



WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

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BASH Program protects pilots PAGE 8

Maj. Will Rose, 12th Flying Training Wing Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard Program manager and T-6A Texan II flight safety officer, fires a paintball gun into a tree full of birds to scare them away July 13 at Joint Base San Antonio Randolph.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely



Photo by Melissa Peterson

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Photo by Joel Martinez

Summer fun at soccer camp, page 7



Photo by Joel Martinez

Build-a-Backpack program begins, page 13

COMMENTARY

Failure can teach us life lessons, resilience

By Chief Master Sgt. Paul Luebker
860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Legendary University of California at Los Angeles basketball coach John Wooden defined success as peace of mind which results from knowing you made the effort to do the best of which you are capable.

You may have seen this featured on a television commercial this spring. I first saw it many years ago while researching a paper on leadership. To me, simply put, it means do your best.

I have read a couple of different accounts about how the coach arrived at his definition. One said it was the result of an "F" he earned on a ninth-grade English assignment. Another story said it was an assignment he gave to his class when he was an English teacher.

Which is true is not important. What matters is he spent some time thinking about what would make him and his teammates more successful. We should all do the same.

I like the coach's definition for two reasons. First, because of the natural tie-in to our Air Force core value of excellence, and second, because it is entirely self-defined. By self-defined, I mean only you know when you've given your best effort. Others may think they know, but in fact, only you know when you have done all you can or when you have not. An honest assessment of your own effort will guide your reaction to both success and failure.

When you make the effort to truly do your best, success is sure to follow. Success, however, is not always immediate. We have high goals in the Air Force and occasionally we may miss the mark temporarily. Your best effort, excellence in all



Chief Master Sgt. Paul Luebker

you do, enables you to walk away with your head held high even if you fall short of the goal. Your best effort will help you recognize where you need to improve or what additional help your team needs to be successful next time out.

As Airmen, we have varying degrees of intelligence, physical strength, mechanical ability, etc., but we are equal in our ability to try our best.

Effort is the great equalizer. This is true in the classroom, on the athletic field, on the flightline or in your work center. On my team, I would rather have the Airman who gives max effort day-in, day-out than the Airman who, though perhaps more gifted, constantly complains, does just enough to get by and makes excuses for average performance.

In the maintenance group we teach the "Pillars of Aircraft Maintenance." They are technical data compliance,

"On my team, I would rather have the Airman who gives max effort day-in, day-out than the Airman who, though perhaps more gifted, constantly complains, does just enough to get by and makes excuses for average performance."

documentation, safety and training. These are the basic elements of maintenance discipline and fundamental to the work we do. I suspect these or similar elements apply to all Airmen whether you see patients at the hospital, support our communication systems or stand guard at a post. Ignoring the fundamental elements of your job indicates not only a lack of effort, but a disregard for your teammates and for our core values of integrity, service and excellence.

Air Force success comes from strict adherence to the core values and from your focus on the basic elements of your job. Anything less than your best effort adversely affects the unit and detracts from our mission to fly, fight and win.

So, do not whine, do not complain and do not make excuses. Take some time to define your own success and let excellence be your guide.

WINGSPREAD

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Continental Mills recalls Krusteaz Blueberry Pancake Mix

The 359th Medical Support Squadron Public Health Office at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph has received a food recall notification from Continental Mills that Krusteaz Blueberry Pancake Mix may be contaminated with E. Coli. This recall involves the 28 oz. carton with a "best by" date code between 3/30/2018 to 6/16/2018 and the UPC code 041449001289 and the 3.5lb. bag with a "best by" date code between 4/27/2018 to 4/28/2018 and the UPC code 041449001487. These products were manufactured between April 2016 and June 2016. If you have recently purchased either of these products, dispose of the products and call the Consumer Relations Team at 1-800-457-7744 for information on how to receive a full refund. To view previous recalls and FAQs, visit <http://www.dla.mil/TroopSupport/Subsistence/FoodSafety/fso/ALFOODACT.aspx>.

Carter announces policy for transgender service members

From the Office of the Secretary of Defense Press Operations

Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced June 30 that transgender individuals will now be able to openly serve in the U.S. armed forces.

The new Department of Defense policy also establishes a construct by which service members may transition gender while serving, sets standards for medical care and outlines responsibilities for military services and commanders to develop and implement guidance, training and specific policies in the near and long term.

"This is the right thing to do for our people and for the force," Carter said. "We're talking about talented Americans who are serving with distinction or who want the opportunity to serve. We can't allow barriers unrelated to a person's qualifications prevent us from recruiting and retaining those who can best accomplish the mission."

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James vocalized her support for the policy change.

"Transgender Airmen serve alongside us with integrity, service and excellence," James said. "Today's announcement is the first step in allowing transgender Airmen to serve openly, receive medi-

cal care relating to gender transition and allow transgender individuals to join the Air Force. Our strengths as a military are the quality and character of our people and those things that make us unique are the same things that make us strong. In the coming months we will work diligently to fully implement Secretary Carter's decision."

The policy will be phased in during a one-year period. Effective immediately, service members may no longer be involuntarily separated, discharged or denied re-enlistment solely on the basis of gender identity. Service members currently on duty will be able to serve openly.

By Oct. 1, the DOD will create and distribute a commanders' training handbook, medical protocol and guidance for changing a service member's gender in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS). At this point, the services will be required to provide medically necessary care and treatment to transgender service members according to the medical protocol and guidance, and may begin changing gender markers in DEERS.

Prior to Oct. 1, requests for medical treatment will be handled on a case-by-case basis consistent with the spirit of the directive type memorandum and the DOD

instruction issued June 30.

