

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MAY 26, 2017



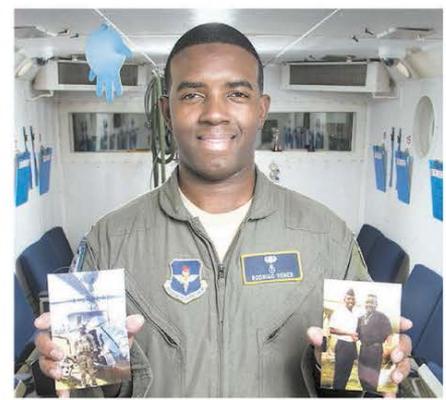
PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS JACQUELYN CHILDS

Navy and Air Force nurses and medical technicians recite the Florence Nightingale Pledge during the closing ceremony for National Nurses Week May 11 at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Navy, Air Force celebrate National Nurses Week *Page 8*



916th CB cases colors for inactivation
Page 10



Airman's journey comes full circle
Page 20

Start summer plans with safety in mind

By Maj. Gen. Andrew Mueller
AIR FORCE CHIEF OF SAFETY

Summer weather brings with it the opportunity to get out and enjoy outdoor activities with fellow Airmen, family and friends. There is nothing quite like a warm afternoon on the beach, around the neighborhood pool, or even in the back yard showcasing your favorite barbecue technique, to make some lasting memories. There is no question about it — summer is a lot of fun!

However, each year Airmen or members of their family are needlessly injured, or worse, while participating in outdoor activities. Over the past 10 years, an average of 50 Airmen and an equal number of family members died in off-duty activities such as boating, kayaking, swimming, biking, riding an ATV, and general aviation. Today, it's much more common to be injured or killed off duty than on duty.

How are most Airmen injured off duty?

Sports and Recreation: I'm surprised by the number of injuries incurred in common sports like basketball and softball. In 2016, the Air Force experienced 2,031 injuries in sports and recreation activities. Each year you get a little older and the speed and agility you had in high school don't magically reappear each summer. Take time to prepare for sports activity with a good routine of stretching and warm up. If you don't have the skills in a particular sport, practice or take a lesson or two — stay in shape throughout the year so you are ready to win when you engage in your favorite sport.

Water: Each summer a few Airmen die while boating, water skiing, scuba diving and, in more cases than one would expect, from simply watching waves during hurricanes. In most all cases, using a sound buddy system could have prevented these mishaps. Sometimes the calmness of the open ocean seems to challenge us to go beyond our limits, all in the

spirit of fun. Unfortunately, the open ocean is terribly unforgiving. So stick with a partner, know your limits and most importantly, use the safety gear that can save your life.

Fire and fireworks: Every year, Airmen are severely burned starting their barbecue or from open flames. Throwing flammable items, like fireworks, into fires has the same result every time ... it will burn, it will explode and someone will get hurt. Barbecues and fire pits are great for camping or enjoying the back yard, but both involve open flames. There's nothing better than a fresh-toasted marshmallow, for sure — but respect open flames. And, delight that gas barbecue.

On the Road: This one you do every day. It's driving. Our hazard exposure goes up during summer because we spend more time on the road. From road trips to theme parks, to visiting relatives in the next state or on a far coast, or the call of Route 66, the open road

calls to many military families. No lecture here, just encouragement. If you're a passenger, maintain your situational awareness of the road. Help the driver. All of our minds wander and that's deadly at 65 mph. And make a family rule of turning off the cell phone when you're the driver.

On Sept. 18, 2017, all Airmen will celebrate the 70th anniversary of our Air Force. Over the past seven decades, we've seen dramatic reductions in on- and off-duty fatalities. In the 1950s our Air Force experienced more than 1,000 fatalities per year. Today we're on a "Quest for Zero" when it comes to on- and off-duty fatalities. Zero fatalities from activities meant to be fun is easily achievable. But, it means that you must take personal responsibility for your safety, that of your family and your fellow Airmen. Use the same sound risk management techniques you use every day in on-duty activities to keep you, your family and fellow Airmen safe this summer.

JBSA LEGACY

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Mental health disorders have effective treatments

By Peter Holstein
SURGEON GENERAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mental health disorders are relatively common within civilian and military communities, but with early treatment, most can be effectively treated and patients can return to wellness.

While invisible wounds like post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury are often associated with military service, they are not the most common mental health problems service members face. Far more common are depression, anxiety, adjustment disorders

and other issues that have a serious effect on health.

"Mental health problems left unaddressed can be very disruptive to our lives," said Col. Steven Pflanz, Air Force Medical Support Agency director of psychological health. "They affect our quality of life day-to-day, and as they get worse, can impact our relationships with significant others, children, friends and work. That's a significant cost."

There is good news about treating these conditions, according to Pflanz.

"The evidence is that we're

actually very effective at treating mental health problems across the gamut of conditions. If you come into the clinic, you can expect that your problem will get identified, diagnosed and treated, and there's a very good chance that you will be healed."

Many service members cite concerns about their career as reasons why they avoid seeking mental health care. But Pflanz challenged the logic behind this way of thinking.

"People don't see the many people who get treated at our mental health clinics successful-

ly returned to duty," said Pflanz. "Patients who go to our clinics and get better don't often go back to their unit and talk about it."

Service members who avoid seeking treatment may actually be jeopardizing their health and career by staying silent.

"Untreated mental health problems are a far bigger risk to most careers than seeking treatment," said Pflanz. "If you have depression and don't get treated, it may get so severe that you can't function. Like with any medical problem, the longer you

HEALTH continues on 4

Joint Base San Antonio
HOTLINES

• Sexual Assault Hotline
210-808-SARC (7272)

• Domestic Abuse Hotline
210-367-1213

• DOD Safe Helpline
877-995-5247

• Suicide Prevention
800-273-TALK (8255)

• Duty Chaplain
210-221-9363

Air Force releases annual sexual assault report

From Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs and 502nd Air Base Wing SAPR office

Air Force reports of sexual assault increased slightly in fiscal year 2016, according to the service's annual report on sexual assault released in Washington, D.C., May 1.

The Air Force received 1,355 reports of sexual assault in FY16, compared to 1,312 in FY15.

Expressed as a percentage of the total Air Force population, including active duty, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and appropriated fund civilian employees, 0.21 percent of Airmen reported a sexual assault in FY16 compared to 0.20 percent in FY15 and 0.21 percent in FY14, illustrating a flat trend for annual reports over the last three years.

"We must continue to drive a culture of prevention while ensuring victims readily come forward and report sexual assault," said then-Acting Sec-

retary of the Air Force Lisa Disbrow. "We must also be an Air Force that provides the care and support victims need while holding offenders accountable."

Joint Base San Antonio is also seeing more reports, but local experts at the 502nd Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office believe that the rise in reports is demonstrating more trust by victims to come forward for support, not that sexual assault is happening more often. Trust in the sexual assault prevention and response program and processes, including the assignment of Special Victim's Counsel attorneys, help convince survivors to ask for help.

Prevention of sexual assault is the responsibility of every Airman, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein.

"It's about trust," Goldfein said. "The crime of sexual assault shatters trust and has a direct and negative impact on our capabilities as a warfighting force. In my opinion, there

is no such thing as a bystander in

this fight. We are all in. From the newest Airman to the most senior leader, every one of us has a responsibility to step forward and help stop sexual assault before it happens."

The results of the FY16 sexual assault report will be compared to data from the Defense Manpower Data Center's 2016 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey, which is conducted every other year for the active duty service branches. The Air Force uses the Workplace and Gender Relations Survey to measure the prevalence of sexual assault in the force.

JBSA is seeing less episodes of on installation work/training incidences, according to the 502nd SAPR Office. They believe the education of what constitutes a sexual assault and the push for respect among fellow military members, specifically in the work environment, may be causing this posi-

tive trend.

JBSA does experience a higher rate of restricted reports. The training environment adds to this effect. Many victims who are in training want support but don't want to chance delaying their training programs. There are precautions and case reviews with commanders to ensure delay in training does not occur, but some victims still prefer to remain restricted. Some may later choose to change their report to unrestricted when they feel more comfortable.

The Air Force compares prevalence rates to reporting rates to evaluate Airmen's confidence in coming forward to report sexual assault and receive support. Ideally, the service wants to eliminate the gap between prevalence of the crime and the number of reports received, then see both numbers come down to zero, said Col. Mark Ramsey, the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Operations

Director.

"Our goal is to eliminate sexual assault from the Air Force, period," Ramsey said. "We have leadership engaged at every echelon. We have provided our Airmen with both an awareness of this scourge in our ranks and the bystander intervention tools to engage. Our best chance of eradicating this crime from our Total Force is through strong leadership, being good wingmen, exercising the tools we've been given, and keeping true to our core values."

JBSA has one out of five reports coming from male victims. Once again, it is believed that with more education and understanding of SAPR to include more male survivors coming forward and sharing their story is a positive factor. Local SAPR officials said the military is moving in the right direction to eliminate the stigma for men who are victims of sexual assault to come forward for support.

JBSA libraries seek volunteers for summer program

By 2nd Lt. Matthew Jeffers

502D AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With summer fast approaching, parents are asking themselves, "Is there anything we can do to help our children stay engaged in reading and learning over the summer?"

The Joint Base San Antonio Library Summer Reading Program was designed for that very reason.

Wednesdays this summer, children of all ages participating in the Summer Reading Program can win prizes, meet animals, and team up to build forts, all while staying an active reader, logging reading minutes, and having family-friendly fun. These activities are happening across Joint Base San Antonio at the base libraries.

