



# WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 30 • AUGUST 1, 2014



## AETC leaders visit Seguin Auxiliary Airfield

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## COMMENTARY

# 'Mommy isn't coming home, sweetie'

By Airman 1st Class Madison Sylvester  
319th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

As a young child, you don't think much if someone doesn't show up when they're supposed to because you have better, more important things to worry about; like bugs and dolls. They're just another shape flashing around you in your own little world.

Occasionally, a child will stop and ask a question about the sky, their toys or where their parent is. The answer always seems to be, "Oh honey, they're right over there," and life goes on without a hitch.

When I stopped playing one night in 1998 and asked the question, "Daddy, when is Mommy coming home?" it brought everyone around to a sudden halt. My father cleared his throat and blinked a few times, obviously taken by surprise that his 3-year-old was asking this question so early. He replied quietly, "Mommy isn't coming home sweetie. She's living with the angels now."

My mother was killed in a head-on collision March 24, 1997, as a result of drinking and driving.

That wasn't the beginning of her relationship with alcohol; however, her decision to drive home after drinking this night was not her first time doing so. It was a regular thing. Consumption of alcohol, or rather the inability to stop consuming it, had ruined my parents' relationship. Already in the process of divorce, they had been fighting that particular day over my mother breaking into my grandparents' liquor cabinet.

The attempt to lie was immediately wiped away with the first glance of her. So she decided that she would leave, she tried to bring me along with her but my father was able to wrestle me away. My dad wasn't worried, he thought she would take a walk down the street to calm down; he thought he had the keys. Little did he know, she had a spare set made. Almost running him over in his attempt to stop her, she sped off.

My father got remarried to a wonderful woman six months later and because I didn't understand, I didn't act like anything was wrong. It wasn't until I was five years old that I really,



Photo by Senior Airman Xavier Navarro  
Airman 1st Class Madison Sylvester shares the story of how her first scar became her reason for never driving while under the influence of alcohol. Sylvester is a 319th Air Base Wing Public Affairs broadcaster.

fully understood where my mom had gone. People had stopped sugarcoating things and telling me that I was too young to get it.

Never wanting to upset the woman I now called Mom, I waited until I had my father alone to ask again, "Daddy, what really happened to mommy?" Judging from the look on his face, he had thought he had some time before any real explanations had to be given. I quickly apologized seeing the distressed look and got up to rush to another room but he stopped me and said, "No, it's okay, I just didn't think I would have to do this so soon ... Your mother had a problem."

A problem. That's what we hear today when someone invites alcohol into their lives for too long. A problem. A mistake. What my mother had was not simply a problem; my mother had a disease. One that nobody cared to diagnose because that would mean their own failure. She would get sad

and drink, she would get mad and drink, and soon she had made any emotion an excuse to drink. I grew older with conflicting images of her.

"She was a wonderful mother; she loved you, so full of life and laughter," collided with "Your mother was a liar, a cheater and a drunk."

Yes. I had a woman who married my father, gave me a little sister, and took on the task of taking care of me too. But there was always a hole that couldn't be filled in me. I had questions that people felt too guilty about to answer. Did I do something so wrong that she needed to drink again? If she really loved me, how could she be so careless? I was grieving years after everyone else had moved on.

However, I learned to deal with my own hurt and turned it into understanding and proactivity. My mother was not the only person to ever have alcoholism. I was not the only person ever to lose someone this way, nor would I be the last. I would not allow myself to be a victim, but instead became an advocate. The one thing that I took away from my own loss was that I never wanted anyone else to go through the same experience. My family brushed her addiction under the rug because addictions are ugly, they're taboo, and deep down inside they didn't want to admit that their daughter, sister and granddaughter wasn't okay. But the truth of the matter is that she wasn't and others aren't either.

