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WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

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Fueling the mission

PAGE 8

JBSA Front and Center

Will Daniels, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight fuels distribution worker, monitors jet fuel leaving his R-11 refueler vehicle into an aircraft Sept. 30, 2015, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Photo by Sean Schroeder

Photo by Joel Martinez

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely

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COMMENTARY

TRANSPARENT LEADERSHIP

An old concept for modern times

By Col. Sean P. Larkin
National Air and Space Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Col. Sean P. Larkin

"The benefits of transparency go beyond our external relationships, to the heart of our organizations. Open, honest and consistent leaders will develop trust, strengthen relationships and bolster our core values."

We're living in an age of hyper-connectivity. With sensors everywhere and supercomputers in our pockets, there's a wealth of information available to everyone, whether it's a review of a restaurant, an updated Air Force instruction or the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow (African or European).

There are unofficial forums and social media groups devoted to nearly everything – including the Air Force.

Further, your words and actions can live on indefinitely on the internet. Nothing stays in Vegas. Now, more than ever, to quote Gen. George S. Patton, "You are always on parade."

The combination of instant information, rapid social interaction and recorded behavior has changed the environment and expectations for leaders. Our Airmen expect and deserve leaders whose actions match their words and whose decision making is open, fair and consistent.

While discretion and the safeguarding of sensitive, classified and personal data remain critical responsibilities of military professionals, the fact remains that any gap between what you say and what you do will be exposed, one way or another. But there is no reason to fear such scrutiny; in fact, we must embrace transparency to lead in the 21st century.

Transparency is not a novel concept. Political scientists, journalists and policy advocates have been touting its importance for more than a century.

In 1913, Louis Brandeis, who would go on to serve as a justice U.S. Supreme Court, famously referred to sunlight (transparency) as "the best disinfectant."

An organization that maintains open records, encourages honest dialogue, and is accountable for its actions is less likely to violate the public trust.

The benefits of transparency go beyond our external relationships, to the heart of our organizations. Open, honest and consistent leaders will develop trust, strengthen relationships and bolster our core values.

For example, as a commander, I have to make tough decisions on personnel matters, strategic priorities, resources and mission execution. I trust my team to provide the best available information and their recommendations to inform those decisions.

While I could technically make decisions without seeking such advice, involving the right subordinates and stakeholders in a transparent decision-making process is essential to leading effectively and building organizational trust.

Transparency helps establish this trust over time and strengthens critical relationships when your Airmen and your mission partners can see how your actions match your stated priorities and vision.

Openness also allows your Airmen to understand how and why decisions are made, even if they disagree with a particular outcome. This transparency encourages collaborative decision-making, empowers our Airmen and fosters the professional development of all stakeholders, which ultimately strengthens the organization.

Finally, transparency can reinforce and uphold the Air Force core values. I believe in these values and wholeheartedly believe we need to serve with integrity, service and excellence, every day.

When your leadership style is transparent and collaborative, it is easier to model and enforce the ethical behavior we expect from everyone in the Department of Defense. Additionally, an open environment with high standards of personal conduct reinforces positive norms and discourages behavior that violates our values.

What we say is important, but our actions are what really speak to Airmen.

Leading with transparency creates strong, accountable organizations built on trust and guided by the Air Force core values. So, let some sunlight into your leadership style – it is a great day for a parade.

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By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

When the first day of school begins Monday, 450 students at Randolph High School will be learning in classrooms with more space, going from class to class in wider hallways and utilizing technology upgrades in a new 44,000-square-foot building dedicated Aug. 10 by Randolph Field Independent School District officials.

The two-story classroom facility is part of a new 77,000-square-foot high school complex being constructed behind the old high school building, which was built in 1962. The $15 million project includes the construction of a new cafeteria and gymnasium that will be housed together in a separate 33,000-square-foot building, with an expected completion date of March 2017. There will also be a demolition of the old high school campus.

Lance Johnson, RFISD superintendent, told students the new high school building will help provide them with the education and tools they need to succeed after they graduate.

"We are raising a generation who will be the leaders of this country," Johnson said. "Our job as educators is to make sure you are equipped to compete at a global level when you leave Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Our vision goes outside the fence of JBSA-Randolph. This is for you students."

The new building includes 25 classrooms, four science labs, three computer labs, restrooms, administrative offices, technology improvements – wireless access points, more data capabilities and upgraded data cabling – a nurse's office and a secure door entering the building.

"The building itself is just more modern," Johnson said. "It's fresh, it's nice and new. We are so excited to see students laughing and walking around and getting an education – the best education in the world – in these hallways."