The program is Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics based and Department of Defense approved. This year's theme is "Reading by Design," with an emphasis on teamwork,

building and hands-on projects.

The goal of the program is to help kids avoid the "summer slide," the loss of knowledge children face over the summer break. Children who participate in the program will read at least six books over the summer. Those same children have been shown to score higher in reading and math when they return to school.

JBSA Libraries need volunteers to help with crafts, activities, projects and check-in. Anyone can register to volunteer at www.jbsalibraries.org.

Program events will take place every Wednesday at 10 a.m. starting June 7 (except on July 5, due to Independence Day holiday).

For more information and full schedule, visit www.jbsalibraries.org or call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Library at 210-221-4387, JBSA-Lackland Library at 210-671-2678, or JBSA-Randolph Library at 210-652-5578.



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Joint Base San Antonio Libraries need volunteers to help with crafts, activities, projects and checking people in. Anyone can register to volunteer at www.jbsalibraries.org.

Airman wins NAACP award

By Staff Sgt.

Marissa Garner

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A logistics planner from the 502nd Logistic Readiness Squadron was recently awarded the 2016 Air Education and Training Command NAACP Roy Wilkinson Renowned Service Award for volunteerism.

The award honors military members and Defense Department civilian employees who have supported the DOD mission or overseas contingency operations, or whose attributes epitomize the qualities and core values of their respective military service. For Tech. Sgt. Daniel Harrington, 502ndLRS, he hopes the award will shine a light on the importance of finding a



STAFF SGT. MARISSA GARNER
Tech. Sgt. Daniel Harrington
502nd Logistic Readiness Squadron

worthy cause to support and working to help make other's lives better.

"I think it's important to volunteer and give to the others because it is our duty as citizens," said Harrington, who has served in the Air Force for 16 years. "No matter what your background is, we have to take care of each other and our com-

munity. It goes to the heart of our Air Force core value of "Service before Self."

Throughout the year, Harrington co-chaired two African-American Cultural Association scholarship banquets, which provided scholarships to more than 12 high school students, planned events for the annual Joint Base San Antonio Women's History Month observance and coached several youth sports teams.

"I don't know what exact things that I did that made me stand out amongst the other nominees, but I really enjoyed working with the African American Heritage and Women's History Month Committees," he said. "Bringing awareness to

AWARD continues on 18

HEALTH

From page 2

wait to deal with it, the harder it is to fix."

Taking care of mental health is just as important as physical health. Like physical health, mental well-being can wear down over time if you don't attend to emotional needs.

"To do well on your PT

test, you have to work out regularly," said Pflanz. "To do well emotionally, you have to take care of yourself regularly. Find time for the things that are important, that bring meaning to your life, like time with family, leisure activities, hobbies, volunteering and rewarding work activities."

Air Force mental health providers are trained in

the latest clinical practice guidelines developed by the Defense Department and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"One alternative is suffering, the other is the chance of getting better," said Pflanz. "I encourage service members to come in."

For more information, visit www.airforcemedicine.af.mil.

JBSA doing its part to reduce ozone levels

By Mike Tilema

JBSA ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Starting in October, Bexar County will likely be designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, as a “non-attainment” county for ozone levels.

This means that an average value of ozone levels detected by monitoring stations around San Antonio has surpassed the regulatory limit imposed by the EPA, and region-wide action is needed to lower it.

Ozone — while necessary and helpful at higher altitudes to block harmful ultraviolet rays — is harmful to human, animal and vegetation health at the ground level. It is also one of the main causes of smog.

Currently, ozone is the only pollutant that affects attainment status for Bexar County and neighboring counties.

Ozone is created through various chemical reactions that

are emitted from paints, solvents and even vegetation; nitrogen oxides emitted from combustion processes, i.e. vehicle engines, generators, lawn mowers, etc.; and sunlight.

Because of this, ozone is likely to be generated in hot, still, summer months, when conditions for it to form are just right. People can check real-time ozone (and other pollutant) levels in the area at airnow.gov.

Joint Base San Antonio has already made great strides in bettering the air quality in the region. Since 2005, NOx emissions have been reduced by more than 90 percent by implementing best management practices at power production sites, and have steadily decreased VOC emissions by decreasing paint and solvent use and buying low-VOC chemicals. Additionally, JBSA has invested in hybrid government-operated vehicles, solar power

generation, Van-pool and enacted an anti-idling policy.

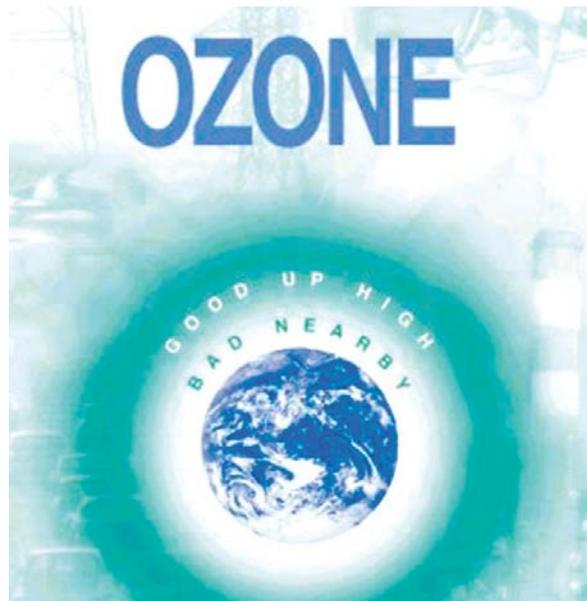
However, you too can help reduce ozone levels and get us on track towards attainment with some simple changes.

Since ozone is formed from compounds in vehicle exhaust, try carpooling with a coworker or riding a bike to work. Nu-Ride is an app that connects you with drivers wanting to carpool to nearby locations and offers you both coupons and prizes for being green.

Bring your lunch to work to avoid having to drive to a restaurant. That also saves money.

Ask your supervisor if teleworking is possible. That reduces vehicle emissions, and you can stay in your pajamas.

There are many more ways that each of us can help improve our air quality and overall health — additional tips can be found at aacog.com/377/Reducing-Ozone.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE EPA

Childhood vaccines are still important to prevent diseases

From BAMC Public Health Nursing

It is always better to prevent a disease than to treat it after it occurs.

Diseases that used to be common in this country and around the world, including polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, rotavirus and Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) can now be prevented by vaccination.

Thanks to a vaccine, one of the most terrible diseases in history — smallpox — no longer exists outside the laboratory. Over the years, vaccine have prevented countless cases of disease and saved millions of lives.

Immunity is the body's way of preventing disease. Children are born with an immune sys-

tem composed of cells, glands, organs and fluids located throughout the body.

The immune system recognizes germs that enter the body as “foreign invaders” and produces proteins called antibodies to fight them. Newborn babies are immune to many diseases because they have antibodies they got from their mothers. However, this immunity goes away during the first year of life.

The first time a child is infected with a specific antigen like the measles virus, the immune system produces antibodies designed to fight it.

This takes time, since the immune system usually can't work fast enough to prevent that antigen from causing disease, so that the child still gets sick. However, the immune system “remembers” that antigen. If it ever enters the body

again, even after many years, the immune system can produce antibodies fast enough to keep it from causing disease a second time. This protection is called immunity.

Vaccines contain the same antigens that cause diseases. For example, mumps vaccines contains mumps virus. But the antigens in vaccines are either killed or weakened to the point that they don't cause disease. However, they are strong enough to make the immune system produce antibodies that lead to immunity. In other words, a vaccine is safer substitute for a child's first exposure to a disease. The child gets protection without suffering from the actual diseases that vaccines prevent.

If an unvaccinated child is exposed to a disease germ, the child's body may not be strong

enough to fight the disease. Before vaccines, many children died from diseases that vaccines now prevent, such as whooping cough, measles, mumps and polio. Those germs exist today, but because babies are protected by vaccines, we don't see these diseases nearly as often.

Immunizing individual children also helps to protect the health of our community, especially those people who cannot be immunized, such as children who are too young to be vaccinated, those who can't receive certain vaccines for medical reasons and the small proportion of people who don't respond to a particular vaccine.

Vaccine-preventable diseases have a costly impact, resulting in doctor's visits, hospitalizations and premature deaths. Sick children can also cause parents to lose time from work.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diseases such as influenza and mumps have been reported in the United States. Since April 8, the CDC has reported 2,305 cases of mumps in the U.S.

To help stop the spread of vaccine-preventable disease such as influenza and the mumps, people should continue to get vaccinations on time, cover a cough or sneeze, wash hands frequently with soap and water and don't share food or drinks.

If you don't know your vaccination status, talk with your health care provider about getting vaccinations.

Brooke Army Medical Center Public Health Nursing will continue to collaborate with local health department to monitor the health of the community for communicable diseases.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Navy, Air Force celebrate Nurses Week

By Petty Officer 1st Class Jacquelyn Childs

NAVY METLC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Navy nurses from various commands and their Air Force counterparts wrapped up National Nurses Week with a closing ceremony at the Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston May 11.

National Nurses Week is held annually in May, and this year the American Nurses Association designated the theme “Nursing: the Balance of Mind, Body, and Spirit,” to collaborate with their previous announcement of 2017 as the “Year of the Healthy Nurse.”

One item highlighted was stress.

“One of the big things that happens when providers or anybody working with patients doesn’t control stress is burnout,” said Beverly Benson, Brooke Army Medical Center’s Army Public Health Nursing Health Promotion Department. “You see it happen a lot.”

