



WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 23 • JUNE 13, 2014



**Commander delivers
serious message
during Commander's Call**

INSIDE: YOUTH SHOW RESPECT, P2 ... IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AT JBSA, P4 ... MILITARY DIVORCE, P12

COMMENTARY

SHOWING RESPECT, LOVE OF COUNTRY

American youth: Keeping priorities aligned

By Jeffery Brown

Air Force Security Assistance Training C-130J program manager

My wife and I witnessed something very inspiring recently; something that made us proud parents and proud Americans. Something that made me say to her, "Can you imagine trying to explain this to someone not affiliated with our military?"

Afterward, I thought about my statement and realized what we saw was remarkable enough I should take a few minutes to try to do exactly that.

Our daughter is a junior at a very small high school located on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Randolph High School, like many schools, has an annual "Powder Puff" football game, pitting a team of sophomore and senior girls against a team of freshmen and juniors, coached by members of the varsity football team.

This year, our daughter elected to make time to participate in the practices and game.

Game day arrived under a rare angry sky in San Antonio. Dark, rolling clouds covered the horizon as far as we could see and there seemed no doubt of a rainstorm or two. As the game got underway so did the downpours. All the students and parents in the small set of stands coalesced under the awning of the press box on the top row of the bleachers. The girls all seemed to be having a great time nonetheless.

Everyone is aware the military loves its ceremony and tradition, but I will bet not everyone realizes every U.S. military base ends the day with something called a retreat ceremony. The retreat ceremony signals the end of the official duty day and provides an opportunity to pay respect to the U.S. flag.

"The ball flew without a single eye on it, nobody chased it and nobody even gave it a second thought. As that first note sounded, 22 mud-covered young ladies on the field and 25 or so more on the sidelines stood up straight, turned as one toward the giant flag pole in the middle of the base, put their hands over their hearts and listened without moving as Retreat and then the National Anthem were played."

Early in the second half we were between rainstorms but it was still very dark and ominous looking. The sophomore and senior team had a fourth down and chose to punt. It turned 5:30 p.m., Randolph's designated time for retreat. Just as the snap was caught by the punter the very first note of Retreat sounded on the base loudspeaker system. She was already in motion and followed through with the kick, and it was a very good one, but it did not matter because then the most amazing thing happened.

The ball flew without a single eye on it, nobody chased it and nobody even gave it a second thought. As that first note sounded, 22 mud-covered young ladies on the field and 25 or so more on the sidelines stood up straight, turned as one toward the giant flag pole in the middle of the base, put their hands over their hearts and listened without moving as Retreat and then the National Anthem were played.

A large group of teenage girls,

notorious for their bristling against anything conventional, stood proud, on their own, like it was the most natural thing in the world.

When, just a few notes into the National Anthem, the skies opened up full bore with rain, not one of them flinched, not one ran, not one cowered. They stood stock still and paid their respects to the U.S. flag. A flag whose notion had uprooted and moved each of them and their families many times to far flung places in their young lives, a flag whose ideals had taken their mom or dad – or sometimes both – far away to dangerous places for very long periods of time, a flag that was the most important thing in the world to them at that moment.

The football lay untouched and all alone 25 yards behind the teams until the song ended. Then, one girl ran over and picked it up, the teams lined back up and the game continued like nothing happened. We have never been prouder of America's youth.

ON THE COVER

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing commander, addresses the audience June 5 during a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response commander's call in the Fleenor Auditorium at JBSA-Randolph. For the complete story, see page 5.

Photo by Joel Martinez

WINGSPREAD

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Key Spouse Program key to family readiness

By Staff Sgt. Carlin Leslie
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

Air Force spouses are key to maintaining stability on the home front as Airmen maintain focus on the war front, according to the wife of the Air Force's top officer.

The Key Spouse Program is an official unit/family program overseen by commanders designed to enhance readiness and establish a sense of unity within the Air Force community.

The program was standardized across the Air Force in March 2006 to address the needs of all military families with special emphasis on support to families across the deployment cycle.

"I remember Mark's first deployment ... it was scary and we didn't know what to expect," said Betty Welsh, the wife of Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. "It was then that the spouses of the

deployed got together and grew our own spouses group."

Senior leadership knows the importance of the program and the tools it provides to the Air Force family.

"The Key Spouse Program gives our entire Air Force family another way to get help when it's really needed" the chief of staff said. "Commanders and first sergeants enable and support our unbelievable key spouses in providing peer-to-peer guidance and wingman support to the families who are so vital to the success of our Air Force."

The program recognizes everyone on the unit's team – commander, key spouse mentor, first sergeant, key spouse and the Airmen and family readiness center – impacts the unit's culture and contributes to its ability to accomplish the mission at home or abroad.

See **KEY SPOUSE P9**

NEWS

JBSA-Lackland temporarily housing immigrant minors

By Mike Joseph
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Public Affairs

The only sounds heard inside the Hackney Training Complex at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland eight months ago were usually the commands given by Military Training Instructors and the responses returned by trainees in Air Force Basic Military Training.

There has been silence at the Recruit Housing and Training facility since the 321st Training Squadron relocated to Airman Training Complex No. 2 last November.

For the next 90-120 plus days, however, there will be reverberation within the confines of the 215,000-square foot RH & T. Those sounds will mainly be the voices of 62 Spanish-speaking case managers and of the children they are trying to assist.

The former BMT facility was turned into a temporary shelter May 18 by the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and

Families. The shelter is for unaccompanied Central American minors who have been caught illegally crossing into the United States.

At HHS' request, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel directed U.S. Northern Command to provide a temporary facility at JBSA-Lackland. U.S. Army North, USNORTHCOM's Army component command headquartered at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, has been coordinating the DOD support between HHS and JBSA-Lackland.

A recent sharp increase of Central American children trying to cross the border led the Department of Homeland Security to declare a level-four alert in mid-May. By declaring the highest alert condition for agencies handling children who cross illegally, it allowed Homeland Security officials to call on emergency resources from other government agencies.

During a June 5 tour of the shelter for local and national media given by HHS/ACF representatives, officials

said 1,820 children ages 12 to 17 have been housed at JBSA-Lackland since it opened while federal officials seek their relatives or sponsors.

Officials also said 840 children have been released to vetted family members or sponsors through June 3. The facility can house up to 1,200 children at one time.

The media tour showed most everything needed to run the shelter is encapsulated within the RH&T.

Staffed by BCFS Health and Human Services, a faith-based non-profit organization, children are served three meals and two snacks in the facility's dining hall. Also within the screened, fenced-in area are soccer areas, a basketball court, arts and crafts, basic English and math classes, and religious studies.

Each child at the shelter has a cot and locker, and is issued new clothes on arrival. Laundry access for staff and children is also onsite.

