



# WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 28 • JULY 18, 2014



## Local, JBSA-Randolph firefighters train together

Page 4

***INSIDE: WOUNDED WARRIOR TOURNAMENT, P3 ... STAYING CURRENT, P8 ... SPECIAL NEEDS CAMP, P12***

## COMMENTARY

# Updating SGLI 8286: Who receives benefits, proceeds?

By E. Stephanie Hebert

502nd Installation Support Group  
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Payment from a Servicemember's Group Life Insurance policy may be the largest sum of money that your family receives if you die while on active duty.

That's why it's important to make sure that your SGLV 8286 form – the SGLI Election and Certificate – is accurate and up to date. Otherwise, it could lead to a \$400,000 mistake and there's nothing you'll be able to do about it when you're no longer here.

When was the last time you looked at your SGLV 8286 form to confirm your beneficiary designations?

Servicemembers usually name their spouse as primary beneficiary and their children as secondary beneficiaries. If you name someone other than your spouse as your primary beneficiary, or you remove your spouse as a beneficiary, your spouse will be notified in writing.

The most recent edition of the SGLV 8286 form (August 2013) requires your agreement to the following statements: "I am free to name anyone I want as my beneficiary. I certify that I understand if I have designated someone other than my spouse or child as my beneficiary, the person I have named is the person I intend to receive my insurance proceeds. I also understand that if I am married, my spouse may be notified that he/she (or my child) is

not my designated beneficiary."

Assuming that your spouse is named as your primary beneficiary, what happens to your SGLV designation after a divorce? According to Texas law, a divorce will nullify a state life insurance beneficiary designation in favor of your former spouse.

But SGLI doesn't work that way. If you fail to remove your former spouse's name from your SGLV 8286, before or after a divorce, your former spouse will receive the proceeds when you die. And there's nothing that your subsequent spouse, your children or your parents will be able to do to change that fact.

Notwithstanding the unambiguous statutes and case law, spouses and former spouses still fight over the proceeds. Let's save them the time, effort and expense of litigation.

Even if you think you know who your SGLI beneficiary is, check again. Ensure that the beneficiaries are clearly identified. Ensure that you give a copy of the SGLV 8286 to your personnel clerk and that you keep a copy of your SGLV 8286 with your estate planning records.

As with any life-changing event, you should review your SGLV 8286 to determine whether a particular event justifies or requires a change in beneficiaries. For example, if you have another child and want that child to receive a share of your SGLI proceeds, you must prepare a new SGLV 8286 because "beneficiaries are not automatically changed by life events," as stated

on page three of the SGLV 8286.

Many military spouses separate, but remain legally married for years. They often do so for financial reasons such as increased BAH, or to provide civilian spouses or their children, medical benefits that they would not otherwise have. This is especially true when the spouse or children are seriously ill.

If you find yourself in this situation, have questions about SGLI beneficiary designations, or have questions about your estate, contact your installation legal assistance attorney.

At Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, call 808-0169. The legal office is located at 2271 Reynolds Road at the corner of Wilson Road, and appointments are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Walk-in legal assistance is available from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays for eligible ID card holders and from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Thursdays for active duty military members only.

At JBSA-Lackland, call 671-3362. The legal office is located at 1701 Kenly Ave., room 134. Walk-in assistance is 8:30-9:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday and scheduled appointments from 9:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday.

At JBSA-Randolph, call 652-6781. The legal office is located at the Taj Mahal, building 100, Suite 6. Walk-in legal assistance is from 8:30-10:30 a.m. every Tuesday. Deploying personnel receive priority and can be seen for wills either by appointment or through the walk-in service.

## ON THE COVER

Jerry Knopf (left), Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph firefighter, instructs Dawson Frank, San Antonio Airport interim airport emergency coordinator, during T-6 Texan II aircraft egress training July 9 at JBSA-Randolph. For the complete story, see page 4.  
*Photo by Johnny Saldivar*

## WINGSPREAD

**Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph  
Editorial Staff**

**Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta**

502nd Air Base Wing/JBSA Commander

**Todd G. White**

502nd ABW/JBSA Public Affairs Director

**Marilyn C. Holliday**

JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs Chief

**Airman 1st Class Alexandria Slade**

Editor

**Airman 1st Class Kenna Jackson**

**Airman 1st Class Stormy D. Archer**

**Robert Goetz, Alex Salinas**

Staff Writers

**Maggie Armstrong**

Graphic Designer

### Wingspread Office

1150 5th Street East  
JBSA-Randolph, Texas 78150  
Phone: (210) 652-4410

### Wingspread email

randolphpublicaffairs@us.af.mil

### Wingspread Advertisement Office

#### EN Communities

P.O. Box 2171  
San Antonio, Texas 78297  
(210) 250-2440

## Straight Talk Line

Call the local Straight Talk lines for current, automated information during a natural disaster, crisis or emergency.

JBSA-Randolph: 652-7469;

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston: 466-4630;

JBSA-Lackland: 671-6397.

## Active Shooter Response Information

A JBSA Active Shooter Response tri-fold can be found at:

<http://bit.ly/activeshootertrifold>.

