done. I cannot think of a nobler calling than to sacrifice one's time, energy and personal desires so our fellow Americans can enjoy "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." It may sound like a cliché, but this is the guarantee our selfless servicemen and women make to our countrymen.

It's important to understand that we're part of something much bigger than ourselves and to serve our country is an honor. We will always be loyal to the United States and our Air Force. Our charge is to be ready and willing to make the ultimate sacrifice if necessary, for the good of our nation. An unwavering dedication and commitment to this ideal is a testament to one's character.

The third rule was to, "always do your best in everything you undertake." It is equivalent to the core value "excellence in all we do" and incorporates mission, duty and teamwork.

We must be technically proficient and do our best every day to ensure we are able to execute the mission. With the importance and complexity of our jobs, we can't afford to complete it twice. We have to do it right the first time. This may mean thinking outside the box to solve problems that impact mission effectiveness.

Almost any issue can be overcome by a team of motivated professionals who embrace change rather than accept the status quo. Our core values provide a moral compass to keep us headed in the right path both on duty and off. I don't see them as a set of restrictions on our behavior, but more of a guide that helps keep us on track with Air Force standards and expectations.

Now, as I sit here 28½ years later, I reflect back on the lessons I learned in basic training. The Air Force holds every Airman accountable to its core values and empowers each of us to tactfully address indiscretion by subordinates, peers and leaders, whenever and wherever it happens.

We serve in the profession of arms and are dedicated to a culture that is held to a higher standard. As such, our behavior must be above reproach at all times.

Each of us must internalize and commit to the guiding principles that shape who we are. Our core values make us better Airmen, better citizens and enable us to achieve future success in the Air Force and beyond.

WINGSPREAD

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No trick- JBSA treats community for Halloween

By Jose T. Garza III
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Public Affairs

Halloween-themed events will abound in the Joint Base San Antonio community. Parents and children can attend the following Halloween events:

JBSA-Lackland

• **Halloween Haunted House** – The 344th Training Squadron will host their fourth annual Halloween Haunted House from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Friday at Bldg. 10900. The event is free to anyone with access to JBSA-Lackland. Attendees are encouraged to dress in costume. Call 671-5028 for more information.

• **Horrifying Haunted House** – The JBSA-Lackland Performing Arts Group will host a haunted house from 7-11 p.m. Oct. 28, 29 and 30 at the Arnold Hall Community Center. Children are advised to enter the house with an adult guardian. The cost is $7 per person and refreshments and candy will be offered. The event is open to individuals with a Department of Defense identification card. "This event is easy to access on base and will be a fun Halloween event," said Tracy Parmer, JBSA-Lackland Performing Arts Group president. Call 671-2619 for more information.

• **Pre-Halloween Lunch Buffet** – The Gateway Club will offer a lunch buffet Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., $10.95 a person. Halloween treats and cakes will be included in the buffet. Department of Defense cardholders can dine at the Gateway Club. Call 645-7034 for information.

• **Halloween Party** – Attendees are encouraged to dress in their best costume for the Halloween Party in the Gateway Club's Lone Star and Maverick Lounge Oct. 28. DJ LJU will be mixing in the Lone Star Lounge from 5-6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Fourth Quarter Band will perform from 6-9 p.m. DJ Tony Style will be in the Maverick Lounge from 5-8 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for best costume in each lounge. "People looking for a good time and looking to meet fellow JBSA members should attend this event," said Cindy Cosner, Gateway Club manager. Call 671-7034 for more information.

• **Zombie 5K Fun Run and Walk** – Zombies looking to compete can participate in the annual Zombie 5K Run and Walk Oct. 31 at the Gillum Fitness Center. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers and the competitor with the best costume. The event is free and open to Department of Defense cardholders. Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. and the race begins at 7:30 a.m. Call the JBSA-Lackland Fitness and Sports Office at 671-2632 for more information.

JBSA-Randolph

• **Fall Hi-Jinx** – The JBSA-Randolph Youth Center will host a Fall Hi-Jinx carnival from 5-8 p.m., Oct. 31. The event is free and open to all Department of Defense cardholders and their families. The carnival will include 22 games and a costume contest where prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place finishers in the following age categories: 0-4, 5-8, 9-12, 13-18 and adults. "This is a wonderful alternative to trick or treating and is a great family event," said Andrea Black, JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs director.

• **Halloween Costume Bingo, Bingo Appreciation** – People are encouraged to dress in their best costume for a chance to win door prizes. The event starts at 7 p.m., Oct. 31 at the Kendrick Club. A free buffet will be offered from 5-7 p.m. Call 652-3056 for more information.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

• **Super Heroes Howl Down** – The Exceptional Family Member Program will host a free event Friday that will include a haunted house, arts and crafts, trick or treating, music and more. EFMP families may participate in this event from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The event is open to all JBSA families after 5:30 p.m. Call 221-2705 for additional information.

• **Teen Halloween Dance** – The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center will host a High School Halloween Dance for grades 9-12 Friday. The dance commences at 8 p.m. The Keystone Club will conduct a food drive in conjunction with the Halloween dance. Cost to enter the dance is four canned food items for club members who participate in the food drive and $5 plus four canned food items for nonmembers. Call 221-3502 for more information.

• **Haunted House** – The Haunted House event is scheduled at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center Saturday and Oct. 28, 29 and 31. People can enter the house starting at 8 p.m. The entry fee is $3 for ages 13 and

and

• **Halloween Bash** Patrons dressed in costumes can

5-11

and 221-4740 for additional information.

Indulge in fun, safe Halloween trick-or-treating

By Jose T. Garza III
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Public Affairs

Halloween is generally a time for fun and celebration, not to mention sweet treat tasting too.