Ten security officers representing

the Texas Department of Public Safety, San Antonio Police Department and the Bexar County Sheriff's Office work in shifts to keep the perimeter secure and inaccessible to unauthorized personnel.

Children receive a medical screening, vaccinations and treatment for lice or scabies before arriving at JBSA-Lackland. They are also re-screened on arrival and re-treated if necessary. There are 58 medical professionals who work at the shelter, including an emergency room pediatric physician and one on call.

Paramedics are stationed at each wing in the shelter and a mobile medical unit is parked right outside the shelter. The adult staffers work 12-hour shifts and the child-to-adult ratio is 12 to 1.

Children released to family members or sponsors are expected to appear at court proceedings. The court will decide whether the child stays in the U.S. or is eventually sent home.

502nd CFS responds quickly to HHS needs

By Mike Joseph
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland
Public Affairs

The 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron responded after the call came late on a Friday afternoon in mid-May to establish an emergency shelter to house up to nearly 1,200 unaccompanied alien children at a Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland facility.

In less than 24 hours, the 502nd CES notified the Department of Health and Human Services that the Recruit Housing and Training facility to serve as the shelter was ready to accept children after the May 16 call. The first children arrived May 18.

"We knew it was coming but we couldn't start until we got the actual 'go,'" said John Heye, JBSA-Lackland deputy base civil engineer.

Heye said prior to the May 16 notification, the 502nd CES as-

sessed the former basic military training facility in anticipation of its use by DHHS. The building, constructed in 1969, had been vacated in November 2013 when the 321st Training Squadron relocated to Airman Training Complex No. 2.

"We had to resurrect the building if you will," Heye said. "It had been 'quiet' since BMT had moved out. Our crew really jumped on it. We had 15 to 20 personnel who worked the whole weekend. They did a lot of inspecting and repairing at the same time."

The prior building assessments and no need for major repairs, coupled with the experience of having prepared a similar shelter, albeit on a much smaller scale, for HHS two years ago, helped speed the process along.

"The comprehensive work and monumental effort our 502nd CES professionals committed in preparing this facility to receive

these children, with such short notice, further demonstrates the incredible capabilities and work ethic our engineers provide in support of Joint Base San Antonio 24/7/365," said Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander.

Repairs were made to the air conditioning system and hot water boilers along with operational checks on the electrical and fire alarm systems. Doors also had to be repaired for security and fire egress, a bee hive removed, debris cleaned up, furniture moved, an environmental assessment completed and a lease signed.

"We'd have done the same things regardless of who would have gone into the building," Heye said. "We are fortunate to have the dedicated and skilled craftsmen that made this effort go smooth so we could support their mission."

Permissive TDY allowed for voluntary separation

By Debbie Gildea
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Airmen who separate under voluntary and involuntary force management programs may be eligible for permissive temporary duty.

Airmen should check their separation orders to ensure the statement is included in the remarks block. The statement should read "Member separating voluntarily under Force Management program and may be eligible for PTDY according DODI 1327.06. SPD Code may not convey this benefit; however, MPS is authorized to permit."

An SPD code identifies entitlements and benefits associated with types of separations. The benefit is new for voluntary FM separations and a new SPD code is being developed. In the interim, a statement is added to the separations orders.

"If you're separating under a voluntary force management program and your orders do not include that statement, please contact the Total Force Service Center to get your orders corrected," said Lt. Col. Rick Garcia, AFPC separations and retirements chief.

The TFSC can be reached at 210-565-0102 or DSN 665-0102.

"We want to remind Airmen that permissive TDY is not an entitlement. Commanders will use discretion to approve or not approve a PTDY if their absence impacts the mission or if they don't have enough time on active duty to use the benefit," Garcia explained.

For more information about force management programs and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>. For FM programs, select "search all components" from the drop down menu and enter "Active Duty: FY14 Force Management Programs" in the search window.

LaBrutta on sexual assault, rape:

'Not in our house, not in our family, not in our Air Force!'

By L.A. Shively

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Understanding the sexual predator, to include how he or she thinks and acts, was a focus for this spring's Sexual Assault and Response Stand Down Day.

Preventing sexual assaults is a top priority for the military, so knowing more about how a perpetrator operates, to include manipulating people and the environment, will help our community identify and intervene before an assault occurs.

Part of the Stand Down Day included watching video clips depicting real-life sex offenders talking about the methods they used to create vulnerability and accessibility in their victims and described the resulting assaults.

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, warned the audiences of approximately 400 JBSA personnel at each JBSA location during a series of discussions that the briefing was graphic and frank but he wanted to present facts and ensure, without veiled innuendo, that sexual offenses of any nature are

not, nor will be tolerated on JBSA.

"When you listen to these accounts," LaBrutta told his audience, "take note of the language the offender uses, the way the offender manipulates a somewhat normal situation. Think about the offender's actions; what was he doing; what decisions he was making."

The second part of the SSD commander's call included the general highlighting the influence that each of us has within our culture to ensure sexual assaults do not occur.

LaBrutta shared a fiscal year 2012 Defense Department "Workplace and Gender Relations" survey of active duty members, where 3,259 Air Force service members responded they had been sexually assaulted, while only 790 reported the incidents, with 449 of those reports going unrestricted and being investigated.

"That means that 86 percent of sexual assaults were not investigated, mostly due to the element of fear within our culture to come forward and report," LaBrutta declared.

LaBrutta discussed ways in which Air Force members can positively influence the culture, making it difficult

for perpetrators to assault teammates.

"We have the influence," LaBrutta said.