Over the course of the next year, the DOD will finalize force training plans and implementation guidance, revise regulations and forms, and train the force, including commanders, human resources specialists, recruiters and service members. Peter Levine, the acting under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, will work with the military services to monitor and oversee this effort.

At one year, the services will begin allowing transgender individuals to join the armed forces, assuming they meet accession standards. In addition, an otherwise-qualified individual's gender identity will not be considered a bar to admission to a military service academy, or participation in the ROTC or any other accession program if the individual meets the new criteria.

The full policy must be completely implemented no later than July 1, 2017.

To support service members, medical professionals and commanders during the implementation period, the DOD has set up a central coordination cell which will serve as a central point of contact for technical questions and concerns. The coordination cell is made up of legal experts, policy experts and medical professionals familiar with the issue.

————— To advertise in the Wingspread, call 250-2052. —————

AF releases candidate bases for Battlefield Airmen training

From Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The Air Force recently announced eight installations as candidate locations where it will potentially consolidate its Battlefield Airmen training.

The installations include: Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.; Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Joint Base San Antonio, Texas; Keesler AFB, Miss.; Little Rock AFB, Ark.; Patrick AFB, Fla.; Shaw AFB, S.C.; and Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

"The Air Force is committed to a deliberate and open process to address Battlefield Airmen basing," said Jennifer A. Miller, the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations. "As we progress through the basing process, we will share information so interested communities are aware of what to expect."

Last year, the Air Force reviewed its Battlefield Airmen training. The review determined grouping training at consolidated locations may lead to improvements and synergies in the current training processes. As a result, the Air Force is investigating potential locations to consolidate training.

Over the last several months, the Air Force gathered information from all Air Force installations in the continental United States and assessed it against mission requirements, capacity, environmental considerations and cost to determine options for consolidating Battlefield Airmen training, if the Air Force indeed chooses to consolidate Battlefield Airmen training at fewer locations.

The Air Force will now conduct detailed, on-the-ground evaluations (site surveys) of the candidate bases covering the full range of operational and infrastructure requirements. The results of the surveys will be briefed to the secretary of the Air Force and chief of staff of the Air Force, who will then select preferred and reasonable alternatives. The Air Force will analyze the potential environmental impacts at each location before a final basing decision is made.

The preferred and reasonable alternatives are expected to be selected in early 2017.

Currently, Battlefield Airmen training is conducted at eight primary training locations across seven states.

DITY moves are now Personally Procured Moves

from the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Throughout a person's military career, moving will probably be the No. 1 stress factor encountered, especially if one chooses to do it themselves.

The Department of Defense has taken into consideration there are still members who would rather move all or a portion of their property themselves.

This type of move, formally known as the do-it-yourself, or DITY, program is now known as a Personally Procured Move, or PPM. It is an incentive-based program for military members whereby the government pays you up to 95 percent of the cost it would have paid a commercial moving company. Civilians are limited to "actual cost" reimbursement not to exceed the government constructive cost.

When members receive orders with a household goods shipping entitlement they have three options:

1. Members can elect to have the government move all of their

property.

2. Members can elect to move all of their property themselves.

3. Members can elect for the government to move part of their property and they can move the remaining part themselves.

If the member chooses the PPM program, there are two available options:

1. The member can hire a moving company to move the property for them.

2. The member can use their Personally Owned Vehicle or rent a vehicle such as a truck and or trailer and move the property themselves.

In general, PPMs are not for everyone. It is more work for the member and involves a lot of planning and responsibilities.

For more information, contact your local Personal Property Processing Office for guidance prior to making a move. For Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-1605, 652-1848 for JBSA-Randolph and 671-2821 for JBSA-Lackland.



Courtesy photo

12th FTW commander meets civic leaders



Col. Joel Carey, 12th Flying Training Wing commander, speaks during the monthly 12th FTW Military Affairs Committee luncheon held July 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The committee members welcomed Carey during his first meeting with local civic leaders to discuss base happenings by fostering and promoting a vital military presence in the community through activities that support our military populations.

Photo by Melissa Peterson

Safe vacation travel depends on planning, greater awareness

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Summertime is vacation and travel time for many families and individuals, but those enjoyable trips by car or by plane can turn unpleasant or even deadly.

Statistics from the Air Force Safety Center show the Air Force suffered 70 vehicle-related fatalities in the summer months from 2009-2013, underscoring the urgency of the service's Summer Safety Campaign.

However, with proper planning and heightened awareness, those journeys can be accident- and incident-free.

"Plan, plan and stick to the plan," said Travis Kilpack, 502nd Air Base Wing occupational safety manager. "If you are driving, plan for frequent stops. Share driving duties and stick to your plan."

Drivers often arrive at their planned rest stop and decide, with a little more coffee, they can press on and reach their destination more quickly, only to find they

are more fatigued than they thought, he said.

It is important for travelers to deliberately plan for their destination and know what they will be doing, Kilpack said.

"If you are going to be in the outdoors, plan for the weather," he said. "If you are going to be in crowded cities or foreign countries, plan for your security."

Proper security requires several measures, Kilpack said.

"Be aware of your surroundings, but don't stand out," he said. "Don't be flashy, and secure your belongings."

Vehicles are especially vulnerable on vacation trips, so valuables should be kept out of sight in trunks and hidden compartments and under seats.

The choice of a hotel room is another consideration, Kilpack said.

"Get your hotel room between the second and fifth floors," he said. "They're harder to access for thieves, but are escapable in the event of a fire. Also be sure to secure your valuables in the hotel safe because room safes are easily accessed by staff."

People should also prepare for various scenarios once they reach their destination – when they are shopping, using public transportation, out at night and other situations.

