


**DOD Safe Helpline
877-995-5247**
**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


AMEDD SELECTS TOP CAREER COUNSELOR PAGE 3

TOMMY LEE JONES VISITS BAMC, CFI PAGE 8

COUNTER ACTIVE SHOOTER TACTICS TRAINING PAGE 10

JBSA COMMUNITY 'LIGHTS UP' HOLIDAY SEASON



Local children help Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas throw the light switch on the Christmas tree Dec. 3 during the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston holiday tree lighting ceremony at MacArthur Field. The ceremony helped light the way into the holiday season for the community. Trombitas is the deputy commanding general of operations for U.S. Army North (Fifth Army). For more photos from the holiday tree lighting ceremony, turn to Page 13.

Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Network Enterprise Center named best in CONUS

By Valerie Evering and Jumere Sattar
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
Network Enterprise Center

The people at the U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston have accomplished much in 2014, thanks to a dedicated textbook display of joint partnerships.

Some of these achievements



include spearheading the Army's first network modernization initiative to improvements made in advancing Internet protocol video-

teleconferencing services.

For these efforts, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston NEC is being honored as the 2014 NEC of the Year (Large Category) within the Continental United States.

"I just want to say how proud I am of the team," said NEC director Jesus RosaVelez. "Just like electricity, air conditioning, food

See NEC, P15



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Texas Department of Transportation reminds Texans to give the gift of a sober ride

By Leslie Sopko

Texas Department of
Transportation Media Relations

As holiday festivities get into full swing, the Texas Department of Transportation reminds drivers to stay safe and sober when traveling to and from parties and other celebrations.

"We want drivers to have fun over the holidays, but more importantly, we want them to celebrate responsibly," said TxDOT executive director retired Marine Lt. Gen. Joe Weber.

"Make a sober ride part of your plans and don't let one bad choice ruin the holidays for you

and your family."

TxDOT's Sober Ride Sleigh will be visiting more than a dozen cities across Texas to draw attention to the importance of having a sober ride. The "sleigh" is a donated limousine wrapped to look like a holiday gift. It will visit shopping malls, parades and other holiday-related venues.

During last year's holiday season from Dec. 1, 2013 through Jan. 1, there were 2,367 driving-under-the-influence-alcohol traffic crashes in Texas, resulting in 763 serious injuries and 92 fatalities. While these figures are staggering, DUI traffic fa-

talities actually decreased 8.9 percent compared with the same time frame the previous year.

"A decrease in fatalities is always welcome news and I think it speaks to the importance of our aggressive impaired driving campaigns," Weber said. "As Texans, however, we must do better because one life lost to impaired driving is not only tragic, but also preventable."

The TxDOT Sober Ride Sleigh campaign occurs in conjunction with law enforcement's increased holiday efforts to crack down on drunk driving and curb vehicle crashes and fatalities. In many

jurisdictions, no-refusal programs will be implemented.

TxDOT also is partnering with the National Safety Council and some of the state's largest employers to help promote the safe and sober message this holiday season.

The Texas Hospitality Association and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission also will be distributing sober ride materials in stores and venues where alcohol is sold.

Finally, TxDOT is working with transit authorities in San Antonio, Austin and Corpus Christi to encourage people to use the bus to get sober

rides home.

Texans who make a pledge to have a sober ride this holiday season can enter to win donated prizes, including a day at the Richard Petty Racing Experience at Texas Motor Speedway or a SpaFinder gift certificate valued at \$2,000. Three runners-up each will win a \$1,000 American Express gift card.

Contest details and ways to enter can be found at <http://www.holidaysoberride.com>. (No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.)

Texans looking for a sober ride can visit <http://www.soberrides.org> for assistance.

Active duty service members must change Roth TSP contributions

By Abigail C. Reid

Federal Retirement Thrift
Investment Board

Active duty members of the Army, Air Force or Navy making dollar-amount Roth contributions to a Thrift Savings Plan account should know these deductions will stop Jan. 31, unless action is taken.

"The Roth Thrift Savings Plan contributions are going from a dollar figure to a percentage of pay," said Kent Thompson, Financial Readiness Program manager for Army Community Service.

This change will allow

Service members to track their contributions to date, Thompson said. By contributing a percentage instead of dollar amount, service members also avoid Thrift Savings Plan, referred to as TSP, updates as their pay rises.

"This means that they'll get richer faster," Thompson said.

How the election requirements will change:

An upcoming change in myPay will require Service members to designate Roth contributions as a percentage of pay, not a dollar amount. Noncompliance means

that Roth contributions will not be processed by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. This change affects Roth contributions only; traditional contributions are already designated as a percentage of pay.

When the change will take effect:

The new requirement will take effect Jan. 1, 2015. Service members will have 30 days to change the Roth election from a dollar amount to a percentage of pay. If the new Roth election is not received by Jan. 31, 2015, then the Defense

Finance and Accounting Service cannot process Roth contributions until they are updated.

How to make the change:

First, log into myPay. Click on the TSP section titled "Traditional TSP and Roth TSP." Next, in the "Contribution from Roth TSP" section, enter the percentage of pay to contribute (10 percent, for example). Finally, click "Save" at the bottom of the screen.

The benefit of Roth contributions:

Roth contributions are

taxed before the money enters the TSP account, rather than when it is taken out at retirement. Earnings can also be tax-free if the contributor is 59.5 years old, has a permanent disability or five years have passed since the year of the first Roth contribution.

Service members can make Roth contributions from tax-exempt pay, basic pay, incentive pay, special pay and bonus pay. Roth contributions from tax-exempt pay earned in a combat zone, will not be taxed upon contribution and will grow tax-free.



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<http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao>

News Briefs

BAMC Behavioral Medicine seeks qualified dog teams

The Department of Behavioral Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center is looking for dog teams to assist in the department's health care mission. Interested owners must present necessary certification documents from a nationally recognized curriculum program at the time of interview. During the interview, teams must demonstrate the animal's ability to respond to the owner's commands. For more information or to set up an interview, call 916-2069 or 916-2096. Bring the animal and all necessary documentation to the interview.

News Leader Holiday Schedule

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston News Leader will not publish Dec. 26 or Jan. 2. The last issue for 2014 will be Dec. 19. The first issue for 2015 will come out Jan. 9. Call 221-1031 for more information.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Legal Office Hours Change

The office hours of the 502nd Force Support Group Judge Advocate Legal Assistance Office have been extended to 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Thursdays, office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Fridays, office hours are 7:30 a.m. to noon. Powers of Attorney and notaries are available during regular office hours. Legal assistance appointment times have not changed and are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Walk-in legal assistance times also remain the same from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays for all military I.D. card holders and from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Thursdays for active duty only. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 808-0169.

