

# FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

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## JBSA HOTLINES



**DOD Safe Helpline**  
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**JBSA Sexual Assault Hotline**  
808-SARC (7272)  
**JBSA Domestic Abuse Hotline**  
367-1213  
**JBSA Duty Chaplain**  
221-9363

A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING — JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON



**GOLD STAR WIVES DAY**

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**WOUNDED WARRIORS SCALE KILIMANJARO PAGES 10-11**



**NAVY TRADITION**

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## FIESTA AND FIREWORKS

(From left) Fiesta Commission president Jack Hebbon Jr., Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, King Antonio XCII De Miller and Lt. Gen. David Halverson complete their inspection of the troops Sunday at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Fiesta Military Review and Retreat Ceremony at the MacArthur Parade Field. The event was part of the day-long Fiesta and Fireworks celebration. Wiggins is commanding general of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and senior Army commander of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis. Halverson is commanding general for the U.S. Army Installation Management Command. For more photos, turn to Page 16.

Photo by Steve Elliott



## U.S. Army Installation Management Command welcomes new commander

By Amanda Kraus Rodriguez  
IMCOM Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. David Halverson took command of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command from Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter during a ceremony April 8 on MacArthur Parade Field, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Halverson, who also becomes the Army's Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, comes to IMCOM from the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, where he served as deputy commanding general for almost two years.

"When we go to war, it is IMCOM that stays home and takes care of our families," said Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John Campbell, who presided over the ceremony. "So, we put



Photo by Joel Martinez

(From left) Army Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, outgoing commander of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command and Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management; Army Gen. John F. Campbell, U.S. Army vice chief of staff and presiding officer; and Army Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson, incoming IMCOM commander and ACSIM, render honors during the national anthem during the change of command ceremony April 8 at MacArthur Parade Field on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

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# Sexual assault has no place in our ranks

By **Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Gabbert**  
Commanding General,  
Military and Installation  
Contracting Command



**Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Gabbert**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, and it's a great time to talk about the Army's top priority: the elimination of sexual harassment and sexual assault throughout our ranks.

Every member of the Joint Base San Antonio community – military and civilians – should be well aware that the Army harbors zero tolerance for sexual harassment and assault.

It is only through our joint efforts that we can

create an environment where inappropriate behavior, sexual harassment and sexual assault are no longer tolerated or ignored.

Standing as one team, we can eliminate this

insidious threat from our offices and organizations while creating a climate where dignity and respect persist.

We all have an obligation to do our parts to hold offenders appropriately accountable.

Commanders must ensure individuals who are sexually harassed or assaulted can report the crime without fear of intimidation, harassment or reprisal.

We owe it to our teammates to foster a climate of trust that respects and protects our uniformed, civilians and family members.

Prevention of sexual harassment and sexual

assault is everyone's responsibility. Commanders must lead by example and establish a climate of prevention.

Those of us who serve and work in the Army have taken Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention training, and must continue to take this education seriously.

Part of the Army's strategy to eliminate the threat of sexual assault and harassment in our ranks is the "I. AM. Strong" campaign.

This campaign is designed to empower Soldiers and Army civilians to "Intervene, Act and Motivate." It

offers recommendations for intervening to stop harmful behaviors associated with sexual harassment.

All of us should have at our core an ingrained, values-based "gut reaction" to intervene and stop inappropriate behaviors that may lead to sexual harassment and sexual assault.

The bottom line is that sexual harassment and sexual assault are inconsistent with our Army's values and have no place in our ranks.

One incident is one too many. If you see it happening, remember it is your responsibility to intervene and act.

## Military sexual assault victims can have their own attorney

By **Navy Lt. Candice Albricht**  
Navy Victims' Legal Counsel

The month of April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, not just within the United States military, but nationwide.

A lesser-known fact is we, as a nation, just wrapped up the National Crime Victims' Rights Week from April 6-12. It promotes awareness of victims' rights at the national level and just as state and federal victims of crimes have rights, so do victims of crime in the military.

The rights of military crime victims are derived from multiple authorities, and most recently, some of those rights were codified in the Uniform Code of Military Justice under the new Article 6b. In addition to the newly

codified UCMJ rights for crime victims, Congress also mandated the military to establish the Special Victims' Counsel for the purpose of providing legal assistance to eligible sexual assault victims.

But, this service is not entirely new. The U.S. Air Force first established their SVC program just more than a year ago, and the other branches of the military quickly followed suit.

As of today, every branch of the military service has established a Special Victims' Counsel Program, which is also known as Victims' Legal Counsel in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.

By providing legal advice, representation and – as appropriate – advocacy for eligible sexual assault victims, the military SVCs



complement the care and support already provided to sexual assault victims by the military services' Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs, or Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program, as it is known in the Army. In some cases, SVCs also assist eligible victims receiving services from the military services' Family Advocacy Programs.

Under new Section 1044e of Title 10 of the United States Code, the relationship between a

military SVC and an eligible victim is an attorney-client relationship.

A military SVC can help an eligible sexual assault victim understand the military justice process, understand his or her rights as a crime victim under the UCMJ and the Department of Defense's Victim and Witness Assistance Program, advocate for those rights and interests and, when appropriate, appear in a military court on behalf of the victim.

While there are some

differences in eligibility across the military services, active duty service members, adult dependents and Reservists assaulted while on active duty are eligible for SVC or VLC services, regardless of whether the eligible victim files a restricted or unrestricted report of sexual assault.

To determine eligibility, learn about crime victims' rights or to receive more information about the SVC or VLC program, victims of sexual assault are encouraged to contact their local SARC or assigned Victim Advocate for a referral to their nearest SVC or VLC office.

Victims can also call any one of the area SVC/VLC offices directly. It is never too early or late

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## News Briefs

### Intuitive eating research study

Participants are needed for a 10-week intuitive eating research study in person or as an online program.

The study will focus on intuitive eating, a new way of looking at weight, health and why we eat. Participants will receive nutrition advice and education, a free nutrition assessment and use an innovative activity monitor to improve fitness. To participate, candidates must be enrolled in TRICARE, be 18 years of age or older, have a body mass index of 25 or greater, Internet access, a text-capable phone and plan to be in the San Antonio area for nine months. For more information, call 221-7780.

### Gate Changes

The North New Braunfels gate is closed and the Harry Wurzbach West gate, or Pershing gate, is open. Hours for operation for the Harry Wurzbach West gate are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed on weekends and holidays.

### Hardee Road closure

Hardee Road between Stanley and Scott Roads will be closed to traffic through July 7 to complete repairs of the roadway and sections of the sidewalk. Motorists are encouraged to follow the detour route to Schofield Road. The parking lot north of Hardee Road will remain open and accessible. Construction will occur in two phases. For more information, call 808-6335.