Johnson said the construction of the new high school complex was made possible by the vision of present and former RFISD school board members. He also thanked Gallagher Construction for their work in being the school district's project manager for the new complex, as well as U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar for his help in securing a U.S. Department of Education grant covering part of the project's cost.

The Department of Education grant is covering $10.4 million of the project's cost, with the remainder – $4.7 million – coming from the school district's fund balance. For the school district to receive the grant, the Department of Education stipulated the old high school building, which it owned, be torn down.

The dedication ceremony included remarks from RFISD board president Jimmy Cornelius and two Randolph High School graduates, Lt. Col. Peter Duffy, 435th Fighter Training Squadron assistant director of operations, and Courtney White, a teacher and coach at Randolph Middle School. Duffy, a 1995 graduate, and White, a 1998 graduate, both spoke about their positive experiences as students at Randolph High School. White gave the invocation for the opening of the new building and for the students and staff who will be learning and working in it.

After the dedication and ribbon-cutting, Johnson and Mark Malone, Randolph High School principal, conducted a tour of the new high school building.

The new high school classrooms are a definite upgrade from the old high school building, Malone said.

"Everything is upgraded for learning," he said. "These kids are the children of military members who make a great sacrifice. Why would we not give them the best facilities we can?"

Deborah Pannabecker, Randolph High School science teacher, said her classroom and lab space is three times the size of what she had in the old building. Her former classroom did not have any instructional desks, so students had to sit on stools and use the lab tables for desk areas.

"The kids will be able to have a much more engaging experience in the classroom because we have separate instructional and lab areas," Pannabecker said.

Brooke LaMantia, a Randolph High School senior and president of the school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes who gave the closing prayer at the dedication, said she was excited about going to school in the new building.

"I've been here since kindergarten," she said. "This is definitely home."

Photo by Joel Martinez

Lance Johnson, Randolph Field Independent School District superintendent, addresses the audience during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new high school building Aug. 10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

NEWS

Enterprise Blended Learning Service provides innovative distance learning experience

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

Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely

Maj. Gen. John E. McCoy (center right), Air Education and Training Command vice commander, meets with members of the AETC Enterprise Blended Learning Service team for an EBLS pre-performance briefing July 28 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Throughout the years, much has been said about time.

Benjamin Franklin believed time is money; Theophrastus, Greek philosopher and pupil of Aristotle, said time is the most valuable thing a man can spend; and John Randolph, a U.S. representative and senator from Virginia in the 1800s, thought that time is at once the most valuable and the most perishable of all our possessions.

Air Education and Training Command has developed a financially savvy, innovative service – the Enterprise Blended Learning Service – that is capable of providing education and training opportunities to the entire Air Force, while demanding less of Airmen's time.

At some point, every Airman will use the Advanced Distributed Learning Service, or ADLS, to complete Cyber Awareness training, among other various annual training requirements. While ADLS is good at delivering asynchronous learning, which means users can complete courses at their own pace and don't have to work alongside classmates or an instructor, it does not provide a collaborative distance learning capability.

The Enterprise Blended Learning Service, or EBLS, fills these extra capabilities for distance learning, such as collaboration with fellow students and instructors, that the Air Force didn't already have, Tim Flora, AETC Advanced Distributed Learning functional lead said.

"We have a lot of learning that is conducted face to face, in residence," Flora said. "Wouldn't it be great if people didn't have to travel from Japan or Europe to take that training?

"They can stay where they are, stay with their families and stay with their units," Flora added. "It allows us to demand less of Airmen's time, while doing the learning activities that need to be done."

Through Blackboard, an online learning management service, Air Force organizations and agencies are able to convert in-house courses to online, giving employees and service members access to courses at home or the office via a computer, smartphone or tablet, which are not available outlets through ADLS.

"We have people around the world that want to come together periodically and do learning activities," Flora said. "We want to be able to get online, see each other through video and we want to be able to do that easily. We can't do that well with ADLS, so we needed to fill those capability gaps."

In September 2014, a one-year pilot program began within the technical training community to assess the effectiveness of EBLS. During the pilot, 370 students completed training courses using Blackboard, which resulted in a total temporary duty assignment cost avoidance savings of $950,000 for the Air Force, according to research collected by AETC.

Due to the success of EBLS, an interim sustainment contract was led for an additional year. During that time, mission partners had an additional 681 course completions, and the service has cost avoided more than $2.7 million in TDY expenditures to date.

Since the pilot began, EBLS has grown to service more than just the technical training community and it now includes AETC special missions, Air University, Air Force Personnel Center, Air Force Services Agency, Air Mobility Command, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

"Innovation is one of the most important areas in our Air Force right now," Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, commander of Air Education and Training Command, said during the 2016 AETC Wing Process Manager Workshop, July 19. "There is only one constant in our every day - change. One of my four priorities is innovation, and it has been a priority of mine since day one. As leaders, we should be thinking how we can make things better every day."