The fun, however, can literally turn into horror if someone gets hurt during the night.

Scary statistics reveal twice as many pedestrian children are killed while trick or treating on Halloween compared to other days of the year, according to https://www.safekids.org/infographic/quick-tips-safe-halloween.

John McLaughlin, 502nd Air Base Wing occupational safety specialist, provided the following safety tips that could help trick-or-treaters eat up the fun of Halloween without getting hurt.

• Purchase costumes that are the right size to avoid slips and trips.

• Decorate costumes with reflective tape or stickers to ensure visibility by drivers in the nighttime.

• Choose to wear face paint rather than masks as masks can obstruct vision.

• Become familiarized with trick or treating areas by taking a walk around the neighborhood.

• Parents should remind their children to stay in well-lit familiar areas if they plan to trick or treat by themselves or in groups without adult supervision.

• Create a clear path for pedestrians to travel by removing obstructive objects like sprinklers, hoses and decorations in the event they get spooked.

• Put electronic devices away, unless they are being used as a flashlight, to stay concentrated on their surroundings.

• Set up a time and place to meet up with groups before driving to avoid distractions on the road.

• Drivers should avoid distractions inside their car so they can concentrate on the road and their surroundings.

• Slow down and be aware of surroundings and pedestrians.

Contact the 502nd ABW Safety Office at 671-5028 for additional Halloween safety information.

AETC leaders line up to fight the flu

Photo by Melissa Peterson

From left: Maj. Gen. Mark Brown, Air Education and Training Command vice commander, Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander, and Chief Master Sgt. David Staton, AETC command chief master sergeant, receive their annual influenza immunization from members of the 359th Medical Operations Squadron Oct. 11 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The immunization clinic staff is providing injections beginning with active duty personnel at the Randolph Medical Clinic and designated locations around base.

Command post: the eyes, ears of JBSA

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Whenever an emergency occurs, the Joint Base San Antonio Command Post is the unit active-duty members, civilian personnel and commanders rely on to keep them informed on what's going on.

Nestled in a basement of a building at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the command post is a 24-hour, seven-day operation that monitors communications of security forces and emergency responders throughout JBSA. The post will notify Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, of any emergency situation that arises and alert active-duty and civilian personnel through AtHoc. AtHoc is an installation and warning system which is part of the Air Education and Training Command Emergency Mass Notification.

Senior Master Sgt. Torrie Perry, 502nd ABW and JBSA Command Post superintendent, said members of the command post keep commanders informed of what's happening at the JBSA installations.

"We are the eyes and ears of the commanders," Perry said.

The command post alerts active-duty and civilian members of any emergencies at JBSA – whether it's a natural disaster, severe weather, aircraft accident, active-shooter or terroristic incident – through emails, popup alerts, phone messages and texts that are circulated through the AtHoc system and the giant voice systems located at all JBSA locations. As required by the Department of Defense, the Command Post must alert JBSA active-duty and civilian members within 10 minutes after an emergency is reported.

In addition, the Command Post helps coordinates efforts to respond to emergencies at JBSA, Perry said.

"We are the connection piece for all the emergency responders at JBSA," he said.

Perry said the command post is responsible for activating the Emergency Operations Center, or EOC. The EOC is comprised of JBSA first responders, including security forces and fire emergency personnel, and JBSA Emergency Management, who go out to mitigate any type of incident or emergency. In an emergency, Perry serves as a liaison between the EOC and the crisis action team, or CAT, comprised of top JBSA commanders and leaders who manage the communication flow and ensure the EOC has the support and resources to manage an emergency at the scene, from an aircraft crash to a natural disaster.

Master Sgt. Albert Hughes, 502 ABW and JBSA command post NCO in charge, said all types of information and notifications come through the Command Post.

"We are the nerve center for information flow at JBSA," Hughes said.

The Command Post relays FPCON and INFOCON notifications, warning orders and operations orders to JBSA members, deployment orders to active-duty members who are about to be deployed and sends out heat stress warnings to commanders and instructors of basic military trainees at JBSA-Lackland. Also, the command post receives and notifies unit commanders of calls from family members who want to notify an active-duty member of a death in the family.

The JBSA command post's Emergency Action Cell, which monitors communications throughout JBSA, is linked to all command post units in the world and is set up to send emergency reports to Headquarters Air Education and Training Command and to Chief of Staff of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

All nine members of the Command Post unit go through a certified training process approved by the 502nd ABW commander, Perry said.

Perry said working at the Command Post presents different situations and problems that have to be dealt with on a daily basis. Several weeks ago, a dorm at the Medical Education Training Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston was flooded because of rain event and the Command Post activated the CAT team to find a shelter site for 800 students.

"Every day you come in there is a new challenge," he said. "I think the one good thing our Airmen get to see is the big picture and the impact they have on the rest of the wing. We are the glue that holds everything together."

Movie Listings

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Fleenor Theater Schedule

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Bridget Jones's Baby (R) 7 p.m.	Storks 3-D (PG) 3 p.m.	Storks 3-D (PG) 3 p.m.
	When the Bough Breaks (PG-13) 7 p.m.	

JBSA Retiree Appreciation Day set for Saturday

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Military retirees or service members who are about to retire can find out about programs and benefits they can utilize from medical clinic representatives, veterans' organizations and agencies and vendors, at Military Retiree Appreciation Day Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Brooke Army Medical Center Medical Mall.

An array of services will be offered at the event, including a health fair and 70 information tables consisting of representatives from medical clinics at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, vendors and agencies and organizations serving veterans and retirees.