### Volunteers Needed As Patients For Medical Readiness Training

The 937th Training Support Squadron's Medical Readiness Training Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis needs volunteers to serve as patients for medical readiness training. Patients are needed from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays on April 30-May 1, May 14-15, June 11-12, June 25-26, July 30-31, Sept. 17-18 and Sept. 24-25. Volunteers can assist for one hour or an entire day. Volunteers will be moulaged to have fake injuries, such as gunshot wounds, stab wounds, etc. Volunteers can be in civilian or military clothing, although it is preferable to wear old civilian clothing as the materials used for simulated injuries may stain. Call

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

# Gold Star Mothers embrace wives as 'sisters' to observe Gold Star Wives Day

By Sgt. 1st Class  
Christopher DeHart  
Army North Public Affairs

The Fort Sam Houston Survivor Outreach Services Program hosted the dinner event April 5 as part of Gold Star Wives Day in their Hall of Remembrance, a special room dedicated to the families who lost their service member – a son or daughter, husband or wife.

Many conversations were struck up across the room. Faces lit up as one woman was greeted by another small group of women seated at the close end of some tables arrayed like a classic town-hall community style get-together.

On the surface, the scene looked like it could be any small social gathering, except instead of a fund-raiser, hobby discussion or study group that brought them together, it was their common tragedy as a result of loss.

However, in coming together as their own unique community, they were able to cope with their individual tragedies due to the support they openly and eagerly offered to and received from one another.

The dinner itself was prepared and served by local Gold Star Mothers from within the community who wanted to show their support to wives whose spouses had made the ultimate sacrifice in support of the nation.

Gold Star Wives Day, officially designated as April 5 since a congress-



Gold Star Mothers presented each Gold Star wife a yellow rose as a show of support April 5 at the Survivor Outreach Services building at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

sional resolution was passed last year, was created to honor and publicly recognize the contributions and dedication of military widows across the services.

"Everyone here is very open - there is no pressure to talk or share if you don't want to," said Lesley Rice, who has been a Gold Star wife for more than three years since she lost her husband, Marine Sgt. Wesley Rice.

"I have had contact with them for the past two years and started doing more over the last year. They understand me and what I've gone through."

Rice and her daughter, Gabriella, 3, immediately made themselves at home as she embraced her "sisters" shortly after they arrived and was welcomed in turn by many of them.

"Without me knowing SOS and everybody here,

I think I would be even more lost and confused," said Yanett Ramirez as she held tightly to a yellow rose presented earlier in the evening to each of the Gold Star Wives by one of the mothers. "It brightens my heart just ... being with someone else who has been through what I've been through and understands my grief and pain and having their 'sisterly' love."

Ramirez has been a Gold Star wife for more than two years, since her husband, Air Force Staff Sgt. Manuel Angel-Ramirez, succumbed to a battle with cancer. She talked with another wife, Kimberly Ruiz, about the yellow roses given to them and how important this day was and this program.

"For the mothers to give that rose to us, I feel that's their way to bring comfort to us," said Ruiz, who lost

her husband, Marine Sgt. Cesar Ruiz. "It has definitely been crucial to my healing having somebody to talk to who has an understanding of what I'm going through. I'm able to lean on them when I'm feeling down and I know I have that



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart

Lesley Rice introduces her daughter, Gabriella, 3, to Candy Martin before a dinner in honor of Gold Star Wives Day April 5 in the Hall of Remembrance at the Survivor Outreach Services building at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Rice and her daughter are survivors of her husband, Marine Sgt. Wesley Rice. Martin and her husband, Ed, are survivors of their son, 1st Lt. Thomas Martin.

military community there still, that it didn't go away once my husband made that ultimate sacrifice."

Ruiz said the group played an important role in helping her children adjust and heal as well. Ramirez agreed with Ruiz and said her children loved coming to the SOS, knowing they aren't alone and can share their stories without experiencing alienation.

The Army created the SOS Program to embrace families of military personnel who died on active duty or as the result of a service-connected cause and reassure them that they will be continually linked to the Army – and each service – family for as long as they want. The SOS program serves as the advocate for the Survivor and provides support, information, and services.

## IMCOM from P1

our best and brightest to that task. I have full faith in this new team.”

Campbell congratulated Halverson on his accomplishments and for his ability to carry on, facing the challenges of today's Army.

The ceremony was attended by Joint Base San Antonio senior leaders, civic partners from the City of San Antonio, and IMCOM region and garrison command teams, headquarters staff, employees and families.

In his first address as the IMCOM commanding general, Halverson expressed gratitude for his family and the opportunity to lead IMCOM. Halverson pledged to continue unwavering in the service of Soldiers and families.

“Karen and I are so pleased and proud to be here today,” Halverson

said. “We're excited to continue to serve. To Mike and Margie (Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Mike Ferriter), I would like to especially thank you both for your hard work. IMCOM and ACSIM set the conditions of Army success.”

Halverson concluded his remarks by saying both he and his wife, Karen would put every effort into ensuring the continued success of the command and looked forward most to getting to know the team.

A West Point graduate, Halverson served tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Prior to joining U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, he served as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, Okla.

Campbell said that as a long-time friend and battle buddy of both incoming and outgoing general

officers, he was especially glad to preside. He commended Ferriter for his tireless efforts in support of the Army family.

“I've known Mike Ferriter for 30 years. Mike Ferriter's accomplishments reflect his will and his work. Under his leadership, IMCOM has excelled,” said Campbell.

The Army vice chief of staff cited Ferriter's many accomplishments in support of Army communities, such as Gold Star recognition and survivor support, instituting a culture of fitness, defining IMCOM's roles in readiness and resilience and above all team building.

“Mike is a team player, who builds cohesion and, as he so often remarks, always plays with his cards out,” Campbell explained.

Ferriter served as both the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and IMCOM com-



Photo by Joshua Rodriguez

mander since November 2011. Under his leadership, IMCOM successfully navigated through many challenges, such as sequestration and government shutdown. He worked to raise awareness of critical issues affecting Soldiers, families and civilians.

Under Ferriter's command, IMCOM improved Child Development Center processes, broadened access to services for Gold Star families – survivors of the fallen – and helped define Army readiness and resilience through more than 150 programs and services.

“IMCOM has global reach,” said Ferriter during the ceremony. “Two thirds of the world is covered by water and the other third is covered by IMCOM.”

– honoring survivors. “Somewhere in the Army today is a two-year-old child whose father or mother was killed in combat,” he said. “Caring for him – that's what it's all about.”

Ferriter intends to retire this year. The ceremony is scheduled to take place at Fort Benning,

**“When we go to war, it is IMCOM that stays home and takes care of our families so, we put our best and brightest to that task. I have full faith in this new team.”**

*Gen. John Campbell  
Army Vice Chief of Staff*

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Ferriter intends to retire this year. The ceremony is scheduled to take place at Fort Benning,

Ga., with his wife, Margie, and a host of family and friends attending.

Ferriter had special words of thanks for the Gold Star families in attendance and for their courage to tell their stories for a series of public service announcements. He recognized his family, including his father, now deceased, who entered the Army as a private, fought during WWII and raised a “great Army family,” as well as his

brother, John Ferriter, for his inspiration. He also thanked his wife.