EBLS also offers added benefits for instructors in that it provides a single location to manage the entire course, Maj. Justin Mace, AETC ADLS program manager, said.

"I can throw all of my syllabi, books and the information you need on Blackboard, instead of printing out paper," said Mace, who was a former ROTC instructor at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

"I can almost go completely paperless," he continued. "I can track your attendance; I can track your grades; I can actually see when you clicked on an assignment and when you finished that assignment."

The most innovative aspect of EBLS, however, is not in the capabilities, but in the way it was contracted, Mace said. AETC partnered with the Office of Personnel Management USA Learning team to set up a contract that allows new customers to be added to the capability in weeks, instead of months or years.

This contracting option provides the flexibility needed to add courses for customers across the Air Force in almost real-time, and with AETC handling the contracting actions, customers need only bring funding for the capability it needs and won't have to worry about running an IT program.

Additionally, with OPM managing EBLS from its location, AETC program managers and system administrators' time will be freed up to sustain ADLS and pursue other work, Mace said.

"We started to look at it differently," Mace said. "We're the education and training command, why should we not offer this service to the Air Force as a whole? If you need something like Blackboard, if you need an enterprise blended learning service, we have it."

With the collaboration capabilities and innovative techniques EBLS brings to distance learning, Airmen can expect a real-world collaborative classroom experience and more opportunities to receive training and education that may not have been an option before due to TDY costs.

And if what Franklin, Theophrastus and Randolph said of time is true, the Air Force can expect fuller pockets and a force of the future that possesses more value.

Leader training on Blended Retirement System available via mobile app

By Kat Bailey
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

The new Blended Retirement System is a hot topic of conversation across the Defense Department and most total force members have questions on how it will work and who is eligible.

The online BRS leader course, released in June, is designed to educate leaders on the new retirement system. The training provides both military and civilian leaders of Airmen with a working knowledge of the BRS and the DOD plan to educate the force prior to implementation on Jan. 1, 2018.

The course is available both online and through a mobile version for a smartphone or tablet via Joint Knowledge Online, course number P-US1330.

The course is also available to those without a Common Access Card, to include family members, via an alternate website.

The mobile version has a login option that provides a training certificate, which will be necessary for the required opt-in training next year, as well as a public access option for spouses and parents of current or prospective Airmen.

"The public access option of the JKO mobile app for smartphones also makes the BRS leader course an easily accessible pocket version of BRS for questions on the fly from Airmen seeking more knowledge," said Col. Brian Anderson, the military compensation policy chief at Headquarters Air Force. "Many leaders may not be eligible to opt-in to BRS themselves, but they will need to be knowledgeable about the new system in order to respond to questions from eligible service members."

Leaders can download the app from their respective app store for free.

The leader role is to provide information and access to education but not to provide specific financial advice. Leaders who take the course will gain an understanding of the new retirement system, educational opportunities that will be made available to Airmen and the available resources to answer questions.

"In the future, Airmen will be able to seek individual information and education from a personal financial expert at their Airman and Family Readiness Center before making a final decision," Anderson continued. "The Air Force has a plan to train personal financial managers and make them available to assist members and spouses on the financial aspects of the current and new retirement systems."

According to Anderson, quality education and training are key to an Airman's ability to make an informed decision about retirement plans. Airmen will be encouraged to research their options during 2017 and may elect to opt-in to BRS on or after Jan. 1, 2018. Elections must be completed during 2018 and an online course, tailored to those who are eligible to opt-in, will be available soon.

Stand-alone DVDs are also available for the BRS leader course for use at remote locations or locations with limited internet connectivity making it difficult to take the course online at JKO or Military OneSource. Ordering instructions were recently sent to all deployed locations by the Air Force Personnel Center.

BRS information is available and continuously updated on myPers. Click "Retirement" from any military landing page. In addition, a live chat feature on BRS is available for Airmen. To chat live with a Total Force Service Center representative, go to the page and allow about 30 to 60 seconds to enable a representative to come online.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit https://mypers.af.mil. Individuals without a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website at http://retirees.af.mil.

Living ideal lifestyle at core of free smoking-cessation program

From TRICARE Staff

Are you living your ideal lifestyle? If your answer is no, you're not alone. It can be tough to make lifestyle changes part of your daily routine. For example, smoking less and starting an exercise routine can help you quit smoking, but it's not easy to design your lifestyle around those small changes long enough to make it a new routine.