"Travel in small groups and have rally points," Kilpack said. "Don't stand out in a crowd. Secure your belongings in such a way to limit access – keeping your wallet in your front pocket and your backpack on both shoulders, for example."

Travelers should also make sure their vehicle is ready for a long trip.

According to the Air Force Safety Center, tire failure contributed to 43.3 percent of crashes in the civilian population between 2005 and 2007, and brake failure contributed to 25 percent of crashes.

The National Crime Prevention Council advises vacationers to carry travelers' checks instead of cash and to record information of valuables taken on their trip. The council also recommends travelers learn about their vacation destinations before they arrive, know what sites they want to visit and determine how to get there using a safe, well-traveled route.



Photo by Melissa Peterson

Ensuring a safe vacation starts at the beginning, when valuables should be placed in secure locations and kept out of sight for the duration of the trip.

To flush or not to flush

By Scott Reed

502nd Civil Engineer Squadron
Water Quality Lead

Just because you flush human waste down the toilet doesn't mean the San Antonio Water System sewers are waste disposal units.

Sewers are designed to take away wastewater from sinks and baths, as well as toilet paper and human waste flushed down the toilet.

But hundreds of people cause blockages in sewers or damage to the environment by putting trash down the toilet. Just because an item is called disposable doesn't mean it is safe to flush. Instead you should bag it and put it in the garbage. Don't flush it!

Our sewers are not designed to cope with modern disposable products. As a result these items can cause blockages. The drains connecting your home or place of work to the main sewer are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper and human waste. They are often no wider than four inches.

Around 75 percent of blockages involve disposable items. To avoid drain pain and a drain on resources, remember to bag it and put in the garbage. Don't flush it!

Disposable products, such as cotton balls, condoms, diapers and plastics can find their way into the environment if they are flushed down the drain. To prevent



Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron and the San Antonio Water System. Never pour grease down the sink drain.

Courtesy photo

damage to the environment, the following items should be disposed of in the ways recommended:

- Cotton balls, feminine products, bandages, diapers, plastics and dental floss should be disposed of in the garbage along with other household trash.
- Condoms, tampons and applicators should be wrapped and disposed of in the trash.

Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron and SAWS. Never pour grease in your sink drain and try to use your garbage disposal less.

Grease is a byproduct of cooking. It comes from meat, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces and dairy products.

When grease washes down the sink, it sticks to the insides of the pipes that connect your home or place of work to the SAWS sewer. It also coats the insides of SAWS sewer pipes.

Eventually, the grease can build up until it completely blocks sewer pipes. That can create difficult and expensive maintenance problems. Blocked sewer pipes can cause raw sewage to back up into your home or place of work, or overflow into streets and streams.

Garbage disposals do not keep grease out of sewer pipes. Products that claim to dissolve grease may dislodge a blockage, but will only cause problems farther on down the line when the grease hardens again.

Reducing foreign objects going down the kitchen sink prevents sewer problems.

Following these dos and don'ts will help you avoid expensive sewer backups, plumbing emergencies and resources to cover sewer maintenance and repairs, while helping protect water quality in your community.

Do

- Recycle used cooking oil or properly dispose of it by pouring it into a sealable container and placing the sealed container in the trash.

- Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink.
- Wipe pots, pans and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them, then throw away the paper towels.

- Place a catch basket or screen over the sink drain when rinsing dishware or when peeling or trimming food to catch small scraps that would otherwise be washed down the drain. Throw the scraps in the trash.

- Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher. Hot water melts the fats, oils and grease off the dishes and into the sewer pipes. Further down the sewer pipe, the hot water will cool and the fats, oils and grease will clog the pipes.

Don't

- Use a garbage disposal or food grinder. Grinding food up before rinsing it down the drain does not remove fats, oils and grease; it just makes the pieces smaller. Even non-greasy food scraps can plug your home's sewer lines. Do not put food of any kind down the drain.

- Pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings, or sauces down the sink or toilet, or into street gutters or storm drains.

- Use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or clean greasy or oily dishware. When you wash them, the grease will end up in the sewer.

- Run water over dishes, pans, fryers and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.

JBSA-Randolph soccer camp blends fun, games with instruction

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Boys and girls sporting colorful hairdos and mismatched socks typified “Wacky Wednesday” July 13 at one of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Youth Programs’ most popular summer specialty camps.

But far from being distracting, the fun atmosphere at the week-long camp enabled participants to fully enjoy learning the basic skills associated with a sport often called “the beautiful game.”

Three young coaches from England and Ireland brought their expertise and communication skills to Challenger Sports’ British Soccer Camp, which attracted more than 30 boys and girls rang-

ing in age from 6 to 14 to Ebbets Field, one of the youth baseball diamonds on 5th Street East.

“This is the third time for the Challenger camp,” said Amanda Fite, Youth Programs sports director. “It gets filled up every year. The instructors use fun games to teach the fundamentals; the kids really enjoy it.”

Austin-based Challenger Sports is dedicated to soccer, offering tournaments and operating summer camps throughout the United States and Canada, as well as year-round soccer academies and soccer tours to Great Britain, Europe, Brazil and the United States.

Hailing from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, Jamie Best, a 20-year-old at the University of Leeds who was one of the

coaches at the camp, said the fun and games – including joke-telling sessions – have a purpose.

“For the younger ones, it is about having fun,” he said. “It entices them to the sport.”

Mason Pentreath of Birmingham, England, a 22-year-old student at the University of Southampton, England, used games such as “Dora the Explorer” and “What’s the time, Mr. Wolf?” – a form of tag played in the United Kingdom and other countries – to maintain the interest of the youngest group of camp participants, who can be distracted by the trainer jets roaring overhead.