“Margie, I couldn't have done this without you,” Ferriter said.

Lastly, to the men and women of Installation Management Command he gave one last order, “Do your best and never, never, never quit.”

# Customer service: a culture of teamwork at NEC

By Shane White  
U.S. Army Signal Network  
Enterprise Center

As ambassadors who strive to provide great customer service, the U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston wants to thank its customers during the second annual Customer Appreciation Day at 11 a.m. Thursday in building 2265.

English naturalist and geologist Charles Darwin once said: "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

It is this ideal that NEC sets out to follow, as the center continually strives to upgrade its customer service approach for information technology excellence. Our goal is to exceed the boundaries of antiquated ideologies, while advancing a new era of customer satisfaction.

We want you, our customers, to share our enthusiasm in servicing your unit's critical mission objectives and individual IT needs.

One specific skill crucial to customer service success is teamwork. Teamwork has long been an Army goal, but what is teamwork and how can it be beneficial?



"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives," said philanthropist and businessman Andrew Carnegie. "It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, these "uncommon results" are largely due to our mission partners' commitment and support of great teamwork as outlined by the examples below:

- Communicate constantly and be open to new or better ideas: The 502nd Air Base Wing

Public Affairs Office has been our ally in getting critical information out in a timely manner in the News Leader, as well as the 502nd Installation Support Group via the "Admin Info" bulletins.

- Function as an active participant and cooperate with other members: Standing up the Senior Chief Information Council and Information Management Support Council have been crucial to fostering partnerships.

- Remain flexible but push one's own original ideas while staying loyal to the end state goal: Our mission partners have shown great fluidity during the current JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

Network Modernization initiative in moving towards a joint information environment.

- Treat other team members in a respectful and supportive manner: One of our valued customers stated "I have never felt like another number in a queue or a statistic on a sheet. I always feel like a valued member of a team striving to achieve a common goal." That says it all.

The NEC will continue to strive to meet customer needs and push the envelope on new and oncoming advances and improvements in keeping your organizations technologically relevant.

## Did you know?

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. It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



## News Briefs

### Continued from P3

808-3406 or 808-3410.

#### **BAMC Behavioral Health Seeks Dog Teams**

The Department of Behavioral Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center is looking for a qualified and dynamic dog team (dog and owner) to aid in the department's health care mission. They will help provide animal assisted therapy/animal assisted activities to the patients on the inpatient psychiatric ward. Interested owners must be able to present all necessary certification documents at the time of interview. The team's certification must be issued by a licensed evaluator applying a nationally recognized curriculum and must meet several criteria. Call 916-1011 or 916-2096 to set up the required interview.

#### **JBSA-FSH Visual Information Ordering Process**

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Visual Information no longer uses the Visual Information Ordering Site for ordering VI services. An Air Force Form 833 is required for all service requests and can be downloaded at <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120614.pdf>. Call 221-5453.

#### **Hip and Knee Replacements**

The San Antonio Military Medical Center Orthopedic Service announces that hip and knee replacements are available to all TRICARE beneficiaries, including patients over the age of 65. Ask your primary care provider for a referral to the orthopedic clinic if you are a candidate for hip or knee replacement surgery. Call 916-6386.

#### **Security And Policy Review**

Members of the 502nd Air Base Wing preparing a speech or document for public release on defense-related subjects must contact the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston public affairs office at 221-1099. The appropriate authorities must review material relating to the plans, policies, programs or operations of the Department of Defense or U.S. Government before presentation or publication. For JBSA-Lackland, call 671-2908 and for JBSA-Randolph, call 652-4410.

# JBSA Public Health Flight provides preemptive measures to fight mosquito-borne disease

By Tech. Sgt. Carrie Powell  
NCOIC, Community Health  
and Master Sgt. Michael Warren  
NCOIC, Public Health Flight  
and Maj. William Lujan  
Public Health Flight commander

Every year during the peak mosquito season of April through October, Public Health receives routine complaints about mosquitoes disturbing housing residents across Joint Base San Antonio.

Although we had no significant issues with West Nile Virus during last year's mosquito season, WNV was a

major issue in Texas during July/August 2012 and affected many areas throughout JBSA.

Remaining vigilant and proactive in reducing mosquito populations should be on the front of everyone's mind to help ensure WNV is not an issue once more.

Mosquitoes only fly a short distance from their breeding sites to feed, so identifying these sites and eliminating them is vital to controlling mosquito populations in your area.

A small amount of water (even a thimble full) containing any organic matter is all that's required for the female mosquitoes to lay eggs and reproduce.

Chemical methods for mosquito control, such as fogging, are only considered when mosquito populations are unmanageable through the "environment friendly" methods stated above and when an actual threat of disease transmission exists.

Public Health is working to detect any

large number mosquito populations, as well as any mosquito-borne diseases present in mosquitoes trapped throughout JBSA.

Base residents should realize that fogging is not very effective (only 16% per Armed Forces Pest Management Board) and provides only a short-term solution, which is also quite costly in manpower and chemical expenses.

Once again, to control mosquitoes, we need your help. Inspect

outdoor yard areas and eliminate potential breeding sites. Do not allow water to stagnate in old tires, flowerpots, trash containers, swimming pools, birdbaths, pet bowls, etc.

This is the safest and most effective means of mosquito control.

For more information, contact the Pest Management experts at 652-4299, the JBSA-Randolph Public Health office at 652-1876 or JBSA-Lackland Public Health office at 671-9621.

## Tips to help eradicate mosquitos

### **What can you do to help reduce mosquito populations in your area?**

Remove all potential breeding sources:

- Change out stagnant water in pet bowls and birdbaths at least every three to four days.
- Remove or dump residue water from items in your yards or drill drain holes in anything you have in your yard that may hold water, i.e., kid's backyard play toys.
- Dump residue water from flowerpot overflow dishes every three to four days.
- Check trees for holes that could hold water. Fill holes with tree sealant or sand.
- Clean roof gutters routinely and ensure they are hung properly to drain roof water well away from your home to avoid pooling, which stops breeding sites.
- When watering lawns or gardens, don't use excessive amounts of water that can result in areas of pooling.
- Adjust conservatively your water control valves/timers to eliminate water puddles and lush growth of vegetation.

### **What is West Nile Virus infection?**

West Nile Virus is a flavivirus commonly found in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East. It is closely related to St. Louis encephalitis virus found in the United States. WNV is spread by mosquitoes that, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are

more prevalent during the summer and into the fall.

WNV has been found throughout Texas and much of the continental United States each year since 2002.

### **How do people get infected with WNV?**

People get WNV from the bite of infected mosquitoes. Most mosquito bites occur during the dusk and dawn hours.

A mosquito is infected by biting a bird that carries the virus. WNV is not spread by person-to-person contact, or directly from birds to humans.