If being smoke-free is your ideal lifestyle, the Freedom Quitline offers counseling focused on lifestyle design for TRICARE beneficiaries trying to quit smoking. The Freedom Quitline is a National Institutes of Health-funded research study, co-sponsored by the 59th Medical Wing and University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Lifestyle design is the "process of taking proactive steps to become the person you'd like to be," says the Freedom Quitline's Dr. Gerald Wayne Talcott, Ph.D. Change is hard. You try, but often can't follow through and implement those changes permanently.

The counselors at the Freedom Quitline are there to help participants stay focused on their goal of being tobacco free. When you quit smoking with the Freedom Quitline, you'll receive telephone counseling specially designed to help increase your motivation to change your behavior. Plus, you'll receive free nicotine replacements sent to your home.

Wouldn't it be great to taste food again, breathe easier, have fresh smelling clothes, more money in the bank, and generally feel better? The Freedom Quitline counselors are available to help you stick with the change you want.

It's easy to find out if you qualify. Call 1-844-I-AM-FREE (1-844-426-3733) or go online to learn more at http://www.freedomquitline.org.

Courtesy graphic

Has safety been incorporated into your back-to-school preparations?

By Gilbert Resendez
502nd Air Base Wing JBSA-Lackland Safety Office

As summer vacations end and parents rush to get school supplies to start their children off on the right foot this coming school year, let's not forgot the most important tool: safety.

Parents need to go over basic safety rules with their children every year, whether it will be the first time the children will be allowed to walk home or not.

The following are some things parents need to know and consider so their kids may get to school and home safely.

Parents should take the time to educate their children about safety, regardless of their age.

Although some kids mature faster than others, there is no right age for children to start walking or riding their bicycles to school alone or with a friend.

Let your children know drivers and cars are their No. 1 threat on the street. When crossing the street, they should stop on the crosswalk, look to the left, then to the right and then to the left again before proceeding across the street.

If they ride bicycles, children should never ride across a busy intersection. Let them know it is best to get off the bicycle and walk their bikes next to them as they cross the street. Remember, not all intersections have traffic lights and many times, there are no crossing guards at these intersections.

As parents, make your children understand the importance of playing it safe and using common sense. A safe route needs to be drawn out, but don't forget that an alternate route is just as important. Talk with your children and develop a simple route. One thing to consider is children will be safer with fewer street crossings and intersections.

In addition, make sure they wear the proper bicycle headgear and obey all traffic laws.

If your children ride the school bus, some basic rules to follow are:

• Children must wait for the school bus to come to a complete stop before approaching it from the curb. Never let your children run toward the bus. The bus driver may not see them and this could lead to a tragedy.

• Tell your children they are to remain seated at all times and keep their hands and heads inside the bus while it is in motion.

• Today's busses come equipped with seatbelts. Make sure your kids use them, just like they do when they ride in the family car.

• When the bus comes to a stop, your children should exit the bus in an orderly manner and look for oncoming traffic.

Children should also be reminded to be active pedestrians and bike riders by not texting and being preoccupied with modern mobile devices.

And an additional safety measure: Children should know their home telephone number, their address and, if possible, a parent's work telephone number. It's also good for children to know the number of a trusted adult who has been designated for notification in case of an emergency.

With back-to-school plans, there is no reason why your children can't enjoy another school year – safely. Remember: school and safety goes hand-in-hand.

Drunk driving: It's cost prohibitive for you and the nation

By Janis El Shabazz
JBSA Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

"According to the National Directory of Designated Driver Services there are more than 600 designated driver services available to get you, and sometimes your vehicle, home safe. In addition to those options, you have your fellow wingmen, friends, family, taxi services, or the choice to stay put."

Despite all the warnings, public awareness educational programs, stiffer penalties for violations and efforts by law enforcement agencies across the nation to be more visible and diligent in protecting the highways, people will still get behind the wheel of their vehicles while intoxicated.

Motor vehicle wrecks are the leading cause of death in the United States for persons under age 24, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Reports.

Of those deaths, more than 40 percent are alcohol related. According to the National Highway Traffic Administration, another 28 people die every day as a result of drunk driving crashes.

Drunk driving laws make it illegal nationwide to drive with a blood alcohol content, or BAC, at or above 0.08 percent. For people under 21, "zero tolerance" laws make it illegal to drive with any measurable amount of alcohol in their system.

These laws, along with laws that maintain the minimum legal drinking age at 21, are in place in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and have had a clear effect on highway safety, saving tens of thousands of lives since their implementation but recent Center of Disease Control data shows impairment begins long before you reach the legal limit. Research shows explicitly that some of the skills you need to drive safely begin to deteriorate even at a .02 blood-alcohol level.

CDC experiments have shown drivers at the .02 level experience a decline in visual functions – their ability to track a moving object – and experience a decline in the ability to perform two tasks at the same time.