I urge you to help your wingmen. If you notice that their weekend fun is turning into everyday fun, say something. If you suspect that they're having hard times, say something. Even better than that, do something. Don't let them get in that car after they've been drinking. We have so many resources that can help prevent the loss of another brother or sister in arms. Most people are not willing to look at their own reflection and say "I have a problem. I need to stop." Help them. Love them. Support them.

This disease is long-standing in my lineage. I will be the one to end it. Will you do the same with our Air Force family?

## ON THE COVER

Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command, talks to members of the 820th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer Squadron from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Seguin Auxiliary Airfield. For more coverage, see page 3. Photo by Joel Martinez

## WINGSPREAD

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of JBSA-Randolph. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are U.S. Air Force photos.

The deadline for submissions is noon Wednesday the week prior to publication. All submissions can be emailed to randolphpublicaffairs@us.af.mil.

## AETC, 12th FTW leaders visit JBSA-Randolph's Seguin Auxiliary Airfield



Photos by Joel Martinez

Staff Sgt. Ryan Gould, 820th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer Squadron from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., airfields craft lead briefs Gen. Robin Rand (left), commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia (right), AETC command chief master sergeant, on the front end loaders capabilities July 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Seguin Auxiliary Airfield. The 820th RED HORSE team members are constructing a new runway at the airfield. The 12th Flying Training Wing, from JBSA-Randolph, uses the airfield in its instructor pilot training mission, though that training has been suspended until completion of the project. The project, which will cost about \$10 million, started May 1 and is scheduled to end Oct. 31.



Col. Matthew Isler (center), 12th Flying Training Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Troy Palmer (left), 12th Flying Training Wing command chief, are briefed by Staff Sgt Fernando Flaris, 820th Rapid Engineers Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer Squadron equipment operator, from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., on machinery being used to construct a new runway July 22 at JBSA-Randolph's Seguin Auxiliary Airfield.

## NEWS

An emptied Tactical Combat Casualty Care Cut Suit shows the surface plate without synthetic organs. The plate sits on top of a person's chest to protect from damage or cuts from an actual scalpel during combat medical training. The cut suit is a part of the Air Force Medical Modeling and Simulation Training Program at Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

Courtesy photo

# Local unit adds hyper reality to medical training

By Dianne Moffett  
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if film makers added smell and other senses to your explosive, action-packed movie-watching experience? This idea is probably not far from reality and likely will make motion pictures even more dynamic.

The Air Force Medical Modeling and Simulation Training, or AFMMAST, is improving medical training by adding hyper reality and high fidelity through the use of the Tactical Combat Casualty Care Cut Suit.

The AFMMAST website describes the cut suit as a learning tool that provides the most realistic way to simulate the look, feel and smell effects of severe traumatic situations on a live human. It allows medical providers a safe training environment to perform real procedures – from the point of injury to treatment en route, and transition of care to surgical intervention.

Senior Master Sgt. Juan Rodriguez, AFMMAST program manager, said the cut suit gives medical providers a training platform to focus on the three primary causes of death on the battlefield: uncontrollable hemorrhaging, airway compromise and tension pneumothorax (an abnormal collection of air or gas in the space that separates the lung from the chest wall).

In a field environment, a live actor wearing the cut suit will appear to be bleeding and can vocalize his pain and discomfort. The cut suit can also be used on a high fidelity mannequin. This cut suit-mannequin combination will provide the users with the physical appearance of the injury as well as the ability to

monitor physiologic symptoms of traumatic shock, like cardiac arrest, weak pulse, rapid or weak breathing, all of which can be tweaked and adjusted on a wireless computer monitor system.

“Simulation is just a tool to use during medical training and can be used with a huge variety of learning objectives,” said Ruben Garza, AFMMAST program deputy chief, administrator.

“The training that AFMMAST supports spans the continuum from combat mission preparation to basic training of Airmen to do the work required of their Air Force medical specialty,” he said. “Some sites have minimal training requirements and equipment and others, such as large hospitals have robust requirements that necessitate full-time staff, dedicated space and large amounts of equipment.”