“I’m a big kid at heart,” he said. “I teach techniques through these games. That way it will click in their heads and the better they will become.”

Best said the fun continues for the older children, evidenced by the song they sang while waiting for one of their drills, but they also learn more advanced soccer skills and are taught the importance of conditioning, leadership and communicating with teammates.

“We teach them all the skills – dribbling, passing, shooting, defending and attacking – and get them to understand the game,” he said.

The camp also featured a World Cup tournament every day, with the participants assigned to teams representing some of the world’s soccer powers. They wore the colors of their countries, made up their own cheers and created their countries’ flags.

Best enjoys coaching the camp participants.

“I get a good kick out of conveying to

these kids what I’m taught by my coaches, but I also learn my own ways,” he said.

Fite said the camp enhances the skills of the participants who already have soccer experience, and provides a great introduction to others.

“Some of the kids are new to soccer,” she said. “It’s a good way to see if they like the sport and want to play it in the future.”

Soccer novices may actually get more out of the camp, Best said.

“Those who are new to the sport are more enthusiastic, so they can learn more,” he said.

Eoin Hackett of Dublin, Ireland, a 20-year-old student at University College Dublin who coached 8- and 9-year-olds during the camp, agreed.

“Some of these kids are playing for the first time,” he said. “It’s great to give them that first experience. They’re very involved – and enthusiastic.”

Hackett said it is gratifying to see the children’s progress.

“On the first day, they’re nervous,” he said. “Then they get out of their shells, and you see them get more involved. Skill-wise, you see them pick up little things as the week goes on.”

Isaiah Griffin, a 13-year-old student at Randolph Middle School who plays club soccer, said the camp has helped him improve his skills.

“I’m fast, but I can’t control the ball at full speed,” he said. “I’m trying to get better at ball control.”

It has also benefited Isaiah in other ways.

“I’ve learned how to communicate better with my teammates and get to know them better,” he said. “It’s also helped me to be more responsible and coachable.”



Photo by Joel Martinez

Jamie Best (left), soccer coach, runs camp participants through a series of exercises during a soccer camp July 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

JBSA Single Parents and Children Retreat

A retreat for single parents and their children, ages 5 and up, takes place Aug. 6-7 at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in New Braunfels, Texas. Free meals, room and activities, including a ropes course, swimming and camp fire are offered. Call 671-9402 to reserve a slot. Slots are limited to 30 total participants.

BASH program decreases bird strikes, makes air space safer for pilots

By Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Sporting a neon yellow safety vest with a 12th Flying Training Wing Safety patch Velcro-ed to the front, Maj. Jason Powell, 12th FTW chief of flight safety, bends down to pick up a white-winged dove off of the ground at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The dove fits easily in the palm of his left hand. Propped across his body is the air pellet rifle Powell used to take down the bird.

To some, the dove may seem harmless, but Powell knows a bird as small as 4 ounces can cause engine failure for aircraft on impact, and his action can protect pilots from these small, powerful threats, while saving the Air Force thousands of dollars in aircraft repairs.

Powell's efforts are a part of a program called BASH, or Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard program, which was created to decrease the number of bird strikes to aircraft that occur at JBSA-Randolph. The program's main mission is to prevent strikes by using various forms of depredation and harassment, as well as changing the bird's habitat to create a safer environment for flight operations.

"Randolph is unique in the sense that we have parallel runways with a large concentration of habitat in between," Maj. Will Rose, 12th FTW BASH program manager and T-6A Texan II flight safety officer, said. "We've made a concerted effort to make a change, and that's our bird dispersal team."

The bird dispersal team consists of about 30 members and performs bird harassment near the flight line using pyrotechnics, also called bangers, screamers and cracker

shells. The pyrotechnics, fired using a shotgun or pistol, create a loud noise to startle the birds and push them to fly away from the runways.

Vivian Prothro, U.S. Department of Agriculture staff wildlife biologist, works with the bird dispersal team and provides knowledge and expertise on current bird harassment techniques.

"Research is constantly going on in how we can come up with better ways to keep pilots and planes safe and lower the chances of bird aircraft strike," Prothro said. "The most effective tool that I find out here is the louder the noise it makes, the more effective it is."

Along with Rose and Powell, there are about 10 members from the bird dispersal team who work on a bird depredation team. These members go out in pairs, with one person serving as a spotter, while the other shoots

using an air pellet rifle or a paintball gun.

"We don't want to go out there and kill the birds," Powell said. "It's the least effective way of doing business. You do have to use the lethal [methods] in order to still have effectiveness with the paintball guns. If you're shooting at them, and it's just splatting and nothing is ever happening to the birds, they're going to figure it out eventually."

Because JBSA-Randolph is in the Central Flyway for North America for all migratory birds, it is home to a wide array of birds, including vultures, raptors, red-tailed hawks, mourning doves, white-winged doves, scissor-tailed flycatchers and killdeers. However, the white-winged dove is the most common because they roost, or live, in the trees in base housing, Rose said.

Rose said a top concern is the flight path doves take, which starts at the center of base housing and goes over the east flight line where it crosses the T-38C Talon and T-1A Jayhawk flight paths.

"Our efforts are to try and change their flight path, and that's why we use pyrotechnics and noise makers, so they go farther south before they cross," Rose said.

Another concern is when there is higher bird traffic, it can affect flight operations, Rose said.

"A lot of times they can't do the patterns they want to do," Rose said. "We limit their formations at take-off, which they'd like to do a lot more of, but because of the concentration of birds, we put 'bird moderate' as a condition or status."