A JBSA Active Shooter Response video can be accessed at:

<http://bit.ly/activeshootervideo>.

In case of emergency dial 911.

Security Forces contact numbers:

- JBSA-Fort Sam Houston/Camp Bullis: 221-2222
- JBSA-Lackland: 671-2018
- JBSA-Randolph: 652-5700

This newspaper is published by EN Communities, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Wingspread are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or EN Communities, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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](mailto:randolphpublicaffairs@us.af.mil).

# U.S., British wounded warriors compete in adaptive sports tournament



Photo by Desiree Palacios

The Army team scrimmages with the Marines July 9 during the 2014 Wounded Warrior Summer Invitational Adaptive Sports Tournament at the Rambler Fitness Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

By Janis El Shabazz  
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

About 100 Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and British armed forces wounded warriors trained and competed in the second annual Wounded Warrior Summer Invitational Adaptive Sports Tournament July 7-10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The tournament included skills development and competition in wheelchair-basketball and sitting-volleyball. Attendance by Team USA Volleyball and the Paralympic sitting volleyball team brought an additional layer of expertise and competition.

The British team won the volleyball competition and the Air Force won the basketball challenge.

All tournament participants received commemorative certificates. The U.S. team presented the British warriors with a basketball customized with the Air Force Wounded Warrior logo and a red, white and blue volleyball – signed by the entire American team in a display of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

“The adaptive sports camps bring together ill and injured wounded warriors who draw strength from the shared struggle on the journey to recovery,” said Steve Otero, Air Force Wounded Warrior Program communications and marketing coordinator. “Utilizing physical activity as part of the rehabilitation process produces higher self esteem, lower stress levels and lower secondary medical conditions.”

Some of the American warriors who competed in this event will also compete in the Invictus Games Sept. 10-14 in London. The Invictus Games are an international wounded warrior adaptive sports competition inspired by the American Warrior Games and launched by Great Britain’s Prince Harry.

Others are part of a 40-member team chosen to compete in the Warrior Games Sept. 28-Oct. 4 at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo. For many of the competitors, this will be the final joint-training event before the Invictus Games.

“I am beyond honored and excited to have been invited to the Invictus Games,” said retired Air Force Capt. Sarah Evans. “My teammates and I are training hard for this amazing competition and opportunity. I’m looking forward to proudly representing Team USA in England and starting the double-digit countdown!”

Evans lost her left leg to spindle cell sarcoma. As part of her rehabilitation, she trained for Warrior Games 2013 where she competed for the Ultimate Champion title, and won a bronze medal in swimming.

British armed forces veteran Charlie Walker, who is not only a sitting volleyball player but also their coach, said, “The opportunity to come and train in the states with the Americans is amazing, and something that doesn’t come along often. I love the fact that some British armed forces hopefuls have been invited over

See **WARRIORS P13**



Maintenance personnel roll a T-6 Texan II into a hangar in preparation for egress training between military and local firefighters July 9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

# Military, local firefighters train together

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

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph firefighters trained firefighters from the City of San Antonio Fire Department on safely extricating crewmembers from a T-6 Texan II July 9 on the JBSA-Randolph flight line.

The training was aimed at bringing military and local firefighters together to prepare for emergencies.

"We are all firefighters and emergency responders," said Master Sgt. Darnell Walls, JBSA-Randolph assistant chief of compliance for the JBSA-Randolph Fire Department. "We need to know their capabilities and they need to know ours."

During the training, San Antonio firefighters learned about the different parts of the aircraft, how to open the canopy and how to safely remove the pilot for medical attention.

"The T-6 Texan flies in and out of San Antonio every day," said Dawson Frank, San Antonio International Airport interim airport emergency coordinator. "It's an unusual aircraft for us because it involves ejection seats."

Potential hazards for emergency responders on the T-6 Texan II include: ejection seats, up to 178 gallons of fuel, oxygen bottles, hot tires and brakes, a spinning prop and a detonating cord attached to the canopy.

The training began with classroom instruction followed by a trip to a nearby hangar, allowing the firefighters to climb up on the aircraft and get hands-on experience.

"Tell me twice, but show me once," said Herlin Pineda, San Antonio Fire Department firefighter. "Now I have a good understanding of the ejection system and know what I need to do and what not to do. It gives me confidence instead of fear."



Tim Hagan (left), Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph firefighter, briefs a group of San Antonio and JBSA-Randolph firefighters about the possible safety hazards of extricating a pilot from a T-6 Texan II July 9 at JBSA-Randolph.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Stormy D. Archer



# Airmen tell AF story with videos

Air Force leaders want Airmen to share their stories with the world and designed the 2014 American Airman Video Contest with that purpose in mind.

“Every Airman has a story – and smartphone technology now allows those Airmen to share those stories with a wider audience than ever before,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh, III.

The contest, which began July 1, asks Airmen to shoot a selfie video where they share individual stories of service and showcase the unique missions they do every day.

“I think we’ll get some really creative, cool videos that together, tell the larger Air Force story,” Welsh said.

