



# WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 40 • OCTOBER 10, 2014



## 12th Flying Training Wing members showcase mission

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*INSIDE: HELPING VICTIMS RECOVER, P2 ... READY FOR FLU SEASON, P8 ... AIRMAN LEADERSHIP, P12*

## COMMENTARY

# Domestic violence: Helping victims move forward

Source: Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate Program

For 10 weeks, clients who are receiving or have received Domestic Abuse Victim Advocacy services at Joint Base San Antonio are eligible to partake in a women's support group aimed at empowering them in their journey of healing and moving past their abusive relationships. The Domestic Violence Recovery Group is designed to help survivors understand how violence truly affects their lives and relationships.

Every woman who participates is in a different phase of their healing process. Through the class, women have the opportunity to talk about what violence is; to understand the emotions that happen during and after the violence; to look back at the red flags in their relationships and have the tools to create healthy relationships for themselves in the future.

Not only is this group beneficial to the survivors but also to the work of victim advocates, as it helps them understand where clients are and what can be done to help and support survivors of domestic violence.

Below is a story from a woman who came through our program.

*As a child I've endured it, as an adult I minimized it. Abuse, regardless of the severity, will always be ABUSE.*

*Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate program at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland offers a Domestic Violence Recovery Group for military members, their spouses, and/or dependents – more commonly female spouses that are victims of abuse. The program offers guidance, coping techniques, abuse identifiers, effective communication techniques, relief, understanding and camaraderie among domestic violence clients of all ages, ethnicities and ranks.*

*Through the program I learned the simplest of things such as the "red flags of abuse." Consensus among the clients during that particular session was "If I only knew then what I know now."*



Photo illustration by Senior Airman Luis Loza Gutierrez

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the "Day of Unity" held in October 1981 and conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation working to end violence against women and their children. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. Victims in danger of domestic violence are advised to call 911 for help or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or TTY.

*I think it's a course that should be taught in high schools during health class. If we can learn at an earlier age to identify potential abuse, we can better protect ourselves. Nearly every "red flag" jotted down spoke volumes of the things I should've known but didn't. Love and faith can blind you, at least in my scenario that was the case.*

*Being abused, we tend to follow down the same narrow and twisted path, slowly losing our own identities. We've grown accustomed to being told how to feel, how to act, how to think, when to cry, what to wear, and whom we may speak with, amongst other things.*

*Though we are all fully capable of thinking for ourselves; endless self-doubt and misdirection of self-talk is what we have grown to know. Another group session helped*

*us identify the need to change the negative jabbering of self-talk we've integrated into ourselves. We all learned, "It's not who you are that holds you back; it's who you think you're not."*

*At this point, my journey of learning, healing and growing from the abuse continues. It is my greatest hope to flourish as an individual and allow my wounds to heal. I'm learning how to have a healthy relationship with others and learning not to fall prey to the same cycle I once lived for more than 16 years. Thus far, DAVA's program, facilitators' support and the other clients have been instrumental towards my journey.*

*"All endings are also beginnings. We just don't know it at the time." – The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom*

## ON THE COVER

Col. Alexander Smith (right), 502nd Installation Support Group commander, learns about T-38C Talon maintenance from Col. David Drichta, 12th Operations Group commander, during an immersion tour of the 12th Flying Training Wing Sept. 19 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. For the complete story, see page 3.

Photo by Laura McAndrews

## WINGSPREAD

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# 12th Flying Training Wing mission at forefront for immersion tour

By Laura McAndrews

12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Leaders from the 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group and the 502nd Installation Support Group participated in an immersion tour of the 12th Flying Training Wing Sept. 19 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The goal of the immersion tour was to familiarize the group leaders with the flying mission supported at JBSA-Randolph.

“It was a really well-organized and very informative event,” Col. Michael Gimbrone, 502nd SFLSG commander, said. “Among other things, we were able to see firsthand how the local bird population and flightline conditions affect the flying training mission.”

The group started the morning by taking a closer look at the white-winged dove habitat while learning more about JBSA-Randolph’s Bird Air Strike Hazard prevention pro-

gram and the tools used to divert large flocks of birds from flying into aircraft flight paths.