ADAPT Relocates

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Clinic at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center is located on the fifth floor. Visitors should proceed to Room 5B29 to check-in. For more information, call 292-4452.

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

Army Medical Command names top career counselor of the year after day-long competition

By Esther Garcia
AMEDDC&S Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Medical Command named its Career Counselor of the Year following a day-long competition held Nov. 18 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Parrish, representing the Southern Regional Medical Command, was named the U.S. Army Medical Command Career Counselor of the Year, while Staff Sgt. Kindra Ford from the Western Regional Medical Command was named runner-up.

In addition to the career counselor trophy, Parrish also received the Army Meritorious Service Medal award from Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, Army Surgeon General and commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Command.

The announcement was made in front of more than 300 officers and senior non-commissioned officers attend-



Photo by Esther Garcia

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Parrish, Southern Regional Medical Command, is the winner of the U.S. Army Medical Command Career Counselor of the Year. Parrish is assigned to Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, Fort Campbell, Ky.

ing the MEDCOM/Office of the Surgeon General Advances in Military Medicine Conference at the Gateway Club on JBSA-Lackland Nov. 19.

The competition began with an early morning physical fitness test, followed by a 50-question written exam.

The competitors then faced a selection board comprised of senior NCOs asking a variety of questions, from current events to subjects such as the NCO Creed, the MEDCOM Career Counselor Creed, retention policy, retention operations and incentives, reenlistment, training, Reserve Component guidelines and more.

Parrish, assigned to Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, Fort Campbell, Ky., has been a career counselor for nine years.

"I'm excited. I did not expect to win," he said. "I studied hard. It was a great competition, competing with my counterparts."

"Soldiers come to my office and sometimes they just want someone where they can go and vent their frustrations about their unit," Parrish said, describing a typical day in his office. "But I also help them get ready for the next step in their life, whether it is in the Army or civilian life. I make

sure to steer them in the right direction."

Career counselors Staff Sgt. Joseph Moore, European Regional Medical Command; Staff Sgt. Demar Bowman, Northern Regional Medical Command; and Sgt. 1st Class Tamara Price, Materiel Regional Medical Command, were also considered in the competition.

Career counselors are usually assigned at battalion levels or above and advise commanders and command sergeants major about the organization's Army Retention Program and advise Soldiers and their families about the benefits and opportunities the Army as a career has to offer. They are subject matter experts in reenlistment, education benefits and reclassification.

Parrish will represent the Army Medical Command at the Secretary of the Army Career Counselor of the Year Board competition in Virginia in January 2015.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston wins citywide National Night Out competition

By Steve Elliott
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
Public Affairs

The 502nd Security Force Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio was recently honored for having the city-wide top overall National Night Out celebration Oct. 7.

National Night Out, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is a neighborhood crime and drug prevention event that occurs annually and is celebrated in every city, town and village in the United States.

In addition to increasing awareness of crime and drug prevention



Courtesy photo

Lincoln Military Housing at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston hosted a National Night Out event Oct. 7, which helped the 502nd Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio in being honored for the city-wide top overall National Night Out celebration.

programs, NNO also strengthens neighborhood spirit and community-police partnerships, while sending a message

to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime.

"San Antonio, Bexar

County and surrounding cities came together Oct. 7 and joined hands in celebration of the National Night Out

2014 in fighting crime and drugs," said Juan M. Ayala, Community

See NNO, P4

NORAD is ready to track Santa's flight

The North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. is ready to track Santa's yuletide journey. The NORAD Tracks Santa website at <http://www.noradsanta.org> has launched and features a mobile version, a holiday countdown, new games and daily activities and more.

The website is available in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Chinese.

Official NORAD Tracks Santa apps are also available in the Windows, Apple and Google Play stores, so parents and children can countdown the days until Santa's

launch on their smart phones and tablets. Tracking opportunities are also offered on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google+. Santa followers just need to type "@noradsanta" into each search engine to get started.

Starting at 12:01 a.m. Mountain Standard Time Dec. 24, website visitors can watch Santa make preparations for his flight. NORAD's "Santa Cams" will stream videos on the website as Santa makes his way over various locations.

Then, at 4 a.m. MST (5 a.m. Central), trackers worldwide can speak with a live phone operator to inquire as to Santa's whereabouts

by dialing the toll-free number 877-Hi-NORAD (877-446-6723) or by sending an email to noradtrackssanta@outlook.com.

NORAD Tracks Santa started in 1955 when a local media advertisement directed children to call Santa direct – only the number was misprinted. Instead of reaching Santa, the phone rang through to the crew commander on duty at the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center. Thus began the tradition, which NORAD carried on since it was created in 1958.

(Source: North American Aerospace Defense Command Public Affairs)

NNO from P3

Services Supervisor for Volunteers in Policing and National Night Out coordinator for San Antonio. "With more than 310,000 individuals taking part, this was our largest event ever."

"Security forces and fire emergency services at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston get special opportunities to show how we keep our entire population safe in order for them to carry out and support their

missions," said Officer Steven B. Dews, 502nd SFS crime prevention manager. "It is with the highest level of gratitude that we thank everyone who contributed to the success of our NNO events."

Dews said the cooperative efforts of the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Police Department, fellow police officers from Terrell Hills, Brooke Army Medical Center and the San Antonio Police Departments, the 323rd Army Band

"Fort Sam's Own," fire and rescue, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Department and 502nd Mission Support Group commander Col. Steven Toft were instrumental in attaining the top spot for 2014.

"The message was sent at the annual Night Out Against Crime that we are JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and we are together," Dews said. "A family that plays together stays together and the NNO was a big party to show that."

HIGH-FLYING WREATH AT ARMY NORTH



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Matthew Howard

502nd Civil Engineer Squadron workers hang a holiday wreath on the clock tower in the historic Quadrangle Dec. 2 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston as part of U.S. Army North's traditional decorations for the season.

232ND MEDICAL BATTALION WELCOMES NEW COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



Incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Shanklin (left) accepts the Noncommissioned Officers Sword from Lt. Col. Woodrow Nash, 232nd Medical Battalion commander, signifying his acceptance of the duties and responsibilities of the 232nd Medical Battalion at a change of responsibility ceremony Dec. 5 at the Army Medical Department Museum Amphitheater on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Jawn Oilar (right) is being assigned as command sergeant major for the 32nd Medical Brigade. Shanklin has held a variety of assignments and leadership positions overseas and in the United States. The 232nd Medical Battalion is responsible for training Soldiers as combat medics with 3,000 Soldiers in training daily and graduating 300 combat medics every two weeks.