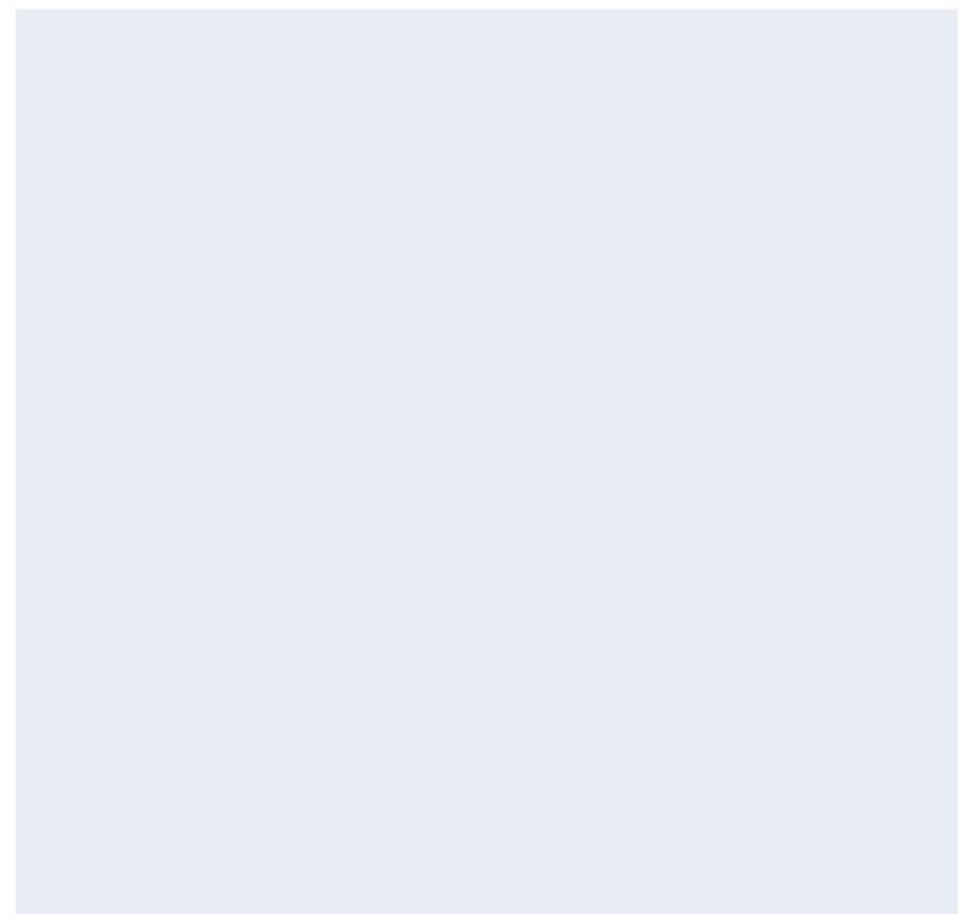
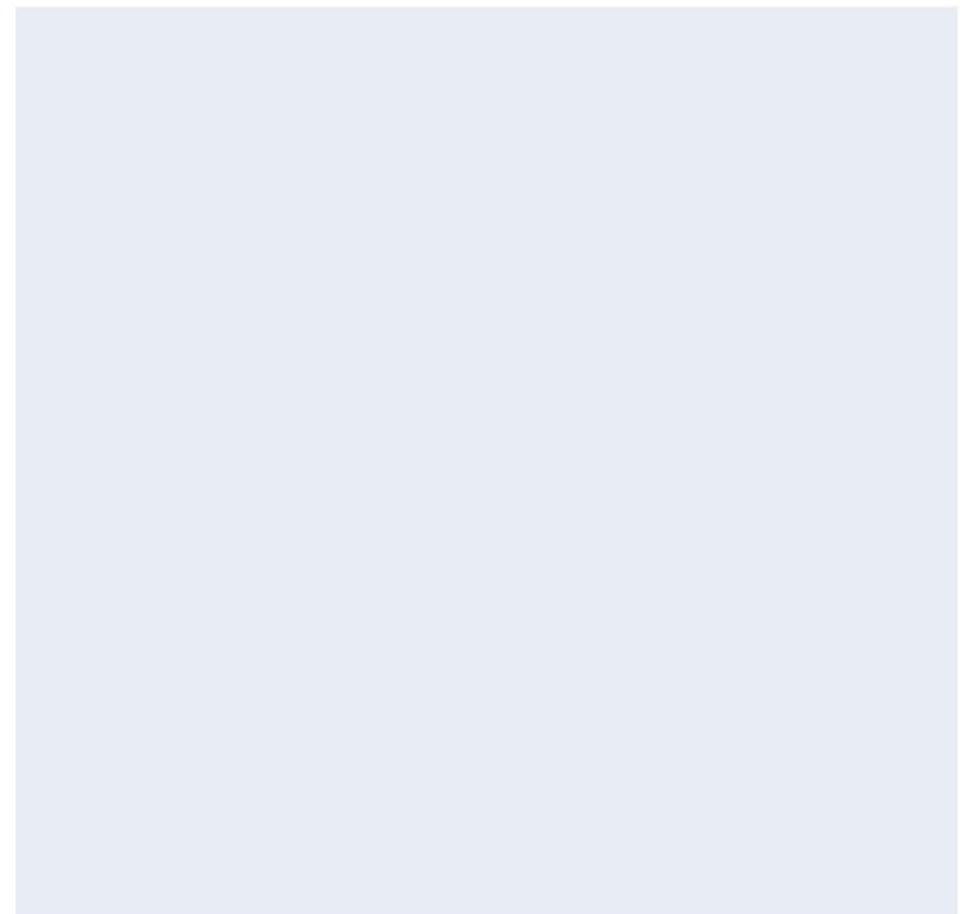
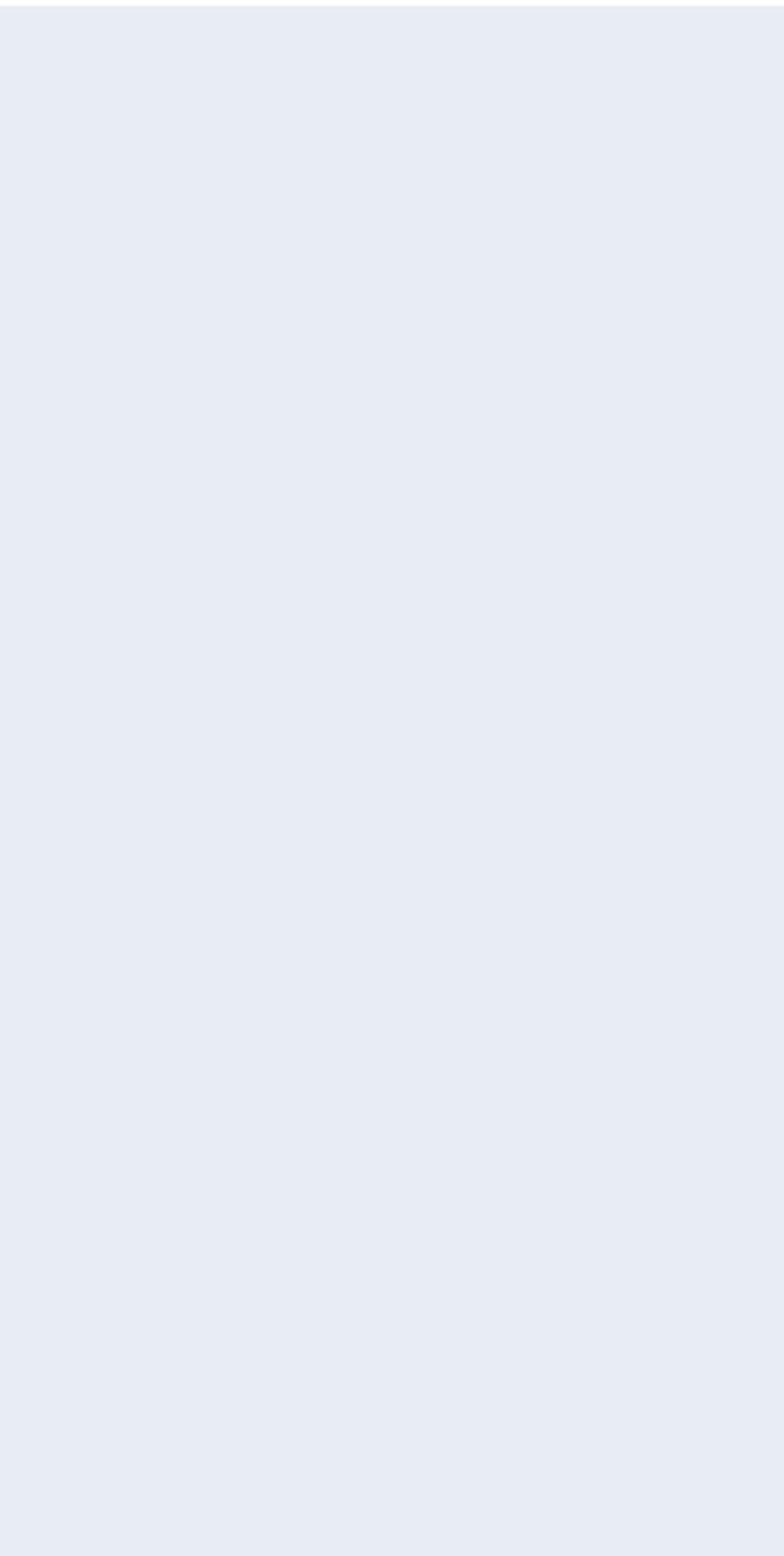
He ended the commander's call by reviewing the Air Force's SAPR Strategy: Deter perpetrators; Ensure victims feel safe to come forward; and, Reinforce a positive Air Force climate.