### **What are the symptoms of WNV?**

Symptoms generally occur three to 15 days following the bite from an infected mosquito. Nearly 80 percent of patients bitten by WNV-infected mosquitoes will have no symptoms.

Twenty percent of patients may develop flu-like symptoms, ranging from a slight fever, headache, rash and swollen glands, to the rapid onset of severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle weakness, coma and in rare instances, death.

About one percent may develop more severe symptoms of meningitis, encephalitis or paralysis.



### **Can animals be infected with WNV?**

Yes. However, the only domestic animals that appear to be harmfully affected by WNV are equines, such as horses. Wild birds can also develop severe symptoms and die.

### **How can you reduce your chances of being bitten/potentially infected with WNV?**

- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active. This is normally at dusk and at dawn.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Use insect repellent products with no more than 35 percent DEET for adults and less than 10 percent for children.
- If you leave your house windows open, make sure they have screens.

# Job fair helps young adults with disabilities connect with employers

By Lori Newman  
Military and Family Readiness  
Marketing Specialist

The Joint Base San Antonio Exceptional Family Member Program and Employment Readiness Program hosted a job fair March 28 for teens and young adults with disabilities.

More than 30 employers lined the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center as the more than 60 job seekers arrived. Most were students from Robert G. Cole and Randolph Field High Schools.

"Some of the children were a little shy at first, but once they surveyed the prospective employers like SeaWorld and Six Flags, they really started to engage with all the representatives," said Heejung Sackett, EFMP

family support specialist.

Prior to the job fair, classes were conducted at the Military & Family Readiness Center and Cole and Randolph Field High Schools to help them learn how to prepare a resume, interview and dress for success.

"The Military & Family Readiness staff assisted the job seekers to create resumes for the job fair," Sackett said.

"Our military teens and young adults are bright, flexible and adaptive, each possessing their unique competence, that any employer would be pleased to have in their organization," said Dr. Andrea Daniels, work life specialist.

"It was awe-inspiring to see our young people eager, talented and equipped to be able to connect with quality

employment opportunities certain to enhance their personal and professional growth."

"Our goal is to provide the opportunity of economic self-sufficiency for military children with disabilities," Sackett said. "This is one of the Individual's with Disabilities Education Act's core objectives."

Some of the companies represented were Lowes, La Quinta Inns and Suites, Domino's Pizza, Starbucks, Walgreens, H-E-B, Goodwill and St. Pius X Catholic School.

"It's very worthwhile to hire our youth that are looking for employment and let them experience what it is like to come out and meet employers. It helps them build confidence," said Art Mata, Volt Workforce Solutions military program liaison.



Photo by Lori Newman

More than 30 employers were at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Exceptional Family Member job fair March 28, held for teens and young adults with disabilities.

"I met three or four people that I will potentially hire, if they follow up with me," he said. "I'm trying to get them into entry-level information technology positions."

Daemiah Perryman, 16, received an on-the-spot job from McDonald's

representative Charlie Collins.

"This is my first real job and I'm really excited to start," Perryman said.

"At McDonalds, we are always looking for talent from the young to the old," Collins said. "I'm actually hiring some right

now."

Monisha Perryman was also excited for her daughter. "There are so many different employers here and there are many opportunities for employment."

Another jobseeker, Freddie Larry, 18, said he was interested in any kind of job.

"I'm still young and I want to work as many jobs as I can, that way I get an idea about what I want to do in my future," he said.

Sackett said she thinks more than 10 teens will receive job offers in the coming days.

"It's hard to gage how many teens will benefit from the job fair. It takes time to set up interviews and go through the hiring process," she said. "But, I am quite certain the number will rise."

## WARRIOR TRANSITION BATTALION AWARDED SAFETY STREAMER



**Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Tune**

Col. Kyle Campbell (left), Brooke Army Medical Center commander, awards Lt. Col. Eric Edwards (right), Warrior Transition Battalion commander, the Army Safety Excellence Streamer for superior performance in occupational health and safety, as Warrior Transition Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Ridings (center) looks on. The WTB won the streamer for having no Class A or B accidents and meeting all training requirements under Department of the Army Pamphlet 385-10 of the Army Safety Program. The award ceremony took place March 11 at the BAMC Auditorium.



### AIR FORCE ASSISTANCE FUND, ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF POINTS OF CONTACT



Joint Base San Antonio AFAF installation project officer: 671-5492  
JBSA assistant IPO: 925-4896

JBSA-Lackland AFAF IPO: 671-2007  
JBSA-Lackland assistant IPO: 925-4883

JBSA-Randolph AFAF IPO: 652-6849  
JBSA-Randolph assistant IPO: 925-3438

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston AFAF IPO: Vacant  
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston assistant IPO: 1295-4985

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Army Emergency Relief director: B221-1612  
Soldiers and families not near an Army installation can also receive AER assistance at the nearest Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard installation with the respective military aid society, or from the American Red Cross call center at 877-272-7337.

## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



### SAAM from P2

in the military justice process to seek the assistance of a military SVC. Simply speaking with a military SVC does not mean a victim of a sexual assault must file an unrestricted report or participate in the military justice process. All communications between a SVC and eligible victims are confidential.

Members of the Navy and their dependents who are victims of a sexual assault can contact the Navy VLC office at 808-8978, located in the SAPR/SHARP office on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Air Force members and their dependents who are victims should call the Air Force SVC office at 671-4748/4740, located on JBSA-Lackland.

For Army members and their dependents, call the Army SVC office at 295-9496 or 221-2282, located on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The Marine Corps VLC Organization has multiple offices co-located with existing legal services support offices, to include at Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, Okinawa, Japan and Quantico, Virginia. Members of the Marine Corps and their dependents who are victims of a sexual assault can contact

their nearest legal services support office for referral to the closest VLC. In addition, victims of crimes other than sexual assault may be eligible for Marine Corps VLCO services.

*(Editor's note: Lt. Candice Albright is a member of the Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps and works with the Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs/Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program Office at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.)*

## Joint Base San Antonio goes through environmental compliance check

**By Brian Smith**  
Joint Base San Antonio  
Environmental Management  
System Coordinator

Approximately 25 environmental, safety and medical personnel will put on their inspector hats to evaluate Joint Base San Antonio's Environmental Management System, stewardship and compliance processes Monday through April 25. This aligns with Earth Week across the Air Force.

These inspectors will evaluate JBSA's multiple locations and facilities to ensure environmental compliance and adherence to its Environmental Management System, a system that incorporates mission needs and envi-

ronmental regulations. These types of inspections allow JBSA an opportunity to learn where any shortcomings are and to repair them.

The inspection team will be assisted by a number of JBSA's unit environmental coordinators.

The coordinators are assigned by their commanders and have the additional responsibility of ensuring their own unit stays compliant with the 14 environmental programs covered by Air Force Instructions which include air emissions, hazardous materials, water quality, solid waste, natural resources and pesticides, among others. Units across JBSA, especially those

with operations having environmental impact, will benefit directly in this assessment.