Photo by Esther Garcia

News Briefs

Continued from P3

ID Cards/DEERS Office Move

The ID Cards main office formerly at building 367 has relocated to building 2263, on the first floor of 2484 Stanley Road. Customers are serviced by appointments only, which can be made by visiting <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/hra/idcard.aspx>. Emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. For more information, call 221-0415/2278.

Passports, Visas Office Move

The passports and visas office formerly at building 367 has relocated to the basement of building 2263, 2484 Stanley Road. For more information, call 221-0347.

Army In/Out Processing

All Soldiers and their families arriving and departing Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston must report to building 2263, room 100A at 2484 Stanley Road. The office recently relocated from building 367. For info call 221-2076/0146.

Air Force Comptroller Office Relocation

Finance personnel services for Air Force military and civilian personnel relocated from building 4196 to building 2263, room 300. For more information, call 221-1415.

Clinical trials in burn, trauma task area at USAISR steadily progressing since 2010

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs

The goal was simple: to revolutionize burn and trauma care; prevent, detect and treat organ failure; and accelerate the full functional recovery of the severely injured.

That's the goal that the Clinical Trials in Burns and Trauma Task Area at U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston has been aiming at since its reorganization in 2010. As an active participant of a multi-center Food and Drug Administration regulated clinical trials and four more being developed, the CTBT is on track at achieving its goal.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kevin Chung, CTBT task area manager and an intensivist at the burn intensive care unit, said that burn outcomes has remained relatively unchanged for decades and that prior to 2010 there were no FDA clinical trials that were being conducted at the



Photo by Steven Galvan

Members of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center Clinical Trials in Burn and Trauma Task Area include (front row, from left): Cathy Rauschendorfer, Elsa Coates, Gale Mankoff, Sonya Charo-Griego, Vicky Hatem, (middle row, from left): Lt. Col. Sandra Escolas, Debra Archuleta, Doug Johnson, Sue Walker, Dora Lugo, Dina Pina, Gene Martiny, Manuel Hernandez, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kevin Chung, (back row from left) Michael Perez, J. Alan Waters, Matt Rowan, Javance Tercero and Reg Richard.

burn center.

"We are now a desirable and sought after clinical site for participation in FDA clinical trials," Chung said.

"This is a huge step for us," said Col. (Dr.) Booker T. King,

USAISR Burn Center director.

"We care for some of the most severely injured and ill patients in the world, so this platform is the best to find solutions that are needed for the battlefield wounded."

The clinical trials that have been conducted at the Burn Center include protocols to evaluate a dressing to minimize scar formation; a comparison

See USAISR, P17

502nd Contracting Squadron saves Air Force dollars, has 'immense' impact

By Senior Airman Krystal Jeffers
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland
Public Affairs

The 502nd Contracting Squadron is the backbone of Joint Base San Antonio because of their efforts in acquiring essential services and equipment for the wing.

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, praised squadron members recently, recognizing the unit for their "great work in making JBSA the premier installation in the Department of Defense."

"The impact that our contracting squadron has on the 502nd ABW, our mission partners and JBSA overall is

immense," he continued.

The squadron completed multiple projects during fiscal year 2014 that benefited both JBSA and the Air Force as a whole.

The 502nd CONS was responsible for approximately \$32.8 million in construction projects to enhance 87 JBSA buildings and \$3.6 million for road repair. These improvement projects directly impact JBSA's infrastructure by providing better facilities, which will help prepare the 502nd ABW for potentially tight budgets in the future.

"These projects are going to be really important because the more we do this year and next, the less maintenance will be

needed during 2016 when the projected budget cuts come," said Lt. Col. Thomas Hoskins, 502nd CONS commander.

Another contract the squadron handled during the fiscal year is expected to save millions of dollars for JBSA over the next 10 years.

The joint base is expected to save \$3.7 million from six energy conservation projects. In addition, the 502nd ABW received a rebate of \$250,000 for FY 2014 from one of the projects. Additional rebates are expected in 2015, which will return more money to the 502nd ABW support budget.

"We are seeing a lot more of these (types of projects)," Hoskins said. "They are practi-

cally paying for themselves with rebates and how our energy bill is going down."

In addition to saving money for the JBSA community, the 502nd CONS is potentially saving lives in San Antonio.

They secured more than \$88.8 million in personnel, equipment and supplies for the San Antonio Military Health System and the 55,000 yearly patients they provide for. In addition, they were responsible for securing contracts that resulted in reducing the Texas bone marrow transplant wait list by 92 percent and supported the effort that potentially saved six lives.

"All of this was because of our people," Hoskins said.

"They are the only reason we got all this done. They performed very well, especially given what we have gone through in the last year with (502nd ABW) transformation and the restructuring of our squadron."

Previously, there was a contracting squadron for each location of JBSA - Lackland, Fort Sam Houston and Randolph.

"With the transformation we became one squadron and refocused our flights to take on work for all of JBSA," Hoskins said. "Now all the flights have a more defined and strategic workload."

Some flights, like one of the

See 502nd, P17

AFA Outstanding Air Force Civilian Employee of the Year nominations due

By Janis El Shabazz

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Air Force officials are accepting nominations for the Air Force Association Outstanding Air Force Civilian Employee of the Year.

Each year, the AFA recognizes Air Force civilian employees for outstanding achievement in four categories:

- Civilian Wage Employee (all federal wage system employees)
- Civilian Program Specialist (GS-1 through GS-11)
- Civilian Program Manager (GS-12 and GS-13)
- Civilian Senior Program Manager (GS-

14 and GS-15)

Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their major command, combatant command, field operating agency or direct reporting unit for applicable suspense dates and additional information regarding nomination procedures.

Each MAJCOM, COCOM, FOA and DRU may nominate one person for each category. Completed nomination packages are due to the Air Force Personnel Center by Jan. 8.

For more information on Air Force recognition programs and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

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>.