Airmen who want to participate should upload their videos, which should be no longer than 30 seconds, to a personal YouTube account and email a link to the Air Force Social Media team at [usafvideos@us.af.mil](mailto:usafvideos@us.af.mil).

The videos will be reviewed to ensure they don’t inadvertently violate any security, policy or propriety guidelines before they are released for public viewing on the AFBlueTube channel on YouTube.

After review, each major command will select a winner within the command.

The 10 finalists’ videos will be available on AFBlueTube for public voting from Aug. 12 to 22. Voters can “like” their favorite videos and the video with the most “likes” will win.

The winning video will be shown at the September Air Force Association conference in Washington, D.C., which attracts thousands of visitors annually and receives heavy media attention.

Contest officials said there are important rules participating Airmen should follow, including:

- The contest is open to Guard, Reserve and active-duty Airmen to participate
- Finalists must be in good standing without any adverse administrative actions

For more details and complete contest rules, visit <http://airforcelive.dodlive.mil/contest>.

“Our Airmen are an amazing communication resource,” Welsh said. “No one tells the Air Force story like they do.”

*(Courtesy of Air Force Public Affairs Agency)*

## JBSA Sexual Assault Prevention, Response

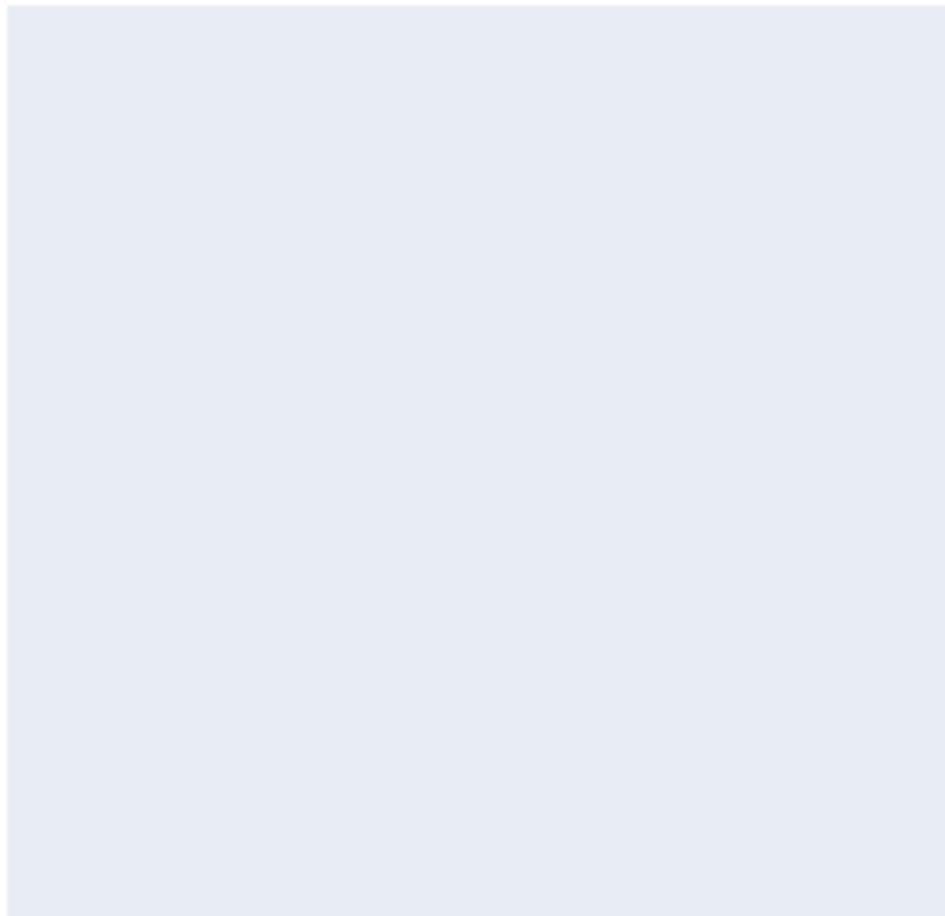
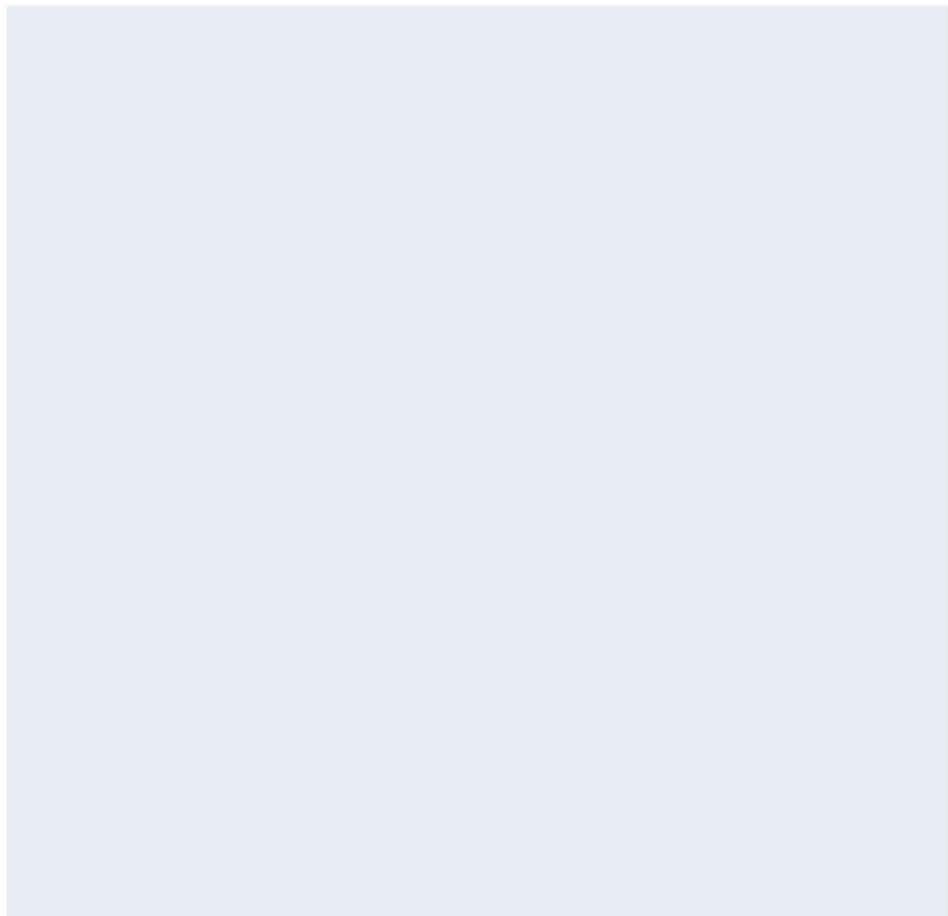
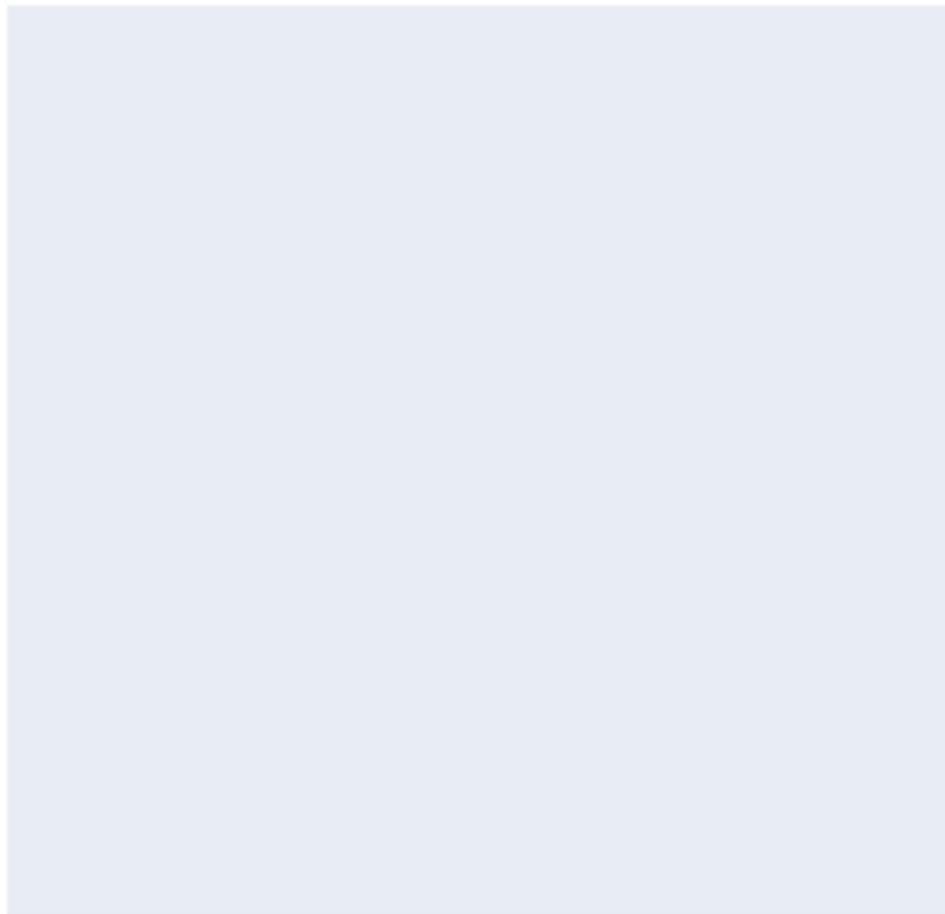
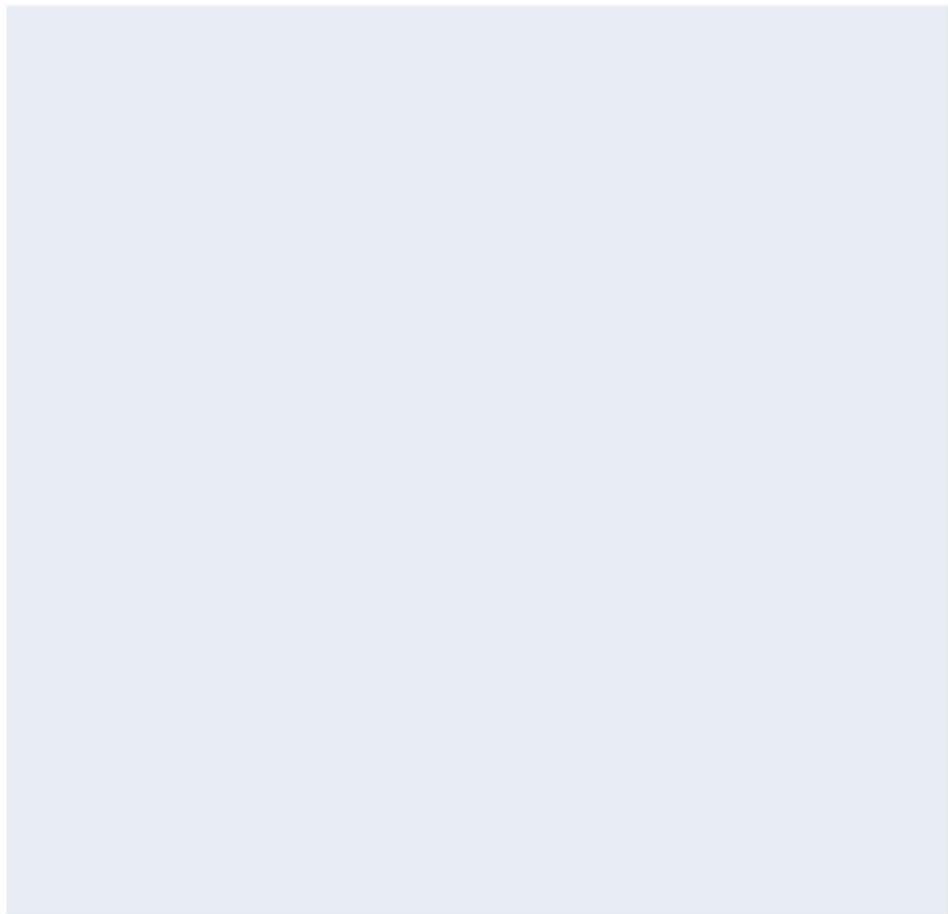
To report a sexual assault, call the 24/7 Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Hotline at 808-7272 or the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247.