The burnout nurses face led to the ANA’s decision to encourage nurses to focus on themselves for a change.

To commemorate Nurses Week, Navy and Air Force nurses in the San Antonio area got together for several health-focused activities from May 5-11. There were healthy meal gatherings, a one-mile walk and closing ceremonies that featured a health and wellness presen-



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS JACQUELYN CHILDS

tation by Benson, who regularly holds classes and seminars on the topic.

Benson’s advice for handling stress is, “Take each day in stride. Don’t try to do it all yourself. You’re a human being, not a robot. Take care of yourself.”

The week-long celebration was more than just a time to focus on health. It was also an opportunity for nurses to remember previous men and women who paved the path, including Florence Nightingale.

“It is really an honor for me to be here,” said Air Force Maj. Brenda Miazga, a METC instructor. “Each year it gets bigger and better and brighter.”

Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, commander, Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command, or NMETLC, was the senior Navy Nurse Corps officer present and took the opportunity to thank everyone who planned and participated in the week-long activities.

“I thank you for taking this week to celebrate who you are,” she said. “Be so proud of who you are and how you touch lives; because you do touch lives.”

Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle (left), commander of Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command, cuts a ceremonial cake with Staff Sgt. Kaitlyn Montenegro during a celebration for National Nurses Week May 11 at the Medical Education and Training Campus at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Youth center hosts police forum to promote positive interaction

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center members are hoping a discussion they had with police officers from the 502nd Security Forces Squadron in April will lead to further cooperation and understanding between youth and law enforcement.

On April 7, Lt. Steven Dews, 502nd SFS police supervisor, and Lt. Jerry Welge, 502nd SFS assistant operations officer, were invited to the youth center to answer questions from youth on the role of law enforcement officers in the post community

and their perspectives on interactions between youth and police.

The discussion was hosted by the youth center’s Keystone Club, which is part of the Boys & Girls Club program. The club provides leadership development activities for youth ages 14 to 18.

Melissa Medellin, youth center Keystone Club president, said the discussion was part of a national Keystone service project that encouraged dialogue between youth and police.

“The purpose of the project was to get a better understanding between youth and law enforcement,” Medellin said. “Also, to find out ways to build a

better relationship with law enforcement; finding out different things that we can do and they can do to make the relationship better. We thought it was a good idea to bring law enforcement in so we could answer a lot of those questions a lot of the youth had.”

Janet Rivera, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center program lead, said the 10 youths who participated in the project came up with 10 questions for the security forces officers.

She said the youth conducted the discussion in a professional, yet friendly, way with the police officers.

“I liked how they articulated their thoughts,” Rivera said. “I

liked the easygoing conversation.”

Akyma Bush, a Keystone Club member, said both Dews and Welge answered the youth’s questions in a professional and informative manner that was understandable.

“They were talking a lot about how they wanted to connect with the youth,” Bush said. “They were just letting us know that they are looking out for our best interests.”

Another Keystone Club member, Destinie’ Small, said the security forces officers she talked to are dedicated to protecting the public.

“I found it interesting that even though with all this stuff

that’s going on in the news,” Small said, “they still choose to get up at 3 a.m. and put on their uniform and go out there and save people.”

Dews said the youth asked him some very passionate questions, including issues concerning police brutality and the Black Lives Matter movement.

“I wanted to let them pick my brain and be candid with them and talk with them about whatever they were passionate about,” Dews said. “I hope they learned from us that we are approachable.”

Dews said he would like to have more discussions, forums and interactions with youth in the future.

916th Contracting Battalion leaders case colors

By Daniel Elkins

U.S. ARMY MISSION AND
INSTALLATION CONTRACTING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Leaders from the 916th Contracting Battalion cased their organizational colors marking the organization's inactivation during a ceremony May 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Casing the colors were Lt. Col. Robert Jarzyna and Sgt. Maj. Greg Dorsey.

"The battalion has certainly been a force multiplier for the Army over the last seven years. The battalion has deployed contracting teams to Africa, South and Central America, the Middle East and Iraq," said Jarzyna, who leaves for an assignment as a product manager with the Army Special Opera-



Lt. Col. Robert Jarzyna (left) and Sgt. Maj. Greg Dorsey (right) furl the 916th Contracting Battalion organizational colors as Soldiers from the unit's color guard look on during an inactivation ceremony May 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

DANIEL ELKINS

tions Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. "All of this would not have been possible without the great civilian contracting workforce. I'd like to commend the Soldiers and families of the 916th, their

hard work and commitment to the unit and each other has been unmatched."

Officiating the ceremony was Manuel Saenz, the deputy to the commander for the 410th Con-

tracting Support Brigade. Although significant, he stressed that the ceremony also allows the opportunity to sincerely thank the men and women of the 916th CBN who dedicated themselves and their service to providing steadfast contracting support.

"Since 2010, the 916th Contracting Battalion has supported countless missions and exercise. It is evident that the contracting support you provided supported the joint warfighter throughout the world," Saenz said. "We can never forget the legacy and tradition that was established by this battalion. The 916th Contracting Battalion has truly lived up to its motto. It has always been on point. It has always been victorious."

The 916th Contracting Battalion was activated Sept. 16, 2010,

as part of the 410th CSB at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to meet growing contingency and mission contracting needs. The battalion consists of five contracting teams at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. The 410th CSB supports U.S. Army South as well as Army and joint operations throughout the Southern Command area of responsibility.

The battalion's inactivation was at the direction of the Army Materiel Command in compliance with force structure changes approved by the secretary of the Army.

The battalion's remaining contracting teams on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston will report directly to the 410th CSB, while Soldiers not assigned to a team will relocate to new assignments in the coming months.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to host transition summit, job fair

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Veterans and service members seeking a career in the civilian sector can start registering for the Hiring Our Heroes transition summit and job fair to be held July 12-13 at the Sam Houston Community Center, building 1395, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The job summit and fair is free and open to all JBSA veterans and transitioning service members. The opening day schedule includes industry sector briefings for job seekers, starting at 9 a.m., and a networking reception for employers and job seekers at 5 p.m. On the second day, beginning at 9 a.m., there will be workshops, interactive forums and panel discussions for job seekers, military and distin-

guished speakers, and a job fair from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Hiring Our Heroes job summit and fair is being put on by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Transition Assistance Program, or TAP, at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Hiring Our Heroes is a program of the chamber foundation to help transitioning service members, veterans and military spouses to find employment opportunities. TAP provides counseling and job assistance to service members who are preparing to leave the military.

To register, go to <http://hiringourheroes.org/events>. For information on the summit and fair, call 210-221-9255.

Jon Vance, 802nd Force Support Squadron TAP transition services manager, said job seekers will get to meet local, state

and national employers from various industries and career fields and representatives from federal, state and local agencies. Industries and career fields represented at the summit and fair will include information technology, medical, cyber security, law enforcement and banking and finance.

In addition, Vance said job seekers will get to attend informative briefings and participate in panel discussions on topics related to career fields.

"They will hear from people from various industries and get relevant and current information on hiring trends, the job market, interviews, résumés, etc.," Vance said. "They will be prepared for what they will see in the civilian job market. It's a neat concept because you get to hear

from industry professionals and then prepare yourself to attend a job fair the next day. It's definitely an event you want to take the time to take advantage of."

Workshops for job seekers include how to utilize LinkedIn, the online business and employment focused social networking service, to search for a job and a demonstration of an online resume engine.

On the second day of the summit and fair, Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, will give the welcoming remarks. The keynote speaker will be Ruth Hughs, a commissioner with the Texas Workforce Commission.

Giving the closing remarks will be Col. Mark Lee, 502nd ABW and JBSA deputy commander. In his remarks,



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Lee, a transitioning service member himself, will give his perspectives on the transition process.

The first Hiring Our Heroes job summit and fair held at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston was in

December 2015. The event included 78 employers with 450 job seekers attending the fair, at which employers conducted 372 interviews and 83 job offers were made, according to Vance.



Joint Base San Antonio FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

June

Aquatics

Swim lessons Available

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center offers swim lessons June 5-16 and June 19-30, 9-9:45 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m. Cost is \$65 per session, per student. Swim level assessments are given on the first day of each session. Class rosters are posted after assessments are completed. Each class is limited to 40 students. For more information, call 221-4887.

Register for swim lessons at JBSA-Randolph in the Community Services Mall, building 895. Swim lessons are held Monday through Thursday for two weeks with morning and afternoon classes. The first class starts June 19. Cost for each session is \$65. Active-duty family members, E-1 through E-4, pay \$35 per session. For more information, call 652-5142, option 2.

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatic Center offers swim lessons for children 3 years and older. Each session has eight 40-minute lessons Tuesday through Friday. Classes begin every two weeks, students are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis until classes are full. Registration takes place every two weeks at the Skylark Aquatics Center. Cost for each session is \$65 per session. Active-duty family members, E-1 through E-4, pay \$35 per session. For more information, call 671-3780.

Patrons compete in a triathlon

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center for the first summer triathlon June 11, 7 a.m. The triathlon can be completed as an individual or as a relay and includes a 200-meter swim, 5-mile bike and 1-mile run. The cost is \$20 per person. The registration deadline is June 7. Packet pickup begins at 5:30 a.m. on race day. For more information, call 221-4887.

Bowling

Storm pro am league begins

Sign up at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center to join the United States Bowling Congress sanctioned Storm Pro Am League. The Tuesday evening league runs May 30 to Aug. 22. The Monday evening league runs June 5 to Aug. 21. Both leagues offer a chance to bowl with the Storm Professionals at JBSA-Lackland Aug. 26. Members receive a Storm bowling ball with drilling included. This league is open to USBC youth and adult bowlers. For more information, call 652-6271.