To determine the 'bird moderate' status, a bird radar is utilized, which transmits bird activity within four miles of the base. Pilots can also report activity.

Due to the efforts of the BASH program, bird strikes have lowered by nearly 55 percent since last year. In June 2015, there were 22 recorded bird strikes, while in June of this year there were only 10, which has become the monthly average, Rose said.

Not only has the BASH program's efforts created safer operations for aircraft by reducing bird strikes, it has decreased the Air Force's cost in aircraft repairs due to strikes.

"So far this year we've only had one damaging strike, and the estimated cost is \$125,000," Rose said. "For fiscal year 2015, the total cost was \$1.1 million in damage over a period of 17 strikes. So this year we're more than halfway through the fiscal year, and we're significantly lower."

Lt. Col. Emil Bliss, 12th FTW community initiatives director, said he sees potential for the program to grow through collaboration with the local communities surrounding JBSA-Randolph.

"Since birds don't understand municipal boundaries, we know lasting solutions will only be found in the strong cooperation we have with the surrounding communities," Bliss said.

The biggest way to combat the bird problem on base is by managing their habitat, and base residents can contribute to these efforts, Rose said.

"Don't feed the birds. Don't leave standing water,



Above: Maj. Jason Powell, 12th Flying Training Wing chief of flight safety, gathers a white-winged dove after striking it with the air pellet rifle July 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard Program reduces the threat that the nearly 400 different species of birds pose each year as they travel along the Central Americas Flyway. Right: Vivian Prothro, U.S. Department of Agriculture staff wildlife biologist, prepares to fire a 15 mm. Bird Banger near the east flight line July 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard Program team members use bangers, screamers and cracker shells, which are various types of pyrotechnics, to scare birds and wildlife away from where aircraft are taking off and landing.

and keep their shelter – trees and bushes – maintained," Rose said.

Another way BASH manages habitat is by maintaining Air Force standards for the height of grass in the infield, which is seven to 14 inches, and by utilizing the Air Force Civil Engineering Center to identify the types of insects and plants birds eat.

"It's a total environmental change, and that reduces our bird risk by simply changing a plant in the infield along the runway," Powell said. "It's a habitat modification."

The bird dispersal team is open to any general schedule or military member volunteers who want to "go out there and help the cause," Rose said.

The team goes out every morning, starting at 7:30 a.m., for about three hours. Personnel interested in volunteering can contact the 12th FTW Safety office at 652-2224.

"That's what we're here for, to protect the airplanes and the pilots," Prothro said.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely

Maj. Jason Powell, 12th Flying Training Wing chief of flight safety, aims an air pellet rifle at a white-winged dove July 13 on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The air pellet rifle is similar to a BB gun, but it uses tank-compressed air and non-lead pellets instead of pumped air and BBs.

'Jedi at the Exchange' Coming to JBSA-Randolph Exchange

From Army & Air Force Exchange Service
Public Affairs

The Force will most definitely be with families at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph on July 24 thanks to the Army & Air Force Exchange Service.

"Jedi at the Exchange" will offer Disney-approved Jedi training – similar to that offered at Disney theme parks – for children ages 4-12.

During each session, Jedis-in-training will learn how to wield a lightsaber, be trained in the ways of the Force and receive an official certificate stating they have completed the training. Robes and lightsabers will be provided, though young Padawans may bring their own costumes if they so choose.

The training session will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Randolph Main

Store. Parents may register their children on the day of the event at the main store.

"Star Wars mania is far from over," said Larry Salgado, Exchange general manager. "Events like these don't just give our military families a sense of community, but an opportunity to bond over for what many families is a shared passion. This is truly what the Exchange is all about: bringing military families together through quality services and events."

Parents may bring cameras to the event to photograph their junior Jedis, and select toys will be discounted on the day of the event.

More than 5,000 children participated in 21 Jedi at the Exchange events in 2015, which were held in anticipation of the worldwide release of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

Beginners Open 2016

There will be an 18-hole disc golf tournament Saturday and Sunday at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Heritage Park. Registration is available the day of and check-in begins at 8 a.m. with tee-off no later than 9:30 a.m. Each day will be a separate tournament. The cost is \$25 for one day and \$35 for both days. Visit https://www.facebook.com/events/1099832053430513/?active_tab=highlights for more information.

Committee seeks volunteers

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph National American Indian Heritage Committee is seeking volunteers. Those interested in volunteering can call Ed Blauvelt at 652-8529. Volunteers do not have to be American Indian, only willing to lend a hand.

The 2nd Annual Gourd Dance takes place Sept. 30 at JBSA-Randolph's Taj, building 100. The event will mark the State of Texas American Indian Heritage Day.

Leadership is listening

The Armed Forces Action Plan is a tool to manage change and improve the well-being of the military community. This powerful process gives service members, retirees, reservists, DOD civilians, survivors, teens and their family members an opportunity to identify critical issues concerning the readiness, morale, welfare or quality of life in the Joint

Base San Antonio military community. Ideas, suggestions and concerns are presented to senior leaders for action and resolution. AFAP also gives commanders a gauge to validate concerns and measure satisfaction; results in legislation, policies, programs and services that strengthen readiness and retention.

To submit an idea, issue or suggestion, fill out a comment form in-person at the Military & Family Readiness Center, visit <http://go.usa.gov/x3WwA>, or email usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-fss-volunteer@mail.mil. All issues for the 2016 AFAP Conference must be received no later than Sept. 2. To become a volunteer or for more information about AFAP, call 221-2705.

