

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 22, 2019



PHOTO BY STEVE ELLIOTT

A trio of Air Force Airmen make their way along Salado Creek in kayaks, helping clear out a year's worth of accumulated debris at the ninth annual Joint Base San Antonio Basura Bash Feb. 16 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's Salado Creek Park.

JBSA members clean up during Basura Bash

Page 9



ARSOUTH hosts Conference of the American Armies

Page 8



149th MDG, 149th FSS, Texas National Guard's 6th CERFP participate in response training exercise

Page 19

Social media impostors: awareness, defense

By Tech. Sgt. Sam King

HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Clicking on your favorite social media app, you notice you've got a new friend request. The request is from you. The profile picture is of you. The name is yours. Is this a prank? Have you been hacked? What just happened?

In the current environment of social media saturation and identity theft, this type of situation has happened.

The new threat of cloned or impostor social media accounts is a current priority concern for operations security personnel.

According to Air Force Reserve Command Intelligence, open sources report that cyber actors and terrorists use multiple fake personas on social media to target Defense Department personnel.

The simple process of creating phony online social media accounts and profiles provides impostors the ability to gather information on everything from weapons systems, troop deployments and other sensitive material by reviewing postings, pictures and friend requests of DoD personnel.

"Operations Security should always play a big role in how social media is used," said Erick Holloway, AFRC OPSEC program manager. "Everyone must remain cautious when posting personal and work-related information."

Impostors can use these "friendly" and seemingly harmless personas to interact with unknowing targets to subtly extract



COURTESY GRAPHIC

information, including the identities of friends, work locations, relatives and associates who may also be targeted.

That gathered information can target those without social media accounts, because impostors may steal personal identification attributes and set up accounts using that information and the victim's likeness.

Impostors can be clever, using different user names and spellings that are close to correct and personal or official photos.

Here are some warning signs of a scam or common identifiers associated with impostor accounts:

- ▶▶ The account is not registered.
- ▶▶ The account has very few photos.
- ▶▶ Photos are very new and reflect the same date range.
- ▶▶ The account has very few followers and comments.
- ▶▶ Official accounts will not send friend requests.
- ▶▶ The account name and photos do not

match.

▶▶ There are obvious grammatical or spelling errors.

▶▶ Key information is missing.

OPSEC officials highly recommend not accepting friend requests from individuals not personally known.

They also recommend frequently searching one's own name using a search engine. When searching, include like or close spellings since impostors often use similar spellings to remain undetected. Officials also encourage privacy settings at maximum levels on all computers, phones and tablets that contain personal data.

"It's each member's responsibility to ensure external website applications that are enabled on personal devices only have access to noncritical information," Holloway said.

For more information on social media privacy settings check out <https://identity.texas.edu/everyone/how-to-manage-your-social-media-privacy-settings>.

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Joint Base San Antonio
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing
and JBSA Commander

BRIG. GEN.
LAURA L. LENDERMAN

502nd ABW/JBSA
Public Affairs Director

TODD G. WHITE

502nd ABW/JBSA
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JET FABARA

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JBSA LEGACY
ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE
EN COMMUNITIES
P.O. BOX 2171

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78297
210-250-2052

Airmen asked to participate in health-related survey

From Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs

Airmen are encouraged to participate in the online Health Related Behaviors Survey that concludes Feb. 28.

The Department of Defense asked the independent, non-profit RAND Corporation to design, field, and analyze the confidential web-based survey. Westat, the survey subcontractor, will assist with data collection. Service members were randomly selected to complete a confidential health survey via the internet. The HRBS has been conducted approximately every three years since 1980 and is used to measure the health-related behaviors and lifestyles of military personnel that have the potential to impact readiness.

The survey is confidential to protect

service members' privacy. This means that DOD, the services, and the service member's chain of command will never know who has completed the survey. RAND and Westat will never provide DOD with survey responses linked to names, other personal identifiers or military records. These procedures are in place to encourage service members to participate in the survey without fear that anyone will match answers back to names.