Joe Silva, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Retirement Service Officer, said military retirees, their family members or surviving spouses will get an opportunity to meet face-to-face with representatives from medical clinics and veterans' agencies and organizations who can explain the benefits and services they provide to retirees.

"They will have that face-to-face interaction and communication at most every clinic and organization table, which they don't get on a daily basis," Silva said.

At the health fair, free flu shots and immunizations and walk-in mammograms will be provided. Anyone who needs to update their immunizations must bring their shot records.

Any retiree or family member who has a prescription for eyeglasses less than a year old can have them ordered at the health fair.

In addition, JBSA retirees can turn in any expired medication, or any medications they no longer use, to the BAMC pharmacy booth.

Representatives from TRICARE Information and Services will be there to inform retirees of their medical benefits.

Organizations and agencies that will have representatives include the JBSA-Randolph Retirees Activities Office, Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program, the Retired Enlisted Association, Bexar County Veteran Services, Veterans Benefit Administration, San Antonio Veteran Center, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Casualty and Mortuary Affairs, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas Veterans Commission, South Texas Veterans Affairs, Military Officers Association of America – Alamo Chapter, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Exchange Services and the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course.

Marshann Kessenich, a volunteer at the JBSA-Randolph Retirees Activities Office, said she will be informing retirees about the JBSA-Randolph Retirees Activities Office and collecting information from agencies and organizations that help and assist retirees, their family members or surviving spouses at Military Retiree Appreciation Day.

"I will be collecting point of contacts for the retirees office," she said. "I will go and give out our business cards and get contact information for services retirees will need."

Photo by Rich McFadden

Senior Airman Kelly Boos (left), 359th Medical Operations Squadron medical technician, takes a blood pressure reading for Bill Jurczyn Sept. 22, 2012, during Retiree Appreciation Day at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

For information on Military Retiree Appreciation Day, contact the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Retirement Service Office at 221-9004. The office is open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m. Monday-Friday in building 2263, room 200A.

Wingman Café ushers in new era for JBSA-Randolph's DFAC

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's dining facility, or DFAC, which had been closed for renovation since June 2015, reopened last week with a new name, a new look, more food choices and an expanded customer base.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring leaders from the 19th Air Force, JBSA and the Air Force Services Activity highlighted the opening of the Wingman Café Oct. 11.

Formerly known as the Rendezvous Dining Facility, the Wingman Café is a product of the Air Force Materiel Command's Food Transformation Initiative that began in 2010 and has brought new life to Air Force DFACs.

"At our core, our Air Force is built on innovation and change, whether it's the aircraft we fly or the technology we employ, so it only seems fitting that we keep up with transformation and take care of our No. 1 resource, which is our people," said Lt. Col. Amy Glisson, 802nd Force Support Squadron commander, as she addressed guests at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "That's what this dining facility, is really all about."

Since 2012, budget cuts had limited use of the JBSA-Randolph DFAC to Airmen in grades E-5 and below, but the Wingman Café is now open to anyone who has access to the location, a feature emphasized by Glisson.

"What's so cool about the FTI is that we get to open this up to Airmen, NCOs, senior NCOs, officers, civilians, contractors, dependents, mom and dad, grandma and grandpa," she said. "If you are on base, you can come in here and eat. So I think the cultural change that this offers JBSA-Randolph is going to be a significant step into the future as we kind of put our arms around and take care of our family members a little bit more."

Photo by Joel Martinez

From left: Brig, Gen Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander; Col. David Raugh, 502nd Force Support Group commander; Col. Donna Turner, Air Force Services Activity commander; and Brett Ladd, Sodexo vice president of operations, cut the ribbon to the Wingman Café Dining Facility Oct. 11 during the grand-opening ceremony at JBSA-Randolph.

Although the Wingman Café's open floor plan and color scheme make it seem larger, the facility's footprint is unchanged, said general manager Ammie Whaley following the ceremony.

"We moved the seating to one side and the servery to the other side," she said. "The colors make a difference, too. The primary color of the walls is dove gray, with accent colors of pale yellow, Air Force blue and rust."

In addition, the walls of the seating area are adorned with graphics – iconic images of Texas, said Whaley, who is employed by Sodexo USA, the contractor for the renovation project and the facility's operator.

Food choices – especially healthy ones – are central to the improved DFAC, said Robert Murray, 802nd FSS Wingman Café manager.

"People are in awe of all the food stations and all the choices they have," he said.

The dining facility offers expanded dining choices, including the Peking Plate, which is similar to a Mongolian grill; a pizza bar; a deli; and fruit smoothies, Murray said. A "Simply-to-Go" section features sandwiches, salads and other snacks prepared fresh each day for faster service. These items are also offered between normal hours of operation.

A "UFood Grill" delivers popular items found at traditional grills, such as burgers and fries, made with fresh produce, whole grains, light cheeses and dressings.

In addition, a breakfast bar features made-to-order omelets and eggs, a variety of breakfast meats, bread choices, hot and cold cereals, yogurt and granola bars.

The Wingman Café is utilizing a color-coded labeling system through the Department of Defense's Go for Green program to promote healthier food options. The labels give detailed information on the nutritional value of food being served.

In addition to more food choices, the DFAC's hours have expanded.

Breakfast is served 6-9 a.m. weekdays and 6:30-9:30 a.m. on weekends and holidays, lunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and dinner from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Monday-Sunday. The Simply-to-Go section is open 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-4:30 p.m. on weekdays and weekends.

The Wingman Café served more than 500 diners on its first day of operation, Murray said, and he anticipates similar weekday numbers in the future.

Retirees have not been able to use the DFAC since 2007, but now that it's open to anyone with base access, Murray believes they will be a common sight, especially for dinner and on weekends.