BAMC Bariatric Clinic

The Brooke Army Medical Center Bariatric Clinic is a self-referral clinic and offers informational seminars on the second, third and fourth Wednesdays of each month. There are three kinds of laparoscopic bariatric surgeries performed at Brooke Army Medical Center: adjustable gastric band, gastric bypass and vertical sleeve gastrectomy.

There is also a bariatric support group held on the first Wednesday of each month in the main dining room in the lower level of BAMC. The Bariatric Clinic will also accept referrals from your primary care manager.

Call 916-9023 for an appointment.

Colonel 'pays it back' on recruiting trip

By Annette Crawford

Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

Col. Danny Davis does not wear an Air Force recruiting badge, but that did not deter him from embarking on a mission to inspire and engage future Airmen.

Davis, the former deputy director for Manpower, Personnel and Services at Headquarters Air Force District of Washington, traveled throughout five counties in southern and eastern Kentucky from May 2-6.

With the help of the 332nd Recruiting Squadron, the team completed a demanding schedule. They visited seven high schools, resulting in approximately 175 leads, and established recruiter relationships with 13 principals and counselors, paving the way for future success.

Davis personally knew the odds most of these students faced. He grew up in McCreary County – the poorest Congressional district in America – and graduated from McCreary Central High School in 1989. When he contacted the schools about his outreach plan, he said they were very excited someone cared enough to talk to their students about opportunities.

“The kids in this area have grown accustomed to hearing their conditions are hopeless. I gave them some optimism,” said Davis, who will become commander of the 81st Mission Support Group at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., July 8.

“Because there were few opportunities when I was growing up, I knew before I left McCreary County in 1989 that someday I would return and encourage the youth to dare to dream and to chase dreams beyond what they can immediately see around them,” he said. “Any good citizen has a responsibility to serve his or her country, state and local community.”

The school visits included five lunchroom interaction opportunities and 11 presentations to more than 1,000 students. Davis spent weeks fine-tuning his slide show, including information about career fields, benefits, commissioning opportunities, and videos of Air Force commercials and careers.

“My recruiting focused on the benefits of joining the Air Force, but I also focused on having opportunities in life,” Davis said. “I told them they will have more opportunities by taking advantage of Air Force training and the emphasis the Air Force puts on education via the tuition assistance and the G.I. Bill programs. I told them success will not come to them; they will have to go get success. When preparation, hard work, and persistence meet opportunity, they will find success.”

Davis also helped recruiters establish social interaction with students so they can communicate on a monthly basis, building trust with future recruits by educating them on Air Force opportunities.

“Colonel Davis embodied being a good Airman first and didn’t forget where he came from,” said Tech. Sgt. Casey Davis, one of the 332nd RCS recruiters who accompanied the colonel on his travels. “He told every class that coming from humble beginnings didn’t exclude anyone from achieving from great-



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. John Roy

Col. Danny Davis presents an Air Force Recruiting Service certificate of appreciation to Sharon Privett, principal of McCreary Central High School. Davis graduated from the school in 1989.

ness. I spent a week with him, and from sun-up to sundown we were on the go. He really cared about the students he talked to.”

The colonel said he was inspired by a leadership opportunity he experienced in middle school with his school’s Army Junior ROTC program.

“This was my first ‘formal’ leadership opportunity, and I appreciated learning about discipline and teamwork. Although I never re-enrolled in the program after the first year, I never forgot the lessons I learned; those lessons helped shape my character.”

While attending the University of Kentucky in 1990, the colonel remembered contemplating what he wanted to do with his life.

“I have always been passionate about leadership and the various degrees of how to motivate others from diverse backgrounds to accomplish goals. Late that year, I met a UK Air Force ROTC cadet and we discussed the program. In January 1991, I enrolled, and I have not had one regret since that day; the Air Force and I have had a mutually beneficial relationship.”

One of Davis’ goals on this recruiting venture was to educate youth about opportunities.

“I explained to them that they can achieve their dreams even if they have never witnessed anybody else achieving those same dreams. I explained the more options they have in life, the more successful they will be. The Air Force values education and training. Education and training will give them more

opportunities and expand their horizons to achieve much more than they ever dreamed they were capable of achieving,” Davis said.

“Another goal I had was to expose the students to the benefits of joining the Air Force on a level that made sense to them as 16-, 17- and 18-year-olds,” the colonel added. “The recruiters indicated they normally get two or three leads per school visit. At that rate, the goal would have been 15 to 20 leads. However, the fantastic team of recruiters (Tech. Sgt. Casey Davis and Tech. Sgt. Jason Miller) and I shattered that goal with 175 potential leads. Those students will stay in contact with the recruiters over the next two or three years until they graduate and finalize what they want to do with their lives. Some of them have recently graduated and have already visited the recruiter.”

On a professional level, the colonel said the recruiting tour ranked as one of the most gratifying experiences he has had while serving in the Air Force.

“It was an opportunity for me to expose kids in Appalachian Kentucky to a broader picture than most of them will ever see again in their lifetime. Twenty-seven years ago when I left, I promised I would return and give back to the community. I kept my word,” Davis said. “If merely one student out of those 175 possible recruits chooses to join the Air Force, then their life will forever change and the visit will have been a success. And perhaps, 30 years from now that recruit will return to his local community and pay it back.”

Pokémon is back, oh no.

From 96th Test Wing
Judge Advocate General's Office

Watch out! Everyone's favorite game from the 90s is back, this time in form of a mobile phone application. That's right, with Nintendo's release of its new Pokémon Go mobile game, people across America are catching Pokémon fever again.