## 502nd ISG welcomes new commander



**Photo by Benjamin Faske**

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta (left), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, passes the guidon to Col. Alexander Smith, incoming commander of the 502nd Installation Support Group, in a change of command ceremony July 11 at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club. Outgoing 502nd ISG commander, Col. William Eger III (right), heads to Fort George G. Meade, Md. to serve as the deputy director of network services at the Defense Information Systems Agency.



# Shoplifting prevention campaign continues at JBSA-Randolph

By Alex Salinas  
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Shoplifting incidents usually spike during the summer at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, but the continuation of a shoplifting prevention campaign that began two years ago has increased public awareness and made people think twice before acting, according to security forces members.

The campaign consists of placing life-sized cardboard cutouts of staged apprehensions at the Exchange's "hot spots," including its entryway, cosmetics, jewelry, electronics and bicycle sections. Additionally, cameras that monitor most of its area, incognito detectives on alert and random walk-throughs by security forces members further prevent or dissuade theft, Staff Sgt. Larry Holmes, 902nd Security Forces NCO in charge of police services, said.

In 2012, when the campaign began, 39 shoplifting cases were recorded – all of them at the Exchange. The total decreased to 35 in 2013 and, for this year, 10 cases have been logged at the Exchange, BXtra and commissary, according to 902nd SFS statistics.

Teenagers are typically the majority of shoplifters, comprising seven of the 10 caught this year, but there have been cases where young children

have wandered off and took something unbeknownst to their parents, Holmes said.

"Parents must be aware of their children at all times and not let them out of their sight," he said. "It's unfortunate that children have been involved, but watching them carefully can prevent these kinds of mishaps."

There's a large time frame for shoplifting incidents during the day, but they generally take place around noon during the lunch rush or after the duty day is over from 4-5 p.m., Holmes said.

According to military legal code, military police members may apprehend suspects if probable cause is established, where they will then seize stolen property, review electronic recordings, if available, and gather any pertinent information from callers or witnesses.

Suspected shoplifters who steal \$500 or more in property will be detained for processing.

Master Sgt. Kerry Thompson, 902nd SFS law enforcement superintendent, said the Exchange and other military stores can increase prices if shoplifters get away, so shoppers should be vigilant.

"If you want a quality shopping experience, be on the lookout whenever you can and always report suspicious activity," Holmes added.

Call 652-5700 or 652-5509 to report suspicious activity. For emergencies, call 911.