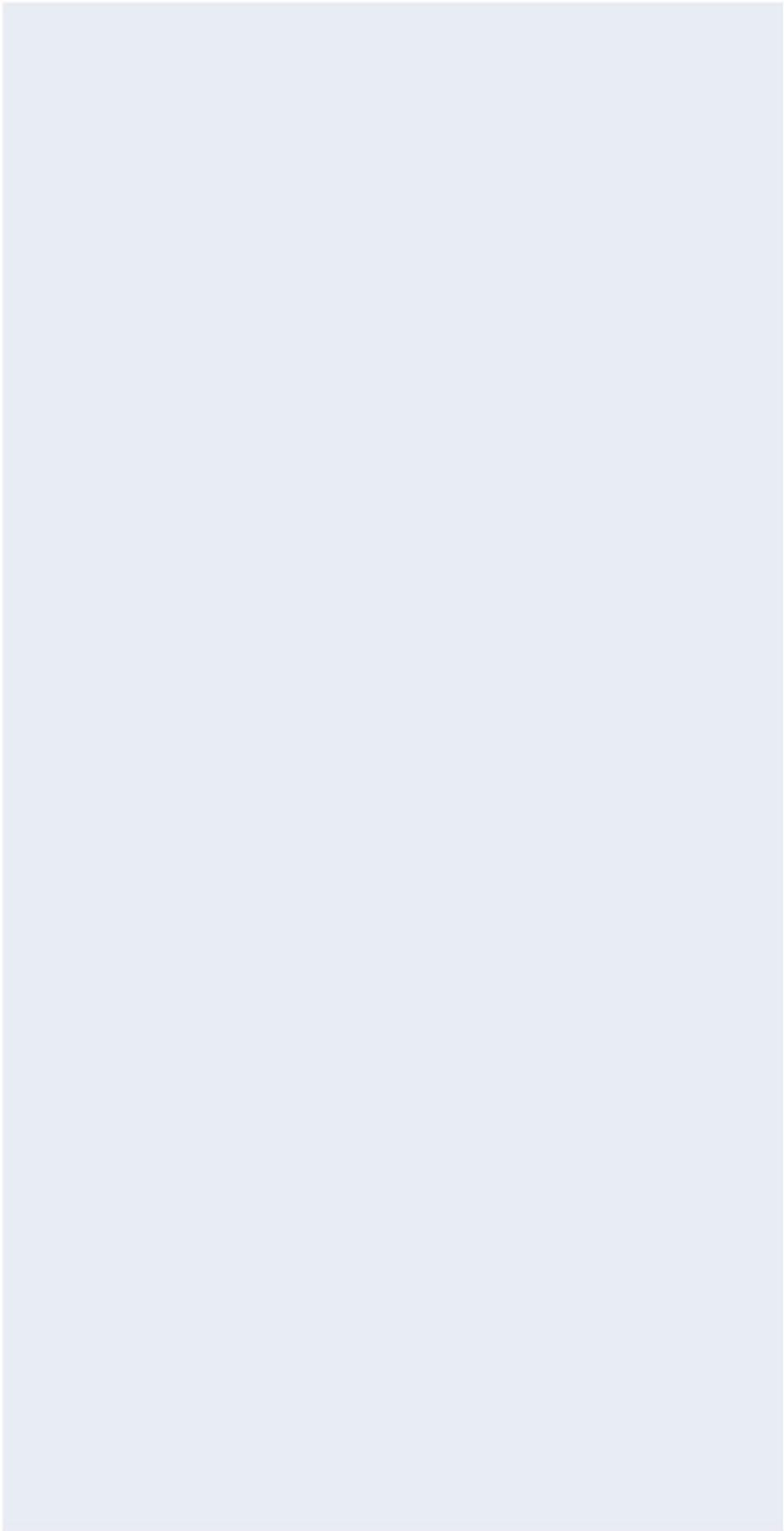
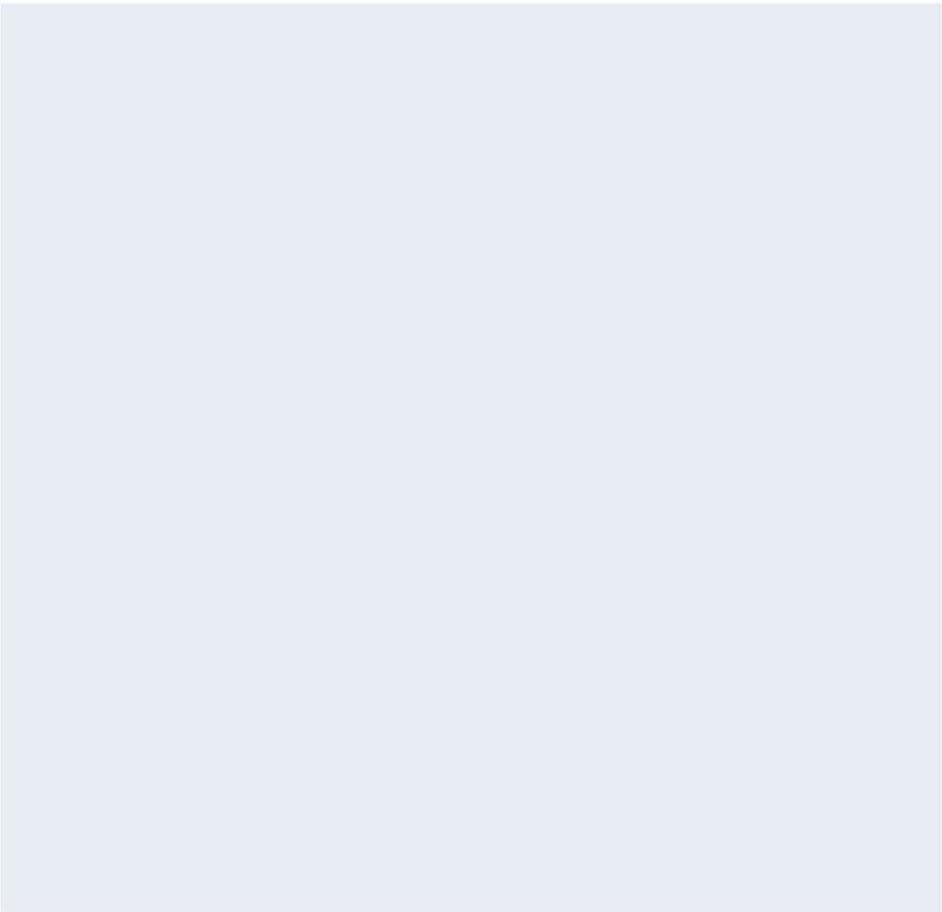
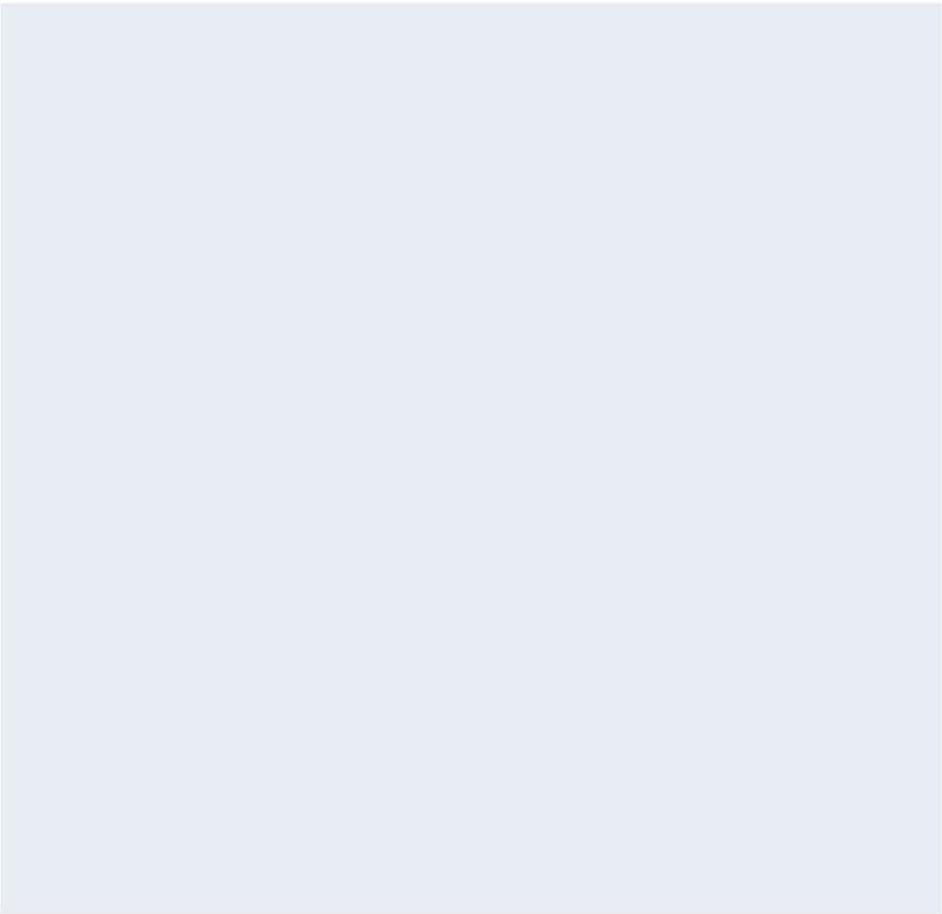
LaBrutta also reiterated his own vision for success against sexual assault: Conviction, Courage and Commitment.