"This health survey is important to the DOD and the services, and I strongly encourage you to participate," said Thomas McCaffery, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. "We use data from this survey to improve education, training, treatment, and counseling to support the services and optimize individual and overall health status and

fitness."

For those asked to participate, a secure email invitation was sent, including several follow-up reminders by mail and email to complete the survey. The survey takes approximately 20-25 minutes to complete and service members are asked to be as candid as possible when responding. The survey can be completed using a government computer during duty hours or a home computer with internet access. Participants may also use a smartphone or tablet to take the survey. As in past years, a summary report with the survey results will be posted to the DOD website as soon as the final report is ready.

The results of the previous survey, which was conducted in 2015, are available at <https://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/hrbs.html>.

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Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman
502D AIR BASE WING AND
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

Feedback Fridays is a weekly forum that aims to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Personnel Issues

Q. I work across the street from the smaller BX on the training side of Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and the Starbucks there is always great. The employees are always in a great mood; they remember us and our drinks; they're just awesome! I wanted to know why they can't have a tip jar? They do a lot and I'm sure they do have good benefits, but having a tip jar would be awesome. Thanks!

A. Thank you very much for recognizing the outstanding employees at our local Starbucks. We spoke with AAFES, who operates the Starbucks at JBSA-Lackland and all of the fast food chains on each installation and the Exchange does not want to compel patrons to increase the monies paid for their purchase with the display of a tip jar.

Again, your recognition of the outstanding service is appreciated and has been relayed to the Exchange leadership for proper recognition. The Exchange encourages feedback on service levels through interaction with store management and through our on-line customer comment program available at Shopmyexchange.com

Q. Why isn't the flex schedule offered across Joint Base San Antonio? It's a money saver and morale builder.

A. Thank you for your question. JBSA offers flexible as well as other forms of alternative work schedules, or AWS. Supervisors must consider many variables when determining work schedules that are good for morale and are also conducive to meeting mission needs.

While there are benefits to flexible

schedules, they can create challenges that are counterproductive in some organizations, depending on the type of work performed. Employees are encouraged to work with their chain of command on the possibility of implementing an AWS within their unit.

For additional information on this topic, please contact your servicing Civilian Personnel Employee-Management Relations section.

Q. Is there a practical way for reimbursement in driving personal vehicles weekly between our operating locations?

A. Thank you for asking! Our 502nd Comptroller Squadron developed a local Joint Base San Antonio Instruction (JBSA 65-101) that outlines the procedures for local travel reimbursement. We encourage all JBSA employees to work with their supervisors to determine the need for POV travel for official business and to seek proper reimbursement. If you

have any questions, please contact our FMF Flight Commander 1st Lt. Sarah Garcia at 210-671-2597.

Installation & Facilities

Q. Would it be possible to get an online reservation system for the cabins at the Joint Base San Antonio Recreation Park at Canyon Lake? What about last minute discounts?

A. Excellent question regarding JBSA-Canyon Lake! The JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake staff have coordinated with base-level IT personnel and the developers of the software used by Department of Defense Outdoor Recreation programs in an effort to offer online reservation capability to guests which we hope to have available in the near future.

There are several technical/online security issues involved and our team is working through each of them now. While we continue to work to offer online reservations, please contact our Canyon Lake Call Center at 830-226-5357 to make reservations.

The park is currently offering various promotions and specials advertised through the JBSA Today publication and the 502nd Force Support Squadron website. I strongly encourage you to visit our unique relaxation destination at JBSA-Canyon Lake.

Q. Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph both have tracks located indoors for running or walking. When will JBSA-Lackland have the same capability?

A. Thanks for your interest in an indoor running/walking track at JBSA-Lackland. Unfortunately, due to size, age and infrastructure challenges, the addition of an indoor track would not be a structurally/financially viable option at any of the six fitness centers.

That said, our 502nd Force Support Squadron team identified a new fitness center in the JBSA-Lackland area plan and if we receive funding for it, we'll work to ensure the design includes an indoor running/walking track.



Electrical safety: don't have a shocking experience

By Ricardo S. Campos

502ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR

The concept that the electrical system in your home or office will operate without failure is what the mainstream of people take for granted. This is a true statement due to our electrical power grid.