Tony Garcia, a simulation operator at the Medical Research Training Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis, said training can also be conducted in the Wide-Area Virtual Environment, or WAVE. The WAVE is an immersive 3-D environment that includes, smoke, noise and an interactive background complete with avatars.

“In some scenarios, the actual smell of cutting into the gastrointestinal tract can be added to the training simulators,” he said. “They usually don’t go that far, because it depends on the specific curriculum and scenarios the instructors request from AFMMAST.”

The amount of training an Airman needs is determined by the mission and where they are in their career. Some Airmen are maintenance level, which means they are fully competent and not scheduled to deploy. But there is also the ramp-up level where

Airmen are preparing to deploy and the novice level, where they are learning the basics of how to be a medic, nurse or physician.

“In any case, the advantages of virtual training allow the student to practice critical skills repeatedly, in a safe environment, at a variety of locations simultaneously,” Garcia said.

These virtual environments are also cost effective if planned appropriately, Rodriguez said.

“The program can be used by many people without costly set-up or resources,” he said. “The skin and the organs on the cut suit are repairable. The organs can be changed out by the user and the skin can be repaired with special silicone-based glue.”

When asked what he hopes to see in future medical training models, Rodriguez said it would be smart for developers to address the full spectrum of a disease or injury.

“None of the simulation methods actually replicate real practice fully, so a blend or variety of methods is used to meet training requirements,” he said.

“Hyper realistic training is immersion of the learner in the situation,” Rodriguez reiterated. “It is intended to put the trainee in a situation where cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills can be tested, trained and practiced.”

“With this advanced technology, when trainees are presented with a real-life scenario, their muscle memory will take over and will get them through the initial shock,” Rodriguez said. “It improves their training experience, helps them complete the mission, but most importantly, saves lives.”



# AF teens learn leadership, communication skills at camp

By Staff Sgt. Ian Hoachlander  
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

More than 50 Air Force teens from around the world gathered July 9-13 in San Antonio for the annual Air Force Teen Leadership Camp conducted by the Air Force Personnel Center Directorate of Services.

The camp, held at the University of Texas at San Antonio, is for high school students who have completed their freshman year and want to develop leadership skills.

"We created this program because we want to provide teens a program focused on teaching our youth leadership skills that they will be able to use later in their life adventures," said Kim Gillman, AFPC Directorate of Services child and youth specialist.

Throughout the five-day event, teens participated in team-building exercises,

tackled an obstacle course and attended classroom workshops on leadership development and building self-confidence and how to be team players.

The classroom workshops offered the teens information and practice in public speaking, effective communication and working with people with different types of personalities. Teens also attended a class on proper health and nutrition.

"We want to develop our young adults into leaders," Gillman said. "This camp, along with all the other activities, helps prepare them for that role."

For more information or to find out how to apply for next year's Air Force Teen Leadership Camp, visit <http://www.myairforcelife.com/youth/TeenLeadershipCamp.aspx>. For more information about other quality of life programs visit <http://www.usafservices.com> or <http://www.myairforcelife.com>.



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>.

## JBSA Sexual Assault Prevention, Response

To report a sexual assault, call the 24/7 Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Hotline at 808-7272 or the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247.

# TRICARE benefits available at local SA facilities

By Elaine Sanchez

Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Military family members and retirees in the San Antonio area are invited to enroll for primary care at their local military treatment facility.

As part of a market-wide campaign, San Antonio Military Health System is reaching out to TRICARE beneficiaries ages zero to 64 who receive their primary care in the community asking them to consider “coming home” to military health care, said Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan, market manager for SAMHS.

“It gives me great pleasure to invite military families to our world-class military treatment facilities for all of their health care needs,” Keenan said.

SAMHS provides management and oversight of all military treatment facilities located in the San Antonio area and comprises Army and Air Force units that include Brooke Army Medical Center and the 59th Medical Wing.