Photo illustration by Desiree Palacios

Airman 1st Class Shawna Grocott (left) and Officer Marcelo Aguillon Jr., both from 902nd Security Forces Squadron, walk down aisles in the Exchange June 11 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

## Airmen encouraged to review emergency contact information

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

When Airmen go through major changes in their lives, such as marriage, a permanent change of station or having a child, one of the first things that should come to mind is, "I have to update my virtual Record of Emergency Data!"

While this is not always the case, it is imperative Airmen update their emergency data when major changes occur and at least annually to ensure their families are taken care of during a time of crisis.

The DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, is the official source document required by law for Airmen to provide emergency contact information and beneficiary designations to the Air Force in the event an Airman becomes a casualty. The virtual Record of Emergency Data, accessible through the virtual Military Personnel Flight, satisfies that requirement.

"It is vital for Airmen to understand the purpose of the vRED and understand the importance of its accuracy," said Todd Rose, Air Force Personnel Center Casualty Matters division chief. "Delays in next of kin notification are most often associated with incomplete or outdated information."

Rose then went on to explain who was responsible for maintaining this information.

"Completion and annual validation of the vRED is mandatory and is the responsibility of each Airman," Rose said.

Airmen can access their vRED through the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>. Once at the myPers home page Airmen should click the "Update my virtual Record of Emergency Data" link. This will take them to a page directing them how to access their Records of Emergency Data.

"When important life-changing events such as marriage, divorce, or a change in address occur, the vRED should be updated as soon as possible," said 1st Lt. Brian Meredith, casualty services officer. "Having a complete and accurate vRED ensures the Air Force Casualty Services Branch can provide prompt and accurate casualty reporting, dignified and humane casualty notifications, as well as efficient, thorough and compassionate follow-on assistance to surviving families."

For more information about emergency contact data and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil> or contact a casualty assistance representative at the nearest Airman and Family Readiness Center.

*"It is vital for Airmen to understand the purpose of the vRED and understand the importance of its accuracy. Delays in next of kin notification are most often associated with incomplete or outdated information."*

Todd Rose

Air Force Personnel Center Casualty Matters division chief

To advertise in the Wingspread, call 250-2440.

## CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER SAFETY

# Summer water fun takes planning, eye on safety

By L.A. Shively

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston  
Public Affairs

Planning is the key to a successful adventure on the water and boaters need to “think smartly” when preparing for the trip.

Educating oneself on the risks and laws governing Texas waterways, as well as having the proper equipment available during the trip can ensure a safe and fun outing.

In order to prepare for a safe summer on the waterways, certain rules must be learned and followed.

First, anyone operating watercraft on Texas waterways must be licensed.

A two-year license is available to Defense Department identification cardholders at least 18 years old who become qualified via a two-hour course, explained Matt Nadeau, recreation specialist at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Recreation Center.

He said the license is also mandatory for those who wish to use the watercraft from the center.

Offered at all JBSA locations, the course includes an educational video produced by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, followed by a written test of multiple choice and true/false questions.

“The course covers all the Texas



Courtesy photo

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regulations, a minimum of two people must be aboard a boat while a person is water skiing from that boat.

state laws on inland and coastal waterways,” Nadeau said, adding that the emphasis is on boating safety. “They learn how to operate a boat in various weather conditions and what to do if the boat catches fire.”

Situations such as waterskiing, for instance, where at least two people must be in the boat at all times are also covered in the video, Nadeau pointed out.

“A spotter is needed, in case the skier falls, that will alert the person operating the boat to stop,” he said.

Second, a solid plan includes ensuring

the right safety gear is on hand such as a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher. A life jacket must be on board for each person on the boat. The Coast Guard requires children under 13 years of age to wear a life jacket while the boat is underway.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department states that 70 percent of those who died in boating accidents would be alive today if they had worn a life jacket.

The good news is that recreational boating deaths are down across Texas, but the state still ranks third in the nation at 31 fatalities last year ac-

cording to a report published in May by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Alcohol use was the leading known contributor along with other factors such as operator inattention or lack of experience, improper lookout, excessive speed and machinery failure.

Registration for the DOD course is not required. At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston’s Outdoor Equipment Center, building 1111, the safety course is available from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday.

It can also be taken starting at 8:30 a.m. every day at the JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake.

Customers may take the course from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday at JBSA-Randolph’s Community Services Mall, building 895, 9 a.m. Monday and Thursday and 1 p.m. Tuesday and Friday at JBSA-Lackland’s Outdoor Recreation, building 871.

For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 221-5224, JBSA-Lackland at 925-5532, JBSA-Randolph at 652-5640 and the JBSA Recreation Park at 830-226-5065.

For more information on boating safety and links to resources, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/safety>.

## Resources available for dependents with deployed, TDY, remote spouse

By Alex Salinas

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs



Active-duty members who receive orders to deploy or go on temporary duty face one of the toughest parts of military life.

If they have families, these situations can be even more challenging for their spouses and children who stay behind.

For these family members at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, resources are available to make life a little easier.

Hearts Apart, which is a support group program for spouses and children experiencing separation due to deployment, remote assignment or extended TDY, is offered by the Military & Family Readiness Center and organizes monthly social events geared toward having fun and building relationships with

others, Master Sgt. Joe Ugarte, JBSA-Randolph M&FRC readiness NCO, said.