By conducting an internal Environmental Management System self-inspection, JBSA postures itself to be less susceptible to notices of violation from state environmental regulators and the Environmental Protection Agency/ This self-inspection also helps JBSA prepare for its August 2014 unit effectiveness inspection. A violation can carry a fine as high as \$25,000 per day per violation and employees found guilty of criminal acts may face other punishments.

For more information on this inspection, call 671-5320.

# Wounded warriors soar to new heights on Mount Kilimanjaro

By Elaine Sanchez  
Brooke Army Medical Center

A group of wounded warriors have taken their recovery to a whole new level – more than 19,000 feet above the sea.

The team ascended East Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain in the world, in February.

The self-proclaimed "Kilimanjaro Warriors" battled through prosthetic, orthosis and crutch repairs, blisters and

bruises, torrential downpours and a blinding blizzard during their challenging seven-day journey to the peak.

"It was incredibly hard, but well worth it," said Mark Heniser, a physical therapist for the Center for the Intrepid who joined the warriors on the climb. "We just felt pure elation when we hit the top."

Along with Heniser, the team included six former CFI patients, two spouses, a videographer and retired Air Force Lt. Col. Steve Connolly, the climb organizer.



Steve Connolly, the organizer of the climb, takes a break on his way to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Connolly, a former F-16 and A-10 pilot, had a long-standing desire to aid and inspire wounded warriors. While in Desert Storm, he saw an Iraqi with his leg shot

off and wondered how he'd cope in the future – a concern that turned to U.S. service members facing the same challenges here.

In 2011, on the 20th anniversary of Desert Storm, Connolly decided a climb would be a "monumental goal to help recovery."

As the American Airlines pilot worked to raise funds, he enlisted the help of Heniser to build a team of motivated warriors.

## Building the Team

Heniser said he contacted former patients who had demonstrated a commitment to their rehabilitation, and would show that same dedication to this mission. He gathered a team of six veterans – one Soldier, two Marines, a National Guard Soldier, an active duty Air Force officer and a Defense Department contract civilian – all either single or bilateral amputees.

Heniser said he had no doubt they'd do well. As the oldest member of the team, "I was more worried about whether I could make the climb than I was about everyone else making it," he said with a laugh.

Situated in different cities, each mostly trained alone for more than 15 months, working out in gyms and hiking in local parks, often with 30-pound packs on their backs. After a few team training missions in Texas and Arizona, the team met up one final time in North Carolina for a cold-weather hiking trip.

It was in training that Air Force Capt. Sarah Evans decided she'd make the long climb on crutches rather than with her



The Kilimanjaro Warriors celebrate reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest free-standing mountain in the world. The team of wounded service members and veterans reached the summit Feb. 15, the seventh day of their journey.



Members of Team Kilimanjaro hike across rocky terrain on day three of their seven-day journey to the summit of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest free-standing mountain in the world. The team of wounded service members and veterans reached the summit Feb. 15.

prosthetic leg. After a diagnosis of Stage 3 bone cancer two years ago, Evans had undergone a hemipelvectomy, which took half of her pelvis and leg. An amputation, she noted, was the best chance of a long-term survival.

While she has mastered her prosthesis, she didn't feel the bulky leg was conducive to the mountainous terrain. "It was too heavy for the climb," said Evans, who is with the 59th Patient Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. "I didn't want it to hold me, or anyone else, back."

Instead, she obtained a set of forearm crutches with attachments for every type of terrain and set her sights on the summit.

"The past couple of years had been really tough physically and emotionally," she said. "I wanted this adventure to symbolize how far I've come."

### The Climb

The team flew to Tanzania in early February and spent the first six days hiking to base camp, buying them time to acclimate to the altitude and rough terrain.

"When we first got there, it started to rain horribly. We were all soaked and miserable," Evans said. "I didn't want to turn back, but knew this was going to

be much harder than I expected – and I expected it to be hard."

The team arrived at the base of the summit on the sixth day and prepped for the haul to the top. At 10:30 p.m., they set out with a goal of summiting the next morning.

About a half an hour into the walk, a blizzard hit, Heniser recalled. "It was the worst storm I've ever seen," he said. "You could barely see and at that altitude, it was hard to breathe."

Oklahoma Army National Guard Sgt. Kisha Makerney struggled to hike through the storm on her prosthetic leg as she fought a cold and altitude sickness, which resembles a bad case of the flu.

"I fell down at least 20 times," said Makerney, who lost her leg below-the-knee in a motorcycle accident. "I was weak and fighting like crazy, but I never thought about quitting. I was determined to keep going, to reach the summit."

Evans hiked for hours on end on her crutches. "It was freezing; I was wet and out of it," she said. "It was tough."

### The Summit

Struggling for breath and battling through 50 mph winds, the team finally reached the summit – 19,340 feet above sea level – at 6:30 a.m. on the

seventh day.

Just as they spotted the wooden summit sign, the storm broke and they saw breathtaking views of snow-capped peaks and drifting clouds.

"I felt elated, overjoyed," Heniser said. "We were jumping for joy and hugging. It was a feeling of a mission accomplished."

That moment was almost indescribable, Connolly said. "Everyone dug deep to get to that summit. Just getting myself to the top was a huge accomplishment, but being surrounded by the others who made it, it was very emotional for me."

The team took a few pictures then headed back down the mountain – a 14-hour downhill climb on slippery, unstable terrain.

For amputees, a descent is much harder than an uphill climb, Heniser noted. "It was so muddy, it was like chocolate milk running down a road," he said. "Everyone was slipping and falling."

The next day, their journey ended as they walked out of the gate and into a waiting vehicle. For many of the team, the scope of their achievement is just now setting in.

"I wasn't even sure I had a future two years ago," Evans said. "Going from being at that low point to accomplishing something so huge ... it's amazing."



Photos by Bevan Bell

Oklahoma Army National Guard Sgt. Kisha Makerney displays her patriotism after reaching the Uhuru Peak of Mount Kilimanjaro. Makerney lost her leg below the knee in a motorcycle accident.

Climbing Kilimanjaro "was one of the hardest things I've ever done," said Makerney, who had deployed twice to Iraq – once as an amputee. "But I wanted to let the world know that through God, anything is possible. If I can do it, anyone can."

The team set an inspiring example for others, Heniser noted. "Our wounded veterans are taking what they did in rehab and are continuing to challenge themselves, which is extremely encouraging to see," he said. "They truly can flourish and thrive throughout the rest of their lives."

While the climb was a huge achievement, Connolly said he's even prouder of the positive message this trip will send. "I hope this inspires and motivates other people," he said. "Everyone has struggles; life is about how you rise to the occasion.

"And these guys rose to the occasion."



# JBSA promotes healthy families

By Alex Salinas  
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph  
Public Affairs

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Joint Base San Antonio is doing its part to spread the word on the terrible reality of abuse and what can be done to promote strong family relationships and therefore safe, healthy children.