Coushatta casino league takes a trip

Join the Coushatta Casino League through the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center. The league runs June 2 to Aug. 3 and is a United States Bowling Congress sanctioned league that entitles each member to a trip to the Coushatta Casino

in Coushatta, La., Aug. 5-6. The trip includes round-trip bus transportation and hotel accommodations. Meals are not included. This league is open to USBC adult bowlers, 21 years and older. Register at the bowling center. For more information, call 652-6271.

WWE League begins

Participate in the World Wrestling Entertainment League June 5 to Aug. 21 with the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center. All participants in the WWE-themed bowling league receive a custom bowling ball with drilling included or a pin. Teams consist of mixed or matched gender, doubles or quads. Register at the bowling center. For more information, call 652-6271.

Doubles league for adult youth offered

Sign up at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center to join the twelve-week United States Bowling Congress sanctioned Adult Youth Doubles League. The league runs Wednesday evenings from June 7 to Aug. 23 and is open to USBC youth and adult bowlers. For more information, call 652-6271.

Father's Day celebrated with bowling specials

Dads bowl for \$1 a game at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center June 17, noon to 3 p.m. Rental shoes are regular price. For more information, call 671-1234.

Bring dads to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center June 18, 1-6 p.m., to bowl for free. This does not include rental shoes. Free games are limited to three per dad. The rest of the family can bowl at the special rate of \$2.50 per game with \$2.75 rental shoes. For more information, call 221-3683.

Bowling is free for dads at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center June 18, 1-6 p.m. Free games are limited to three per dad; rental shoes are not included. Other bowlers can bowl at the special Father's Day rate of \$2.75 per game with \$2.50 rental shoes. For more information, call 652-6271.

Youth bowlers can win a bike

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center gives away two bikes June 30. Youth, 18 years and younger, who bowl on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout June can enter to win. For more information, call 671-1234.

Clubs

Chef serves dinner specials

The chef at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club creates a special evening dining experience in the Mesquite dining room, 5-8 p.m., with satisfying menus for all. Cost is \$18.95 per person. June 2, the menu includes rib-eye steak with sautéed shrimp, baked potato, steamed broccoli spears,

salad and dessert. June 9, feast on New York strip steak with fried shrimp, Duchess potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad and dessert. The menu for June 16 is Texas T-bone steak with fried onion rings, seasoned steak fries, roasted corn on the cob, salad and dessert. Prime rib with burgundy au jus is served June 23 along with a twice baked potato, broccoli spears with Hollandaise sauce, salad and dessert. For more information, call 645-7034.

Nightlife entertainment offered at the club

Join the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club for entertainment throughout June.

Kick off the month at First Friday June 2, 5-8 p.m., at the Maverick Lounge featuring Doggin' Dave Productions. Enjoy bar food, drinks, friends and music.

Sing and enjoy entertainment at Karaoke Night in the Lone Star Lounge featuring DJ Dee Dee June 4 and 17, 8 p.m. to midnight.

DJs spin favorite tunes at Variety Night, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., in the Lone Star Lounge. DJs include DJ LJU June 2, DJ Tony Style on June 9 and 30, Doggin' Dave Productions June 16 and DJ J Rock on June 23.

Spend the evening reflecting over the month at Final Friday in the Maverick Lounge June 30, 5-8 p.m., with DJ LJU. Hang out on the patio or shoot some pool. For more information, call 645-7034.

Club hosts bingo events

Join JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club for Bingo Extravaganza June 5 and 19 with \$15,000 in total jackpots, a complimentary buffet at 5:30 p.m. and Early Bird bingo at 6 p.m. Members receive one ticket to the complimentary buffet with the purchase of a bingo machine.

Birthday Bingo is held June 13 in the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club. Birthday members receive one free machine, cake and champagne. This event is for Randolph club members only and ID and club card are required. For more information, call 652-3056.

Fathers are celebrated

Celebrate Father's Day early with a buffet at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club June 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$10.95 per person. The buffet includes Jack Daniels barbecue brisket, fried chicken, Cajun chicken, sausage and shrimp jambalaya with white steamed rice, build your own pulled pork sandwich, golden brown macaroni and cheese, garlic-whipped potatoes with brown gravy, yams with golden brown marshmallows, collard greens, okra gumbo, build your own salad bar and soup of the day. Desserts include bread pudding with bourbon sauce, strawberry shortcake, banana pudding with vanilla

JBSA FSS

wafers, key lime pie, double chocolate cake and more. For more information, call 645-7034.

Bring fathers to the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club for Father's Day Brunch June 18. Brunch is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and seating times are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dads and granddads can enter a drawing for club gift certificates. Entry forms are collected all day and winning names are drawn the following day. Cost is \$25 per adult member, \$13 per members' children, 6-12 years, \$27 per adult nonmember and \$15 per nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children 5 years and younger eat for free. Reservations are taken for parties of eight or more guests. For more information, call 658-7445.

Guests fly into the Auger

Join the party at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Auger Inn for "old school" camaraderie, free light refreshment and great music June 16, 5 p.m. Meet neighbors, folks from other squadrons and leadership. There is no cover to join the fun. For more information, call 658-7445.

Fathers and daughters dance

Join the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club for the annual father and daughter dinner and dance June 17, 5-9 p.m. This program is for girls 2-15 years. The evening includes a buffet for the girls with macaroni, chicken tenders, pizza and dessert. Fathers feast on prime rib, fries and green beans. Music and arts and crafts are provided. Cost for members is \$30 per couple and \$10 per additional daughter. Cost for nonmembers is \$40 per couple and \$15 per additional daughter. Make reservations now. No coupons are accepted and no refunds are available after June 14. For more information, call 658-7445.

Club appreciates members

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts Customer Appreciation Night in the Fiesta Ballroom June 27, 5-8 p.m., with entertainment provided by DJ LJU. The menu features a salad bar, beef brisket, barbecue smoked sausage, barbecue chicken, pork ribs, pinto beans, macaroni and cheese, whipped potatoes with brown gravy, green beans, corn on the cob, fresh fruit cups, peach cobbler with vanilla ice cream and bourbon bread pudding. Cost is \$12.50 per person. For more information, call 645-7034.

June birthdays are celebrated with a buffet

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club offers a complimentary buffet every month for members with birthdays in that month. Members with June birthdays are honored June 27. The buffet includes salad, two vegetables, two starches, two entrées, soup and birthday cake. This is free for birthday members. Cost is \$12 for members without a birthday in June, \$6 for members' children, 6-12 years, \$14 for nonmembers and \$8 for nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children 5 years and younger eat for free. For more information, call 658-7445.

Community Programs

Shawn Kjos is back at the Harlequin Theatre

Stop by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Harlequin Theatre June 2 to July 15 to view Shawn Kjos's eighteenth musical

revue. Kjos recently won six Alamo Theatre Arts Council awards for excellence in theatre including Best Direction of a Musical "London Calling" and "Those Oldies but Goodies," Best Costume Design, Best Supporting Actor in a Musical, Best Musical Arrangements and Musical of the Year for "Those Oldies but Goodies." This show is sponsored by Security Services Federal Credit Union. No Federal endorsement of sponsors intended. Make reservations today. Group rates are available. For more information, call 222-9694.

Equestrian Center

HorsemanSHIP camp offered for youth

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers a Youth HorsemanSHIP Camp, June 26 through Aug. 7, for children interested in caring for and riding horses. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Friday. The cost is \$275 per week. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit is required at the time of registration. Registration is ongoing and camps run weekly. For more information, call 224-7207.

Horseback riding lessons offered

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers horseback riding lessons for beginners and advance riders in both English and Western-style riding. Therapeutic riding lessons are also available and taught by certified instructors. Horses, saddles and tack for lessons are provided if needed. Patrons must be at least 7 years old. The cost is \$60 per hour for a private lesson, \$175 for five group lessons, \$225 for five semi-private lessons and \$250 for five private lessons. For more information, call 224-7207.

Trail Rides are for all ages

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers trail rides for patrons 7 years and older for \$30. Departures are at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays by appointment only. No experience is required. Adults must accompany children under 13 years. Riders must be at least 4 feet, 6 inches tall and weigh no more than 200 pounds. For more information, call 224-7207.

Pony rides available

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers parent-led pony rides Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for patrons 6 years and younger for \$10. Adults must accompany children and availability is on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, call 224-7207.

Fitness

Teams participate in relay run

Get a teammate and join the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center in the two-person team 10k relay run June 3, 7:30 a.m., at Eberle Park. The first team member must complete the 5k run route in order for the second member to tag off and start running the next 5k. This event is sponsored by Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 652-7263.

Basketball classic held

The JBSA-Lackland Medina Fitness Center hosts a Basketball Classic tournament June 10. The tournament is a three-on-three, single-elimination tournament with a three-point contest after half of the games are completed. Team rosters may have up to five players and must be submitted when registering. The first 12 teams to register by June 2 are

accepted. The three-point contest is open to the first eight players who register by June 2. Prizes are awarded to the top finishers of the tournament and the three-point contest. All participants must be valid Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 671-4525.

Participants have a dodging good time

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center hosts a dodgeball tournament June 10, 9 a.m. This tournament is free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. Register at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center by close of business June 2. For more information, call 221-1234.