But then again, what if you enter a room flip the light switch and instantaneously smell something burning? What are your actions at this point and time?

Using electrical appliances extension cords, light bulbs and other equipment is easy, but safety tips should be encompassed in household rules and daily behavior expectations for members of the family. A simple prevention measure can be effective solutions, because it just takes one mistake to trigger an electrical fire.

Appliances are an essential part of every household, from a simple electric clock to the microwave oven. Follow these safety tips to keep appliances operating safely:

- ▶ Any appliance you purchase should be approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or another reputable consumer laboratory.
- ▶ Unplug unused appliances and stow cords safely out of reach of pets, young children and away from hazardous

situations.

- ▶ Appliances that generate heat, such as clocks, televisions and computer monitors, should be monitored for excessive heat. Do not drape clothes, toys or other items over warm appliances.
- ▶ Always follow appliance instructions carefully. Do not attempt amateur repairs or upgrades.
- ▶ Keep all electrical appliances away from water such as sinks, bathtubs, pools or overhead vents that may drip.
- ▶ Do not operate any electrical appliance with wet hands or while standing in water.
- ▶ Keep clothes, curtains, toys and other potentially combustible materials away from radiators, space heaters, heating vents and other heat sources.

To increase the range of electrical outlets, many homeowners use extension cords for their electrical appliances. To help keep cords in good condition for safe operation follow these safety tips:

- ▶ Before each use check cords for frays, cracks or kinks, including power tool cords, holiday lights and extension cords.
- ▶ Cords should never be used for anything other than their intended purpose.
- ▶ Cords should be firmly plugged into outlets. If the cord is loose and can pull out easily, choose a different, snugger

outlet.

- ▶ Never staple or nail cords in position.
- ▶ Cords should not be placed beneath rugs where they can become a trip hazard or where frays will not be noticeable. In addition, covering a cord will prevent it from keeping as cool.
- ▶ Do not make modifications to a cord's plug at any time. Do not clip off the third prong or attempt to file down a wider prong to fit in a different outlet.
- ▶ Extension cords are a temporary solution only and their use should be minimized whenever possible.
- ▶ Use the proper weight and length of extension cord for the appropriate task. Be sure the cord is rated for indoor or outdoor use, whichever is required.
- ▶ When unplugging a cord, pull on the cord at the outlet rather than tug on the cord itself.

When an electrical short or spark does happen, it is vital to understand what to do to prevent or put out an electrical fire to keep the damage to a minimum and devastation from spreading. You should, of course, call 911 or other appropriate emergency services immediately in case of electrical injury or fire.

The United States Fire Administration, or USFA, of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, offers a number of

tips to for preventing electrical fires:

- ▶ Do not allow children to play in proximity to small or large electric appliances.
- ▶ Exchange any tools that put off even mild electric shocks.
- ▶ Exchange any light switches that have a tendency to flicker.
- ▶ Exchange any light switches that are hot to the touch.
- ▶ Do not overload extension cords, sockets and plugs. Do not "daisy chain"!
- ▶ Do not ever force a three-prong plug into a two-receptacle socket.
- ▶ Recognize where fuse boxes and circuit breakers are located, as well as how to properly operate them.
- ▶ Have a professional certified electrician make electrical repairs.

For more information about fire, burn and scalding prevention visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at <http://www.nfpa.org/education>, the United States Fire Administration website at <http://www.usfa.gov/prevention/>, the Federal Emergency Management Agency website at <http://www.fema.gov> or contact the fire prevention offices at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-2727, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2921, or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6915.

New Army app provides mobile access to HR, pay records

By Maj. Lee Baklarz

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army has released a new human resources mobile application for the Integrated Personnel and Pay System — Army (IPPS-A) that allows Soldiers to access their personnel records using a mobile phone or tablet.

IPPS-A is the Army's next generation human resources and pay system that revolutionizes the way the Army does business and brings the Total Force into the digital age.

"Soldiers expect to be part of a 21st century organization with

technology comparable to what they see in their app stores every day," said Col. Gregory Johnson, IPPS-A's Functional Division Chief. "This app allows them to accomplish routine tasks that previously required an in-person trip to a G1/S1 shop."