According to 12th FTW safety officials, birds are the largest threat to the wing’s aircraft and the white-winged dove is responsible for more than \$830,000 in damage from fiscal years 2012 through 2014.

“I’ve been doing air traffic control for 30 years and I’ve never seen so many birds as we’re facing now,” Gary Thompson, air traffic manager, said.

The group also had an opportunity to learn the various missions of the 12th FTW’s three flying groups and maintenance directorate and visited the simulator complex, where pilots use different airframes in dry, wet and standing water flightline conditions.

“We want all the mission partners across Joint Base San Antonio to know that we’re here to support them as best we can,” Col. Alexander Smith, 502nd ISG commander, said. “We’re only a phone call away.”

## NEWS

# AF ensures command visibility on substantiated sex-related offenses

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office

Air Force officials announced a new policy Sept. 30 requiring the inclusion and command review of information on sex-related offenses in personnel service records.

The change was directed in the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, requiring the services to document this information in service member personnel records.

“Sexual harassment and sexual assault are not consistent with our core values, cause great harm to our Airmen who experience it and seriously degrade our mission readiness,” said Maj. Gen. Gina Grosso, the director of the Air Force sexual assault and prevention response.

The new policy requires commanders to review all records to ensure substantiated complaints of sex-related offenses against Airmen, regardless of grade, assigned to, and transferred into their

command, are annotated in the Airman’s performance report or permanent training report. Annotation of those complaints resulting in conviction by court-martial, non-judicial punishment or punitive administrative action will be filed in an Airman’s permanent personnel service record.

“Actively engaged leadership and transparency are key to eliminating sex-related offenses,” said Brig. Gen. Brian Kelly, the director of force management policy. “This policy assists with that goal and helps leaders foster a climate of mutual respect, dignity and inclusion of all Airmen at every level.

“This level of awareness should ensure commanders have knowledge of and familiarization with their assigned Airmen’s histories of sex-related offenses,” Kelly said. “This also reduces the likelihood repeat offenses will escape the notice of subsequent or higher level commanders.”

The effective date for the notation is Dec. 26, 2013. Commanders will ensure substantiated of-

fenses not previously documented on the Airman’s performance or training report that occurred on or after the effective date will be documented in the Airman’s next evaluation.

The policy does not limit or prohibit the Airman from challenging or appealing such action using the existing appeal process in line with Air Force Instruction 36-2406, Officer and Enlisted Evaluation Systems, or through the Air Force Board of Correction for Military Records, Kelly said.

For this policy, the Air Force considers sex-related offenses as those defined in Articles 120, 125, 120a, 120b, and 120c of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which range from rape to stalking.

Air Force officials recognize the significant administrative burden associated with initially implementing this policy on the directed timeline, Kelly said. To alleviate this in the future, data codes are being developed to allow commanders to quickly identify Airmen who are assigned to or transferred into their unit.

# AF updates voluntary education programs for FY15

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office

Active-duty Airmen who want to take advantage of military assistance programs for voluntary education in the coming academic year will experience several changes beginning Oct. 1.

Air Force Credentialing Opportunities Online, or AF COOL, will take the place of the military tuition assistance, or MilTA, certification program for enlisted and total-force Airmen seeking certifications. Military tuition assistance guidance will be updated.

“Education is what keeps our Airmen and our Air Force at the leading edge of change,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody. “This is a valuable benefit that Airmen have a responsibility to manage, whether it’s keeping their GPA up or meeting all the deadlines for applications.”

Airmen who are currently enrolled in a certification program funded through MilTA will have one year to complete their program. Enlisted Airmen submitting new applications through AF COOL will be able to apply for certifications based on their duty Air Force specialty code, with a lifetime cap of \$4,500. Senior NCOs are also eligible for leadership and management credentialing programs within the lifetime cap. Funding for the program is

currently scheduled to begin in January 2015. However, the website will be fully functional Oct. 1.

“We created AF COOL in part to meet FY14 (fiscal year) National Defense Authorization Act requirements but also to separate credentialing from other military tuition assistance and ensure we had a cohesive, user-friendly system for our enlisted Airmen who are interested in obtaining duty-related certifications,” said Russell Frasz, the Air Force director of force development.