Bench press contest offered

Competitors are invited to participate in a bench press contest throughout the day June 12-16 at JBSA-Lackland Medina Fitness Center. Staff members record the competitor's max weight with prizes going to the top finishers for both men's and women's categories at the end of the week. For more information, call 671-4525.

Patrons basketball skills are challenged

The JBSA-Lackland Kelly Fitness Center hosts an around the world basketball challenge June 13. Participants start at one end and shoot from five designated spots behind the three point line. Once the participant gets to the other end they make their way back around for a total of ten shots. Each shot is worth two points. The highest point total wins. Points are recorded throughout the day. For more information, call 925-4848.

TRX atomic push-up challenge held

Take one minute for a chance to win the Total Resistance Exercise Atomic Push-up Challenge at JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center June 13-15. Participants can compete at any time throughout the day and the Fitness Center Staff records the results. For more information, call 977-2353.

Racquetball tournament held

Participate in the singles racquetball tournament at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center June 17, 9:30 a.m. This event is free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. Deadline to register is close of business June 9. For more information, call 221-1234.

Golf

Golfers compete in a scramble

Golfers are invited to play in the monthly JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Warrior Four-Person Scramble June 2, with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers and includes green fee, golf cart, prize money and a social after the round. For more information, call 222-9386.

Summer camp available for junior golfers

The JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course offers Junior Golf Camp June 12-16. Cost is \$125 and includes golf clubs for participants to keep at the end of camp. If golf clubs are not needed, cost is \$50. Camp runs Monday through Thursday, 8-10:30 a.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The

first four days focus on chipping, putting and hitting and the final day includes pizza and a tournament. For more information, call 652-4653.

Father's Day brings a tournament

Start Father's Day at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course and play in the Father's Day Classic June 17 with tee times beginning at 8 a.m. Players in this individual stroke play tournament draw for a pro from the US Open. The entry fee is \$30 plus green fee and cart rental. For more information, call 671-3466.

Blind draw tournament leads to a winner

Participate in the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course US Open Blind Draw Tournament June 17. This is an individual, low-net, low-gross tournament and a Professional Golfers' Association pro from the US Open is drawn for players to combine scores with. Entry fee is \$10 plus green and cart fees. For more information, call 652-4653.

Parents golf with children

The JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course holds a parent and child tournament June 18, with noon to 1 p.m. tee times. The format is a two-person scramble. Lunch is served before the round and cost is \$25 for everything including green fees and cart rental. For more information, call 652-4653.

Couples' scramble held

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course hosts a couples' scramble June 25, 1 p.m. Come out to enjoy an afternoon on the golf course. The cost is \$30 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. The cost includes green fee, cart, prize fund and social after the event. For more information, call 222-9386.

Thursday is steak night

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course hosts Thursday Steak Nights. Take a break from the kitchen on Thursday and dine at the Green Side Grill. Dinner is served from 4-7 p.m., or until the steaks run out. Make reservations before noon on Thursday. Cost is \$15 per person. The meal includes steak, a potato, vegetables, a dinner roll, dessert and a fountain drink. For more information, call 671-2006.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Theme park tickets are here

Stop by any JBSA Information, Tickets and Travel for discount tickets to Six Flags, SeaWorld® and Schlitterbahn. For more information, call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston ITT at 808-1378, the JBSA-Lackland ITT at 671-7111 or the JBSA-Randolph ITT at 652-5142.

Discounted tickets for Texas attractions available

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Information, Tickets and Travel has discounted tickets to Texas attractions in Houston or Corpus Christi. Purchase discounted tickets to the Houston Space Center, Texas State Aquarium, U.S.S. Lexington or the Aransas Queen Casino Boat before heading out to the destination. For more information, call 808-1378.

Military & Family Readiness

Open forum for military spouses held

The Joint Spouses' Forum is open to Key Spouses and Mentors, Ombudsmen, Family Readiness Groups, Family Readiness Support Assistance and Family Program Advisors to network, discuss issues and more June 6, 11 a.m. to noon, at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. For more information, call 221-2418.

Parents prepare for baby

Active-duty expecting parents are invited to attend a Bundles for Babies workshop June 9, 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., to receive information on financial planning, support programs and parenting skills. To register, call the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center at 652-5321.

Service members review new retirement system

The new Blended Retirement System goes into effect Jan. 1, 2018. Service members are invited to attend a BRS 101 workshop June 19, 9-10 a.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. The workshop compares the differences of the new and old pension plan, and how it may affect service members. Unit trainings are available by request. To register, call 221-2705.

Workshop provides tips to help stretch money

Learn ways to live frugally, stretch a paycheck and develop a spending plan during the Stretching My Money workshop June 23, 1-2:30 p.m., at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center. To register, call 652-5321.

Hiring fair provides workforce solutions

The JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center hosts a Hiring Fair Preparation workshop June 26, 9-11 a.m., to help patrons prepare for a job-fair, prepare a résumé and more. On June 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., job seekers meet with over 30 different employers at the Arnold Hall Community Center. For more information, call 671-3722.

From Camo to the classroom workshop offered

Patrons interested in becoming a teacher for students in kindergarten through 12 grade are invited to attend a workshop June 29, 9-11:30 a.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center to meet with representatives from the Region 20 Education Service Center. To register, call 671-3722.

Outdoor Recreation

Concealed handgun license class offered

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center offers concealed handgun license classes June 3 and 17, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Successful completion of this class is required for a Texas CHL. To register for a class, visit <http://www.chlregistration.com>. Once on the website, select "register for class." Then select "Dan Willis-Leatherneck Arms." For more information, call 295-7577.

Patrons offered adventures

Active duty, Reservists, retirees and families are invited to join the JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation for two exciting adventures. Sky Diving in San Marcos offered Aug. 12. Cost is \$65 per person, 18 years or older. Zip Lining in Helotes offered June 24, July 22 and Nov. 18. The cost is \$20 per person, 13 years and older. Minimum weight must be 85 pounds and maximum weight is 275 pounds. The deadline to register for the adventures is one week prior to the event date. Fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. For more information, call 925-5533.

Archery takes on another dimension

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center hosts a three-dimensional archery competition June 24-25, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is 8-10 a.m. The Fun Shoot registration is 8-11 a.m. Fun shoot cost is \$5 for E1-E4, active duty or medically retired, \$15 per person for all others 13 years and older and youth 12 years and younger shoot for \$5. The competition fee is \$10 for E1-E4, active duty or medically retired and \$20 per person for all others 13 years and older. For more information, call 295-7577.

Range offers annual passes

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center offers annual passes for the Gun Range and Archery Range. Cost for the Gun Range is \$30 for E1-E4, active duty or medically retired and \$60 for all others. Cost for the Archery Range is \$20 for E1-E4, active duty or medically retired and \$40 for all others. The cost for an annual combination gun and archery pass is \$40 for E1-E4, active duty or medically retired and \$75 for all others. For more information, call 295-7577.

Annual passes help save money

Purchase an annual JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake pass for \$65 and receive access to both the Sunny and

Hancock Cove sides of the park with a vehicle and boat or trailer pass, valid for one year from the date of issue. Daily entry fee without an annual pass is \$7 per visit, per vehicle. For more information, call 1-800-280-3466.

Customers enjoy fishing

The JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake offers courtesy fishing piers. Bring a favorite pole or purchase equipment during business hours. Live bait is available in the country store. A Texas Parks and Wildlife fishing license can be purchased at the Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake. For more information, call 1-800-280-3466.

Youth and Children

Teen Summer camp begins at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs offers Teen Summer Camp June 5 to Aug. 18 for youth 13 years and older. Youth enjoy trips to Schlitterbahn, Landa park, ThinAir, state parks, colleges, museums and more. Youth Paint with a Twist and perform in a camp talent show. Breakfast, lunch and a snack are offered daily. Cost is \$130 per week or \$30 per day. For more information, call 221-3502.

Summer camps begin at JBSA-Lackland

Register teens for the JBSA-Lackland Teen Center's annual Poetry and Song Writers Camp. Camp runs June 5-9, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is for teens 13-18 years. Teens attend workshops on music writing and poetry facilitated by Grammy-nominated songwriter Steve Seskin and world renowned poet Jena "Poet for Hire". Cost is \$130 which includes lunch. For more information, call 671-2388.

British Soccer Camp hosted by the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs runs June 12-16, 8:30-11:30 a.m., for youth 6-16 years. The cost has been reduced to \$75 per participant. A mini soccer camp is offered 8:30-10 a.m., for children 4-5 years, at a cost of \$55 per participant. To register go to <https://www.challengersports.com>. Spaces are limited. For more information, call 671-2388.

The JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs offers a dance camp for teens, 13-18 years, July 9-15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants learn dance routines with a dance professional and by the end of the week perform for a dance video. The cost is \$130 per teen. Space is limited so register early. For more information, call 671-2388.

FitFamilies go kayaking

As part of the FitFamily initiative to get the entire family in shape, the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs offers a Father and Child Kayaking trip June 10. Start times to choose from are 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The trip starts at Espada Park and continues down the San Antonio River. The event is open to active-duty, Department of Defense and retired military personnel and dependents only. Participants must present their Active-Duty Military ID, DoD ID or Retiree ID on the day of the trip. The one-hour trip is guided by American Canoe Association Certified Kayak instructors. Go to <https://www.missionkayak.com/kayak-events.html> for details. For more information, call 671-2388.

Dairy Month is here

Celebrate Dairy Month with the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs June 10, 2-4 p.m., by making homemade hand-churned ice cream from Grandma's recipe. Ice cream sundaes are served. For more information, call 221-3502.