"When it comes to child abuse prevention, it is equally important for parents to self-manage their stress and emotions," said Emily Mueller, 359th Medical Operations Squadron family advocacy intervention specialist. "Self-care can influence how parents act with their children."

Child abuse is not manifest exclusively in physical or sexual form. It also occurs emotionally and when parents neglect their children. Leaving bruises, berating or belittling, poor awareness of where the child is, insufficient clothing or feeding and exposure to physical hazards are all instances of child abuse, Mueller said.

While plenty of literature describes the nature of child abuse and the many reasons why it happens, Mueller said risk factors such as parents' own history of being abused as children, marital conflict and high levels of stress can contribute.

With the school year close to its end and summertime approaching, parents should be mindful to have activities planned for their children, Mueller said.

"Sometimes parents get caught up with telling their kids to listen to them when they should be listening to their kids' needs," she said. "Paying attention to them for at least 15 minutes a day can make a big difference."

For active-duty members enrolled in the JBSA Exceptional Family Member Program or who have special-needs family members, an information fair plus fun activities will be held at Morgan's Wonderland from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 26. EFMP members can purchase tickets at the front gate for a discounted price.

Anyone with knowledge or suspicion of child abuse or neglect, including civilians and contractors, should contact Family Advocacy offices.

"We're all mandatory reporters," Mueller said. "We must do everything we can to protect children who may not be able to protect themselves."

JBSA community members can sign up for counseling sessions and classes geared toward family matters year-round.

The 359th Medical

Operations Squadron's Family Advocacy Program and Mental Health Flight at JBSA-Randolph offers "Stepfamilies 101" 2-4 p.m. Thursday at the Military & Family Readiness Center, and "Scream Free Marriage" 2-4 p.m. Thursday at the Health and Wellness Center.

At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, there is "Scream Free Parenting" from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and April 29; "Positive Parenting" 3-5 p.m.; Wednesday, April 23 and 30; and "Bringing Baby Home" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 23.

At JBSA-Lackland, "Love and Logic," which is also about parenting, is available from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday and April 29.

Other recommended April offerings are "Anger and Stress Management" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and April 28 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; and "Master Your Emotions" 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday and April 30 at JBSA-Randolph.

To sign up for classes, file a report or for more information, call 652-2448 for the JBSA-Randolph Family Advocacy. To contact JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Lackland's Family Advocacy, call 292-5967.

The JBSA Family Advocacy after-hours hotline is 671-4225.

## Did you know?

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. It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



## Month of the Military Child

# O'Neal set bar sky high for 'Young Lives, BIG Stories'

By Tim Hipsps,  
IMCOM Public Affairs

"Young Lives, BIG Stories" is the theme of the 2014 Month of the Military Child, which is celebrated throughout April on military installations.

One of the world's biggest self-professed Army brats, Shaquille O'Neal enjoyed a 19-year career as a "larger-than-life" character in the NBA.

It did not hurt that O'Neal entered the NBA standing at 7-feet, 1-inches tall, and weighing 301 pounds, yet he considers Army upbringing the key to his success.

"It all started here on this Army base," O'Neal said March 7, when his alma mater, Robert G. Cole High School, retired his No. 33 jersey on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"A lot of people ask me how do you do it, how do you stay sane with all the things that are going on? It's the military life. Military life, and I wouldn't have had it no other way."

Since 1986, military installations around the

world have recognized the sacrifices and applauded the courage of military children by celebrating the Month of the Military Child.

The Month of the Military Child typically creates awareness of the sacrifices military children make and the service they provide. This year's theme, "Young Lives, BIG Stories" also highlights the unique lifestyles and contributions military children make to our nation.

O'Neal bounced from Newark, N.J., to Germany to Texas while growing up in an Army family.

Always the class clown, O'Neal credited his military upbringing for keeping him grounded. The four-time NBA champion, three-time NBA Finals MVP and 15-time NBA All-Star, who won Olympic and world championships, appeared in more than a dozen movies, recorded more than five rap albums and had his own reality television shows, never outgrew his military roots.

"The Shaq character was created here," he said. "There was a time

when I thought I was a little bit arrogant and the school and the post let me know that, 'Hey, you didn't do it by yourself.' They taught me to be humble, taught me to remain humble."

It is difficult for men and women in uniform to focus on military missions if they are worried about their children at home. Providing a safe, nurturing environment for military children creates a stronger more resilient fighting force.

The Month of the Military Child reinforces this concept, reminds the nation that the service members' children also serve, and gives communities an opportunity to share their gratitude for the service of military children during the "Young Lives, BIG Stories" campaign.

O'Neal learned the value of compassion for humanity as a teenager on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and exhibited it throughout his career.

"Things that I do in the community now as a professional player [turned television analyst], I was doing it on post - me and



Photo by Tim Hipsps

Shaquille O'Neal hams it up on stage with Dr. Gail Siller, superintendent of the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District, during O'Neal's jersey retirement ceremony March 7 at Robert G. Cole High School on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. O'Neal, perhaps the world's largest self-professed Army brat, encouraged the students to live their dreams. April is Month of the Military Child and this year's theme is "Young Lives, BIG Stories."

my father and my team were passing out food to other houses and collecting toys from people who didn't want their toys and taking them up to the children's hospital," he said. "Everything that I've learned, I've learned from growing up in the military."

A military upbringing also helped make O'Neal color blind.

"Believe it or not,

when he first brought me here, I hated him for it," Shaquille said of his late stepfather, Army Reserve Sgt. Philip A. Harrison, who recently passed away. "I know hate is a strong word, but growing up in Newark, New Jersey, where it's predominantly all African-American, and then we moved to West Germany, and I was like, 'What the [heck] is this?' And then

when I came here and saw my first Spanish guy, I was like, 'I don't know where I'm at.'"

The first Spanish man O'Neal ever met, however, wound up clearing the gym so the youngster could get extra practice time.

"He saw something in me that I didn't even see in myself," O'Neal said.

Asked if he felt exceptionally fortunate to have become such a rich man from such a modest childhood, O'Neal replied: "It makes me appreciate it more because I was rich back then, too. I was mentally rich. The only thing money does for me is give me toys I don't need."

O'Neal shared his secret to success with the military kids at Cole High School on the day they retired his jersey.

"It's just all about cultivating your dream, loving your dream, and just following your dream," O'Neal said.

"This was the place where I cultivated my dreams. It all started here on the little Army base at Fort Sam Houston."

## Consumer bill paying services terminated for military allotments

By E. Stephanie Hebert  
502nd Installation Support Group  
Judge Advocate

The Military Assistance Company, the largest processor of military allotments set up to pay for electronics, car notes and furniture bills, terminated its bill payment services April 1.

The termination of service does not apply to privatized housing allot-

ments; it only applies to the discretionary allotment being transferred from a service member's military pay to a creditor for monthly installments or other consumer goods.