MilTA will also see some changes in fiscal year 2015, Frasz said. In line with the updated Defense Department instruction on voluntary education released in May 2014, Airmen who receive grades of a C or below in graduate courses and D or below in undergraduate courses will be required to reimburse MilTA funds.

This is effective with all term start dates on or after Oct. 1. If, after six semester hours at the graduate level or 15 semester hours at the undergraduate level, students cannot maintain the requisite GPA, they will no longer be eligible to receive MilTA until they have raised their GPA. In addition, the DOD instruction no longer allows for MilTA to pay for fees.

Eligibility requirements for MilTA will remain the same, except for students

*“We created AF COOL in part to meet FY14 (fiscal year) National Defense Authorization Act requirements but also to separate credentialing from other military tuition assistance and ensure we had a cohesive, user-friendly system for our enlisted Airmen who are interested in obtaining duty-related certifications.”*

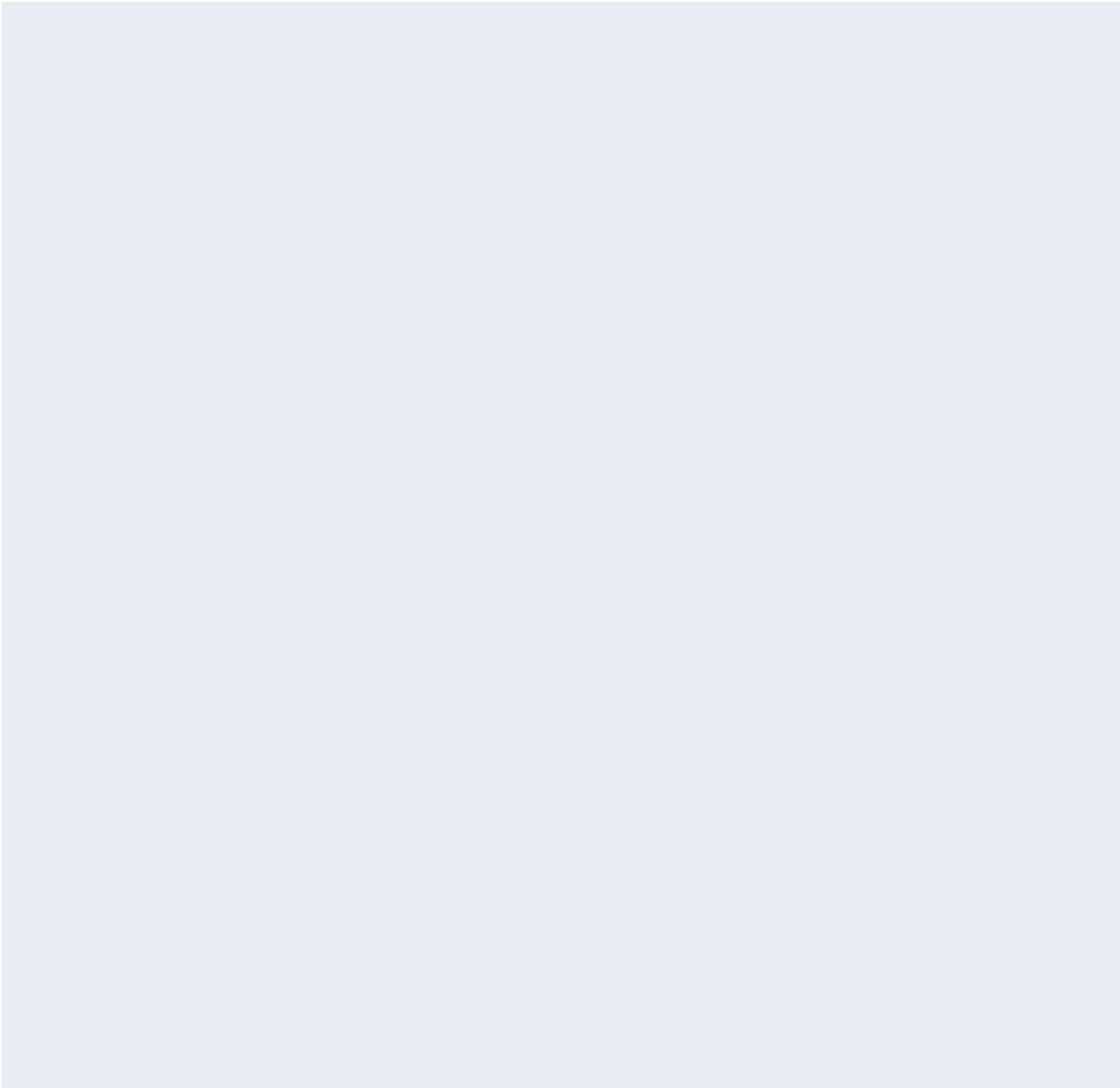
**Russell Frasz**

*Air Force director of force development*

with active suspenses such as incompletes or other pending reimbursement actions, who will be ineligible until those suspenses are closed. Airmen who are approved to receive MilTA may still receive up to \$4,500 per fiscal year and a maximum of \$250 per semester hour, but will now have a cap of up to 124 semester hours allowed for undergraduate program and 42 semester hours for graduate level courses (some restrictions apply for the undergraduate and graduate caps). This change affects all current and future MilTA users.

The window for MilTA requests will be limited to no earlier than 45 and no later than seven days prior to the start of the academic term. Additionally, Airmen must obtain approval for their educational goals from their academic institution.

All new MilTA users and those who haven’t taken any classes in the past year are required to have face-to-face counseling with an education advisor prior to receiving MilTA, but all students are encouraged to meet with education advisors and review the updated Air Force instruction, Frasz said.



# Specific year groups, AFSCs will not meet Reduction in Force board

By Debbie Gildea

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Operations research analysts from the 2002 year group, acquisition officers from the 2001 year group and all judge advocate officers will not meet the fiscal year 2015 Force Management Reduction in Force board slated for October.

An updated matrix reflecting the removal of the 51J judge advocate, and selected year groups for 63A acquisition and 61A analyst officers has been posted to the myPers website. The board will still evaluate line of the Air Force officers for continued retention in specific Air Force specialties, grades and year groups.