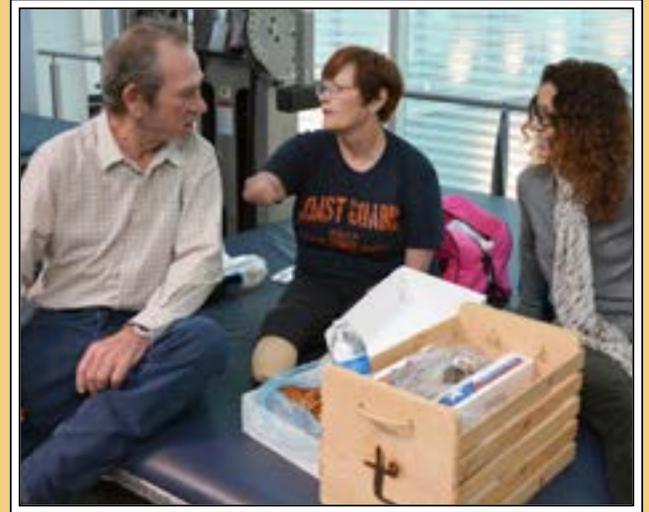
TOMMY LEE JONES VISITS BAMC, CENTER FOR THE INTREPID



Actor Tommy Lee Jones is greeted by August O'Neil and his service dog, Kai, Nov. 26 at the Center for the Intrepid on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Jones and his wife, Dawn, stopped by to deliver some treats and holiday cheer to the patients and staff at Brooke Army Medical Center and the CFI.



Actor Tommy Lee Jones visits with Joshua June (right) and Johnny Owens Nov. 26 at the Center for the Intrepid on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.



Photos by Robert Shields

Actor Tommy Lee Jones and his wife, Dawn (right), talk with Donna Lowery Nov. 26 about her rehabilitation at the Center for the Intrepid. The couple visited with patients and staff and brought in some tasty treats and holiday cheer to the patients and staff at BAMC and the CFI before the Thanksgiving holiday.

New allotment rule protects troops from lending scams

By Terri Moon Cronk
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has directed a policy change in new paycheck allotments to prevent unscrupulous commercial lenders from taking advantage of troops and their families, Pentagon officials said Nov. 21.

According to a Department of Defense news release, effective Jan. 1, 2015, the change in DOD's financial management regulation will prohibit service members from allotting pay to buy, lease or rent personal property, a senior DOD official said.

According to the release, this policy change will eliminate that aspect of the al-

lotment system most prone to abuse by unscrupulous lenders that prey on service members.

This will significantly improve protections for all service members and their families, while not significantly reducing the flexibility to use allotments for a number of legitimate purposes, the release reported.

DOD officials said that while existing allotments are not affected, service members will no longer be able to make allotments for the following types of purchases:

- Vehicles, such as automobiles, motorcycles and boats;
- Appliances or household goods, such as

furniture, washers and dryers;

- Electronics, such as laptops, tablets, cell phones and televisions; and
- Other consumer items that are tangible and moveable.

Allotments still can be used for savings account deposits, investments, to support dependents, pay insurance premiums, mortgages, rents, make Combined Federal Campaign contributions, and U.S. government debt repayments.

Another line of protection for service members and their families is included when starting new allotments through MyPay and manually on DD Form 2558,

officials said.

Officials said service members must certify under the Uniform Code of Military Justice that the allotment is not for "the purchase, lease, or rental of personal property or of payment toward personal property."

The secretary directed the change following an interagency review that began in June 2013 in response to a major enforcement action by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The team comprised DOD representatives from the comptroller, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, personnel and readiness, and general counsel offices in the Joint Staff and secre-

tary's offices. Non-DOD participants were from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, CFPB, Federal Reserve Board, Comptroller of the Currency and the National Credit Union Administration.

Defense Officials said a 2012 analysis showed that the top 10 financial institutions that received allotments from service members processed almost two million allotments totaling \$3.767 billion.

Of the top 10 allotment processors, state law enforcement, consumer advocates, and the financial regulators have flagged three particular institutions as suspected abusers of the allotment system.

Those institutions

received 999,588 allotments totaling \$1.380 billion in fiscal year 2012.

Officials said the 2012 analysis also found that on average per capita, warrant officers use 5.73 allotments, commissioned officers use 3.55 and enlisted personnel use 3.49 allotments, respectively.

The dollar average per allotment is highest for warrant officers (\$1,679 per allotment), followed by officers (\$1,554 per allotment), and then enlisted personnel (\$1,224 per allotment).

The new allotment rule applies to active-duty members and not military retirees or DOD civilians, officials said.

Counter Active Shooter Tactics: innovative training arms community members with knowledge to survive

By Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the number of active shooter events is on the rise. From the year 2000 to 2013, the U.S. has averaged 11.4 active shooter events per year, and the last seven years have shown an increase to 16.4 incidents a year.

With recent attacks at Florida State University, Washington State, Isla Vista, Calif., and Fort Hood, Texas, there are no indications that the rate of active shooter events will decline.

However, members of the 902nd Security Forces Squadron are now offering comprehensive training to personnel in the Joint Base San Antonio area to further prepare and survive an active shooter event.

“We’ve already trained law enforcement members on how to react to an active shooter, but we haven’t done much training for the rest of the community,” said Robert Vickers, 902nd SFS chief of plans and programs. “We want them to understand the psychology behind crisis actions and events, understand how their mind and body will react to the stress and find a way to work through those stressors to come up with an action plan.”

Counter Active Shooter Tactics is a two-part course with classroom and hands-on training designed to provide members of the JBSA community with the knowledge and understanding of how to survive an active shooter event regardless of where they may be at any time.

“In addition to the current mandatory computer-based training, CAST is another method to arm you with options to survive,” said Maj. Julia Jefferson, 902d Security Forces Squadron commander. “Those attending the class will be better prepared when faced with a real world incident. CAST instructors will teach students to defend themselves.”

CAST training helps people to think outside the box and instead of rely-

ing solely on lockdown procedures it helps people to access the situation and take advantage of opportunities to escape the violence.

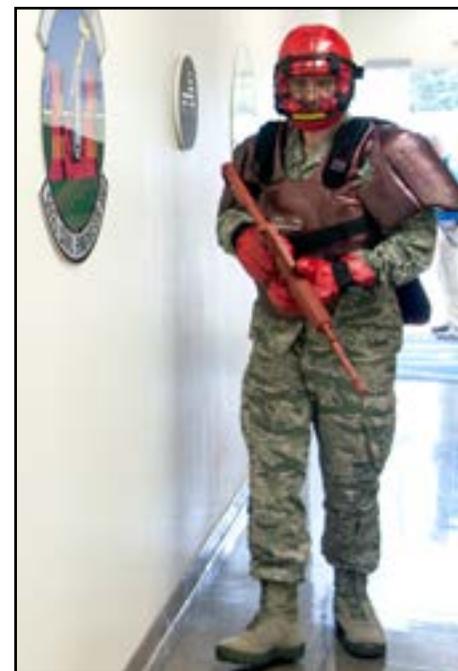
Vickers also explained that lockdown is not the priority but an available option to surviving a crisis event. He also stated that “regardless of where you are or what you are doing, be aware of primary exits as well as secondary exits like windows.”