In total, SAMHS provides primary care for nearly 140,000 beneficiaries at 13 clinics located throughout the San Antonio area, Keenan said, noting there’s room for about 8,500 more active-duty service members, military retirees and their family members to enroll. The San Antonio area has a total of more than 240,000 military beneficiaries who are eligible for care.

“We’d like to provide our high-quality, patient-centered care for as many of our beneficiaries as possible,” said Col. Kyle Campbell, commander of Brooke Army Medical

Center. “We consider it a tremendous privilege and an honor to care for these most-deserving patients.”

Throughout its facilities, SAMHS embraces a patient-centered medical home model that fosters a partnership between patients and medical teams to meet preventive, routine and urgent needs, Keenan said. As an added benefit, patients are able to securely email their Primary Care Manager via a secure system called Relay Health or MiCare.

“We are committed to providing exceptional, world-class health care for U.S. service members, retirees and their families,” said Maj. Gen. Bart O. Iddins, commander of the 59th Medical Wing at nearby JBSA-Lackland. “Consequently, we will continue to improve customer service and access to health care services. Moreover, we are equally determined to improve health care quality and patient safety with cutting-edge research and innovation across all spectrums of military medicine.”

Retired Army Col. Edward Taylor and his wife, Rose, both SAMHS patients, said they’re impressed by the military’s quality of care.

“I’m amazed every time I go to any of the clinics or offices or operating rooms; they’re absolutely magnificent,” Taylor said. “My wife and I are very fortunate to be able to come in here for our medical care.”

SAMHS has open enrollment at the following primary care clinics:

- Family Medicine Clinic, Fort Sam Houston Clinic, 2nd Floor, Building 1179, 3100 Schofield Road, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234

- Adolescent Medicine Clinic, Fort Sam Houston Clinic, 2d Floor, Building 1179, 3100 Schofield Road, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234

- General Pediatric Clinic, San Antonio Military Medical Center, 1st Floor, Consolidated Tower, 3851 Roger Brooke Drive, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Texas 7823

- Schertz Medical Home, Horizon Center, 6051 FM 3009, Suite 210, Schertz, Texas 7815

- Taylor-Burk Health Clinic, Building 5026, JBSA-Camp Bullis, Texas 78256 (3.5 miles off North Loop 1604 & FM 1535 NW Military Hwy/Shavano Park exit)

- Family Health Clinic, 1st Floor, 2200 Bergquist Drive, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, JBSA-Lackland, Texas 78236

- Pediatric Clinic, 1st Floor, 2200 Bergquist Drive, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, JBSA-Lackland, Texas 78236

- North Central Federal Clinic, 17440 Henderson Pass, San Antonio, Texas 78232

- Family Health Care Clinic, Randolph AFB Clinic, 221 3rd Street West, JBSA-Randolph AFB, Texas 78150

- Pediatric Clinic, Randolph AFB Clinic, 221 3rd Street West, JBSA-Randolph AFB, Texas 78150

No additional costs are associated with enrollment and visits to SAMHS, although annual TRICARE Prime enrollment fees still apply.

For information regarding enrollment or benefits, beneficiaries should call Humana Military at 1-800-444-5445 or visit TRICARE’s Beneficiary Web Enrollment site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe>.

# 502nd Air Base Wing marks fifth anniversary of activation

By John Baker  
502nd Air Base Wing Historian

Aug. 1 marks the fifth anniversary of the activation ... or more accurately ... the reactivation of the 502nd Air Base Wing.

On Aug. 1, 2009, then-Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick took command of a skeleton force, which grew over time, charged with bringing the concept of joint basing to fruition in San Antonio.

The joint base concept was an outgrowth of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission decisions with the rationale that efficiencies could be gained by placing support functions for bases in close proximity under a single entity.

Twelve joint bases were created, but none matched the scope, complexity and magnitude of Joint Base San Antonio.