Diners approve of the DFAC's transformation, including Airman 1st Class Phuc Hoang Dang, 802nd Force Support Squadron customer support representative.

"There are a lot more food options," he said. "They're also promoting healthier food choices."

Dang, who dined at the DFAC before it was renovated and has been a regular customer since its reopening, said he hopes the FTI concept spreads throughout the DOD.

502nd TDS impacts felt across Air Force, Department of Defense

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

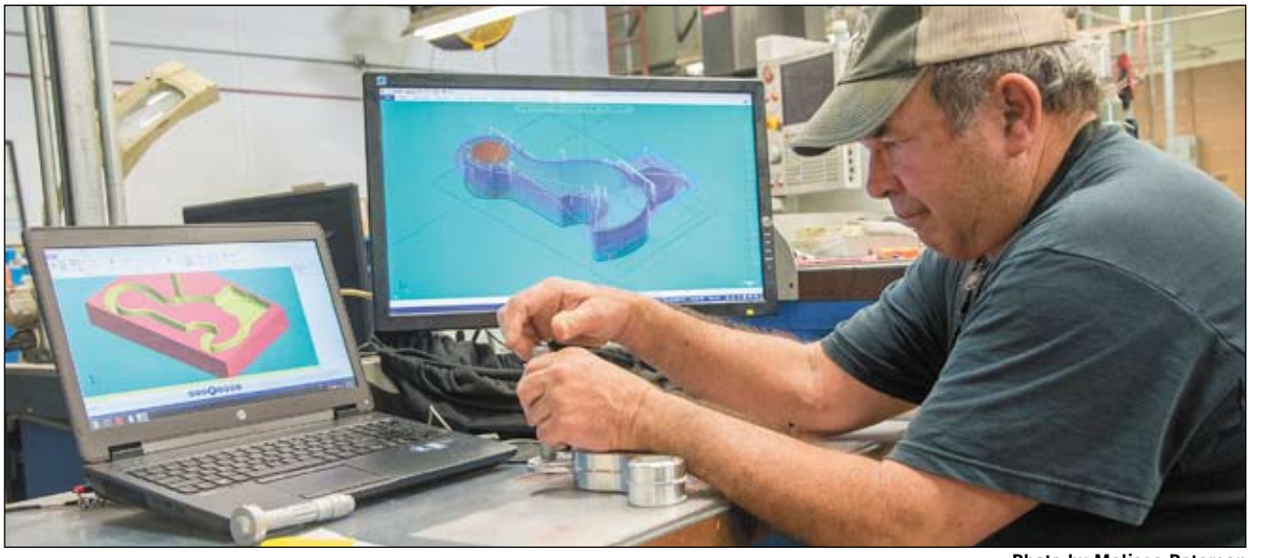

Photo by Melissa Peterson

Rodney Reinhard, 502nd Trainer Development Squadron machinist, compares a ramphook for a C-17 Aeromedical Evacuation Trainer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, that was just cut from a spec design Oct. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The 502nd TDS serves Air Education and Training Command and other Air Force and Department of Defense units, as well as some foreign nations, providing essential devices for flying, fighter, air mobility, technical and other training missions.

A little more than a year ago, the fuselage of a C-17 Globemaster II departed Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph on a flatbed truck bound for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and its new mission at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine as the service's first fully functioning aeromedical evacuation trainer.

The aeromedical evacuation trainer, which provides a realistic environment for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other medical professionals to hone their skills, exemplified the handiwork and technical expertise of the Department of Defense civilians and contractors who belong to the 502nd Trainer Development Squadron at JBSA-Randolph and are an integral part of the Air Force's training mission.

"The men and women of the 502nd TDS care deeply about ensuring that the products they produce are of the utmost quality," said Kevin Haley, 502nd TDS director. "They understand that the trainers that we build will enhance the skills and efficiency of those that place themselves in harm's way. When the Airmen that have honed their capabilities by using one of our trainers are sent into real-world situations, the result is lives are saved. Knowing this creates an attitude of overcoming obstacles and problems in order to deliver a product that exceeds the expectations of our customers."

The 502nd TDS' footprint covers some 70,000 square feet of manufacturing, warehousing, industrial and administrative space in Hangar 74 and buildings 84, 241 and 245.

The squadron, part of the 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group, serves Air Education and Training Command and other Air Force and Department of Defense units, as well as some foreign nations, providing essential devices for flying, fighter, air mobility, technical and other training missions. Those devices benefit numerous career fields, from pilots, navigators and emergency responders to maintainers, weapons and cargo loaders, radio operators and flight engineers.

The squadron's work is multifaceted: They essentially start from scratch, designing the training devices, fabricating parts for them and building, installing and often maintaining them. Their resume is impressive and lengthy: the B-1B Armament Systems Trainer, the C-17 Cargo Load Trainer, C-130 and HH-60 Aeromedical Evacuation Trainers, the Advanced Air National Guard Joint Terminal Attack Controller Training System and the Multi-Mission Crew Trainer to support Air National Guard, to name a few.

The B-1B Armament Systems Trainer, completed about 20 years ago, was especially noteworthy because it saved the government nearly $120 million and gave trainer development a "shot in the arm" in terms of equipment infrastructure and manpower, said Paul Ramsay, 502nd TDS design and development supervisor.

"The project resulted in sophisticated trainers that are still very much in service today, and also significantly enhanced trainer development's design and manufacturing capabilities to provide a long-lasting boost to the unit's ability to accomplish subsequent projects at a similar level of size and complexity," he said. "Following and because of the B-1B AST project, trainer development has been able to continue leveraging the expanded infrastructure to benefit the Air Force and DOD with a legacy of highly capable trainers."