“The heaviest emphasis in this class is on avoidance,” Vickers said. “Leave, escape, get away from the incident at all costs. Whether you use a door, window or break through

dry wall; your primary objective is to get away. If you are unable to get away, barricade yourself to deny the shooter access to where you are, while you still search for a way to escape.”

CAST training is free and available for all members of JBSA from active duty, civilians, contractors and family members. For more information about CAST, and how to enroll in the next class, call 652-5600 or 652-1357.

Online methods for registering for future classes are under development and will be publicized as soon as they are available.



Staff Sgt. Scott Mellott, 902nd Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of plans, plays the role of an active shooter during a Counter Active Shooter Tactics class Nov. 4 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

(From left) Master Sgt. David Colon, Air Education and Training Command Inspector General Directorate; Master Sgt. Kerry Thompson, 502nd Air Base Wing Inspector General Office NCO in charge of inspections; Frank Hawley, 502nd ABW IG self-assessment program manager; and Michael Broeker, 502nd ABW IG wing inspection team manager, run toward an exit during a Counter Active Shooter Tactics training scenario Nov. 4 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



Photo by Jennifer Schneider

Construction continues Nov. 5 on the new Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, the largest outpatient ambulatory care center in the Department of Defense at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The \$380 million facility spans almost 700,000 square feet and is expected to serve more than 55,000 patients annually.

Construction continues on largest ambulatory care center in DOD

By Jennifer Schneider
Air Force Civil Engineering Center
Public Affairs

San Antonio will soon be home to the largest outpatient ambulatory care center in the Department of Defense: the new Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

“The new Wilford Hall represents the highest level of enhanced outpatient health care available anywhere,” said Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Bart Iddens, 59th Medical Wing

commander. “It’s a testament to the dedication our men and women of the 59th Medical Wing have for our service members and the more than 240,000 beneficiaries we care for in and around the San Antonio area.”

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center is managing construction of the \$380 million, state-of-the-art treatment center, which spans almost 700,000 square-feet. The facility will serve more than 55,000 patients annually and replaces the existing center,

which opened in 1957 and was named after Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Wilford Hall in 1963.

The Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005 prompted development of the facility by calling for the consolidation of all military health care in San Antonio and the repurposing of Wilford Hall Medical Center into an outpatient clinic.

The new center includes four wings, connected by an airport-style concourse, and houses more than 25 outpatient clinics and clinic services.

When designing the facility, strong emphasis was placed on providing a healing environment, said Capt. James Jordan, a project health facilities officer.

“Research has shown that nature can have a therapeutic and calming effect on patients,” Jordan said. “The new center incorporates gardens and natural light throughout the facility to help promote a healing and calming environment.”

The modern facility also pays homage to its historic

roots through a legacy plaza, which incorporates the flagpole and a 50-year-old grove of oak trees from the original facility.

Energy conservation and sustainability were also considerations when designing the facility, which is projected to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver-certified status at minimum. The LEED rating system is an internationally recognized U.S. Green Build-

See WHASC, P14

59th Medical Wing geared to recapture patient services

By Christopher Carwile
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

While comment and feedback cards are always available for patients in every clinic of the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, the 59th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron is taking an active “re-construction” approach to gaining feedback.

“It’s all about enhancing the patient care experience,” said Byron Nichols, 59th Medical Support Group process improvement advisor.

“The 59th MDTs is working to make us the pharmacy, the lab and nutritional medicine clinic of choice for our number

one customer, the patient,” Nichols said.

During the six-week project, squadron members, wearing hard hats and reflective vests, collected 1,500 responses from visitors to questions about their customer service experiences.

Responses to two questions have been primarily positive with a 98 percent satisfaction rating.

“However, we have identified several areas for improvement such as service hours, communication and other internal processes we can adjust to better meet the needs of our patients,” Nichols said.

Now it’s the squadron’s turn to provide feedback to the customer.

“The answers that our patients provided were taken and categorized,” he said. “We are creating a display for our patients so they can know that we acknowledge what they told us and are addressing their concerns.

“This is a unique step because many times if a suggestion is made, the patient never hears a response from the clinic,” he added. “The 59th MDTs Reconstruction Program is committed to improving communication and providing feedback so our patients know we listen and we care.”



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin Iinuma

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Catherine Scholar, 59th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron diet therapy journeyman, congratulates Airmen for answering correctly during a nutrition jeopardy game recently at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The event helped patients pass the time while waiting for their prescriptions and provided them with nutritional information.

JBSA COMMUNITY 'LIGHTS UP' HOLIDAY SEASON

(Below) Katie Baltos, 6, throws a snowball during the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 3 at MacArthur Field. Snow was brought in for the children to play in and sled on. Other family-friendly events included visiting with Santa and making ornaments.

Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Santa and Mrs. Claus took time off from their busy holiday schedule to visit the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston community during the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston holiday tree lighting ceremony Dec. 3 at MacArthur Field.



Photo by Olivia Mendoza

After the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston annual holiday tree lighting ceremony Dec. 3, children gathered around to listen to a reading of "A Christmas Story" while waiting for Santa Claus' arrival.

Army Medicine, national partners discuss sleep effects on health, readiness

By Ronald W. Wolf
Army Medicine

The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., hosted a gathering of the nation's leading experts on sleep Nov. 13 to discuss sleep and its impact on health. The occasion was an advance showing of "Sleepless in America," a National Geographic documentary that premiered on Nov. 30.

A panel discussion that followed included Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, surgeon general of the Army and commanding general of U.S. Army Medical Command, and emphasized the medical consequences of lack of sleep.

A discussion of our attitudes about getting adequate sleep "is one of those conversations that is long overdue but is getting the national attention it needs," Horoho said.

The medical consequences of lack of sleep are significant. People have a higher probability of cancer without adequate sleep. The rate of diabetes is higher among the sleep deprived.

One risk factor for obesity can be reduced by getting more snooze time. Not enough shut-eye may promote such

diseases as Alzheimer's. Concerned about immune systems? It's weakened if people are not getting enough zzzz's. A full 40 winks can help to reduce cardiovascular disease.

Better sleep reduces the risk factors for these health consequences and other negative health outcomes.

Other more immediate dangers of being sleep deprived are well documented. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, at least 1,500 deaths and 71,000 injuries occur as a result of driver fatigue each year.