The consequences of drinking and driving are arrests, lawsuits, property damage, injuries and thousands of deaths each year. Recent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data presents some sobering facts:

- Drunk driving takes the lives of more than 10,000 people each year,
- Drunk driving costs the United States $199 billion a year.
- Drunk driving costs each adult in the United States almost $800 per year.
- Every 90 seconds a person is injured in a drunk driving crash.
- Alcohol-impairment or driving under the influence is a factor in nearly one-third of all traffic fatalities.

These deaths and injuries are preventable. Research has identified proven policies that can keep alcohol-impaired drivers off the road and save thousands of lives each year

For example, be responsible and have a plan that includes a designated driver. Another would be to take alcohol, yourself, or a vehicle out of any given situation and the possibility of a DUI, or something worse.

Most drunk driving happens after nights spent with family and friends. That means there may be someone you trust nearby to help with an alternative method of getting you home safely.

Think before you drink – a phone to call a friend or the fee for a taxi cab is cheaper than a DUI lawsuit, or worse, the loss of life to you, loved ones or the innocent people on the road.

Courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Another key thing to remember is time is the only thing that can sober a person up. Hydrating, drinking coffee, eating or working out do not have an effect.

According to the National Directory of Designated Driver Services there are more than 600 designated driver services available to get you, and sometimes your vehicle, home safe. In addition to those options, you have your fellow wingmen, friends, family, taxi services, or the choice to stay put.

Bottom line: Just don't do it. Think before you drink – a phone to call a friend or the fee for a taxi cab is cheaper than a DUI lawsuit or worse the loss of life to you, loved ones or the innocent people on the road.

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland civilian employee fuels base mission

By Sean Schroeder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

JBSA Front and Center

For Will Daniels, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's Fuels Management Flight fuels distribution worker at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, every day affords him an opportunity to make a direct impact on the mission.

He drives around in different sized refueling vehicles to ensure everything with an engine has the fuel it needs to keep running. This includes everything from aircraft and helicopters parked on JBSA-Lackland's flightline, to tractors, trailers, golf carts and forklifts.

"Without fuel, nothing can get done," Daniels said. "Nothing can be operated. Planes can't fly, vehicles can't move."

One of the biggest jobs for Daniels is refueling the C-5 Galaxy, which makes stops at JBSA-Lackland. It has a fuel capacity of 332,000 pounds, which can equate to roughly 30,000 to 35,000 gallons. On a typical day, with everything that needs fuel on base, Daniels said he can pump 50,000 to 100,000 gallons in just one day.

Pumping fuel is just one part of a bigger picture for his unit. Daniels and his Fuels Management Flight team ensure the right fuel, free of contaminants, gets to where it needs to go in a timely manner. Putting the wrong fuel in an aircraft could lead to engine stalls, potentially putting lives in danger.

"We make sure it's right before we take it out there to the aircraft," Daniels stated.

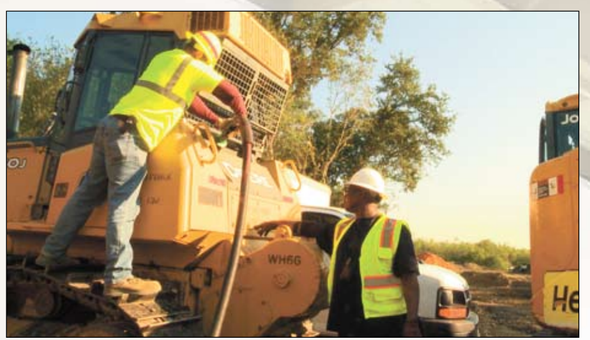
One of the first things he and other members of his flight do each day is to inspect every one of the refueling vehicles to ensure there are no safety concerns. He also has to be aware of things in his environment that could potentially spark and ignite the fuel, like static electricity.

"Safety is one of the most important things we need to take care of – that's first and foremost," Daniels emphasized.

Daniels has been a fuels distribution worker since 2001. Before that he was a combat engineer for the U.S. Army for nine years. In that career specialty, he helped clear a path for Soldiers on the battlefield by detecting and blowing up explosives.

As an Air Force civilian, he enjoys serving the military mission in a different way. Whenever he looks up to the skies at JBSA-Lackland, he witnesses firsthand the fruits of his labor.

"When I see aircraft flying by, 'That's me;' he's flying because of me," Daniels said. "I really enjoy my job."



Will Daniels (right), 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's Fuels Management Flight fuels distribution worker, ensures fuel is flowing into a tractor from his refueling vehicle Sept. 30, 2015, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Daniels ensures the fuel hose of his R-11 refueler is properly connected to a Marine Corps C-130 parked on JBSA-Lackland's flight line Sept. 30, 2015.