Past activities have included pool parties, fashion shows, spa nights and dinners. The next event is bowling, tentatively scheduled for July.

Give Parents a Break, another M&FRC program, allows parents to drop off their children for a few hours on a Friday or Saturday of each month at the child development center or youth center. The next date for this service is 6-11 p.m. Aug. 15.

Family members with a deployed, TDY or remotely assigned spouse are also entitled to the Car Care Because We Care program, which offers a free oil change and complete maintenance check every six months at the base service station, and discounted meals from 5-6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 5:30-6:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays at the JBSA-Randolph Rendezvous Dining Facility.

“These programs help relieve some of the stressors families face when their loved ones are deployed and keep them resilient,” Ugarte said. “Sustaining our families at home keeps our Airmen in harm’s way focused on their missions at their deployed locations.”

A voucher is required to receive the benefits of these programs. Dependents must stop by the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC, building 693, with a copy of their spouse’s orders to get one.

Self-help classes by the JBSA-Randolph Family Advocacy Program and Mental Health Flight are additional resources family members experiencing separation can tap into.

“Master Your Emotions,” which helps people learn to cope with anger in healthy and productive ways,

See RESOURCES P13

## Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

### **Youth sports physicals**

Officials at the 359th Medical Group Clinic at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph are offering youth sports physicals 8-11 a.m. July 26 for children 10-18 years old who are enrolled at that clinic. Children are required to wear athletic attire and be accompanied by a parent, guardian or sibling who is 18 years or older. Completed sports physical forms, which are available at <http://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/forms/preparticipation-physical-evaluation.pdf>, must be brought to the appointment along with the child's immunization record. Other medical issues will not be included in the sports physical. To schedule a sports physical, call 916-9900 from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### **Committee seeks volunteers**

The Native American Heritage Month committee is seeking volunteers for its November activities. The first meeting is tentatively set for mid-July. Meeting dates, times and locations will be available to those who register to volunteer. For more information, call Edward Blauvelt at 652-1196 or email [edward.blauvelt@us.af.mil](mailto:edward.blauvelt@us.af.mil).

### **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

**See NEWS BRIEFS P11**

## News Briefs cont'd. from page 10

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**

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. Both the XTreme and Relay divisions will have three categories: male, female and coed. Team captains can go to <http://www.randolphss.com> to begin signing up. Additionally, a youth biathlon event for children 5-12 years old will begin at 8:30 a.m. 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).

### **BAH recertification**

The Air Force has started the recertification process mandating that every Airman provide their servicing finance office with documentation for all dependents by Dec. 31.

The recertification is part of Air Force audit readiness for 2015 as required by the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. The one-time process allows the Air Force to validate the \$5.4 billion spent annually on BAH entitlements and also ensures the money spent on BAH is fully auditable.

For additional information, call 652-1851 or email [finance.callcenter@us.af.mil](mailto:finance.callcenter@us.af.mil). The finance office at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is located in building 5616, Suite 1; on JBSA-Randolph, the finance office is in building 399, Suite 2; and on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the finance office is in building 4196.

The finance offices are open to walk-in customers Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments are not required.

### **CHECK US OUT . . .**

- Facebook: Joint Base San Antonio; JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; Lackland JBSA and JBSA-Randolph
- Twitter: @JBSA\_Official; @JBSAFSH; @JBSALackland and @JBSARandolph
- YouTube: Joint Base San Antonio

# Summer art, dance camp allows children to express creativity, artistic talents

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

A three-day summer camp at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph July 8-10 provided a special group of children with an opportunity to explore and express their creative and artistic talents.

The 2014 JBSA Military & Family Readiness Arts and Dance Camp served special-needs children enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program as well as their siblings. The JBSA-Randolph camp at the Chapel Fellowship Hall was attended by 17 children.

"The camp is designed just for our special-needs children," Angela Green, JBSA-Randolph Military and Family Readiness Center school liaison officer, said. "The kids learn creative ways to express themselves and have a chance to make new friends."

VSA Texas, a member of the VSA international network that provides arts and education opportunities for people with disabilities, conducts its "Start with the Arts" summer camps throughout Texas.

JBSA-Randolph camp facilitators included professional teaching artists who guided children in learning dance moves, playing music and participating in arts and crafts activities. Volunteers from JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs provided assistance.

Master Sgt. Stacy Oliver, Air Force Personnel Center casualty office superintendent, whose 8-year-old daughter, Brianna, is enrolled in the EFMP, said the camp enabled Brianna "to get away for a few hours and have

some fun.

"She got to hang out with other children who are like her in a way and didn't have to worry about being seen as different," Oliver said. "She has had a great experience with this camp and I know would love to attend again next year."

Oliver said the camp's finale is another attraction.

"The fact that the summer camp puts on a show on the last day so the kids can show off their projects to the parents is wonderful," she said.