As a community, we must be convinced that there is a problem in our Air Force, have the courage to step in and stop or report inappropriate behavior when it happens and be committed to solving this issue, he said.

"We should be outraged if one of us is impacted by this crime – one!" LaBrutta emphasized. "We will not rest, we will not lose our focus – we will continue our efforts until this number is zero."

For more information contact the JBSA SAPR Advocacy Centers: JBSA-Lackland, 617-7273; JBSA-Randolph, 652-4386; JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 221-3796. The JBSA Crisis Hotline is 808-7272. The DOD SafeHelpLine is 877-995-5247.





Organizations participate in JBSA-Randolph Inn's Safety Day

By Alex Salinas

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Inn's Safety Day was held June 4 with help from several on- and off-base agencies in support of the Department of Defense's Critical Days of Summer program, which began Memorial Day weekend.

The safety day was open to the JBSA community "to boost morale and stress the importance of safety, both at work and at home," Mary Eddy, JBSA-Randolph Inn lodging manager, said.

Featuring catchy 1980s music to set the mood, the outdoor event also featured stations with 902nd Security Forces Squadron military working dog handlers, Air Force Office of Special Investigations agents, 359th Medical Operations Squadron Mental Health Flight members, JBSA-Randolph firefighters, 502nd Air Base Wing Safety Office, San Antonio Rape Crisis Center and Universal City Police Department.

Every organization had something to share, be it information about putting out fires and how to use a fire extinguisher or how to correctly climb a ladder.

"Anytime we (as an installation) can promote all-around safety is beneficial to our people," Tech. Sgt. Travis Yates, 502nd ABW Safety Office NCO in charge of ground safety, said. "Being aware of your environment is not a one-time deal, it's all the time, whether driving to work or cooking at home."

For Eddy, the event's main purpose was for attendees to "bring home knowledge about safety in case they need to apply it in real-world situations and to know who to contact for what type of emergency."

"Knowing how and when to use a fire extinguisher, emergency evacuate and call 911 are general safety measures that can potentially save lives, especially during summertime," James Smith, JBSA-Randolph Fire Emergency Services fire inspector, said.