Teens discuss current issues

Youth, in 9th to 12th grade, are invited to participate in Teen Talk with JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs June 12 and 26, 11:30 a.m. Issues discussed include current topics such as peer pressure, college readiness, bullying and other relevant areas. For more information, call 221-3502.

Gifts are prepared for Father's Day

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs June 12-17, 3-6 p.m., to work on special gifts for dad. Make Father's Day gifts including a card and a special something like a picture and picture frame, keychain, coaster or a birdhouse. For more information, call 221-3502.

USO hosts teen night

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs June 16, 6-11 p.m., for a United Services Organization Teen Night. Enjoy great partnership with the downtown USO. This event is geared towards youth 14-18 years. The evening includes fun, exciting activities from computer games and movies to cooking class and more. Check with staff for permission slips and registration forms. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-4492.

Fathers and sons play ball and share doughnuts

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs hosts a father and son outing with doughnuts, basketball and fun to help celebrate Father's Day June 17, 10 a.m. This free breakfast is open to families with sons 5 years and older. Register at Youth Programs no later than June 14. For more information, call 652-2088.

Youth participate in instructional programs

Instructional lessons are offered at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Program for children, 6 months to 18 years. Instruction times vary per activity. Available classes include: Taekwondo, tumbling, piano, tennis, dance, ceramics and more. For more information, call 221-3382.

The JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs offers instructional programs for youth. Instruction times and cost varies by class. Available programs includes: dance classes, Karate, Tang Soo Do, guitar and piano. For more information, call 671-2388.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay current on Joint Base San Antonio 502d Force Support Squadron events, specials and daily activities.

<http://www.myjbsa-fss-mwr.com>



BAMC welcomes input to improve surgical care

From BAMC Public Affairs

As a high reliability organization focused on quality and safety, Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is continually searching for ways to improve the medical services provided to those entrusted to our care.

Last week, BAMC hosted a team of experts from U.S. Army Medical Command to identify further improvements in the sterilization workflow process.

This is the second team BAMC has invited over the past month to solicit feedback from outside the organization on all aspects of surgical care.

BAMC leaders are taking a number of steps to ensure high quality surgical care for our patients. An initial step taken in mid-April was to temporarily reduce the number of elective surgical procedures while leaders actively evaluated staffing, equipment, space and processes to ensure the facility is ready to meet the surgical demand.

The staff assistance visit team includes experts in clinical engineering,



COURTESY GRAPHIC

sterile processing, infection prevention and control, and quality, as well as a master's prepared expert in human systems integration and human factors, who examines how people and

technology are interfacing.

"The staff assistance visit team brings expertise not present within our hospital such as a human factors engineer," explained Air Force Col. Kimberly Pietszak, deputy to the commander for quality and safety. "It also provides us an opportunity to have an outside evaluation of our processes to ensure an unbiased review."

The team will provide feedback within a few days of the visit. "We will take their suggestions and track those items within our governance structure until they have been completed," said Army Col. Douglas Soderdahl, deputy commander for surgical services. "Leaders are engaged and will ensure the processes are improved and sustained."

Inviting experts in is just one way BAMC is demonstrating its commitment to being an HRO. "One of the HRO principles is deference to expertise," Pietszak said. "This allows us to learn from true experts in the field."

A backlog in sterilized surgical instrument sets was a key indicator that

BAMC needed to temporarily reduce the number of surgical procedures. Surgeons need multiple sets on hand to ensure they are equipped for everything from routine surgeries to complex trauma cases that may require a vast number of surgical instruments. BAMC is in the process of bringing on more personnel to support the sterilization process and will gradually increase surgical procedures in the coming weeks.

Increased surgeries hone medical skills needed on the battlefield, which is a key component to medical readiness, noted Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, BAMC commanding general.

"We are working diligently to get back to full operating capacity so we can continue to care for our patients and generate readiness," Johnson said. "Our unwavering commitment is to our patients' care. That drives everything we do."

Patients whose surgeries have been delayed and have questions should contact their surgeon, surgical clinic or primary care manager.

LATE AMEDDC&S PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HONORED



MICHAEL GRAY

The late Phillip Reidingger was honored with a tree planting May 11 at the Warrior & Family Support Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Known as "Mr. Fort Sam Houston," Phil, as he liked to be called, was the longest serving public affairs officer at the installation before his death in September 2016. He was instrumental in efforts to counter encroachments at JBSA-Camp Bullis and was a tireless advocate for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Army Medicine and the WFSC. Phil was also known as the "Voice of Fort Sam Houston" for the many ceremonies and events he narrated throughout the years.



COURTESY PHOTO

A Soldier gives a thumbs-up during the U.S. Army North-led celebration of the Army's birthday in 2013 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston roads to close in June for Army Birthday Run

From U.S. Army North Public Affairs

The U.S. Army at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston celebrates its 242nd birthday with a run starting at 5:30 a.m. June 9. The run necessitates the closure of roads on the installation.

Starting at 5:15 a.m., Stanley Road, Dickman Road (which becomes Artillery Post Road), Worth Road, and Liscum Road will be closed to all vehicles. To facilitate cross-post travel, Soldiers will be stationed at traffic control points at N. New Braunfels Ave., Reynolds Road, Henry T. Allen Road and Schofield Road.

The Army Birthday Run begins and ends at

the post flagpole. The formation heads east on Stanley Road toward Worth Road. The formation then turns left on Worth Road to Dickman Road. After turning left on Dickman Road, the run continues west to Liscum Road where it makes another left.

At the intersection of Liscum and Stanley Roads, the formation turns left onto Stanley Road and heads east again. The course makes a final left onto Henry T. Allen Road and makes a final left onto the parade field.

Roads will open once the entire formation has passed an intersection. Drivers should use Wilson Way as an alternate route.

LACKLAND

433rd AES conducts water survival training

By Benjamin Faske
433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen from the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron were surprised by the cool water temperature as they walked into Canyon Lake to begin their triannual water survival training May 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Canyon Lake.

The Airmen began their training by using MK-124 Marine Signal Flares. The flares are used to identify the location of personnel during rescue and recovery missions during night or day operations. They then put on life preservers and walked into the water. Once in the water, everyone linked arms and swam as a group to a 25-man life raft stationed 100 yards offshore. One by one the Airmen lifted themselves into the raft.

Tech. Sgt. Justin Samaniego,

433rd Operations Support Squadron survival evasion resistance and escape instructor, reviewed open water survival techniques that could help with rescue efforts in the event of a water crash landing.

"This is a good opportunity to get some hands on experience with the flares and raft, so if they ever need to use it they will know how everything works in the event of a worst case scenario," said Samaniego. "We discussed how to survive in the life raft for prolonged periods of time, how to procure food and water, including some of the medical concerns they might see in a recovery situation."

The training concluded with everyone re-entering the water from the life raft and swimming to shore. The triannual training is required for all aircrew Air Force Specialty Codes in the Air Force.



BENJAMIN FASKE

Lt. Col. Debbie Deja, 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron director of operations, emerges from the water after finishing life raft training May 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Canyon Lake.

Airman recognized for contributions to Mackay Trophy aircrew

By Lori A. Bultman
25TH AIR FORCE

Every year, an aircrew is selected for the Clarence Mackay Trophy, which is presented to an outstanding aircrew for accomplishing the most meritorious flight of the year. This year, an AC-130U aircrew from Air Force Special Operations Command was recognized with the honor. The team included one of 25th Air Force's outstanding Airmen.

"We're incredibly proud of our Airmen and their contributions to the AFSOC mission," said Col. Michael Stevenson, 363rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing

commander.

Staff Sgt. David, 25th Intelligence Squadron direct support operator, is assigned to AFSOC for missions, but he belongs to the 25th Intelligence Squadron and 363rd ISRW.

The entire crew was recognized for their valiant effort during a particular mission.

The award citation reads, "While providing armed over watch for an American and Afghan ground force, the friendly team was caught in a deadly ambush by a large insurgent force. The friendlies were engaged by small arms, heavy machine gun and grenade fire from multiple defensive fighting positions. The

crew of the AC-130U provided close air support to the friendly ground force with several guns to allow the ground force the freedom to maneuver and provide care for friendly casualties.

"In order to protect the ground team from enemy personnel, the crew... expertly employed a gun at an unprecedented 12 meters from the friendly personnel. Due to the outstanding airmanship and bravery under extremely challenging circumstances, the crew destroyed ten defensive fighting positions, multiple enemy personnel and three enemy technical vehicles, in order to save the lives of many

friendly Special Operations Forces personnel who would have otherwise perished in the enemy ambush."

The wing's commander is appreciative of David and all Airmen who work on Special Operations missions.

"The mission of the aircraft and crew that day was incredibly important to the friendly ground forces in danger of being overrun," Stevenson said.

"Our Airman's mission on that aircraft is to provide threat warning to the crews and the supported teams on the ground," he said. "Operating into daylight put further pressure on David, given his important responsibilities, and we

are incredibly proud of the contributions he made to the award-winning mission."

David's squadron commander echoed his sentiments.

"We are extremely honored at the recognition of the crew that included one of our own 25 IS Airmen," said Lt. Col. Matthew Norton, 25th Intelligence Squadron commander. "David was on his first combat sortie the night the crew was called. His actions that night lived up to a proud heritage of Direct Support Operators."

The Mackay Trophy is awarded for the "most meritorious flight of the year" by an Air Force person, persons or organization.

AWARD

From page 4

the contributions made by these two groups in government and in particular, the Department of Defense, was amazing," Harrington said.