Because of previously approved retirements and separations and ongoing voluntary program opportunities, some year groups were removed from the eligibility matrix.

## Eligible Year Groups/Competitive Categories

Airmen eligible to meet the board include Line in the Air Force captains in

year groups 2006 through 2008 and LAF majors in year groups 2001 through 2003 (computed by total active federal commissioned service date) in specific Air Force Specialty Codes, unless specifically excluded. AFSCs and year groups vary depending on category, so eligible Airmen should review the matrix on the myPers website to determine if they are eligible.

## Eligibility Exclusions:

Some officers will not meet the RIF board, including the following:

- Officers with an approved date of separation on or before April 30, 2015 or who have an approved TERA retirement on or before May 1, 2015,
- Officers who because of a deployment have an approved VSP or TERA separation date after April 30, 2015,
- Officers on a promotion list as of the board convening date,
- Officers with less than one year time in grade as of the board convening date.

For more information about force management and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

## Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph leaders welcome Hollister Petraeus

Hollister Petraeus (left), Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Office of Servicemember Affairs assistant director, addresses Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph leaders, including (center to right) Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, Air Education and Training Command vice commander; Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, AETC command chief; and Maj. Gen. Peggy Poore, Air Force Personnel Center commander, during a tour of JBSA-Randolph Oct. 2. Discussions allowed Petraeus to share information on challenges service members face and on the federal resources available to assist.

**Photo by Melissa Peterson**



# JBSA-Randolph Immunization Clinic ready for flu season

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph  
Public Affairs

With the return of flu season, 359th Medical Group members at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph have begun the process to immunize active-duty members and other TRICARE beneficiaries with the current influenza vaccine.

The immunization clinic in building 1040 is open for administration of the flu vaccine 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. No appointment is necessary.

“We recommend that people receive their flu vaccines as early in the season as possible,” Lt. Col. (Dr.) Yi Yang, 359th Medical Operations Squadron immunization clinic medical director, said.

It’s also important to come to the immunization clinic as early in the day as possible, Staff Sgt. Alisha Slone, 359th MDG Immunization Clinic technician, said.