The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, or TRADOC, Mobile Team completed the screening process and approval of the IPPS-A Mobile App Jan. 18.

The app was made available to Pennsylvania, Virginia, and D.C. Army National Guard Soldiers in February, and will be released to remaining states

and territories according to the 2019 Release 2 fielding timeline.

The app provides Soldiers with the flexibility to operate on the move and is secured over a commercial network for Soldiers, commanders and human resources professionals. IPPS-A's mobile capabilities provide all Soldiers access to their Army personnel record without requiring a common access card, or CAC, for authentication.

With the same level of sophistication that secure banking and personal service apps have today, Soldiers can submit help inquiries, request updates to their record, and

monitor the status of their personnel actions from the palm of their hand.

Adding to this ease of use, Commanders and HR professionals can access their elevated roles by using the app's CAC authentication option, allowing them to review and approve transactions without being tied down to their desk or work station. Gone are the days of packing work computers and folders of paperwork into your travel or go-home bag.

The Army is providing a level of transparency and access to Soldier records and personnel actions like never before. Through the app, self-service

transactions — including trouble tickets — are automated, paper-free and trackable from initiation to approval.

"By providing one comprehensive record, mobile capabilities, minimized paperwork and reducing in-person appointments, IPPS-A will maximize the potential of the Army's greatest asset — the Soldier — to enhance Army readiness," Johnson said.

Moving forward, IPPS-A will rely heavily on user feedback to make improvements to the mobile app that the Total Force will use.

'The Wall That Heals' makes local stop Feb. 28-March 3

By Steve Elliott

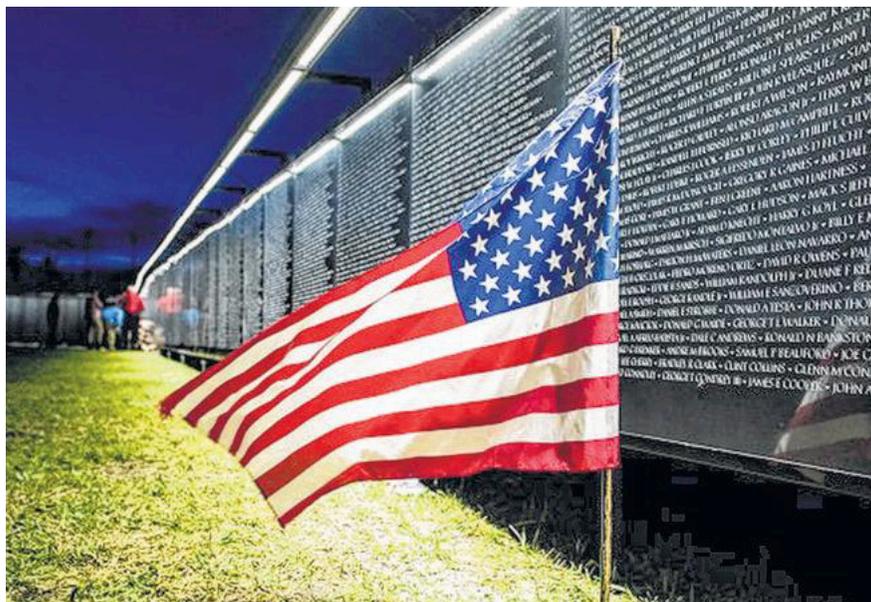
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Daughters of the American Revolution's Alamo Chapter hosts "The Wall That Heals," a traveling representation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Feb. 28 through March 3. The cemetery is located at 1520 Harry Wurzbach Road, near the Wurzbach Entry Control Point at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The new "Wall That Heals" exhibit features a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and a mobile education center that gives visitors a better understanding of the legacy of the Wall and educates about the impact of the Vietnam War. A video about the display can be viewed at <http://www.vvmf.org/2019-twth-tour#TWTHvideo-lightbox>.