Daniels monitors fuel flowing from the flight's gas station into his R-11 refueler vehicle Sept. 30, 2015, at JBSA-Lackland.

Photos by Sean Schroeder

Air Force military ambassador program accepting applications

By 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

resent Joint Base San Antonio in 2017.

One male and one female ambassador are chosen each year to represent the Air Force at many community events and promote the military's commitment and relationship with the local communities around South Texas.

"The program strengthens Joint Base San Antonio's relationship with the local community while educating the public about the Air Force," said Bill Gaines, 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs civic outreach chief at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. "The ambassadors are given the opportunity to showcase the professionalism and skills of the Air Force while fostering a positive rapport in the community."

All E-4 to E-7 Air Force members, 21 years old and older and assigned to JBSA are eligible to apply to be a military ambassador. Nomination packages will be distributed to public affairs offices across JBSA Sept. 5. Once nominated, candidates appear before a selection board of chief master sergeants and former Air Force ambassadors. The selection panel reviews applications, conducts interviews and selects the ambassadors.

Nomination deadline is Oct. 3. For more information, call 808-0002 or 221-0546.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
NEWS BRIEFS

Tickets on sale for Air Force Ball

The 69th Annual Air Force Ball is Sept. 16 at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort, 9800 Hyatt Resort Drive, San Antonio, Texas.

The celebration honors the heritage and history of the United States Air Force and provides an opportunity for Airmen to come together, celebrate and remember the successes of the United States Air Force.

RSVP by visiting the digital invitation at https://e.afit.edu/7706410C77X54FJ or call 325-2035 or 925-1716.

359th Medical Group change of command

Maj. Gen. Bart O. Iddins, 59th Medical Wing commnder, will officiate the 359th Medical Group change of command ceremony 11 a.m. Sept. 1 at the Kendrick Enlisted Club at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Col. Dana J. James will relinquish command to Col. Kristen J. Beals. For more information, call 652-4931. An e-invitation can be accessed at https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=307120&k=016145087957.

Enlisted aides host 'Food for Thought'

The Joint Base San Antonio Enlisted Aides are reaching out to Airmen (E1-E6) to provide them a monthly gourmet meal and mentorship from senior leaders throughout JBSA. The dinner will be by RSVP and capped at the first 15 Airmen who sign up. The kickoff "Food for Thought" event is 6 p.m. Sept. 23 at the JBSA-Randolph Chapel Annex and the guest speaker will be Chief Master Sgt. Brion P. Blais, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio command chief master sergeant. Call 347-4353 at JBSA-Lackland and 612-7165 at JBSA-Randolph for more information.

Randolph Chief's Group Scholarship

Third-quarter nominations are currently being accepted through Sept. 30. Packages will be boarded and the winner recognized at a future Randolph Chief's Group meeting. Nominee's must be assigned to JBSA-Randolph, currently enrolled in school, be E-6 or below and must not be a recipient of an RCG scholarship within the last 12-months. For information on submitting nominations, call 652-1541.

Kids in Motion event sponsors needed

The 359th Medical Group is hosting "Kids In Motion," a kids obstacle course Aug. 27 at JBSA-Randolph. The objective of the obstacle course is to educate youth on how to live a healthy lifestyle through fitness and nutrition. The 359th MDG is looking for units or squadrons to sponsor an obstacle for the course. Obstacle sponsorship includes obstacle supplies, creation and manning. This activity is a way to support youth while promoting unit cohesion. To volunteer or for more information, call the Human Performance Resource Center at JBSA-Randolph at 652-3641.

Careless smoking a leading cause of fire deaths

By Ricardo Campos
502nd Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Inspector, Life Safety Educator

Careless smoking is a leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, more than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Smoke alarms, smolder-resistant bedding and upholstered furniture are significant deterrents in combatting these unnecessary deaths.

Here are a few safety tips to keep you and your family from becoming a fire statistic:

Smoking safety:

• Never smoke in bed. Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.

• Do not put ashtrays on the arms of sofas or chairs.

• Use large, deep ashtrays with wide lips. While smaller ashtrays may be more attractive, they are not safe. Cigarettes can roll off the edge, and the ashes can be easily be blown away.

• Water down your ashes. Empty ashtrays into either the toilet or an airtight metal container. Warm ashes dumped in waste cans can smolder for hours and then ignite into fire.

• Do not leave cigarettes, cigars, or pipes unattended. Pull out all smoking materials before you walk away.

• If you begin to feel drowsy while watching television or reading, extinguish your smoking materials in a safe container.

• Close a matchbook before striking and hold it away from your body. Set your cigarette lighter on "low" flame to prevent burns.