According to the Military Assistance Company, all service members were given notice for the termination of service.

However, procedures have been established for members who did not

receive the notice or who have not taken action to set up alternative bill paying methods.

Any service member who has an allotment being paid to Citizens Union Bank of Shelbyville for a consumer debt should contact the Military Assistance Company at 800-765-2110 or online at <https://www.allotment.net> to ensure that all allotted funds have been

returned to their regular paycheck.

Service members using the allotment for consumer goods should also go to the Defense Finance and Accounting Services website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> to turn off the allotment. In addition, service members must contact each affected creditor and make alternative payment

arrangements for April and all future monthly payments.

The Military Assistance Company intends to return the allotted funds to service members. Members need to watch for the possible increase in pay, and should set up payment arrangements with creditors. Members who fail to do so will be charged a "locator" fee, a "dormant" fee and a

"write off" fee by MAC. Creditors will also charge late fees, penalties, and higher interest for payments not received on time.

For assistance by a legal professional in this process, call 671-3362 to schedule an appointment with an attorney. Walk-in legal assistance is also available Monday through Thursday, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

# Navy chief petty officers celebrate new beginnings, share unique tradition

By L.A. Shively  
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston  
Public Affairs

Commemorating their 121st birthday, chief petty officers from Navy Medicine Training Support Center conducted their third annual Navy white hat burial ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston April 1.

NMTSC is the Navy component command providing organizational and operational support and control over Navy staff and students assigned to the Medical Education and Training Campus at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and other medical programs in the San Antonio area.

The white hat burial ceremony signifies transition from first class petty officer to chief petty officer and occurs during the final phase of an intense, six- to eight-week train-

ing period for selectees. Usually secluded, the ceremony was held to recognize and share chief petty officer and Navy traditions with the staff and students.

"Today we celebrate new beginnings while continuing to uphold our greatest of time-honored traditions and legacy preservation," said Chief Petty Officer Warren Johnson during his introductory remarks as master of ceremonies for the event.

"In the United States Navy, the title of chief petty officer carries with it responsibilities and privileges no other armed force in the world grants enlisted personnel," said NMTSC Command Master Chief Shanon Best during his remarks.

"What we see in our young Sailors today is a tradition of devotion and

dedication the first chiefs established with their sacrifices and valor," Best said. "At this command, we have more than 100 chief petty officers representing seven different ratings. As varied as these careers have been, each of them has something in common: a bond with one another and thousands of chief petty officers that few people can understand."

Best then described a typical day in the life of a chief as he or she sought to guide Sailors while accomplishing the mission.

The sounds of outlandish seas stories infused with the aroma of a freshly-brewed and strong "cup of joe" fills the air, Best said, setting the scene on entering a typical Chief's Mess.

Equipment repairs, Sailors' occasional infractions and guidance for junior officers, among other

circumstances leading to mission success, are all worked out in the Mess, the command master chief explained.

"It's a way of life and something bigger than oneself," he said.

During the formal ceremony, honors were rendered, a bugler played Taps and the flag draping the coffin was folded and presented to Best.

Four chief petty officers acting as pall bearers carried then lowered the coffin into the ground next to the "grave site" from two previous year's ceremonies, just outside the Navy corpsman student barracks. Each of the chief petty officers promoted in 2013 shoveled dirt over the coffin.



Chief Petty Officer Catherine Morales shovels dirt over a coffin lowered into the ground containing the white hats of first class petty officers from Navy Medicine Training Support Center promoted to chief petty officer in 2013. The white hat burial ceremony signifies transition from first class petty officer to chief petty officer and occurs during the final phase of an intense, six- to eight-week training period for selectees.



Photos by L.A. Shively

(Front from left) Chief Petty Officers Edgar Nunez, Wade Martinson (behind from left) Leslie Giuy and Ashley Kelly carry a coffin containing the white hats of first class petty officers from Navy Medicine Training Support Center promoted to chief petty officer in 2013. This was the third white hat burial ceremony NMTSC chief petty officers conducted on board Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and was in commemoration of the 121st Chief Petty Officer birthday.

# FIESTA AND FIREWORKS



King Antonio XCII De Miller addresses the audience members at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Fiesta Military Review and Retreat Ceremony Sunday.



Volunteers at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Fiesta and Fireworks celebration assemble paper flowers for children Sunday.



El Rey Feo LXVI Jimmy Green and Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins head back to the stands after inspecting troops from the major Army mission partners at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Sunday. Wiggins is the commanding general of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and senior Army commander of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis.

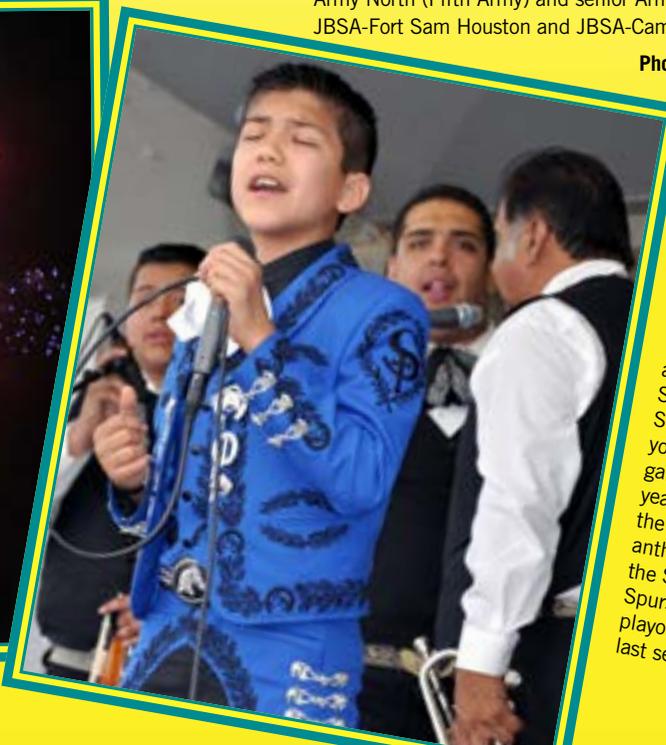
Photos by Steve Elliott



Ignacia Lucero prepares a cool treat for those attending the Fiesta and Fireworks events at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Sunday.



Fireworks photos by Dan Solis



Sebastian de la Cruz, backed by his mariachi band, entertains the crowd during the Fiesta and Fireworks event at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Sunday. The young singer gained fame last year for singing the national anthem during the San Antonio Spurs home playoff games last season.

# Fiesta in Blue: artistically bolstering community relations

By Airman 1st Class  
Kenna Jackson  
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

It's April again in Military City USA and the air is ripe with excitement for the annual Fiesta San Antonio. However, the locals aren't the only ones prepping for this celebration.

Fiesta in Blue, an ensemble from the U.S. Air Force Band of the West, is also practicing for its 7 p.m. performances Tuesday and Wednesday

at the Edgewood Theatre of the Performing Arts, located at 402 Lance St.