A reduction in manpower following the B-1B AST project did not deter trainer development from its mission, Ramsay said.

"Trainer development has both maintained a core of highly capable manpower that flexibly expands and contracts, based on the requirements of current customer funded projects," he said.

The 502nd TDS' workforce is smaller in numbers than it's been in the past, with 40 DOD civilians and eight contractors, but they often wear many hats.

"We have a small workforce, so this causes many to be responsible for a wide breadth of knowledge," said Keith Seguin, 502nd TDS program manager. "As an example, a project manager needs to know about technology, funding and accounting, requirements, design, manufacturing, some contracting and also be able to interact with customers and subject-matter experts."

The squadron's capabilities range from mechanical design and development, computer-aided design of mechanical components and electronic design and development to machining, structural fabrication and welding.

The training devices achieve a high level of sophistication, as exemplified by the C-17 Aeromedical Evacuation Trainer, which has the ability to replicate in-flight and ground conditions such as sound, vibration and temperature.

While much of the work is accomplished in-house, the squadron reaches out to the industry on a regular basis for highly technical design, unique manufacturing and software solutions, said Joseph Domeier, 502nd TDS project manager.

The squadron's current workload consists of 22 projects, Domeier said.

"That's been normal for the past five years," he said.

One of those projects is building T-6 cockpit simulators to assist the 558th Flying Training Squadron's remotely piloted aircraft mission.

"That project definitely has a lot of our focus," Domeier said. "We will have finished 16 simulators by the end of the current fiscal year."

The 502nd TDS continues to build and refine Bárány chairs, devices that replicate flight environment phenomena and help prepare students for aircrew qualification, in both motorized and nonmotorized versions, said Roger Davila, 502nd TDS project manager.

"We make powered Bárány chairs so aerospace physiology instructors can control the speed of the chair," he said. "With the nonpowered chairs, it's hard to keep a constant speed by hand, so having a powered chair helps the instructors."

Ramsay called working at the 502nd TDS "both rewarding and challenging."

"Every project is different with its own management and technical dimensions," he said. "It's a very special thing to work with the comparatively small but highly capable and forward-thinking group of professionals who are my co-workers. Time goes by fast when you have a multitude of urgent projects for which you must rely on one another to conceptualize and carry out all the tasks required for success."

'Chargin' Cheetahs' honor local student as 'Pilot for a Day'

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

"We sometimes take being pilots for granted, so it's nice to get back to our roots and recollect what it was like when we were young kids dreaming of flying airplanes. Pilot for a Day gives these kids a snapshot into the life of a pilot and other cool things that happen on base."

Maj. Gabriel Repucci
560th Flying Training Squadron Pilot for a Day coordinator

It's uncommon for a 16-year-old high school student to be a distinguished visitor at an Air Force installation, but that's exactly what happened to Jake Larner when he visited Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph for the first time Oct. 14.

A junior at Brandeis High School, Jake enjoyed a special day as the 560th Flying Training Squadron's "Pilot for a Day," a 22-year-old program that gives children with chronic illnesses an experience they'll never forget.

Jake, who was diagnosed with a rare, fast-growing form of lymphoma just four months ago, welcomed the opportunity to spend the day with the "Chargin' Cheetahs," dining with them, donning their flight suit, touring the squadron, seeing three training aircraft and simulators up-close and checking out night-vision goggles at the 359th Aerospace and Operational Physiology Training Flight.

"I've always had an interest in planes, and my stepdad is ex-military, so the chance to do this was way too tempting to pass up," he said. "It's really cool to see how everything works."

Jake's battle with cancer began May 26, when he suffered from intense lower abdominal pains and was taken to the emergency room at the San Antonio Military Medical Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston by his mother, Kristie Davidson.

Appendicitis was ruled out in that first ER visit, but doctors advised that lymphoma was a possibility. The symptoms subsided, but Jacob returned less than a month later when the pain returned. A positron emission tomography scan revealed a tumor in his small intestine, leading to exploratory surgery and an eventual diagnosis of Burkitt lymphoma.

"It was very shocking, so unexpected," Davidson said of the diagnosis. "It just came out of left field. He did not have a long period of symptoms."

Following bowel resection surgery, Jake started chemotherapy treatments and spent most of July at SAMMC.

Davidson stayed at her son's side during that ordeal.

"I work from home, so during that time I worked from his hospital room," she said. "I was able to stay with him day and night."

Davidson said she, Jake and her husband, Charlie Davidson, appreciate all the support they have received.

Photo by Sean Worrell

Maj. Gabriel Repucci (right), 560th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, speaks with Jake Larner aboard a T-38 Talon during his "Pilot For a Day" orientation Oct. 14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

"We have a great network of support from family and friends," she said. "All the doctors were super awesome and the nurses were excellent. They used a whole-health approach to his symptoms."

Maj. Gabriel Repucci, 560th FTS Pilot for a Day coordinator, said it's an honor for the squadron to offer the program to children who are battling serious diseases.

"It's a great opportunity to bring joy into these kids' lives," he said. "We sometimes take being pilots for granted, so it's nice to get back to our roots and recollect what it was like when we were young kids dreaming of flying airplanes.

"Pilot for a Day gives these kids a snapshot into the life of a pilot and other cool things that happen on base," Repucci said.

Jake, whose condition is improving, said much of his battle is feeling positive.

"You can't let cancer get the best of you," he said. "You have to stay on the good side of cancer. Positivity is going to help you more than any drug would."

Jake said cancer patients just want to feel normal, so he advised their loved ones to treat them that way.

"That's why I really cherished when we weren't at the hospital and I wasn't doing chemo," he said. "It definitely felt nice to be at home in my own bed and feel normal and be around my family."