The economic consequences of lack of sleep are high as well. Drowsy driving, for example, causes more than 300,000 accidents on our highways each year, at an estimated cost of more than \$30 million. The cost of insomnia in work productivity is estimated to be more than \$63 billion.

For the military, lack of sleep is a factor that affects readiness and leader's capability. The culture of the military has been one of the contributors to the belief of many that they can function effectively without proper sleep. For years, the military viewed sleep

reflective roofing, and window shading devices, said Jason Johnson, AFCEC project manager for the facility. In addition, more than 90 percent of the waste generated on site has been recycled or repurposed.

The funding and construction of the facility was achieved through a unique, yet challenging, phased approach, Johnson said.



Courtesy photo

Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho (center), surgeon general of the Army, discusses sleep issues raised by the documentary "Sleepless in America." From left to right, Timothy Morgenthaler, president, American Academy of Sleep; Ben S. Howard; Horoho; Mark R. Rosekind, National Transportation Safety Board; and Charles A. Czeisler, chairman, National Sleep Foundation. In the National Geographic documentary, Howard shared his personal story of tragedy related to sleeplessness. Three members of Howard's family were killed in an accident after being hit by a drowsy driver.

as the enemy and as an individual weakness. That has changed as leaders recognize that being sleep deprived impacts judgment and decision making.

"If you're getting less than six hours of sleep, you're cognitively impaired," Horoho pointed out.

Because a healthy and ready Army is a priority, Army Medicine has become a national leader,

partnering with National Institutes of Health, National Sleep Foundation, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, and other organizations to help change the culture of how we view sleep.

This statistic is sobering: 40 percent of adults and 70 percent of adolescents are sleep deprived.

The importance of sleep is gaining a new focus nationwide, and proper sleep is becoming

recognized as a critical component of good health, including brain health.

"Sleep is what protects our brain and that allows us to perform at peak performance in any type of mission, and it allows us to have the emotional hardiness when dealing with stressors that are out there," Horoho said.

The panel discussion included Francis Collins, director, National Insti-

tutes of Health; Horoho; John Hoffman, documentary director and producer; Mark Rosekind, National Transportation Safety Board, Timothy Morgenthaler, president, American Academy of Sleep Medicine; and Charles Czeisler, chairman, National Sleep Foundation.

"Sleepless in America" premiered on the National Geographic channel, Nov. 30.

WHASC from P11

ing Council certification that promotes and recognizes the design, construction and operation of environmentally sustainable buildings.

Some of the green building design features include energy-efficient design measures to minimize heat gain, such as optimal building orientation, green and

"The facility was initially conceived as a single project, but it ended up being broken into four separate phases – each authorized and funded separately through the medical military construction budget, with different contractors winning various phases," Johnson said. "The thought was that each phase would be con-

structed as a complete and usable facility on its own, and the infrastructure for the subsequent phases would tie into the previous phase."

Phase one is complete and includes the first wing of the building, a 1000-vehicle parking garage and a central utility plant.

The second phase is scheduled for completion in late spring 2015, and

focuses on construction of the second and third wings of the building, as well as a large atrium. Phase three completes the final wing, which includes the urgent care center and an ambulance shelter, and is scheduled for completion in summer 2015.

The fourth and final phase will begin in fiscal 2016, and will demolish the existing WHASC,

energy plant and other outlying buildings. Post-demolition, the area will feature additional parking and landscaping.

"Progress on the new facility is going well," Jordan said. "Healthcare services will continue to be provided at the existing location until the new center is fully operational, which is tentatively scheduled for first quarter 2016."

NEC from P1

service, etc., IT services are a utility that our customers rely on. Our Air Force partners were definitely a part of this achievement and collectively, they were all an integral piece in this community, our services and the Department of Defense. What you see are members of the community working for each other, where words can never express how appreciative we are of the great work they do daily.”

The NEC is comprised of 130 civilian and contract employees and performs Army Enterprise email support, network management, cyber security operations and sustaining base IT services in support of the largest joint base in the DOD.

Cooperation, collaboration and collegiality are the three C's that form the nucleus for reinforcing the NEC's IT service excellence model.

“To prevail in this competition, each NEC considered had to rally together and work extremely hard to triumph over others vying for the same honor,” said Eduardo Villegas, firewall system administrator. “The award recognition was based on IT enterprise building efforts; innovative solutions to resources shortfalls; including



Courtesy photo

(From left) Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, congratulates Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Network Enterprise Center employees Christopher Rangel and Fred Chapel, along with Col. Patrick Ginn, commander, 106th Signal Brigade, and Robert Moore from the 502nd Communications Squadron for being selected 2014 NEC of the Year (Large Category) within the Continental United States.

contributions towards select enterprise initiatives among other specified criteria.”

“The team of professionals at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston is an integral part of the overall DOD effort to alter and improve the manner in which communications are provided and secured,” said Col. Patrick Ginn, commander, 106th Signal Brigade. “The ongoing efforts are the first of many initiatives to move the Army and others towards the Joint Information Environment construct. Our NEC is leading the way to establish a more robust, reliable and secure enterprise to deliver

network operational utility to our mission partners.”

“Since 2012, the goal of NEC was to build a high-caliber workforce

that represents the Network Enterprise Technology Command with distinction both on and off duty. I believe we as a team set the founda-

tion for excellence as being the cornerstone of our business,” said Terry Owen, cyber security specialist. “I am thrilled at being a part of the

team that was recognized as the best in CONUS and excited to continue building upon that success for years to come.”

“The collaboration of partnerships was a collective group effort of diverse personnel, customers and units for the progress achieved at JBSA,” RosaVelez said. “The planning and execution of the tasks associated with being recognized for this award highlight the dedication and perseverance of local Army and Air Force talents. No individual or group alone made this happen as it was clearly a team effort with one main purpose in mind.

“If you want to pinpoint the philosophy of ‘one team,’ it was all about DOD’s Joint Information Environment vision,” RosaVelez added. “Everyone talks about being purple, but we lived it.”

Tool to safeguard personally identifiable information rolls out Air Force wide

The Digital Signature Enforcement Tool was released Air Force-wide Dec. 5, providing Microsoft Outlook email users with an interactive, automated virtual assistant to help ensure the security of personally identifiable information.

"I can't overstate the operational importance of preventing PII breaches," said Maj. Gen. B. Edwin Wilson, commander of 24th Air Force and Air Forces Cyber. "It's not an IT problem, it's a Total Force problem and DSET is an effective tool the Total Force can use, right now, to help reduce inadvertent PII breaches."