“We’ve started to get busy, so a long wait is possible,” she said. “Early in the morning is a good time to come.”

The 359th MDG is also administering the vaccine at the workplaces of first responders, including security forces and firefighters, and beneficiaries at mission partners such as Air Education and Training Command, Air Force Personnel Center and 12th Flying Training Wing squadrons on a rotating basis this month, Slone said.

In addition, tables will be set up for the administration of the flu vaccine at the JBSA-Randolph Exchange main entrance 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 23-24 and in the medical clinic’s pharmacy waiting area 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 27-31.

If JBSA-Randolph clinic beneficiaries are immunized at a civilian pharmacy, they should provide the clinic with documentation of the vaccines to ensure accurate records, Slone said.

A yearly flu vaccine – available in both injectable and na-

sal-spray form – is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older except those who have a severe allergy to any part of the vaccine, Yang said.

The nasal-spray vaccine is an option for healthy people ages 2 to 49, Slone said.

“Flu mist is recommended because it gives more protection from influenza,” she said.

The flu vaccine protects against the main flu viruses that research suggests will be the most common during that flu season, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The three main virus strains this year – the H1N1 and H3N2 influenza A viruses and influenza B viruses – are the same as last year’s, Yang said.

Seasonal flu activity can begin as early as October and continue as late as May, but it commonly peaks in the United States between December and February, according to the CDC.

An annual flu vaccine is important for two reasons, Yang said.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Staff Sgt. Alisha Slone, 359th Medical Group NCO in charge of immunizations, inspects an influenza vaccine Sept. 30 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Medical Clinic.

“The vaccine builds up immunity – the antibody level in the system – to prevent development of influenza,” he said. “In case you actually get influenza, you will have fewer symptoms.

“Also, with the development of antibodies in the system, you will be less likely to carry the influenza virus to spread the virus and affect other people.”

Because the influenza virus can be spread by coughing, sneezing and nasal secretions, Yang also recommends practicing good personal hygiene.

People should wash their hands often, cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.

## Every Airman has part to play in energy conservation

By Andy Hinojosa

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Base Energy Manager

October is Energy Awareness Month and Joint Base San Antonio is committed to reducing energy consumption to meet all conservation directives.

The JBSA Energy Program is designed to comply with federally mandated energy goals while maintaining a healthy and productive workplace.

Energy reduction goals are specified by Executive Order 13423, and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which requires federal installations to reduce energy use by three percent every year for 10 years. The goal is to reduce energy per square foot by a total of 30 percent by fiscal year 2015, based on a fiscal year 2003 baseline.

JBSA is at 18 percent of its energy reduction goal for fiscal year 2014. Everyone is encouraged to be vigilant and persistent in efforts to reduce energy consumption in fiscal year 2015.

Keep conservation in mind at all times, not only to meet base goals, but to be good stewards of natural resources for generations to come.

JBSA and the City of San Antonio utility providers are promoting energy awareness month by setting up

energy conservation display tables at some of the installations throughout the month of October.

CPS Energy, San Antonio Water System and the 502nd Civil Engineering Squadron will be passing out pamphlets on energy and water conservation, including useful tips on how to conserve our natural resources.

The Air Force theme for this year’s energy awareness campaign is the same as last year. “Power the Force. Fuel the Fight. I AM AIR FORCE ENERGY.”

Here’s a simple checklist with ideas reducing energy consumption in the office and work area:

- Buy Energy Star certified appliances such as refrigerators, microwaves, desk lighting, etc.
- Turn off office equipment such as monitors, printers, copy machines, and fax machines at night and on weekends.
- Report energy waste, including water leaks, building deficiencies and energy abuse.
- Check the age and condition of major appliances, especially the refrigerator. It may need to be replaced it with a more energy efficient model.
- Survey incandescent lights for opportunities to replace them with compact fluorescents. These lamps can save three-quarters of the electricity used by incandescents. New CFLs come in many sizes and styles to fit in



most standard fixtures.

• Other good targets are the four-foot lamps fixtures with metallic ballast; replace these with 28 watt lamps and electronic ballast.

Remember, do not over cool air conditioned spaces and report all energy problems in the building to the facility manager or energy monitor.