In addition to receiving important tips from station to station, attendees had a blast during the day's lighter moments, such as participating in a word scramble, a version of charades, a bed-making contest and attempting to walk in a straight line while wearing goggles that simulated a drunken driver's vision, Eddy said.

"Everything about today was good because safety matters," she added. "Hopefully, the safety day will become an annual event once again and that we can make next year's bigger and better."



Photos by Joel Martinez

James Smith, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Fire Emergency Services fire inspector, speaks to lodging personnel about fire safety June 4 during the Critical Days of Summer event at JBSA-Randolph.



Officer Rueben Morales, Universal City Police Department, helps Mark Tharp walk a straight line while wearing drunk-vision goggles June 4 during the Critical Days of Summer event at JBSA-Randolph.



Staff Sgt. Michael Moore, 902nd Security Forces Squadron, and his military working dog, Ramon, provide a MWD demonstration June 4 during the Critical Days of Summer event at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



Student earns Gold Award, Girls Scouts' highest honor

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

An afternoon tea at the Universal City Public Library in mid-February was the centerpiece of a project that earned a young woman from the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph community the Girl Scouts' highest honor.

Vania Vasquez, 17, daughter of Annette and Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Vasquez, Air Force Personnel Center Office of Staff Judge Advocate NCO in charge of the services law division, received the Girl Scout Gold Award in a ceremony May 18 at St. Philip's College in San Antonio after completing a project that celebrated femininity.

"Earning the Gold Award showed me that I am capable of more than I might think," she said. "It was nice to receive recognition for what I have done and it felt even better having a supportive family and friends there with me to share my joy."

Vania, a home-schooled student who will attend the University of the Incarnate Word in the fall as a theater arts major, said her Gold Award project, "Be lovely," came to fruition with the support of her Troop 614 leader, advisers and a leadership team composed of her troop members, as well as a number of sponsors. They included her parents and local businesses that donated floral arrangements, pastries, chocolate-covered strawberries and other items.

Vania said the two words that defined her project, "Be lovely," had been in the back of her mind months before she started working on her Gold Award, which is equivalent to the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout honor.

"The Gold Award project should be something you're passionate about," she said. "The Girl Scouts are all about strengthening girls. I wanted to show you can be a strong lady and still be true to your femininity."

The Gold Award challenges Girl Scouts to change the world or their communities by following a seven-step process that starts with identifying an issue and culminates in educating and inspiring others.

Vania said her project challenged the notion that carrying themselves in a traditionally feminine manner makes women look weak.

"Earning the Gold Award showed me that I am capable of more than I might think. It was nice to receive recognition for what I have done and it felt even better having a supportive family and friends there with me to share my joy."

Vania Vasquez

Daughter of Annette and Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Vasquez

"It shows grace, charm and pride in being a lady, a strong lady," she said.

Vania's project involved planning and facilitating an afternoon tea at the Universal City Library that was advertised at the library and the JBSA-Randolph Thrift Shop; creating a blog, <http://www.belovelies.blogspot.com>; and setting up a basket containing a tea set, a scrapbook-style book explaining her project, and tea time recipes and ideas. The blog and basket, which is available for check-out at the library for those who want to plan their own teas, satisfy a Gold Award requirement for sustainability.

Her project also required two rounds of approval by a Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas committee – the first for her concept and plan of action and the second to determine if the project had earned the Gold Award. The Gold Award is typically an 80-hour project, but Vania estimated she dedicated nearly 150 hours to hers.

The afternoon tea, which attracted more than 30 participants, was a simple way to show elegance and embrace that aspect of being feminine, Vania said.

"Teas also refresh a person's mind and body by promoting fellowship and offering a break from the business of life," she added.



Vania Vasquez, 17, daughter of Annette and Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Vasquez, AFPC Office of Staff Judge Advocate NCO in charge of the services law division, received the Girl Scout Gold Award in a ceremony May 18 at St. Philip's College in San Antonio.

KEY SPOUSE from P3

"The key spouses program is one that is near and dear to my heart," Betty said. "It's all about getting to know each other so we're better able to help one another; that's how the program strengthens our Air Force."

The program helps to provide guidance and support in these areas, which key spouses are trained on:

- Increase awareness of installation/community resources
- Identify and help resolve issues at lowest levels (providing info on pro-

grams, benefits and more)

- Prepare and support families during separations
- Improve quality of life among unit families
- Enhance family resilience
- Strengthens leadership's support team

According to Verence Castillo, the 2013 Air Force Spouse of the Year, all spouses have experienced challenges and even difficult times, but what they learned from that experience has made them stronger, and

this program enables them to share with others.

"We have seen that many times, families need more help after the spouse comes back from deployment than during the deployment, families are struggling with the reintegration face," Castillo said. "We build relationships with all of our families so that when a deployment arrives, the relationship in the unit is already there."

Key spouses undergo regular training to stay well informed of program

and service changes, she said.

"I am paying it forward and making sure all Air Force spouses feel the same," Castillo said. "This is why key spouses receive training constantly to keep them informed and prepared to help those in need."

For more information on the Air Force Key Spouse Program and other personnel issues, go to myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil>, select "search all components" from the drop down menu and enter "Air Force Key Spouse Program" in the search window.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

Pride month observance

The Joint Base San Antonio Equal Opportunity office is sponsoring the first pride month observance today across JBSA. Pride month is a service member-coordinated event, sanctioned by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. The focus of the month is "Strength through Diversity." This event is open to all JBSA members. For event information, call 671-7885.

Special missions unit recruitment briefing

A special missions unit recruitment briefing will take place at 9 a.m. Thursday in the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Fleenor Auditorium. The briefing will address more information on one of Department of Defense's most elite special operations unit and a possible career opportunity. Interested personnel should be:

- Senior Airman through Master Sergeant or 1st Lieutenant through Major.; have two years or more in service; be 21 years or older with no current Unfavorable Information Files; able to obtain and maintain a Top Secret clearance.

All with base access are invited to attend. For information, email SMUScreening@jdi.socom.mil.

Road-repair work schedule changes

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph South Gate will undergo repairs beginning June 30 instead of June 9. Repairs are expected to continue through Sept. 15. All traffic, to include commercial traffic, with proper credentials, will have base access through the South Gate, but must travel around the airfield past the high school. For more information, call 508-2870.

Feds Feed Family campaign

The sixth annual Feds Feed Families campaign will be running through August 27. This year's theme is "Help Knock Out Hunger." The national food drive helps supplement food banks across the nation. The Alamo Federal Executive Board will provide barrel delivery in the next week and pick-up food items June 30, July 31 and August 26. For more information, call 565-1860.