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

Flu Shots now available

Flu vaccinations are now available at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Clinic. Walk-ins are welcome Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call immunizations at 652-3279.

REAL ID Act in effect at JBSA

Joint Base San Antonio will no longer allow unescorted access of individuals with driver's licenses from American Samoa, Minnesota, Missouri and Washington as proof of identity. Visitors, vendors and contractors requiring access with IDs from the above listed states must be escorted by the organization or individual sponsor or must possess and present an alternate form of identification as required by Department of Homeland Security guidance.

Additionally, as part of DHS REAL ID phase implementation, starting Jan. 10, visitors, vendors and contractors seeking access to JBSA using a driver's license or identification card from the following states will be denied access or must be escorted if they cannot present an alternate identification credential: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Guam, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, N. Marianas, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and the Virgin Islands.

Mammogram Walk-Ins

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Clinic will offer annual mammogram screenings on a walk-in basis every Friday from 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1-3:30 p.m. during October. Patients must be at least 40 years of age unless they have a family history of breast cancer. Patients presenting lumps, pain or problems will be referred to Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center or the San Antonio Military Medical Center. Patients must be due for their annual screening. Patients with a civilian doctor outside of the Military Health System must provide a written prescription from their provider.

Battle of the Badges

Members from Joint Base San Antonio's fire departments and security forces will battle it out in the annual Battle of the Badges today and Saturday. Fire "Dawgs" and Defenders will face off in a softball game 3 p.m. today at the Rambler Softball Field at JBSA-Randolph. Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m., at the JBSA-Randolph Fire Department training grounds, there will be a taser demo, firefighter combat challenge, live fire demo, picnic, appearance from Sparky and McGruff and more. Contact 652-2017 or 652-1637.

Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Run/walk

A Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Run/walk is scheduled for 7:45 a.m. Saturday at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's Community Aquatic Center.

Hearts Apart pumpkin decorating

The JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center is hosting a free pumpkin-decorating event, which will also include free food, laser tag, face painting, games and prizes. The event takes place Monday from 4-6 p.m. at Eberle Park.

See BRIEFS P11

UFC fighter visits JBSA-Randolph

Photo by Senior Airman Stormy Archer

Sage Northcutt (right), Ultimate Fighting Championship mixed martial artist, signs autographs Oct. 8 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Northcutt visited JBSA-Randolph to watch a UFC event with military members.

Fire department performs demonstrations

Photo by Joel Martinez

Senior Airman James Perez-Reyes (center), 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron fire department, demonstrates protective equipment to students during Fire Prevention Week Oct. 13 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Elementary School.

BRIEFS from P10

To register, email randolphmfrc@us.af.mil with your name, child's name and age, the last four digits of the sponsor's Social Security number and a telephone number or contact 652-5321.

Toyland opens

The Randolph Exchange will celebrate the opening of Toyland with a grand opening 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 29. Festivities include Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Olaf, an M&M character, face painting, balloon animals, goody bags, popcorn machine, cotton candy machine, games/prizes and a Play-Doh event. Children are invited to come in their Halloween costumes for a Halloween costume contest. For full details, call the Randolph Exchange at 658-7471.

Fall CCAF Graduation

The Fall Community College of the Air Force graduation is 3 p.m. Nov. 1 at the Fleenor Theater at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Health Benefits Fair

The 2016 Federal Employees Health Benefits Fair will be held Nov. 3 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center, building 693 in the Main Ballroom. More than 25 health care providers, including a TRICARE representative, will be available to help make knowledgeable decisions regarding individual health benefit needs. Contact 652-5321.

Combat Breakfast

A combat breakfast takes place 9 a.m. Nov. 8 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Kendrick Club. The cost is $15 per person, and Master Sgt. Mike Maroney is scheduled to be the guest speaker. The event is open to all JBSA members. Call 565-0321 or 565-0610 to RSVP. Attendees must register by Nov. 1.

Heart Link

There will be a Heart Link class at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center from 8:30 a.m to 2 p.m. Nov. 9. Heart Link is a one-day orientation session for Air Force spouses with emphasis on the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocol, resources and services. Call 652-5321 to register.

JBSA-Randolph landmark renovation

A preservation project has been awarded for the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's landmark building 100, the "Taj." Base personnel and visitors can expect to see ongoing work. The project involves the removal and repair of exterior windows and doors. For details, call 652-0181.

Follow the official home of Joint Base San Antonio at:

• Facebook: Joint Base San Antonio • Twitter: @JBSA_Official

Courtesy graphic

Energy Action Month promotes energy savings year-round

Though monthly observances and themes come and go, the practices promoted in October's Energy Action Month are encouraged year-round.

The Department of Defense is arguably the United States' biggest energy consumer and the Air Force is responsible for at least half of that consumption.

According to Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, the Air Force must invest in new technologies which will allow it to operate less expensively and cleaner in the future, as well as more effectively at the strategic level, to preserve this resource without mission compromise.

Without energy, the Air Force would not be able to carry out some of its core missions such as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, space and cyber.

The Air Force has already taken several steps in an effort to save energy.

After Air Combat Command's procurement of more aerospace ground equipment, or AGE, to support the national airborne operations center E-4B alert cycles, the Air Force stands to save 600,000 gallons of fuel by adding AGE at just four other duty locations.

Additionally, Air Material Command flight planners recently resolved a global airspace issue for its tankers, eliminating the additional fuel they were requiring for all flights over Egyptian airspace, saving AMC more than $1 million.

By being aware of energy consumption, Airmen and their families can also actively save energy.

There are several practices individuals can incorporate into their daily activities – from work to home – that can help "protect the power."