For more information about energy conservation, call JBSA Base Energy Managers at 671-1537 for JBSA-Fort Sam, 671-4750 for JBSA-Randolph and 671-0252 for JBSA-Lackland.

# Age, gender pose no obstacles for BSOC student



Photo by Joel Martinez, photo illustration by Maggie Armstrong

Airman 1st Class Kiara, Basic Sensor Operator Course student, studies lesson materials Sept. 23 at the 558th Flying Training Squadron classroom.

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

*(Editor's note: For security reasons, the last names of remotely piloted aircraft operators have been withheld in this article.)*

Airman 1st Class Kiara is the only female in her class of seven that graduated from the 558th Flying Training Squadron's Basic Sensor Operator Course Oct. 3, but that's not the only thing that sets her apart from her classmates.

She's also the youngest – not that her gender or age matters to her.

"There aren't any challenges that I've experienced so far of being a female in a predominantly male career," she said. "The way I see it is, if one person can accomplish a specific task, then the next person, regardless of gender, can also accomplish the same task."

Master Sgt. Jesse, 558th FTS operations superintendent, said females are a minority in the five-year-old course, which prepares enlisted members for a career as sensor operators on remotely piloted aircraft crews. He estimates that

less than 10 percent of BSOC students are female.

However, he sees Kiara's greater challenge in her age relative to other students. Despite that age and experience differential, Kiara more than holds her own, maintaining a 96 average, Jesse said.

"The rest of her class are prior service who are cross training into this career field," he said. "This is her first job in the Air Force."

Last year, Kiara was still in high school, but she was already intent on a military career – but not the active-duty route that her father, a retired Air Force master sergeant, followed.

"I always wanted to join the military, but I wasn't ready to be an active-duty member yet," she said. "I was introduced to an Air National Guard recruiter, and it went from there."

"At first, my dad wanted me to follow in his footsteps of going active duty, but once he learned that I preferred the National Guard, he was proud of me and excited that I chose to better my life by joining

See **STUDENT P11**

# 560th FTS members visit Seguin airfield, view progress

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

Members of the 560th Flying Training Squadron visited Seguin Auxiliary Air Field Sept. 30 to view the progress that has been made to ready the air field for use.

Since May, crews from the 820th Rapid Engineers Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., have been working around the clock and are scheduled to finish paving the runway by Oct. 31.

"One of our biggest challenges has been turning an airfield that was built in 1941 into an airfield that can support modern, high-performance, aircraft like the T-38," Capt. Erich Kramer, 820th RED HORSE design engineer said.

So far, more than 3,000 trucks

have brought in 73,000 tons of gravel for the base course on the site. Base course is a layer of material in an asphalt roadway that is located directly under the surface layer, providing a foundation.

An estimated 44,000 tons of asphalt are expected to be poured by the team before construction is completed.

Once the airfield is completed at Seguin, there will be less air space congestion at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

"Pilot instructor students are able to get more training without interference from other aircraft," Maj. Matthew Reynolds, 12th Operations Support Squadron assistant director of operations, said. "Students can perform more flight patterns, more landings and common sight pictures that they will see at their future bases."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Capt. Erich Kramer (left), 820th Rapid Engineers Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers design engineer, and Lt. Col. Matthew Borgos, 560th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, view construction progress Sept. 30 at Seguin Auxiliary Air Field, Texas.

## Joint Base San Antonio Combined Federal Campaign Points of Contact

The 2014 Combined Federal Campaign continues through Oct. 31. The following is a list of points of contact for the 502nd Air Base Wing:

- 502nd Air Base Wing: Master Sgt. Thomas Shockley  
Alternates: Master Sgt. Kerry Thompson, Tech. Sgts. Mark Barnette and Angelica Guerrero, Staff Sgts. Christopher Sutherland, Gary Lund and Henry Roberson.
- 502nd Force Support Group: Maj. Steven Parker
- 802nd Force Support Squadron: Capt. Linda Aria
- 502nd Force Support Squadron: Chris Neubeck
- 502nd Installation Support Group: Michael Guzman
- 502nd Civil Engineering Squadron: Joseph McCullough
- 502nd Communication Squadron: Staff Sgt. Rodney Hill
- 502nd Operations Support Squadron: Staff Sgt. Kerry Prado
- 502nd Security Forces and Logistic Support Group:  
Master Sgt. Peter Esparza
- 902nd Security Forces Squadron: Master Sgt. Orlando Bowman
- 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron: Tech. Sgt. Joan Dixon-Scott

## Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

### JBSA-Randolph Main Gate closure

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Main Gate will be closed during Columbus Day weekend from 6 a.m. Saturday through 9 p.m. Monday. The West Gate will remain open to allow 24-hour entry during this time. The Main Gate will resume normal operations after 9 p.m. Monday.