Confused about how the game works? Well, Pokémon Go uses your mobile phone's GPS to spot virtual Pokémon on a game map that is pinned to real world locations. When you find a Pokémon on your game map, whether it be in a supermarket or your bathroom, your smartphone camera opens up, giving you a view of the virtual Pokémon in the real world. You then flick a Poké Ball toward the creature to capture it. As you move around playing the game, different types of Pokémon will appear on your game map depending on where you are and what time it is. The more Pokémon and items you collect, the better chance you have at beating your friends.

As you can imagine, the game has caused people to venture into many different locations in order to catch Pokémon. For instance, it has been reported people have caught Pokémon in places like: their neighbor's backyard, at schools, at funerals and even at hospitals (while the gamer's wife was in labor). This game also poses a substantial security risk to users when they agree to allow "full access permission" to users' Google accounts during sign-up. When playing the game as a member of the military, it is important to remember a few certain rules:

(1) Do not select the sign up method that links the game to your Google account.

There are two methods of sign up to play Pokémon Go. The first, which is more extensive, is to sign up for a "Trainer Club" account on the game website. The second option is to simply link the app to your Google account. While this may be a tempting option, the security risk is not worth it. When linking the app to your Google account, you are granting the game programmers full access to your Google account including saved Google Drive documents, personal data, email, personal photos and more. If you gotta catch 'em all, make sure you sign up through the game website.

(2) Don't play Pokémon Go while walking in uniform.

Pokémon Go requires gamers walk around with the app open on their devices to play the game. According to AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, dated 18 July 2011, paragraph 6.3.3.2, it is unacceptable to walk in uniform and use any personal electronic media devices, earpieces, or speakerphones unless it is an emergency situation or notifications are necessary. At last check, catching your first Snorlax outside of the BX while in uniform does not constitute an emergency situation.

(3) Don't trespass while playing Pokemon Go.

Since the game's release, numerous people through-

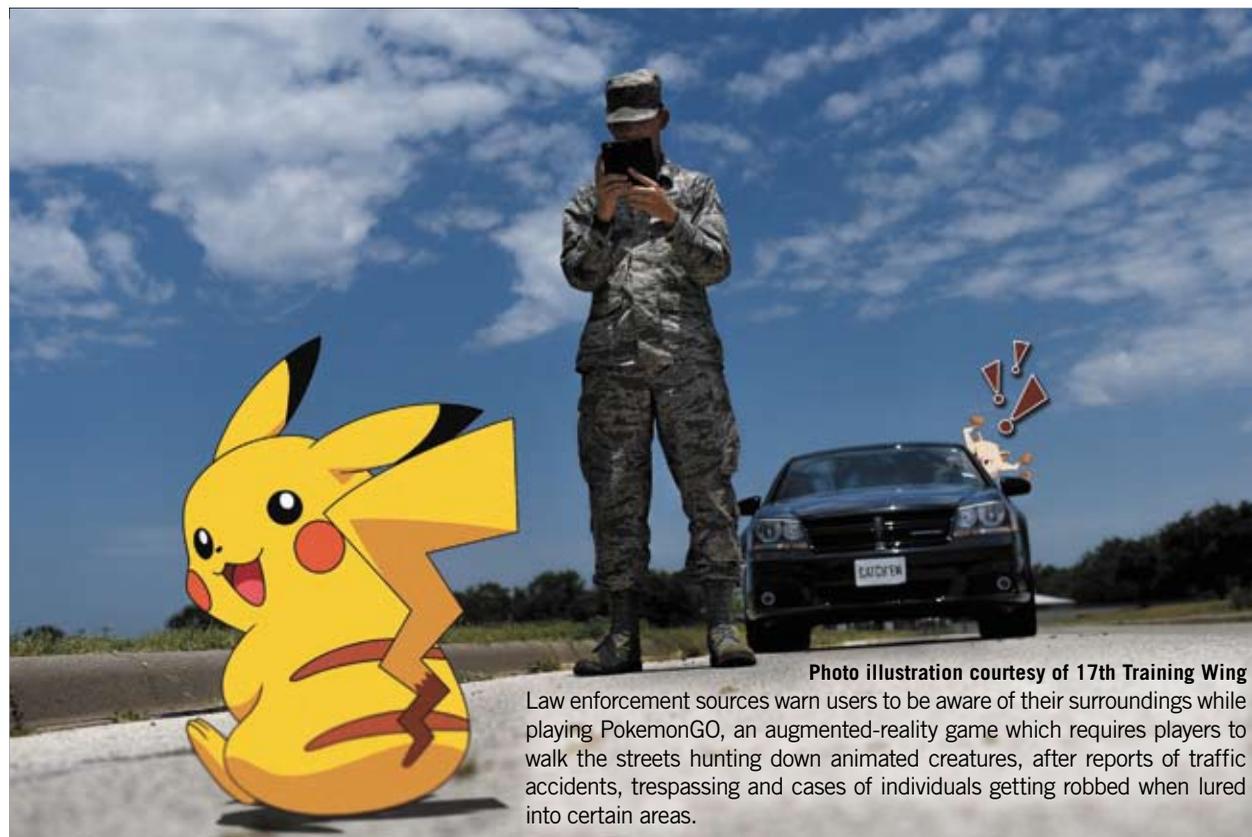


Photo illustration courtesy of 17th Training Wing

Law enforcement sources warn users to be aware of their surroundings while playing PokemonGO, an augmented-reality game which requires players to walk the streets hunting down animated creatures, after reports of traffic accidents, trespassing and cases of individuals getting robbed when lured into certain areas.

out America have already been disciplined for trying to catch a Pokémon in unauthorized areas. In Washington, for instance, law enforcement officials have already had to apprehend several eager Pokémon Go players for trespassing at a local police station while playing the game.