Go natural: Turn off the lights and use sunlight when it's available. Using this free resource instead of power can help save up to 40 percent of an electricity bill.

Slow down: Instead of driving 75 mph, consider a lesser speed of 55 mph. Driving at slower speeds can save up to 25 percent in fuel costs and if it takes $40 to fill up a vehicle's gas tank every two weeks, savings could reach $240 a year.

Conserve energy: Remember to turn off computer monitors at the end of the day. Combined, monitors use more energy than any other piece of equipment, so remember to cut them off when not in use for an extended period of time.

This checklist outlines actions that conserve energy at the office

• Replace incandescent lights with compact fluorescent lights, or CFLs, or light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, for desk lamps and overhead lighting. Using CFLs instead of comparable incandescent bulbs can save about 50 percent on lighting costs. CFLs use only one-fourth the energy and last up to 10 times longer.

• Switch off all unnecessary lights. Use dimmers, motion sensors or occupancy sensors to automatically turn off lighting when not in use to reduce energy use and costs.

• Turn off lights when leaving at night.

• Use natural lighting or daylighting. When feasible, turn off lights near windows.

• Use task lighting; instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it to directly illuminate work areas.

• Use ENERGY STAR products.

• Close or adjust window blinds to block direct sunlight to reduce cooling needs during warm months. Overhangs or exterior window covers are most effective to block sunlight on south-facing windows.

• In the winter months, open blinds on south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your workspace. At night, close the blinds to reduce heat loss.

• Unplug equipment that drains energy when not in use, such as cell phone chargers, fans, coffeemakers, desktop printers, radios, etc.

• Replace desktop computers with thin clients or notebook computers and docking stations.

• Replace cathode ray tube, or CRT, monitors with LED or liquid crystal display, or LCD, monitors.

• Turn off your monitors at the end of the work day, if possible. If you leave your desk for an extended time, turn off your monitor.

• Turn off photocopier at night or purchase a new copier with low standby feature. Purchase printers and fax machines with power management feature and use it.

• Coordinate with vending machine vendor to turn off advertising lights.

• Have a qualified professional perform an energy audit. Check with your utility company for names of auditors.

• Install programmable thermostats

• Check furnace ducts for disconnects or leaks.

• Ensure HVAC ductwork is well insulated.

• Ensure adjustable speed drives are operating properly.

• Insulate water heater, hot water piping and tanks to reduce heat loss.

• Install low-flow toilets, urinals, faucets and shower heads.

• Verify the energy management system switches into setback mode during unoccupied hours. Also, time clocks and computer controls may need adjustments after power outages or seasonal time changes.

• Install meters to track energy use.

• Save paper. Photocopy only what you need. Always use the second side of paper, either by printing on both sides or using the blank side as scrap paper.

• Collect your utility bills. Separate electricity and fuel bills. Target the largest energy consumer or the largest bill for energy conservation measures.

• Carpool, bike, or use mass transit when commuting to work.

• To save gas, drive the speed limit, accelerate and decelerate slower, remove excess/unneeded weight, reduce unnecessary idling and miles traveled, and make sure tires are pumped up.

• Consider alternative work schedules and telecommuting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from employee commuting.

• Reduce business travel by increasing phone, video, and Web conferencing and training capabilities.

• Use coffee mugs instead of disposable cups.

• Mini-power savers also play a role. Try posting reminder cards to help get youth in the habit of saving.

For more information about energy conservation, call JBSA base energy managers at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston at 671-1537, or at JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland, call 671-0252.

(Source: Air Force Installations, Environment and Energy)

JBSA honors National Disability Employment Awareness Month

By Ashley Palacios
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and is a time to recognize the many and significant contributions workers with disabilities have made. It also serves as an opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to recruit, retain and advance people with disabilities in the workforce.

NDEAM dates back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." The name changed in 1962 to remove "physically" to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of people with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to what it is today.

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of an individual. Some examples include deafness, blindness, mobility impairments, cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, major depression or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Lisa Cevallos, Air Force Affirmative Employment Special Emphasis program manager at Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center, said there are some myths that may impact the employment of individuals with disabilities.

"Some people wrongly believe employees with disabilities do not have the required education," Cevallos said. "The fact is, over half have a high school diploma and over one-third have post-secondary degrees.

"Supervisors may also believe employees with disabilities are more difficult to supervise or will require special help from others," Cevallos continued. "However, in most cases, individuals with disabilities have already adjusted to their disability and with proper training, can work unaided."

Other myths are that employees with disabilities are less reliable and absent more often or that it can be expensive to accommodate a worker with a disability, Cevallos said.

"On average, employees with disabilities are not absent any more than employees without disabilities and most job accommodations are simple and inexpensive and frequently include changes in job duties or modified hours.

"The bottom line is people with disabilities are just like any other person that would be employed in that we are all unique," Cevallos affirmed. "There are thousands of civilians with disabilities who come to work for the Air Force every day and they are a valued and vital part of our workforce."

Joe Diaz, the Air Force Civilian Service plan coordinator at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, is one of these valued and vital civilians working for the Air Force.

Diaz, who at 19 years old was injured in an accident that severed his spine, discovered the opportunity to work as a student intern in the Air Force Civilian Service at Randolph while attending the University of Texas at San Antonio. After completing his AFCS internship and earning his bachelor's degree in information systems in 2007, Diaz joined AFCS as a full-time employee who ensures the success of other student interns who want to become full-time Air Force civilian employees.

"Part of my job is going out on recruiting events, so I feel I'm really contributing to the Air Force mission," Diaz said. "Being confined to a wheelchair, I can tell and show people I'm the product of a great opportunity. I'm proof that you can do it and do well as a civilian in the Air Force."