### Professional Enhancement Seminar

A two-day interactive Airmen Professional Enhancement Seminar takes place Wednesday and Thursday at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Gaylor Professional Development Center, building 66. The course is aimed at Airmen who have completed their career development courses and First Term Airmen Center program, but have yet to complete Airman Leadership School. Through this event, students gain the opportunity to learn and interact with leaders and Airmen from other career fields, in order to expand career growth and knowledge of the Air Force.

For registration information, contact Staff Sgt. Stephanie DeLong at 652-4848 or Master Sgt. Sanelle Romero at 652-2525.

### NCO professional development seminar

A professional development seminar takes place 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 23-24 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Medina Annex, building 147. The course is for all JBSA NCOs and introduces them to sister and joint-service performance reporting, award writing, leadership and physical fitness standards.

For registration information, call Master Sgt. Donnie Pleasant at 977-2073 or Senior Master Sgt. Jason Thompson at 977-6228.

### Veteran's Day concert

The USAF Band of the West will feature its concert band 7 p.m. Nov. 11 at the Majestic Theatre, 224 E. Houston Street in San Antonio. The concert is free and open to the public. Ticket holders will be let in at 6 p.m. and non-ticket holders will be able to enter at 6:45 p.m. For ticket information, call Staff. Sgt. Laura Kluga at 925-8763.

**STUDENT from P9**

the military,” Kiara said. “The advice he gave me was just to enjoy my time in the military and to make the most out of the opportunity I was afforded.”

Kiara enlisted seven days after she graduated from high school in 2013, but was not called to basic training until this year. She qualified for training as a sensor operator, a career field that appealed to her, and soon plunged into her studies as a BSOC student.

“BSOC is a six-week course that covers 221 hours and provides students with 10 Community College of the Air Force credits,” Jesse said. “They learn the basic fundamentals of how to do the job and then move on to a field training unit. Everything we do here is to help them when they get to FTU.”

He referred to the sensor operator field as “a unique job” that involves “a lot of multitasking and being able to get along with others.”

“It’s an imagery analyst, sensor operator and co-pilot all rolled into one,” Jesse said.

Staff Sgt. Mitchell, a BSOC instructor, said the job requires pride and dedication.

“You have to stay proficient,” he said. “It’s a complex system. It takes

a lot of study and initiative.”

BSOC helps prepare students for the complexity of the job through eight blocks of study, which focus on subjects ranging from the electromagnetic spectrum and radar to sensor optimization, target orientation and threat reduction. Students also learn about the psychological issues sensor operators face in a job that results in loss of life for others.

It’s an intensive course, Kiara has discovered.

“The most difficult aspect of BSOC would be the time you have to retain a great deal of information before you move on to another set of info,” she said.

But she’s thankful for a strong support system.

“The aspect I enjoy the most is being surrounded by people who share your same goal,” Kiara said. “My instructors and classmates are very motivating and offer tons of support during this journey.”

Her journey will continue when she moves into the FTU phase.

“What I’m looking forward to in my next phase of training is being more hands-on and actually learning my job,” Kiara said. “To actually be flying and working with a pilot will be very exciting.”

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Dowling, Joint Base San Antonio Airman Leadership School instructor, goes over the proper ways to write enlisted performance reports at an ALS session Sept. 24 at JBSA-Lackland.

Photo by Benjamin Faske



# ALS gives Airmen tools to become effective leaders

By Robert Goetz  
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Educational opportunities are plentiful in the Air Force, but one that is essential to the service's mission focuses on the development of Airmen's leadership qualities.