"In addition to our normal rehearsal schedule, we devote many hours practicing musical styles to appeal to a wide audience, which ensures our performances will be excellent," Staff Sgt. Blair Raker, music director and trombonist, said.

Fiesta in Blue has contributed to the vibrancy of Fiesta San Antonio for more than 20 years,

inspiring participants to don colorful clothing, consume a variety of foods from diverse cultures and listen to various forms of entertainment.

"We represent the military community in the San Antonio area," Raker said. "Along with providing entertainment, our mission is to help the city celebrate its great musical and cultural diversity and bolster community relations."

With 19 artists, ranging

from airmen first class to master sergeants, Fiesta in Blue is an accumulation of inspirations, musical passions and propelling ambitions to achieve one goal – to be amazing on and off the stage.

"Our performances help shape the community's image of the Air Force, making 'excellence in all we do' our biggest focus," said Master Sgt. Eric Frank, NCO in charge of the Band of the West's Dimensions in

Blue ensemble.

Upholding the Air Force's image is just one of the challenges the artists must face while on stage, he said. Another challenge is acting as their own "roadies," which means they deal with the technical aspect of assembling the stage, from audio and lighting to unloading and reloading heavy equipment.

"It's hard to always be on your best and make smooth theme changes,

but, luckily, we have some of the best and highly experienced musicians," Frank said.

"Music is a conversation that specializes in shifting moods and bringing people closer together. It's hard and stressful, and at times we spend more time with each other than with our own families, but we have great personalities, talent, professionalism and we all love our job," Frank said.

## Joint Base San Antonio privately-owned firearms policy provides accountability, enhances safety

By Alex Salinas  
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph  
Public Affairs

All people arriving at any Joint Base San Antonio location with firearms – including airsoft guns, rifles and shotguns – must inform the gate guard, even if they have a concealed handgun license.

This comes directly from a policy established by Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, last September concerning the handling, possession, storage and transportation of privately owned firearms and ammunition.

"This policy enhances the safety of JBSA by ensuring that everyone is aware of their responsibilities in regard to privately owned weapons and that everyone understands the need for protecting firearms to prevent unauthorized access," said Ed Doss, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group Joint Security Staff section lead.

Individuals who aren't JBSA residents will be told to proceed directly to the security forces armories at JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland or the Base Defense Operations Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to store their firearms, regardless of their duration of stay.

Military members residing in barracks, dormitories, unaccompanied quarters, transient quarters, privatized lodging, guest houses or in vehicles – excluding recreational vehicles used as a home positioned in an appropriate family camp – will also deposit firearms in their local armory and register them.

People living in on-installation military or privatized quarters may store firearms in their residences only after their weapons are registered. Air Force Form 1314 (Firearms Registration) and DD Form 2760 (Qualification to Possess Firearms or Ammunition) are the registration forms required for residents, who are given three busi-

ness days from the date of weapons purchase or move-in to submit the paperwork to the armory.

Other than the armory, the forms can be found at base housing offices or locations such as base exchanges, "whose co-operation makes registering firearms simple," said Bob Vickers, 902nd Security Forces Squadron Plans and Programs Branch chief.

Weapons being transported to and from family housing or the armory must not have a projectile in the chamber, cylinder or have a loaded projectile container such as a clip or magazine inserted, according to the policy.

They are to be placed out of arms' reach, unloaded, with ammunition separate from the firearm. People transporting firearms must go straight to their destination without any additional stops. Firearms cannot be transported on motorcycles, bicycles or any other two- or three-wheeled vehicles.

The only people permit-

ted to carry firearms on JBSA locations are civilians, federal police and investigative agency members on official business.

"There's no excuse not to adhere to the commander's policy," Vickers said. "It provides accountability for everyone who enters JBSA."

For more information about the privately owned weapons policy, call the JBSA-Randolph Security Forces Armory at 652-4365 during duty hours and the Base Defense Operations Center at 652-5700 during non-duty hours.

For JBSA-Lackland, call Security Forces Pass and Registration at 671-9162 during duty hours and the Base Defense Operations Center at 671-2017 during non-duty hours.

For JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, call Security Forces Pass and Registration at 221-0213 during duty hours and the Base Defense Operations Center at 221-2222 during non-duty hours.

### JOINT LENTEN AND PASSOVER WORSHIP SERVICES

#### CHAPEL LOCATIONS

**Main Post (Gift) Chapel**  
Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way  
**Dodd Field Chapel**  
Building 1721, 5584 Dodd Blvd.  
**Army Medical Department Regimental Chapel**  
Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.  
**Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel**  
Building 3600, 3551 Roger Brooke Road  
**Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis Worship Location**  
Armed Forces Reserve Center Assembly Hall

#### CATHOLIC SERVICES

**Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel**  
8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Morning Mass  
11:30 a.m. - Sunday - Morning Mass  
11:05 a.m. - Monday through Friday  
11:30 - April 20 - Easter Mass

#### Main Post (Gift) Chapel

11:30 a.m. - Monday through Friday  
11:30 a.m. - April 18, Good Friday Mass  
8 p.m. - April 19, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil  
9:30 a.m. - April 20, Easter Sunday Mass  
4:45 p.m. - Reconciliation Saturday  
5:30 p.m. - Evening Mass Saturday  
9:30 a.m. - Morning Mass Sunday

#### Army Medical Department Regimental Chapel

8 a.m. - Sunday Morning Mass  
7 p.m. - April 18, Good Friday  
8:00 a.m. - April 20, Easter Mass

#### Dodd Field Chapel

12:30 p.m. - Sunday, Afternoon Mass

*For worship opportunities of faith groups not listed here, please visit the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Chaplain's website at <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain>.*

#### PROTESTANT SERVICES

**Main Post (Gift) Chapel**  
6:30 a.m. (outdoors) - Easter Sunday, April 20, Community Sunrise Service  
8 a.m. - Protestant Service, Sunday  
11 a.m. - Protestant Service, Sunday  
11 a.m. - Protestant Easter Service, April 20

#### Dodd Field Chapel

8:30 a.m. - Sunday Samoan Service  
10:30 a.m. - Sunday Gospel Service

#### Army Medical Department Regimental Chapel

9:20 a.m. - 32nd Medical Brigade Contemporary Service  
11:01 a.m. - Contemporary "Crossroads"

#### Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel

10 a.m. - Traditional

#### JEWISH SERVICES

8 p.m. - Jewish Worship, Friday, MPC  
8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat, Friday, MPC  
7 p.m. - April 14, Seder, Jewish Community Center, 12500 NW Military Highway  
7 p.m. - April 15, Seder, MPC

#### ISLAMIC SERVICES

1:15 p.m. - Jummah, Friday, AMEDD

#### LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES

1 p.m. - LDS Worship, Sunday, AMEDD

#### BUDDHIST SERVICES

1 p.m. - Buddhist Services, Sunday, AMEDD