• If friends or relatives who smoke have paid you a visit, be sure to check on the floor and around chair cushions for ashes that may have been dropped accidentally.

• Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves or other things that could ignite easily.

Kids and fire safety:

• Store matches and lighters up high and out of reach of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

• Do not put ashtrays in a location where children or pets could knock them over.

General fire safety tips:

• Keep children away from open flames and electrical receptacles.

• Have a smoke alarm on every level of your home and make sure the alarm is maintained and working properly

• Keep your emergency numbers near the telephone.

• Always call the fire department for any fire, even if the fire has been completely extinguished.

• Have a fire evacuation plan and practice, practice, practice it with your family!

For more information about careless smoking visit the U.S. Fire Administration Website at http://www.firesafety.gov or contact the Joint Base San Antonio Fire Prevention Offices at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 221-2727, at JBSA-Lackland at 671-2921 or at JBSA-Randolph at 652-6915.

Interactive Customer Evaluation provides feedback on services

By Jeff Champagne
JBSA Interactive Customer Evaluation
Site Administrator

The Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, system is a web-based program that allows you to provide feedback on services provided by organizations across Joint Base San Antonio, or JBSA.

The ICE system allows you to submit online comment cards to rate our service providers – good or not so good, whatever you think – throughout JBSA. That way, we can improve our customer service by giving managers crucial information regarding the level of satisfaction of services provided through these reports and customer comments.

ICE provides the following benefits:

• Allows you to quickly and easily provide real-time feedback to our service provider managers;

• Gives leadership and management timely data on service quality;

• Allows managers to benchmark the performance of their service providers against other Department of Defense organizations;

• Encourages communication across our organizations by comparing best practices to increase performance results;

• Saves money and improves service processes

When you're ready to get started, all it takes is the click of a mouse and the system sends your comments, suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement directly to the appropriate service provider manager for action.

Using ICE is fairly simple. When coming across a service you'd like to make a comment on, simply follow these steps:

1. Visit the ICE website at https://ice.disa.mil/.
2. Locate your base or post.
3. Pick the category under which service you're looking for.
4. Provide us with your feedback.
5. Click submit and off it goes.

Be sure to fill out your phone number or email address to have a manager contact you directly or submit it anonymously – it's up to you.

Here are a few simple guidelines to make the most out of your ICE comments:

Comment Often: Try to leave an ICE comment at some point about every service provider you've encountered. What did you like about the service? What did you not like about it?

Don't just complain – compliment. If you've received exceptional service, please submit an ICE comment and tell us why, not just when they need a swift kick to the pants.

Always provide your name and contact information when requesting follow-up. ICE is a passive program. When leaving an ICE comment, you may choose to remain anonymous or leave your contact information. This is a great way for the organization or service provider manager to remain in direct contact with you regarding your comment, suggestion or concern.

Remember, if someone doesn't say something, the problem will likely never get addressed. Sometimes you may be the only person who sees or reports an issue or problem. Speaking up brings awareness and allows the service provider managers the opportunity to fix the issue.

ICE
Interactive Customer Evaluation

One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service.

Submit a comment at http://ice.disa.mil.

To advertise in the Wingspread, call 250-2052.

Feds Feed Families Food Drive seeking donations through Aug. 31

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

A food drive that concludes Aug. 31 is giving members of the Joint Base San Antonio community an opportunity to combat hunger in Southwest Texas.

Collection points are set up throughout JBSA for the Feds Feed Families Food Drive, which benefits the San Antonio Food Bank, an organization that provides food and grocery products to more than 530 partner agencies in 16 Southwest Texas counties.

"The primary benefit of the food drive is helping people who need it the most," said Senior Airman Samantha Ponton-McAfee, 902nd Security Forces Squadron entry controller and JBSA-Randolph representative for the food drive. "We're giving back to the community because they give so much to us."

Drop-off locations at JBSA-Randolph are the Rambler Fitness Center, building 999; medical clinic, building 1040; Child Development Center, building 1072; 902nd SFS, building 235; building 863; Air Force Manpower Analysis Agency, building 592; Air Force Personnel Center, building 499; and 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs, Hangar 6.

Each location has a large red trash can or a box clearly marked with food bank labels for easy identification.

Last year, the JBSA community contributed 846 pounds of canned goods and dry foods to the drive, Ponton-McAfee said. This year's goal is 2,000 pounds.

"If every person brought one or two cans to one of the collection sites, we could easily reach that goal," she said.

Needed items include cereal, oatmeal, pancake mixes, tuna and canned meats, pasta and rice meals, soup, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, and main meals such as chili, hearty soup and beef stew.