Such a huge endeavor required a calculated, phased approach and Patrick and his staff carefully laid the groundwork for the

ensuing activation of the wing's three support groups, first at Lackland and Randolph Jan. 31st, 2010, coinciding with the attainment of Initial Operating Capability. Fort Sam Houston attained IOC April 30 of that year.

Just over one year following the wing's activation, the 502d Air Base Wing was declared to be at Full Operational Capability Oct. 1, 2010.

What you might not know is that the heritage of the 502nd ABW stretches back much farther; to the fledgling days of the newly independent U.S. Air Force.

Originally activated Nov. 17, 1947, just two months after the Air Force gained independence from the U.S. Army, the then 502nd Air University Wing was charged with logistics and base services support for the Air University and other units at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., as well as nearby Gunter Annex.

The 502d AEW served in this capacity for a year and a half until changes in the

way that the Air Force organized itself led to the inactivation of the wing July 27, 1948, when the 3800th AEW assumed its mission. It would not be the last time that such changes would affect the wing.

The 3800th Air University Wing, which was re-designated as the 3800th Air Base Wing July 21, 1983, continued to provide mission support functions at Maxwell AFB until Oct. 31, 1992 when further changes in the structure of the Air Force led to the consolidation of the 3800th ABW with the inactive 502nd AEW to create a single unit, now known as the 502nd Air Base Wing.

The effect of this reorganization was that the 502nd ABW now had a continuous history of mission support at Maxwell AFB.

The wing remained active for another two years until Oct. 1, 1994, when the 502nd ABW was inactivated and replaced by the 42nd Air Base Wing, preserving the heritage of that wing which stretched back to World War II and included combat in the Pacific theater.

Bringing us full circle, the 502d ABW remained dormant until its 2009 return. This time, the unit flag would stand up at historic Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, where on March 2, 1910, Lt. Benjamin Foulois flew the first Department of Defense sortie in a Wright Flyer on the grounds of McArthur Parade Field.

Although the wing achieved Full Operational Capability in October 2010 and was effective in meeting its mission, it became apparent to Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter, the 502nd ABW/JBSA commander at the time, and her team the wing could better execute its support mission if it was transformed from a traditional to a functional wing structure.

This new structure would allow the wing to be more agile and create more speed in meeting our customers' requirements and provide the group commanders full authority to amass resources at the point of execution.

Accordingly, receiving Air Force approval to

implement the new structure, Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta conducted a formal wing transformation ceremony Dec. 4, 2013, ushering in a new era of providing installation support and service to the 200-plus critical mission partners who operate across JBSA.

It's absolutely clear that the 502d Air Base Wing's roots are tied to the incredible annals of both Maxwell AFB and now JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The rich traditions and a military lineage that dates back to the establishment of the U.S. Air Force resonates in the 8,000 members who provide direct service support to the warfighter and 200-plus mission partners who are executing critical operations in the defense of our nation today.

As a member of the 502d Air Base Wing, like my Wingmen and Battle Buddies, I am proud of our noble heritage and am inspired to be carrying on the tradition of those incredible installation support professionals who came before us and paved our path to the future.



Photo by Steve Elliott

From left: Dr. Cem Maxwell, San Antonio Joint Program Office deputy director; Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, former 502nd Air Base Wing commander; and Frank Simas, Joint Project Management Office deputy, turn dirt July 14, 2010, during the ground-breaking ceremony for the new 502nd Air Base Wing headquarters building.



Photo by Steve Elliott

Then Brig. Gen. Theresa C. Carter (center), former 502nd Air Base Wing commander, and Army Lt. Gen. Guy Swan (center right), former Army North commanding general, cut the ribbon to officially open the new 502nd ABW headquarters building Aug. 5, 2011, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Assisting with the ribbon cutting are (from left) Chief Master Sgt. Toby T. Tibbits, 502nd ABW acting command chief; Dr. Cem Maxwell, San Antonio Joint Program Office deputy director; and Robert Graves, former 502nd ABW vice commander.