President Barack Obama said in a proclamation signed on Sept. 30, "this month, we recognize the significant progress our country has made for those living with disabilities, and we honor the lasting contributions and diverse skills they bring to our workforce."

Diaz exemplifies these lasting contributions and diverse skills within our disabled civilian workforce and has earned a prestigious award for creating a new reporting process that saved time and money for U.S. Air Force.

"In 2013, I received a Special Act Award for improving and streamlining reporting processes," he said. "I know this is just the start of what I'm capable of doing and achieving here. I don't think my luck could be any better.

"I was fortunate the Air Force had programs aimed at promoting diversity, such as the internship I participated in," Diaz continued. "It gave me the opportunity to be part of the team. Our diverse workforce gives us such a bunch of folks with different backgrounds and that means different aspects and ideas, all leading to new ways of breaking down and solving challenges."

Diaz has set his sights on becoming a part of the elite Air Force Career Broadening Leadership Program.

"I want to ultimately be able to better define current processes and introduce new ideas to meet Air Force goals and objectives for tomorrow's Air Force," he said.

The words of the President remind us that NDEAM is about awareness, education and proactively creating an inclusive work environment that allows all our civilian employees the opportunity to succeed.

"This month, let us continue striving to forge a future where workplaces are more inclusive and where employees are more accepted for who they are," Obama said. "And because we know that our country does best when everyone gets their fair shot, let us keep working to ensure no one is left behind or unable to pursue their dreams because of a disability."

Employees who feel they are being discriminated against because of a disability should talk with their supervisor. If the problem persists, employees should contact the installation Disability Program Manager or visit their installation Equal Opportunity office.

Professional development courses boost career, leadership skills

By Jeremy Gerlach
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Public Affairs

"A recurring theme, across all these classes, is 'making oneself better.' We're looking to help give students a bigger perspective on their careers, their abilities and their lives in general."

Senior Master Sgt. Jose Diaz
59th Medical Wing Career Assistance advisor

Airmen can do a lot of things in two hours – like becoming a better public speaker and instilling self-discipline, said Senior Master Sgt. Jose Diaz, 59th Medical Wing Career Assistance advisor.

Diaz helps organize a series of two-hour professional development courses run under the 59th MDW. These classes are available to help students develop as professionals and leaders.

"A recurring theme, across all these classes, is 'making oneself better,'" Diaz said. "We're looking to help give students a bigger perspective on their careers, their abilities and their lives in general."

The professional development series encompass more than 15 courses, each taught by noncommissioned officers and senior NCOs from all across Joint Base San Antonio, with Diaz co-teaching to provide additional curriculum support. Anybody with a Department of Defense ID card can take a class – including civilians, members of sister services and Reserves.

Classes run year-round and are primarily held at the Gateway Academy at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, room 1C31, and have a max capacity of 35, according to Diaz. The series also includes Public Speaking, Airmanship 101, Coaching and Mentoring, Understanding the Retraining Process, Progressive Discipline, and Collaborative Intelligence, among other selections.

Public Speaking is usually the most popular of the professional development courses, because it helps students prepare for the College Level Examination Process, or CLEP, and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, or DANTES, tests. These two examinations – if passed – instantly grant college credit to individuals who would otherwise have to sit through a longer, 8 to16-week course in person or online.

The Public Speaking class spends a short period of time covering what's going to be on the CLEP and DANTES multiple choice segments, with a large amount of time devoted to speech prep. Students learn how to develop a speech in 20 minutes by writing outlines, partnering up, giving their speeches and critiquing each other.

After the course, students have as long as they want to prep for CLEP and DANTES tests, though most people practice for about two weeks to a month, Diaz noted.

Understanding the Retraining Process is another popular professional development course, Diaz said.

"People get to the point – closer to the end of their enlistment – where they have to make a choice between staying in the Air Force and separating," Diaz explained. "This course helps first-term Airmen examine the opportunities they have to explore other parts of the Air Force."

Airmanship 101 is usually packed to the brim, Diaz continued.

"We try to bring back Airmen to that feeling of showing pride for wearing the uniform," Diaz said. "The farther we're removed from basic military training we start to forget the reason we're here. We start to get so nearsighted on our day-to-day that we forget the bigger picture. This class helps jog their memory on the bigger meaning of being an Airman."

The Coaching and Mentoring course helps future NCOs hone their leadership skills.

"A senior master sergeant, for example, is going to be pretty seasoned," Diaz explained. "But some of our up-and-coming service members about to join the NCO ranks, we help augment some of the stuff they learned in Professional Military Education."

Progressive Discipline serves as a useful dialogue between for both service members and their supervisors looking to improve their self-control.

"We're trying to help both service members and supervisors solve discipline problems," Diaz noted. "So we start out small, working on minor habits, then move up to addressing bigger ones. Service members get to learn what would happen if they get in trouble, and supervisors learn how to prevent people from getting in trouble."

Collaborative Intelligence is the latest professional development offering, Diaz explained.

"This class is all about working within teams – just like everything we do in the military as a whole," Diaz said. "This is a brand-new course offering, and it should be a pretty interesting one."

Regardless of which class students choose, they're getting a streamlined, value added product that won't cut too far into anyone's work schedule, Diaz explained.

"We try to be cognizant of people's time," Diaz said. "It can be hard for supervisors to release their people for an entire day, so two hours for each course is that sweet spot where it's long enough to cover all the information."

Individuals interested in taking a professional development course should look to their command chiefs and first sergeants, whom Diaz periodically sends a course listing email. After picking out a course, students can follow a link in the email and register via SharePoint.

"There's no canned curriculum for being a leader," said Diaz. "But these courses give students additional tools they can work with."