The Feds Feed Families Food Drive is a national effort, launched in 2009 as part of President Barack Obama's "United We Serve" campaign, said Staff Sgt. Atly Blum, 502nd ABW Feds Feed Families coordinator.

"Feds Feed Families was designed to help local food banks and pantries stay stocked during the summer month, when they traditionally see a decrease in donations and an increase in need," he said in his announcement of the drive.

The San Antonio Food Bank helps by distributing food to more than 58,000 people per week, 36 percent of them children under the age of 18, Blum said.

In fiscal year 2015, the food bank provided nearly 62 million pounds of food. Its mission is to fight hunger in Southwest Texas through food distribution, programs, education and advocacy.

"This food drive affords the opportunity to the JBSA family to come together and give to families in the San Antonio area," Blum said.

"It's really important to remember what this is for," Ponton-McAfee said. "It's helping someone who really needs it. You never know when you'll be in that situation."

Camp Gladiator event: Get ready to sweat, Randolph!

By Ashley Palacios
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Camp Gladiator is scheduled to host a free workout from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Aug. 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Rambler Fitness Center track.

The idea for the event began in May at the JBSA Aerobathon, Abbie Pollard, 502nd Force Support Squadron community programs and partnership specialist said.

After seeing Camp Gladiator's booth at the Aerobathon, Pollard began attending the camps herself and fell in love with the program.

"When you're doing other workout programs or working out on your own, it's easy to become stagnant," Pollard said. "Camp Gladiator is constantly changing up their workouts and creating new, fun ways to work out – so you're never doing the same workout twice."

Camp Gladiator's regular program is a four-week camp where each week focuses on a different areas of fitness. The program includes a week of endurance, strength training, interval training and metabolic work.

During the event, there will be four 20 minute fitness stations, each will represent a different week of the Camp Gladiator program. After the workout, Camp Gladiator trainers will also talk with participants about how to live a healthy lifestyle.

"Camp Gladiator is really a fitness family – there's no judgment," Pollard said. "Everyone is at different fitness levels and there's constant encouragement of each other during workouts."

The theme of the event is red, white and blue and participants are encouraged to come dressed up. Prizes will be given out for the most spirited and the best dressed. OMG Sounds will be providing music.

The event is open to all DoD ID card holders and their dependents.

Camp Gladiator events will also be held at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 17 and at JBSA-Lackland Oct. 29. The theme for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's event is 80s workout video and the theme for JBSA-Lackland's event is Halloween costume. For more information on all of these events, call JBSA Community Programs at 652-5763.

Personal Property Activity moves headquarters to JBSA-Randolph

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Public Affairs

The Air Force organization that governs the shipment of active-duty members' personal property when they move due to a permanent change of station or temporary duty assignment has a new home at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Previously located in building 171 at JBSA-Lackland's Kelly Annex, the Personal Property Activity Headquarters is now based in building 581 on E Street East at JBSA-Randolph, across Fifth Street East from the east flightline.

"We're the single service manager and governing authority over joint personal property shipping offices and traffic management offices in the continental United States," said Master Sgt. Cory Favors, PPA NCO in charge of command support staff. "Our mission is to provide a quality relocation experience for every customer."

Favors said the PPA, which has a staff of nearly 40 active-duty members and civilians, provides guidance and instructive doctrines to the CONUS-based JPPSOs and TMOs.

"The three JPPSOs provide administrative oversight to the TMOs," he said. "Among the TMOs' responsibilities are back office shipment management, including booking and placing invoices; moving military members from point A to point B; and handling member household good shipments and personal travel expenses."

Military members and their families have options when it comes to their shipments, Favors said. They can use a government-hired commercial contractor to pack and move their household goods or the personally procured move program, which allows them to move their personal property themselves by hiring their own carrier, using rental equipment or using their own vehicle.

"PPMs are pretty common because there are weight restrictions when the government hires a contractor," he said. "Members keep their receipts and are reimbursed for their expenses. They can save money that way."

The JPPSOs, which cover geographic regions, are based in San Antonio and Colorado Springs, Colo., and at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

In addition to its operational control of the South Central, North Central and Northeast JPPSOs, PPA HQ manages the Air Force's Excess Cost and Adjudication Function, which reviews, processes and adjudicates personal property excess cost cases.

"We're the single service manager and governing authority over joint personal property shipping offices and traffic management offices in the continental United States. Our mission is to provide a quality relocation experience for every customer."

Master Sgt. Cory Favors
Personal Property Activity NCO in charge of command support staff

JBSA Parenting Conference

September 6 at 10:00 AM

Gateway Club at Lackland

FREE
Includes Lunch
&
Children's Ministry

For more information, call 671-2911 or 671-0413.