Photo by Steve Elliott

December 4, 2013, marked the transformation of the 502nd Air Base Wing. Pictured above, during the event at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, are Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta (far right), 502nd ABW and JBSA commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Alexander Perry, 502nd ABW and JBSA command chief master sergeant, holding the guidon, along with Army Col. Jim Chevallier (left), 502nd ABW and JBSA vice commander.

## Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

### **JBSA-Randolph Toastmasters Open House**

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Toastmasters will have an open house from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the JBSA-Randolph Education Center. Refreshments will be served. The Toastmasters group is designed to help members improve communication and leadership skills through practical experiences in giving speeches, providing constructive criticism, performing club meeting roles during meetings and being involved outside the club.

For more information, email ReINETte King at [reINETte3@gmail.com](mailto:reINETte3@gmail.com) or Deb Arrington at [deb.arrington@us.af.mil](mailto:deb.arrington@us.af.mil).

### **JBSA Strategic EPR Writing Course available**

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Eric Jaren, former command chief master sergeant Air Force Material Command, will be the guest speaker providing "The Magic of Bulleting Writing" and "Feedback Your Supervisor Never Gave You," presentations Aug. 21-22 in San Antonio. The two presentations are designed to improve strategic writing skills for bullet writing, enlisted evaluations and award packages, and insight into senior NCO promotion complexities. Presentations are:

Aug. 21, 9-11 a.m. at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Evans Theater

Aug. 22, 9-11 a.m. at the JBSA-Randolph Fleenor Auditorium

Aug. 22, 1-3 p.m. at the JBSA-Lackland Bob Hope Theater

To register at JBSA-Randolph or JBSA-Lackland, visit <https://cs3.eis.af.mil/sites/00-ED-AE-15/default.aspx> for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, visit <https://jbsa.eis.aetc.af.mil/502abw/CCC/default.aspx> and look for JBSA Strategic EPR Writing Course. For information, email Master Sgt. Sanelle Romero at [sanelle.romero@us.af.mil](mailto:sanelle.romero@us.af.mil) or Staff Sgt. Nicole Washington at [nicole.washington.2@us.af.mil](mailto:nicole.washington.2@us.af.mil).

### **AF Spirit Pride 5k postponed**

The Air Force Spirit 5k has been postponed until 8 a.m. Aug. 27 at the Rambler Fitness Center. New registration forms and flyers are expected to be distributed today through e-mail to the registration POC and to all private organizations throughout Joint Base San Antonio. The deadline for registration is Aug. 20.

For registration or more information, call Tech. Sgt. Tennille Benton at 395-7340.

### **9/11 commemorative run**

The Robert D. Gaylor NCO Academy will be hosting a 9/11 remembrance run from 7 a.m. to 4:11 p.m. Sept. 11 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Medina Fitness Center. The event is open to all JBSA Department of Defense cardholders and dependents.

Contact Tech. Sgt. Martin Venegas at 671-3766 for registration. Registration closes Sept. 1.

### **Rambler 120 takes place Sept. 20**

Joint Base San Antonio's premiere adventure race, the Rambler 120, takes place Sept. 20 at Joint Base San Antonio Recreation Park at Canyon Lake. The race will consist of a 22-mile bike race, a 6-mile run and a 2-mile raft event.

Team captains can go to <http://www.randolphfss.com> to sign up. A youth biathlon event for children 5-12 years old will also be held Sept. 20. For registration and pricing information, contact Steve Knechtel at 267-7358 or [stephen.knechtel.1@us.af.mil](mailto:stephen.knechtel.1@us.af.mil).

## Air Force military ambassador program accepting applications

Two articulate, self-confident Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members are needed to serve as military ambassadors at community events to represent Joint Base San Antonio in 2015.

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

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

All E-4 to E-7 Air Force members, who are 21 years old and older and assigned to Joint Base San Antonio are eligible to apply to be a military ambassador. Nomination packages will be distributed to public affairs offices across JBSA Sept. 1. Once nominated, candidates appear before a selection panel of chief master sergeants and former Air Force ambassadors. The selection panel reviews applications, conducts interviews and selects the ambassadors.