Balancing professional, personal and volunteering duties is not an easy feat, but family support makes it possible, according to Harrington's wife, Master Sgt. Enden Harrington, 326th Training Squadron military training instructor.

"I'm very proud of him," said Master Sgt. Harrington, who also volunteers frequently in committees around JBSA and the local San Antonio area. "He does many different things in the community such as coaching youth sports, which sets a good example for our children. We want them to understand that they are blessed and everyone is not as fortunate as they are, and it is important for them to learn how to give and sacrifice for someone

else."

For Tech. Sgt. Harrington, volunteering is a part of his duty as an Airman and a person and he encourages others to find something to dedicate their time, whether it be volunteering to do something new and outside of their comfort zone or using their talents to assist someone else.

"I think people should get involved in something that they are passionate about," he said. If passion is not there it becomes work, but if passion is there it involves a sense of pride and duty."

In the future, Harrington looks forward to possibly coaching more frequently and working with youth to encourage them to set and achieve goals beyond their current circumstances.

"I really enjoy coaching and working with the youth," he said. "I've looked into the 'Troops to Teachers' program and that is something I'm really considering pursuing once I take the uniform off."

Updated AtHoc alert system delivers urgent news directly to subscribers

By Capt. Jennifer Nentwig

AETC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Education and Training Command Airmen and their families have always been able to get information on the latest happenings at their location on their work computer, but now they can receive immediate notifications through an improved AtHoc alert system and the new AtHoc mobile app available in the Apple App and Google Play Stores.

AtHoc is an emergency mass notification system that sends alerts to AETC members' computers and cellphones. Every military and civilian in AETC is required to maintain an up-to-date AtHoc profile, including an after-hours contact number, a work email address, and — if he or



COURTESY GRAPHIC

she has a duty cellphone — a duty cell contact number.

"We need all AETC members to sign up for AtHoc alert messages via SMS text messaging and download the mobile application," said Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander. "Rapidly and effectively alerting AETC Airmen and our families about emergency situations is a critical component to responding to these events and ensuring the safety of our people."

By subscribing for cellphone calls or text messages through the newly updated, more efficient AtHoc alert system, users will receive notifications regarding a select category of emergency events that require immediate communication. Examples of situations in which are alerts sent to personal devices include active shooter events, hurricane conditions, tornado watches

and warnings, security incidents, base closures and delayed reporting.

"The command post can only send certain alerts to your personal device, and they aren't always the same as the messages that pop up on your computer," said Chief Master Sgt. John Morris Jr., AETC Command Post functional manager.

A listing of devices the installation command post sends alerts to for each respective incident is in Air Force Instruction 10-206 table 8.1, "EMNS Targeting Chart," and can be viewed via the "HELP — Air Force Network" link in AtHoc.

"I'd say only one or two AtHoc alert messages go out to cellphones in an average month," Morris said.

Members of the command post and the communications community are putting together a campaign to ensure all AETC members know

about AtHoc, reaching out through channels such as newcomers' orientations, base newspapers, websites and emails from leadership. Based on the AETC requirements for individuals' contact information, the team is striving to ensure 100 percent of AETC members have updated their profiles.

The AtHoc alert system is an opt-in system, so members must manually update their profiles with their contact information to receive notifications on personal devices.

To ensure their AtHoc profiles are complete and up-to-date, AETC members can go to the purple AtHoc icon at the bottom right corner of their desktop screens and right-click on the icon. Next, select "Update My Info," select a CAC certification and view the AtHoc self-service page. From there, users can update their personal information, their device information and their unit-specific information.

For answers to frequently asked questions, click on the AtHoc icon and go to the "Help" page. For additional information or technical assistance, contact your installation Communication Focal Point.

802nd SFS Defenders face daily security challenges at gates

By **Jeremy Gerlach**
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As an 802nd Security Forces Squadron Defender at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Senior Airman Jorge Rivera has seen just about every type of visitor pass through the installation gates.

On a given Thursday or Friday morning, more than 7,000 people who pass through one of the JBSA-Lackland gates come to see either the traditional coin ceremony, or the basic military training graduation. Most are friendly people. Some even offer Rivera tacos or water to drink during the hotter summer months.

However, the visitors Rivera wants to see less of are the gate runners.

“For all those thousands of people that pass through, all it takes is one person to come through illegally for it to be a really bad day,” Rivera said. “And I’ve lost count of the number of these gate runners. It’s a big problem for us.”

Rivera, who was recently honored as Air Education and Training Command Flight Level Airman of the Year, went to Capitol Hill, Washington D.C. earlier this month with Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, to testify about gate security issues. Rivera explained how the 802nd SFS addresses the dangers posed by gate runners. He also answered tough questions about how protective measures need to be improved.

“Our security forces are already doing a great job,” Rivera said. “But



HAROLD CHINA

Senior Airman Fredric Bantin, 902nd Security Forces Squadron entry controller, checks a registration and inspection sticker March 25 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

there’s always ways we can get better.”

Defenders like Rivera form the first line of defense at the installation gates against unpermitted motorists and violators on foot. While Rivera can stop most of these trespassers by simply motioning the driver to stop, he also has mounted barriers that reinforce his security position. Beyond these measures, Rivera has tough, iron pop-up barriers, at his disposal that take less than two seconds to activate.

“Even if a guy makes it inside past the barriers, we’re prepared for that,” he added.

If a car makes it through the gate, Rivera and his fellow Defenders always have a car designated as a “chase vehicle” sitting next to the gate, ready to pursue any gate runner.

“We’ll follow them wherever we need to go and apprehend them safely,” said Rivera. “Some of them might just be lost.”

While Rivera believes

from a guard as waving them through the gate. The gate runners that really stick out to Rivera are the ones who know what they are doing is wrong.

“Some individuals might be trying to flee external law enforcement by hiding on base, where they might think they have immunity — even though they don’t,” Rivera said. “Some people might have been barred from the installation or had their credentials revoked. Others might be drunk or under the influence of drugs.”

Rivera recalled a firsthand experience with these types of gate runners back in 2015.

One routine day, Rivera noticed a vehicle push past the guards at the Valley Hi gate at JBSA-Lackland. The vehicle

swerving erratically sped off toward the intersection of Carswell and Truemper, just a few hundred feet from 802nd SFS headquarters. Once detained by security forces, Rivera’s team discovered the man was under the influence of narcotics.

“He barely avoided a huge crash,” Rivera said. “We were lucky that we

were able to stop him before someone got hurt.”

Rivera handed the civilian over to Bexar County Sheriff’s Office for criminal proceedings.

That sort of teamwork between security forces and external law enforcement is commonplace, Rivera continued,

SECURITY continues on 23

RANDOLPH

Eye-opening: Airmen's journey comes full circle

By Ashley Palacios
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

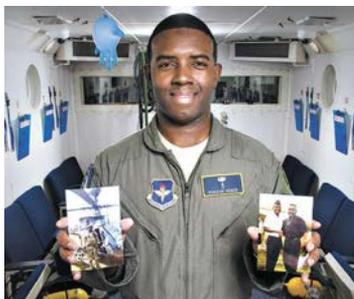
Second Lieutenant Rodrigo Vener, 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology Training Unit physiologist, always knew he wanted to join the military. In high school, he joined a Marines Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, and when he graduated he signed up to be a Navy linguist.

But Vener's dad was growing worried about his son who was getting himself into trouble.

"At this point in my life, I wasn't hanging out with the right people," Vener said. "It was June and I wasn't scheduled to leave with the Navy until October."

Vener's dad issued an ultimatum that would forever change his son's life.

"He told me I had better make some changes in my life or I was going to end up in jail or dead like a lot of people I knew at the time," said Vener. "He told me to go talk to the Air Force and see if they could take me sooner."



SEAN WORRELL
Second Lt. Rodrigo Vener, 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology Training Unit physiologist, holds photos of himself and his father May 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph

A few days later, Vener found himself on a bus headed from his home in Houston to Lackland Air Force Base for Basic Military Training. When he arrived, he was allowed a 20 second phone call to his family. Vener received some shocking news on that phone call.

Thinking he would never get into

college, Vener only applied to one school. During their short time on the phone, Vener's dad told him he had been accepted into college with a full scholarship but had thrown the letter away since Vener was now at BMT and couldn't accept the scholarship.

"I never regretted my choice to join the Air Force or even the fact that I wasn't able to take that full scholarship because it probably would have given me more opportunity to fall back into my old lifestyle," Vener said.

After BMT, Vener went to the now closed Brooks Air Force Base for the Aerospace Physiology Apprenticeship Course where he learned an important lesson about his new job as an aerospace technician.

"When I showed up, I had two gold teeth from my old days and the chief saw my gold teeth from down the hallway and called me over," Vener said.

The chief proceeded to explain what Vener's new job was all about.

"He told me, 'You're going to be a platform instructor. You're going to be in front of all sorts of distinguished visitors

like senators, congressmen and dignitaries. We can't have you standing in front of these people representing Aerospace Physiology with all that gold in your mouth."

After this conversation, Vener found himself on his way to the dental clinic where they promptly removed his gold teeth.

"They used a chisel and a hammer and took them out," Vener said. "It was a real eye-opener about what this career field is and does, and I was going to do whatever it took to graduate."

Vener spent seven years in Aerospace Physiology before he heard about Tactical Air Control Party Specialists while deployed to Balad, Iraq in 2004.

After asking an Airman with an M-9 what his job was, Vener learned TACPs deployed with the Army and called in airstrikes.