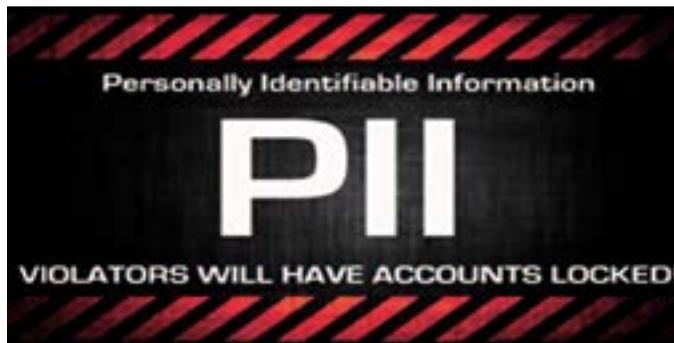
Beyond potential identity theft, PII breaches can lead to significant compromises in operational security.

For example, a well-meaning member working to meet an operational deadline sends an unencrypted email, containing PII on several unit members, to a "non .mil" email account. The sender could be attempting to get ahead on a project or be providing a status update to unit members on pending unit movements.

Unknown to the sender, hackers have compromised email transport infrastructure between the sender's desktop and one of the destination, "non .mil" desktops. Hackers intercepting this unencrypted email traffic can utilize the newly acquired personal information to form specifically targeted attacks, known as spear phishing, to acquire additional information such as account numbers or passwords.

Unfortunately the attack does not stop there. Once an attacker has acquired enough information, he can simulate user accounts or even pass off communications on behalf of the service member, who is likely still unaware that his information has been compromised.

Those false communications could be leveraged to gain digital access to Air Force systems, or even physical access to installations and personnel. Obviously, the negative implications caused by PII breaches are severe, and equipping the force with tools to



mitigate the risk is paramount.

DSET version 1.6.1, an updated version of the DSET 1.6.0 software already in use by the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command, and Air Force Space Command contains fixes for some previously identified software bugs as well as enhancements to make the digital tool more effective.

"DSET 1.6.0 launched back in July to three major commands," said Alonzo Pugh, cyber business system analyst for 24th AF. "Feedback has been overwhelmingly favorable for the use of the tool, and version 1.6.1 is definitely ready for Air Force-wide usage."

DSET is regarded as a short-term fix to help all Air Force network users protect PII, specifically if that information is to be included in an email communication. DSET 1.6.1 still only scans for PII in the form of social security numbers, leaving overall responsibility on the user to safeguard the sensitive information in all of its forms.

"First, the user should ask him or herself if the PII in the email is truly necessary," Pugh said. "DSET scans the email draft before transmission. If PII is identified, DSET will notify the user through a series of pop-up windows. This interactivity allows the user to make a conscious decision of how to proceed with the information in question."

According to Pugh, if the information must be transmitted, encrypting the PII is all that is necessary to protect the data during transmission. DSET will trigger when it detects potential PII in an email, giving the user the opportunity to delete the information if not necessary to the

communication, encrypt the information, or override and transmit the email as originally written.

If the file containing PII is already encrypted – through the Microsoft Office "protect" permission feature or some other software – DSET will not trigger and the email can be sent as usual to any recipient's email address, whether ".mil," ".com," etc.

However, if the email itself is encrypted through Microsoft Outlook, the communication is only safe to transmit to a recipient's ".mil" email address. An email encrypted in this fashion cannot be sent to any "non-.mil" addresses. If the user attempts to do so, DSET and Microsoft Outlook will provide pop-up boxes explaining the user's options.

"I can't overstate the importance of reading the information in the pop-up box," Pugh said. "Read the training materials on the use of DSET; read the training slides on how to use Microsoft Office features to encrypt various documents; understand how these tools can help you safeguard PII."

Training can be accessed at the following locations:

DSET tutorials: <https://afpki.lackland.af.mil/tutorials/dset/>

DSET Quick Reference Guide: https://afpki.lackland.af.mil/assets/files/OE-15-40-064_QRG-DSET_v0001.pdf

Additional training on how to encrypt Microsoft Office documents can be accessed at <http://www.24af.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-140701-064.pdf>

Users have multiple tools at their disposal to protect PII if encrypting e-mail is not feasible, but if electronic transmission of sensitive PII is operationally required, users can leverage approved Department of Defense file exchange services at: <https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/>

More information regarding DSET implementation can be found at <http://www.24af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123417788>

(Source: 24th Air Force Public Affairs)

CID warns of new carjacking scam, provides list of holiday safety tips

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is warning military members about a new carjacking scam targeting unsuspecting holiday shoppers.

Criminal Investigation Command, commonly referred to as CID, special agents were recently alerted through law enforcement channels about a new ploy, where criminals use the lure of free cash as a distraction. The crime provides crooks a window of opportunity to swoop in and rob an unsuspecting victim of their belongings, including their vehicle.

"What we've heard is criminals will place a \$100 bill, usually on an individual's windshield under the wiper blade and while the victim is distracted and gets out to retrieve the cash, the criminals use the element of surprise to approach the vehicle and rob the victim of their belongings and car," said Special Agent Mark Kerr, a CID agent with Headquarters, Army CID. "It's the perfect distraction during the holiday season, because everyone could use a little extra cash, especially if it's free."

According to the state of Maryland's Attorney General's Office the scam, initially reported to Prince George's County law enforcement, has the potential to spread throughout the country. However, steps can be taken by the public to ensure their safety to combat this scam.

Kerr said that should anyone discover money on their vehicle, to quickly move to a safe, public location and to notify law enforcement or security personnel immediately. Lock your doors and do not get out of the vehicle to retrieve it.

The following CID recommended safety tips are provided to help ensure the greater Army community has a safe and secure holiday season:

- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.
- Park in well-lit areas and as close to the store as possible.
- Avoid becoming an easy target for thieves by not purchasing more than you can safely carry.
- Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car. If leaving a store late

INSIDE THE GATE

Roll into holiday fun with bowling

Save on entertainment budgets at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center during December. Bowlers that purchase \$7 or more at the snack bar can show the receipt at the front counter to receive two free games and shoe rentals Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. until closing. Call 221-3683.

Families Enjoy Bowling Special

Bring the family to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center noon to 4 p.m. Sunday and get a bowling lane for one hour, a large pizza, sodas and bowling shoes for \$40. Call 221-3683.

Musicals Highlights Holiday Season

Take a journey back to the '50s and '60s at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Harlequin Dinner Theatre. "Beach Blanket Christmas" plays through Dec. 20. The cast performs favorite Christmas classics and popular songs of the '50s and '60s. Additionally, there is a special Sunday matinee of "Just Us" which includes favorite holiday songs and a special salute to our military Sunday and Dec. 21. Both shows are sponsored by The Gunn Automotive Group. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Call 222-9694.