Nomination deadline is Oct. 15. For more information, call 808-0002.



Courtesy photo

# 12th FTW technician's idea saves money, time

By Alex Salinas  
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Half an hour's worth of mechanical innovation solved a big problem that would've momentarily stopped some flying missions at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph and several Air Education and Training Command bases in June.

After about a dozen T-6 Texans across AETC were reported having in-flight rudder issues, the 12th Flying Training Wing conducted a one-time inspection and determined that gust locks – mechanisms that lock flight controls when aircraft are parked to prevent random movement – were the source of the problem.

The locks needed lubrication by hand and to reach them, located deep behind the T-6's firewall, next to the pilot's seat, much of the cockpit would have to be disassembled. Disassembly would take 20 man-hours per aircraft, with 249 of them requiring the procedure between six AETC locations including JBSA-Randolph, Lloyd Teachworth, 12th FTW director of maintenance executive assistant, said.

The repairs were projected to last four days and the suspension of T-6 operations would "potentially cost a lot of lost money," Teachworth said.

When Gene Lewis, a 12th FTW technician at JBSA-Randolph, inspected one of the T-6s in his hangar, he tampered around in the cockpit with a flashlight for "about 30 minutes before coming up with an idea."

Lewis removed a small metal panel called the boot guard, which prevents pilots from kicking upwards while seated, and stuck his arm through the slit where

the panel previously was until he could touch the gust lock. He tried again using a glove with oil on top of it and successfully lubricated the lock.

Four screws on the boot guard were all that separated technicians from the internally hidden device, and "the work was cut down from 20 hours to 15 minutes per aircraft," Lewis said.

So efficient was Lewis' idea that he presented it to his supervisor and deputy commander, who approved his procedure over the original one. His supervisors contacted the other bases and they also signed off on the quick fix.

With Scott Lounsberry, another 12th FTW technician, "we knocked out an entire fleet of T-6s (at JBSA-Randolph) in one day," Lewis said.

The procedure was also completed in one day everywhere else.

"The immediate estimated cost savings were 240 overtime hours equaling \$8,800 at six different AETC locations, but that figure is significantly higher considering flying operations weren't stopped for four days, which would've created a domino effect impacting other jobs," Teachworth said.

"This is the kind of 'can-do' attitude that keeps 12th FTW aircraft flying so that we can continue to produce pilots for our nation's Air Force," Robert Hamm, 12th FTW deputy director of maintenance, said. "The process Lewis designed more than cut the overall time to perform this maintenance in half and not one sortie was lost as a result of the one-time inspection."

Lewis earned a commendation coin and is in the process to receive a cash prize.

"I'm glad I was able to contribute a solution that may



Photo by Joel Martinez

Gene Lewis, 12th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate aircraft mechanic, lubricates the gust lock, which is a component that keeps the rudders from locking up on the T-6 aircraft, July 17 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The procedure, once a 20-hour process, is now done in 15 minutes, because of Lewis' suggestion.

have saved millions of dollars," he said. "It's not something I've really thought about since. When I get to work, I just take my toolbox and go."

## Existing tools help AF users reduce PII breaches

By 1st Lt. Meredith Hein  
24th Air Force Public Affairs

Members of 24th Air Force at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland are refurbishing an old email tool to help Air Force users reduce breaches of personally identifiable information.

The Digital Signature Enforcement Tool, which currently prompts users to provide a digital signature when an email contains an active hyperlink or attachment, is being reconfigured to scan emails and attachments for PII. DSET was first introduced to Outlook in 2009 by the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center.

"DSET was originally designed to mitigate risk from socially engineered email or phishing attacks. Now, it provides some protection of messages transmitting PII," said Alonzo Pugh, cyber business system analyst for 24th AF. "The tool provides awareness for users of risks before the email leaves

the workstation, giving users the chance to correct the identified risk."