Tracy Gaines, whose husband, Staff Sgt. Michael Gaines, is assigned to JBSA-Lackland, said all three of her daughters – Magan, 10, Shelby, 12, and Molly, 14 – attended the camp. Magan and Shelby are enrolled in the EFMP.

"My kids have loved it, and they can't wait to get back," she said. "Molly's loved the art, Magan likes the crafts and Shelby is a gymnast. She loves the dance part of it."

Gaines also said she likes that the siblings of children in the EFMP are able to participate in the camp.

"They sometimes get overlooked," she said.

The JBSA-Randolph event was the third of four camps at JBSA locations this summer that served children ages 6-18 in the EFMP, which seeks to identify medical and educational needs of special-needs family members in support of active-duty sponsor reassignment and civilian employment. Other camps were conducted June 9-12 at JBSA-Lackland and June 23-26 at JBSA-Fort Sam



Photo by Melissa Peterson

Kayla McKenney (right), Youth Program Staff volunteer, gives assistance to Juliette Gerst (left) and Alex Gerst in an art class July 9 during the Joint Base San Antonio 2014 Military & Family Readiness Arts and Dance Camp at JBSA-Randolph.

Houston; another camp is planned Monday through Wednesday at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Oliver called EFMP "a wonderful program because it helps provide stability in your child's life.

"You have a support group that is there to assist you with anything you

need," she said. "It is also a great program because they hold many events that are solely for families that have children with special needs."

Gaines said the camp has benefited her daughters because they "learn how to interact with other children, build friendships and help each other."

## SHIRTS' CORNER

By Master Sgt. Jason Taitano

Air Education and Training Command

Study and Analysis Squadron additional duty first sergeant

A symbol of our nation's strength and unity, the American flag is a representation of inspiration and pride for the men and women of our armed forces.

Often referred to as the Stars and Stripes, the flag is one of the most enduring and sacred symbols of our great nation. It represents the history of the U.S. through its construct and through its

colors speaks to the principles that guide us as we support and defend our country. From the thirteen stripes representing the original 13 colonies, to the 50 stars which cover the 50 states of the Union, the American Flag exemplifies a history of greatness.

The colors of the flag embody a certain importance behind a military member's commitment to his or her country. Red symbolizes valor and hardiness, white symbolizes purity and innocence, and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice.

All of these are values help mold our nation's war fighter and dedication to service with the possibility of the ultimate sacrifice.

Always give the American flag the utmost respect. Apply proper military bearing and always offer the appropriate customs and courtesies supporting this great symbol of our nation.

May we never forget the sacrifice that brave men and women make for our country and how the American flag symbolizes the freedom for which they so valiantly fight.

## Symbol of freedom, hope

**RESOURCES from P9**

is from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the JBSA-Randolph HAWC.

“Effective Communication in Conflict Resolution” is a class that helps participants recognize different personality types and communication styles held from 11 a.m. to noon Monday and Wednesday at the JBSA-Randolph HAWC.

The Mental Health Flight also offers counseling to dependents.

“Occasionally, the need for a more personalized individual plan is requested and we’re happy to see our military families,” Gina Ramirez, 359th Medical Operations Squadron psychology technician, said. “It’s a difficult transition when a family member is deployed and the household shifts to accommodate the change. It’s also difficult when the member returns and is reintegrated into the family dynamic. Counseling can be a valuable tool in these situations.”

To register for self-help classes and counseling, call the JBSA-Randolph Family Advocacy office

at 652-2448.

Spouses seeking another way to network can contact the Yellow Ribbon Spouses, a three-year-old group funded by the JBSA-Randolph Chapel and operated by local spouses who meet twice a month and volunteer for the Hearts Apart program.

“We are spouses supporting spouses, helping them connect with others going through separation,” Carol Glover, Yellow Ribbon Spouses coordinator, said.

Glover said the group changes every six months due to many of its members relocating, so new faces are always welcome.

To contact the Yellow Ribbon Spouses, email [yellowribbon-spouses@gmail.com](mailto:yellowribbon-spouses@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page.

“Spouses and children can share each other’s experience, and they soon realize they’re not the only ones in these particular situations,” Ugarte said.

For more details, call the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC at 652-5321.

**WARRIORS from P3**

with Help for Heroes; after all, we fought with our allies, so it’s only right that we play alongside them too.”

Walker is a former explosive ordnance disposal technician with the Royal Logistics Corps who contracted meningitis in 2006, which eventually resulted in a double below-the-knee amputation. He was first introduced to sitting volleyball in 2009 when he took part in the Amputee Games at England’s Stoke Mandeville Hospital. He subsequently represented Paralympics GB in the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

Otero, an Air Force wounded warrior, expressed pride in being part of the Air

Force Wounded Warrior program.

“I have received my own health benefits from competing in adaptive sports. The opportunity to have our team train with their service counterparts and an international ally is such a special gift,” Otero said. “In only two months we will all be walking together in England ready to fight for health, wellness and of course, national pride. Healing through sport is a concept that we all embrace, whether staff or athlete. It’s a way of life.”

For more information on the Wounded Warrior Program, visit <http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil>.



**Arrive alive,  
don't drink  
and drive.**