At a military installation, it would be wise not to visit an unauthorized area in order to catch the nearest Charizard. Yes, the all-powerful Mewto may be sitting on the flight line waiting for you to catch it. Yes, catching Mewto on the flightline may help you beat your friends at the game. However, catching even the most powerful Pokémon is not worth the risk of disciplinary action. Jumping the fence to visit an unauthorized area on base can trigger emergency alerts across base and cause you to lose all of your Pokémon Go playing rights.

(4) Be mindful of your pictures.

One of Pokemon Go's features allows you to see Pokemon in the real world around you by utilizing your phone's camera. While capturing that elusive Eevee, you even have the option of taking a picture or a screen shot of the encounter. While taking pictures of your dog making new best friends with Moltres and posting them to social media is all good fun, taking pictures of classified areas, privileged information, or any number of other confidential, privacy act, or for official use only information, is not.

(5) Don't stop your car in the middle of the road to catch a Pokémon.

Even though you may spot a Jigglypuff in a busy in-

tersection, you may not stop your car in the middle of the road unless it is an emergency situation. Think this is common sense? Well, a woman in Australia was seen the other day playing the game in a busy intersection during rush hour. Trust us, Jigglypuff is not worth the risk of getting a ticket anyways.

(6) Whether on or off base, be mindful of where you are playing the game.

Pokémon Go is gaining national attention both for its popularity as well as the presence of characters in inappropriate locations. Examples of places where people have played Pokémon Go include the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. and Arlington National Cemetery. Whether in uniform or not, you are always "on-duty" as a member of the military and should act appropriately at all times. Additionally, be careful where you are going while playing. The O'Fallon Missouri Police Department reported the game has allegedly been used to lure victims into specific locations so they can more discreetly be robbed. Wherever you are, maintain awareness at all times.

In the end, Pokémon Go may be the hottest game on the market. However, it is important military members use common sense when playing the game. No game, or Pokémon, is worth putting your career in jeopardy for. Nonetheless, enjoy competing against your friends, acting like a child again and catching them all (when legally acceptable).

For more information: <http://www.cnet.com/news/pokemon-go-gotta-catch-all-your-personal-data/>.

Build-A-Backpack drive provides backpacks for schoolchildren

By David DeKunder

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

On Monday, the Joint Base San Antonio School Liaison Office kicks off its sixth annual Build-a-Backpack Program to provide backpacks and school supplies to children of active-duty members and to students in the local community.

The school liaison office will be accepting donated backpacks filled with school supplies for children in kindergarten through 12th grade at several locations throughout JBSA until Aug. 10.

“The purpose of this event is to provide children with the tools they need to help them become successful in school,” said Angela Green, JBSA-Randolph School Liaison Office military child education specialist.

Green said backpacks and school supplies collected will go toward children of active-duty members who are experiencing unique circumstances or hardships.

Schoolchildren of active-duty members who are deployed, on extended temporary duty or on a remote tour of duty are also eligible.

The names of the families and children who are eligible to receive backpacks and school supplies are provided to the school liaison office by first sergeants from JBSA units or other referral agents. After the backpacks have been collected, family members will be contacted for distribution Aug. 15-19.

JBSA members, groups, squadrons and units who donate backpacks and school supplies can specify the age group designation of the child who will receive it. They have the choice of filling the backpack with supplies for a student in grades K-5 or 6-12. A list of school supplies for grades K-5 and 6-12 and label designations for age groups can be found at <http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/School-Liaison-Office>, in the 2016 Build-a-Backpack document.

In addition, anyone who donates a backpack is allowed to write a note to the child who will use it.

“We ask them to put a positive, encouraging note in the backpack,” Green said.

Back-to-school time can be stressful for military families, especially for those on a tight budget and in transition, said Lori Phipps, JBSA-Lackland School Liaison Office military child education specialist.

“We just want to ease that stress at back-to-school time,” she said. “It is a true team effort to give back to our community and to make sure our family members in need are taken care of.”

Last year, the Build-a-Backpack Program collected 600 backpacks and 35 additional boxes of school supplies for 800 children from JBSA and the local community, including economically disadvantaged students in five school districts surrounding JBSA locations. Since the Build-a-Backpack Program started in 2010, 2,500 schoolchildren have received backpacks and school supplies.

When children come with their parents to pick up their backpacks filled with school supplies, there are

“It’s been a time that shows our entire community really goes out to try and support our kids. It shows that they support education. There are a lot of people who feel education is important and feel that there is a need to try to help these kids get a great start.”

Angela Green

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph School Liaison Office military child education specialist



Photo by Joel Martinez

The Joint Base San Antonio School Liaison Office kicks off its sixth annual Build-a-Backpack Program Monday. The program provides backpacks filled with school supplies to children of active-duty members and local students.

various reactions from both the children and the parents when they see the backpack, Phipps said.

“We have smiles, giggles, laughter and pride,” she said. “They are proud of that backpack. The parents are grateful and appreciative. They are excited because of the smile on their kid’s face.”

Green said the participation of many JBSA members in donating backpacks and school supplies and volunteering to sort and distribute backpacks has made the Build-a-Backpack Program into a community event.

“It’s been a time that shows our entire community really goes out to try and support our kids,” Green said. “It shows that they support education. There are a lot of people who feel education is important and feel that there is a need to try to help these kids get a great start.”

Donation sites for backpacks and school supplies include: JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday; JBSA-Lackland Library, building 6114, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center, building 693, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday; JBSA-Randolph Library, building 598, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; and the Keith Campbell Memorial Library at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, building 1222, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

For information on the Build-a-Backpack Program, call the JBSA School Liaison Office at 671-8388 or 652-5321.