PII includes items such as an individual's social security number, driver's license information and financial information. Breaches occur when this information is inadvertently released. User awareness is one of the biggest issues associated with PII breaches, according to Pugh.

"When users release PII that is not protected, that puts information at risk for being intercepted by adversaries. These adversaries can then use that information to target users to gain access to the network," Pugh said. "Air Force network users must do their due diligence when sending an email containing PII. They need to make sure the information is protected."

DSET capability should encourage users to be more involved in the process of preventing PII breaches, said Pugh. "The user is afforded the ability to take action in checking their emails to make sure

they are not inadvertently releasing PII, and given the opportunity to protect it. DSET makes users more aware that they need to double check their emails and ensure that they are in accordance with policy; the responsibility for preventing breaches ultimately falls on them."

The tool itself is straightforward to use, said Pugh, and will give users simple prompts to follow in sending emails. In addition, there is a function allowing information which was falsely identified as PII to still be sent.

"While our software solution will support the Air Force's efforts to reduce PII breaches, it is still important for personnel to be aware and vigilant with their handling of documents containing PII," said Col. Eric Oliver, 24th AF director of cyber systems.

The tool's new usage is still in its initial stage, focusing on social security numbers. Developers hope that DSET will ultimately be able to scan for a variety of PII to prevent future breaches.

"It is imperative that we protect one another as we move each Air Force mission forward," said Maj. Gen. J. Kevin McLaughlin, 24th AF commander. "Avoiding the release of PII is part of being a good wingman, but it is also part of protecting the network and accomplishing the Air Force mission."

In preparation for the release of DSET, you can access training for the new tool using the following link: [https://afpki.lackland.af.mil/assets/files/OE-15-40-064\\_QRG-DSET\\_v0001.pdf](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 email 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/>.

# Proper flag display honors nation's history, ultimate sacrifices

By Alex Salinas

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

From front yards to the top of the White House, people have flown U.S. flags as emblems for sacrifice and independence. But to honor Old Glory, they must display it with proper etiquette year-round.

According to Title 4 of the U.S. Code, it is "universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstuffs in the open," but if properly lit during hours of darkness, "the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day."

American flags displayed at home should follow standard etiquette.

On walls, windows or doors, they should be hung vertically with the union, or the blue field and white stars, on top and to an observer's left. They should also be hung vertically if suspended over the middle of a street, with the union to the north on an east and west street, or to the east on a north and south street.

If mounted or planted on the ground, U.S. flags must be to the right of another flag or, if in a line of other flags, in the front and center of that line. If projected on a staff horizontally or at angle from a window sill, balcony or front of a building, the union should be placed at the peak of the staff

unless the flag is at half-staff.

Flags on vehicles should be placed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right-side fender.

Additionally, other flags should never fly above the U.S. flag.

"Ensure that the U.S. flag never touches the ground or anything beneath it," Tech Sgt. Joseph Capado, Joint Base San Antonio Honor Guard NCO in charge, said. "Do not display the flag in inclement weather or if it shows any signs of wear and tear."

Tattered national flags should be destroyed with dignity.

"The form of disposal that we use is burning, which is done by the Veterans of Foreign Affairs (office) because they have an authorized burn facility," Master Sgt. Nidia Hodge, JBSA Honor Guard superintendent, said. "People can bring flags to us or contact their nearest VFW post."

The closest VFW post to JBSA-Randolph is located at 202 W. Aviation Blvd. in Universal City and can be reached at 658-9163.

"The U.S. flag is a representation of our great nation past and present, and it's a symbol of our freedom to which many Americans fought hard and made ultimate sacrifices, so fly it with pride and in accordance with the rules," Capado said.

For a complete listing of flag display rules,



visit <http://uscode.house.gov/> and click on "Title 4 — Flag And Seal, Seat of Government, And The States."