Airman Leadership School is a five-week-long college-level course that grooms staff sergeants and senior Airmen for the NCO ranks by giving them the tools to become effective first-line supervisors.

"We are setting the foundation for building future leaders," Tech. Sgt. Jamie Kienholz, Joint Base San Antonio ALS NCO in charge, said. "It's not about them, it's about the team – leading Airmen and being a good supervisor."

At JBSA, more than 500 students complete ALS each year, Kienholz said. The school conducts seven classes throughout the fiscal year at JBSA-Lackland Medina Annex and JBSA-Randolph; each class is divided into four or five flights, each with its own instructor. The most recent class started Sept. 17.

Staff sergeants are given top priority to attend ALS, followed by staff sergeant-selects, senior airmen with four years' time in grade and other senior airmen chosen by first sergeants, Master Sgt. John Chacon, JBSA-Randolph ALS commandant, said.

"We teach everything from communication skills and leadership lessons to standards of discipline and airman-ship," he said.

ALS, which is affiliated with the Community College of the Air Force, challenges students with a rigorous

program that covers 192 hours in 24 academic days, Kienholz said. Students also participate in physical training at the end of the class day three times a week.

"It definitely is intensive," she said. "But as soon as we get them, we give them everything they need to be good NCOs."

Time management is the students' greatest challenge, Chacon said.

"They're going from an operations environment to an academic environment," he said. "They have to balance the course with their social life and family life."

Students also have to sacrifice free time to absorb the material they're learning, Kienholz said.

"They have to have self-discipline to prioritize what's important," she said. "They don't have someone to tell them what to do; they have to motivate themselves."

"They have to read all their assigned material so they can discuss it," Kienholz said. "They also have homework and tests, so it's an academic-intensive course. Once someone falls behind, it's hard to play catch-up."

Going to class and studying each day doesn't leave students with much time to spare, Chacon said, but some find time for other worthwhile endeavors.

"Some students go above and beyond their course work by participating in community service projects," he said.

ALS gives students an opportunity for self-reflection by keeping a journal, writing essays and penning their own Professional Leadership Development Plan, Kienholz said.

"The PLDP allows students to determine how they

will improve in three to five years," she said. "It makes them set their own goals."

ALS also encourages students to develop their own leadership style and meet the challenges of being a leader, Chacon said.

"All the issues the Air Force is facing can be handled by first-line supervisors," he said. "We have to catch these problems as early as possible."

ALS recognizes the accomplishments of its top graduates with four awards.

The John L. Levitow Award, which is based on summative objective and performance evaluations as well as instructor and peer leadership points, is presented to the most distinguished graduate. The Distinguished Graduate Award is presented to students in the top 10 percent of the class.

Other awards are the Academic Achievement Award, which denotes excellence as a scholar, and the Commandant/Leadership Award, presented to the student who, in the commandant's judgment, made the most significant contribution to the success of the class.

Kienholz said she often hears the success stories of ALS graduates.

"That definitely puts into perspective why we do what we do," she said.

A former student who won the commandant's award said she re-enlisted and is now serving as an independent duty medical technician on the front lines.

"She said ALS was a huge impact on her career," Kienholz said. "It kept her going through hard times and now she's optimistic about her future. ALS helped her get to where she's at today."

## Rambler Fitness Center announces new hours of operation

April Baldwin, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center recreation assistant, displays a board showcasing new hours of operation at the Rambler Fitness Center. The change took effect Aug. 11. The new hours allow members who work on different schedules the opportunity to use the fitness center.

The new hours of operation are:  
 Monday-Thursday – 5 a.m. to midnight;  
 Friday – 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
 Saturday-Sunday – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
 Holidays – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Photo by Melissa Peterson



## Combat Breakfast

A 'Combat Breakfast,' in conjunction with Celebrate America's Military Week, is 7 a.m. Nov. 4 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Kendrick Enlisted Club to honor wounded service men and women who have defended American freedoms. The guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Peggy Poore, Air Force Personnel Center commander. Those interested in attending must reserve a seat by Oct. 30. Tickets are \$15 per person.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Johnny Martinez at 565-0438 or Senior Master Sgt. Jose Torres at 824-1134.

## 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.