Thrift Shop For Holiday Shopping

The Thrift Shop at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, located at 3100 Zinn Road, one block south of Outdoor Recreation, is operated by the Spouse's Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area. Usual hours of operation are Wednesdays, Thursdays and the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for consignments from all Department of Defense ID card holders and from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for shopping by all who have access to post. Donations also accepted. The shop will be closed from Dec. 19 through Jan. 5 and will reopen for business Jan. 7 and 8. The first Saturday opening after the new year will be Jan. 10. Call 221-5794/4537.

Have Fun Running Through The Holidays

Break up the holiday season with a healthy Holiday 5K Run/Walk at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at 8 a.m. Saturday. This free event is open to Department of Defense ID cardholders 18 years and older. Call 221-1234.

Special Musical Guest Visits Library

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library welcomes special guest Dr. Owen Duggan at 10 a.m. Dec. 18. Duggan is a local singer, musician and composer who has produced two children's music CDs titled "The Elephant Never Forgets" and "Puppy

Dog Jig," both in the library collection. He sings and plays guitar or banjo for longtime favorites such as "Puff the Magic Dragon" and "The Marvelous Toy" and also performs some of his own compositions. Call 221-4702.

Start Your New Year Resolution Without Delay

Ring in 2015 with a midnight 5K run/walk at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Dec. 31. Coffee and hot chocolate are available before the run/walk at 11 p.m., snacks and refreshments will be served after the run along with a sparkling cider toast to welcome the new year. T-shirts will be available for purchase as long as supplies last. This 5K is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and non-ID cardholders. Register no later than Thursday. Call 221-1234.

A New Year's Day Run takes place at 10 a.m. Jan. 1 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Pershing Sports Complex. Runners and walkers can choose between a 4-mile race or a 1.5-mile walk. Patrons may register on the day of the event. These events are free and open to all DOD ID cardholders. Call 221-3593 or 221-4887.

Helping Us Grow Securely Playgroup

The interactive playgroup for parents and children up to age 5 meets 9-11 a.m. each Tuesday at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Middle School Teen Center. No registration required. Call 221-

0349 or 221-2418.

Youth Delight In Holiday Camps

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs offers holiday camps Dec. 22-30 for children ages 5-10. Activities include arts and crafts, computer lab, outside play, drama, techno games and other fun activities. All children enrolled in after school care can register at building 1703. Children not enrolled need to register at Parent Central, building 2797. Fees are

based on total family income. Call 221-5151.

Take Aim at Sportsman's Range

Hours for the Sportsman's Range at JBSA-Camp Bullis are now 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting. Cost to shoot is \$10 per DOD ID cardholder and \$15 per non-DOD ID cardholder. A DOD ID cardholder can purchase an annual pass for \$60. DOD cardholders may sponsor two guests. Cardholders are allowed to sponsor two non-DOD ID cardholder guests.

Guests must be in the same vehicle as the sponsor. Call 295-7577.

Spouses' Club of Fort Sam Houston Area

The Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area has a variety of events coming up such as monthly luncheons, community outreach and fun activity clubs like Bunko, a book club and bingo. The club is open to all ranks, all military services and Department of Defense civilians. Call 705-4767.

502nd from P6

three infrastructure and construction flights, were refocused from supporting a single location to all of JBSA, while other flights were completely re-tasked.

"It was a big change for the individual flights and they took on a lot more responsibility," Hoskins explained. "It allows us to be not only effective but efficient across the whole

joint base. It will provide us a foundation to do more strategic contracts so we can go after those savings. We want to make sure that we are buying the right things so that the mission is supported while also protecting the taxpayers' dollars."

The commander contributes the merger's success and the unit's ability to support JBSA while getting the best value for the tax payers' dollars to

the people who composed the squadron.

"They all had to adjust to a whole different workload," Hoskins said. "It is amazing what they did in the time they did it. They are flexible, focused and driven. They are good folks pushing hard and it is obvious that they care about what they do. They did a lot of good work throughout the year to get the squadron where it is today."

USAIR from P6

of an engineered allogeneic human skin to standard care; a comparison of a mesh graft a device that allows cells to be sprayed on an excised burn wound; and an extracorporeal hemoperfusion device to treat rhabdomyolysis – damaged skeletal muscle cells in the bloodstream that may lead to kidney failure. Hemoperfusion is an extracorporeal device that filters tainted blood and returns it to the body.

"That's because we have the capabilities and personnel to conduct these types of clinical trials," said clinical research coordinator Vicky Hatem.

According to Hatem, the CTBT task area has been steadily growing and consists of a staff that includes clinical

research coordinators, quality control and quality assurance specialists, administrative assistants, research managers and primary investigators like Chung.

"We all have our distinct strengths," Hatem said. "We all play off of each other's strengths and that is what has made us a strong and successful task area."

Hatem said that the ongoing and future clinical trials were made possible through the Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine. Future clinical trials will include a biological skin substitute to treat severe burns; an extracorporeal device to treat sepsis; a drug to treat muscle atrophy in burn patients and the use of a mesh graft with spray-on skin.

"We not only test what is available in the market, but have the re-

searchers at this Institute that are able to develop solutions parallel to what is available to fill in the gaps in burn care," Chung said. "The Army is good at identifying those gaps, but it takes a strong collaboration with industry and academia to get the best and brightest people to find the solutions to fill those gaps."

"I'm proud to be part of this talented team," Hatem said. "I believe that we are doing great work and it takes an innovative team to find novel solutions to treat patients with severe burns and injuries."

"Only the most adequately resourced sites are able to execute these trials," Chung said. "And we are able to do it because our organization has resourced us to support the right staff for the right jobs making all this possible."

CARJACK from P16

at night, and by yourself, ask security to walk you to your car if you feel threatened.

- Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook. An enterprising thief would love to "shoulder surf" to get your account information.
- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if possible, take them directly home.
- Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.
- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies if you are using mass transit.

- If you are shopping with children, make a plan in case you get separated. Select a central meeting place and make sure they know they can ask mall personnel or store security employees if they need help.
- Always be alert and aware of your surroundings and do not blindly walk in public areas focused on your phone.

"It's crucial that Soldiers, civilians and family members protect themselves throughout the holiday shopping season," Kerr said. "Having a plan in the event of an emergency and being aware of your surroundings is the best way to keep from becoming a victim."

(Source: U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command Public Affairs)