WHASC step saver cart drivers needed

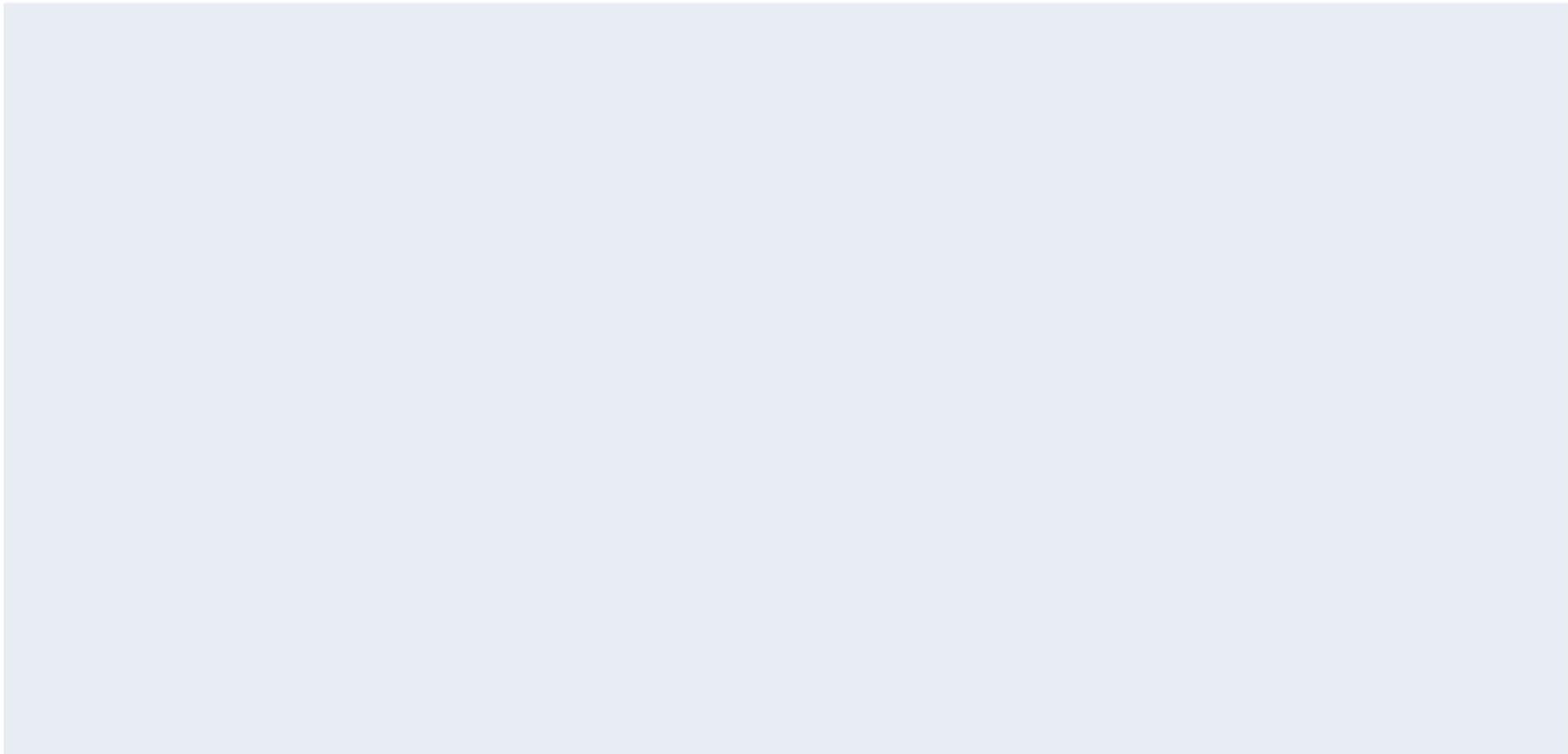
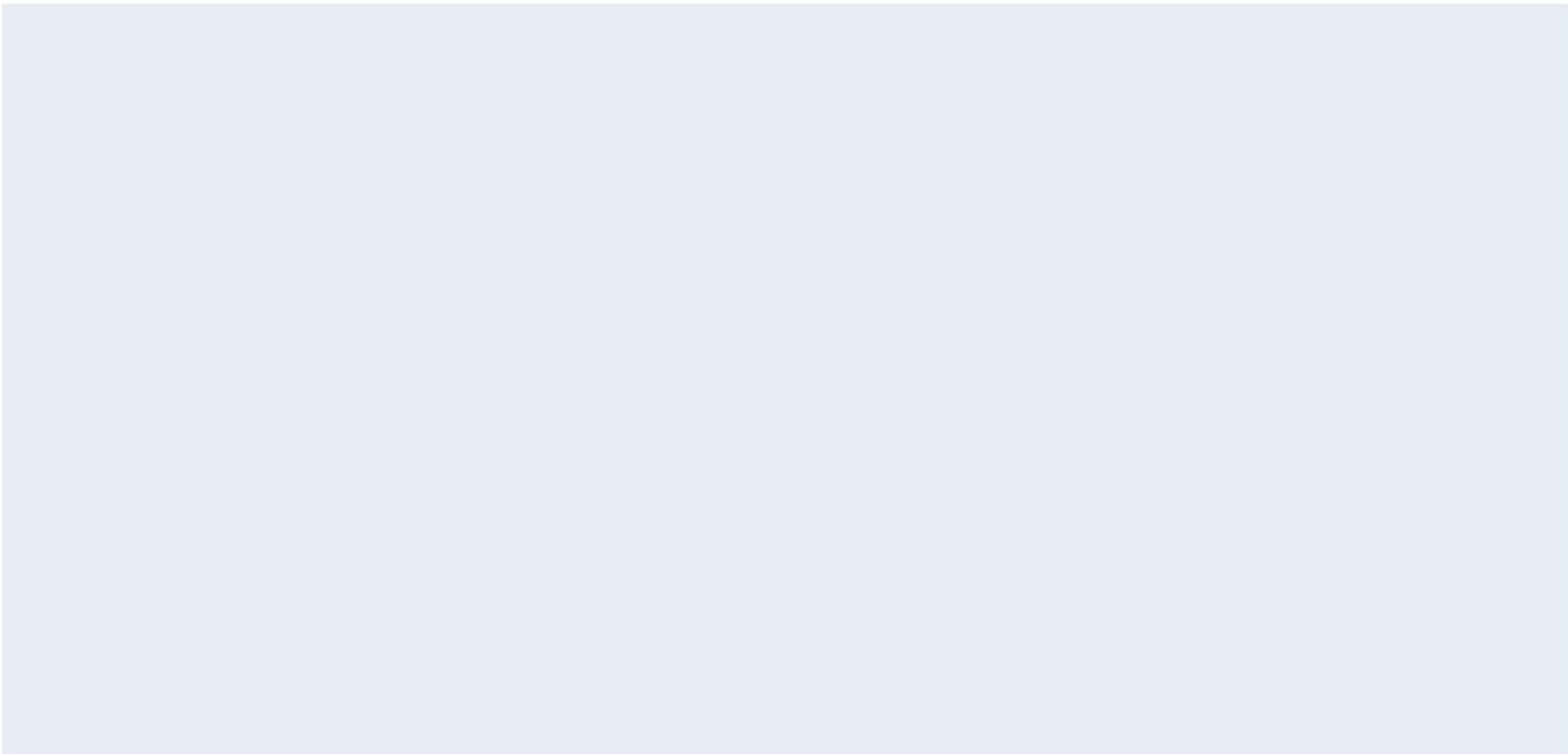
The 59th Medical Wing Volunteer Service Office needs volunteer licensed drivers who are at least 20 years old to transport patients to and from clinic entrances and parking lots in the vicinity of the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Clinic at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Carts operate from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Training is provided. For more information, call 292-6591.