"I still didn't fully understand what that meant, but I knew that Airman was different," Vener said. "Suddenly, I was noticing TACPs everywhere on that

JOURNEY continues on 23

Randolph Field ISD bus driver honored as best in state

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When Randolph Field Independent School District bus driver Eddie Luna was asked to attend the school board's March 30 session, he believed he was going to be honored as the district's nominee for a bus driver of the year award.

The honor was much more than that.

Luna, a retired Air Force technical sergeant now in his second year as a RFISD bus driver, learned he had been named the 2016-17 Statewide Bus Driver of the Year by the Property Casualty Alliance of

Texas.

"It was definitely a surprise," he said. "I was speechless. I had no idea I would be selected as the statewide bus driver of the year."

Luna was awarded a \$1,000 check, a personalized jacket, a commendation and an engraved plaque from PCAT; the school district received a plaque commemorating Luna's achievement.

Lance Johnson, RFISD superintendent, called Luna "a highly-motivated individual who takes pride in everything he does."

"His integrity as a person and his expertise as a driver make us proud to have him as

part of our team," he said. "His character and attitude are a great example for us all. We are blessed to have him work with our students."

Luna, who has also served as a bus driver for the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD, was one of 72 bus drivers honored by PCAT as their district's bus driver of the year. PCAT also recognized seven regional bus drivers of the year. The statewide award is given to just one bus driver.

"It's a pretty big accomplishment," said Brandon Casey, RFISD director of transportation. "We competed with much larger school districts that have a lot more drivers. For a small

district like ours, that's really something."

Casey, who wrote the nomination letter for Luna, said he learned of his bus driver's award in late January, so he had to keep his secret for two months. He said Luna's military background keeps him attuned to the ups and downs of his students.

"He knows what these kids are going through when their parents are deployed," Casey said.

Luna, who is married and has two children and five grandchildren, said he believes in safety first. He also said he is fortunate to work at the RFISD.

"It's great to get up in the

morning and want to come to work because of who you work for and who you work with," he said.

Luna drives morning, midday and afternoon bus runs, serving primarily special-needs students. He said he tries to cheer the children up when he sees they need a little extra support.

"Being ex-military, I know what it was like for my children when I was deployed," he said. "For these students, you have to have that special understanding because their parents may be overseas in harm's way. It really hits me in the heart because I've been there before."

Rock returns to commission future AF leaders

By Senior Airman
Stormy Archer
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Living without fear was the central theme as Lt. Gen. Anthony Rock, Secretary of the Air Force Inspector General, spoke to 17 commissioning lieutenants May 12 at the University of Texas San Antonio.

Rock, a San Antonio native, graduated from UTSA 35 years ago and joined the Air Force through Officer Training School at the Medina Annex of Lackland Air Force Base.

"Why we serve and why we come into the Air Force is foundational to our beliefs; it is part of our values," he said.

"The most important value is the purpose of our service, and that is to keep America safe. Frankly, I like to focus on the freedom from fear. Of all the freedoms we have, our Air Force is focused on that and making sure Americans, our society and its citizens can live free from fear."



SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER /

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Anthony Rock, Secretary of the Air Force Inspector General, speaks during a commissioning ceremony May 12 at the University of Texas San Antonio. Rock is a San Antonio native who graduated from UTSA 35 years ago.

During his visit to San Antonio, Rock also acted as the Basic Military Training graduation reviewing official for 606 new enlisted recruits.

"There is no greater mission than growing the future generation of military leaders," Rock said. "For me, this week has been an opportunity to give

back. To be here 35 years after my graduation and take these 17 young officers and hundreds of junior enlisted Airmen as they begin their careers ... it gets back to the purpose of my service and purpose of our mission to help grow our replacements."

All these Airmen have the

privilege of officially joining the Air Force during the year of its 70th anniversary.

"Entering during our 70th anniversary is a milestone in itself because it is one of the youngest services and has been changing the game since [its creation]," said 2nd Lt. Jahvon Holmes. "I think it is great to be part of the history being made by the Air Force every day."

Holmes, also a native of San Antonio who will enter Undergraduate Pilot Training, is following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and sisters who share military ties.

"The military is a family tradition," Holmes said. "Most of my family has served in the Army; I wanted to be the first to do something different, so I became an Air Force officer. This experience has helped me grow as a person and prepared to lead with a servant mentality."

Being generations apart, Rock noted there were both differences and similarities

between his graduating class and the group of Airmen before him today.

"These new Airmen are so much better than we were during our time," Rock stated. "I look at these BMT graduates and young cadets and I think of their qualifications as they step into their Air Force careers. They are so much more technologically savvy. They have an intellectual curiosity and appetite to learn. These are the right kind of leaders who will help defend America in a new era, in a new kind of warfare."

"The thing we have in common between our generations is our drive," he said. "We have the same hunger and desire to become part of something bigger than ourselves and serve our nation. As I approach the end of my career, I realize I have a lot less time ahead of me than I have behind. I have two grandsons I am counting on these Airmen to keep free from fear — I am confident they will do so."

SAVE THE DATE: JBSA TO HOLD AIR FORCE BALL SEPT. 29

Mark your calendars to attend this year's Air Force Ball, which will be held Sept. 29 as part of the celebration of the service's 70th birthday. This year's theme is "American Airmen: Breaking barriers since 1947." The event will be held at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort in San Antonio and will feature retired Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, the former 20th Chief of Staff of the Air Force, as the guest speaker. Formal invitations to the event will be coming out soon. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., with the dinner and other festivities kicking off at 7 p.m. Other events associated with the Air Force Ball include a golf tournament June 29 at the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course. For more information, call the Randolph Oaks Golf Course at 210-652-4653.

SAVE THE DATE!
2VAB JBSA

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
70th
AMERICAN AIRMEN
BREAKING BARRIERS SINCE 1947

**Joint Base San Antonio
Air Force Ball**

Guest Speaker
General Mark A. Welsh, III
The 20th Chief of Staff of the Air Force

Friday, September 29, 2017
Hyatt Hill Country Resort
San Antonio, Texas 78251
1800 - Social ~ 1900 - Dinner

Formal Invitation to follow

COURTESY GRAPHIC

SECURITY

From page 19

and is one of the best tools his team has at their disposal.

“If we can tell if a bad guy is incoming, that makes it easier for us to be ready,” Rivera noted.

Still, that sort of task can be tricky, even with outside intel — as one man proved later in 2016.

After robbing a local convenience store, one man barreled onto JBSA-Lackland after being pursued to the edge of base by BCSO.

“The guy got out of his car and started running through the base,” Rivera said. “So catching him

seemed simple enough, but he suddenly changed out of his clothes, so the description the county gave us was no longer useful.”

Rivera’s team was able to catch the individual, thanks to a tactic that Rivera opted to keep confidential for security reasons.

For all this success, the 802nd SFS Defenders could always use a few boosts, Rivera noted.

“I’d like to see our gates have a better image, since we’re the first thing visitors see coming toward base,” Rivera said. “Our canopies are run down in some areas, and we could always use better gear and equip-

ment, better chase vehicles.”

Despite its challenges, life at the gate has some brighter moments, too.

“There are some people who take the time to talk to you, to thank you, and to make your life easier,” Rivera said. “We see thousands of people so this might be hard to believe but we really do remember faces. There are some people who’ve given us water when it’s 100 degrees outside.”

These little victories can go a long way.

“Someone even brought us tacos one time,” Rivera said, “and we’re always happy to see that guy pull up to the gate.”

JOURNEY

From page 20

deployment, which planted the seeds in my mind about the career field.”

After returning from his deployment, Vener, now a Staff Sgt., realized it was time to make some career changes that would allow him more opportunities to develop professionally.

“I applied for TACP on a Monday and Thursday I got a phone call telling me I could either take an available TACP position or don’t take the position and get my re-enlistment denied,” Vener said. “I took the TACP position and was told to be there Monday morning.”

As the sole Air Force representative to the Army unit he deployed with, Vener found his career change to be another eye-opening experience.

“It was definitely eye-opening to go from the medical side where the focus is patient care and safety to the operational side of the house where the focus is the mission and combat,” Vener said.

Vener brought all the mentorship and lessons learned from his Aerospace Physiology days to the TACP community, but after seven and a half years, Vener was ready to start a family.

“I wanted to start a family and wanted to ensure my family would have what they needed,” Vener said.

Vener knew he had accomplished as much as he could in the position and rank he was in as a Tech. Sgt., but he wanted new challenges to continue growing and influencing other Airmen. After completing his degree in Health care Administration, Vener commissioned in March 2016 as a 2nd Lt. and went back to Aerospace Physiology.

“I’ve done the things I’ve wanted to do for me, and now I’m focusing on growing Airmen,” Vener said.

Vener feels his career has finally come full circle in many ways.

“It can be difficult for people to understand how what they do in their ‘support function’ influences the operational

mission,” Vener said. “Having experience in both a support and operational role has helped me understand how everyone has a vital role in Air Force mission readiness.”

When reflecting on his decision to join the Air Force, Vener again focuses on the people who have shaped his Air Force career.

“The Air Force alone did not change my life, the people who took time to invest in me made my success and changed my life,” Vener said. “The most valuable asset in any organization will always be its people.”

Vener also has some advice for Airmen embarking on a new chapter in their lives.

“Your circumstances don’t define who you are or who you will become, rather, it’s what you decide to make of your circumstances and do with your experiences that matters,” Vener said. “It’s important to take all of your experience and skills with you as you move forward, only then can things truly come full circle.”