National Caribbean-American Heritage Month

A Caribbean-themed lunch for wounded warriors and their families takes place 2:30 p.m. June 21 at the Warrior and Family Support Center, building 3628, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Volunteers are needed. Caribbean dishes and item donations toward event are also welcome. For more information, call 652-2691, 652-4873, 652-0102, or 652-3529.

JBSA-Randolph Technology Expo

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Annual Technology Expo takes place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 24 at the Parr Club at JBSA-Randolph. More than 30 exhibitors will demonstrate the latest in technology. All with base access are invited to attend. For more information, call 443-561-2412.



Legal, financial advisers urge divorcing couples to seek help

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Divorce can have devastating emotional consequences for the parties involved, but it also poses myriad legal and financial obstacles for the separating couples.

If one or both parties are military members, resources are available at the base level to help them address those issues.

The important thing is to take that first step and seek help, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph legal and financial advisers said.

"If divorce is being considered, our office welcomes those who are entitled to legal assistance to come see us for advice or clarification of the issues involved in divorce," Charles Hasberry, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group Office of the Staff Judge Advocate chief of legal assistance, said. "We are not permitted to represent them in court, but we may be able to assist them with document production, mediation or other matters."

Hasberry said one important way the legal office can assist couples is to open the lines of communication.

"Communication is one thing we can help them with – just to get them talking," he said. "They need to come and talk to us and be aware of all the issues. Most of the time they have no clue; they don't know what their rights are, so we fill them in on their options and point out the common issues and concerns."

The issues divorcing military couples face are many and varied, including child custody, jurisdiction, property division, allocation of debt, and military benefit and pension division.

"For military people, military pension division is tricky," Hasberry said. "Even if a couple has been married a short time, the civilian spouse may be entitled to a portion of the service member's retirement. It's something that's on the table in most states. Determining the proper jurisdiction in which to file can also be a sticky issue."

The Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act allows pension division in military cases, but it does not specify how to divide a pension, leaving those rules up to states. Another statute affecting former military spouses contains the Survivor Benefit Plan, an annuity for spouses whose former military partner has died.

Hasberry said each divorce is unique.



"The facts are always going to be different," he said. "No advice is applicable to every case. It's complicated and it can get messy."

The legal office can offer help up to a certain point, Hasberry said.

"If it's a simple, uncontested divorce with no children and no real estate involved, we can provide more concrete help," he said. "But if it's a contested divorce, hiring civilian counsel is likely to be recommended, although we may still be able to offer initial insight and advice."

Legal offices throughout the Air Force assist divorcing couples on a regular basis, Hasberry said.

"In 2013, the second-biggest legal assistance issue Air Force-wide was domestic relations, usually divorce," he said."

Financial advisers at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center are ready to help divorcing couples with budgetary considerations, Mike Bell, 802nd Force Support Squadron community readiness consultant, said.

"The first thing we do is determine who's responsible for what," he said. "Then we'll do a budget and spending plan. We'll see where they're at now and how they're faring, then project what their budgets will look like after the divorce."

Because couples face costs such as attorney fees, child support, alimony in some states and other expenses, lifestyle adjustments are often necessary, Bell said.

"We'll look at areas where adjustments or cuts can be made – such as cable TV, cellphones and eating out," he said. "Once they get a good grip on what things look like after those adjustments are made, they can come back and we'll look at the numbers and make more adjustments if necessary."

Organization is essential to proper budgeting, Bell said.

"I see people who don't have a budget and have never had one," he said. "I have them track their spending for two weeks or a month. That's usually a huge eye-opener – when they see where their money is going."

"We can help them get organized and get on top of what they're experiencing," Bell said. "If they stay with us, we can help them get debt-free."

In addition to counseling sessions with community readiness consultants, the M&FRC offers classes that help divorcing couples confront legal, financial and other issues, Bell said.

"We can give people options they may not have considered," he said. "We're here to help them both before and after the divorce."



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.

Medical missinn timeliness affected hv 'no-shows'

By Maj. Steven Fox
59th Medical Operations Group

The U.S. Air Force's commitment to provide world-class health care to military members and their families is not taken lightly. At the 59th Medical Wing, personnel are proud to honor that commitment, but they need the help of patients.

Recently, there has been a significant increase in patients not showing up for medical appointments.

In January 2014, records show 1,220 patients did not show up for their medical appointment in the primary care clinics alone.

Medical appointments are a precious resource for those seeking medical assistance, and each lost visit decreases our beneficiaries' access to a needed medical appointment. Lost visits also contribute to problems booking an appointment. Interferences with patient care aren't the only problems tied to lost visits - there's also a financial cost.

Each of the 1,220 missed appoint-

ments costs the wing \$327, which amounts to \$398,940 for January 2014. Calling ahead of time to cancel or reschedule an appointment is the only way a patient can help the 59th Medical Wing recapture some of the losses.

There are a number of ways to cancel or reschedule an appointment, should the need arise.

The Consult and Appointment Management Office is available from 6:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to assist patients in cancelling or rescheduling appointments. In addition, this office serves as the source for initial appointments, as well as any referral information. Contact Consult and Appointment Management at 916-9900.

Patients can also cancel an appointment upon receipt of the automated appointment reminder phone call. TRICARE Online can also be used to cancel a non-acute appointment.

Each of these tools can help avoid the unnecessary loss of available appointments and improve access for all patients.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Micky Bazaldua

Staff Sgt. James Montgomery, 59th Medical Wing diagnostic imaging technologist, prepares a patient for a CT scan Oct. 2, 2013, at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

It is the medical wing's goal to provide access to the medical care patients need when it is needed. Patients' help in cancelling appoint-

ments when plans change will make it possible for someone else to make an appointment in the clinic at a time when they may need it the most.