The original Vietnam Veterans Memorial stands in Washington, D.C., as a symbol of America's honor and recognition of the men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam War. Inscribed on the black granite walls are the names of more than 58,000 men and women who gave their lives or remain missing. The memorial is dedicated to honor the courage, sacrifice and devotion to duty and country of all who answered the call to serve during one of the most divisive wars in U.S. history.

Bringing "The Wall That Heals" home to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the Memorial to exist once more among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings, according to the wall's website. The traveling exhibit provides thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with



DLG PHOTOGRAPHY

Like the original memorial, "The Wall That Heals" is erected in a chevron shape and visitors can do name rubbings of individual service members' names. The replica is constructed of Avonite, a synthetic granite, and its 140 numbered panels are supported by an aluminum frame. Machine engraving of the more than 58,000 names along with modern LED lighting provide readability day and night.

the prospect of facing the original wall to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

On Veterans Day 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund unveiled a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States. Since its dedication, "The Wall That Heals" has been displayed at nearly 600 communities throughout the nation, spreading the Memorial's healing legacy to millions.

San Antonio is the first stop on a tour which will take "The Wall That Heals" to 34 communities throughout the United States in 2019, ending in Columbia, Mississippi, in November.

The replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high

at its tallest point. Visitors experience it rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of the original wall in Washington, D.C.

Like the original memorial, "The Wall That Heals" is erected in a chevron shape and visitors can do name rubbings of individual service member's names. The replica is constructed of Avonite, a synthetic granite, and its 140 numbered panels are supported by an aluminum frame. Machine engraving of the more than 58,000 names along with modern LED lighting provide readability day and night.

As on the original wall, the names on "The Wall That Heals" are listed by day of casualty. Beginning at the center/apex, the names start on the East Wall (right-hand side) working their way out to the end of that wing, picking up

again at the far end of the West Wall (left-hand side) and working their way back in to the center/apex, joining the beginning and end of the conflict at the center.

The 53-foot trailer that carries "The Wall That Heals" transforms to become a mobile Education Center. The exterior of the trailer features a timeline of "The War and The Wall" and provides additional information about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Additional exhibits give visitors a better understanding of the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the collection of items left at the wall.

Displays include:

- ▶▶ Hometown Heroes — Photos of service members on The Wall who list their home of record from the local area. The photos are part of the effort to put a face to every name on The Wall and for the Wall of Faces.
- ▶▶ Map of Vietnam.

The original Vietnam Veterans Memorial stands in Washington, D.C., as a symbol of America's honor and recognition of the men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam War. Inscribed on the black granite walls are the names of more than 58,000 men and women who gave their lives or remain missing.

- ▶▶ In Memory Honor Roll — Photos of local Vietnam veterans honored through VVMF's In Memory program which honors veterans who returned home and later died of Vietnam-related illnesses.
- ▶▶ A display of items representative of those left at The Wall in Washington, D.C. in remembrance of those on The Wall.
- ▶▶ Digital kiosk allows visitors to search for names using VVMF's Wall of Faces.
- ▶▶ Two paper directories allow for names to be found alphabetically.
- ▶▶ The Gold Star Bike — Donated to VVMF by the American Gold Star Mothers in 2012, the bike is a soft tail custom Harley-Davidson that pays tribute to the mothers who lost sons to the Vietnam War.

Volunteers can sign up for a shift to be a volunteer either during the day or overnight from Feb. 27 to March 3 at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2632073/false#/invitation>.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

ARSOUTH hosts Conference of the American Armies

By Sgt. Ashley Dotson

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army South hosted the Conference of the American Armies-specialized conference on military support to civilian authorities to counter threat networks from Feb. 5-7 Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

“Countering threat networks has to be a team effort,” said conference president Maj. Gen. Mark Stammer, U.S. Army South commanding general, after welcoming delegates from 18 different countries to San Antonio. “During this conference, we will propose several practical initiatives that will make us more interoperable in this fight. With your help, I know that we can make these products into something that will truly benefit all of our armies and our interagency partners.”

“This specialized conference is part of a two-year cycle that this year is ran by the Dominican Republic and at the conclusion of the cycle the results of this and the other specialized conferences will be presented to the army



SGT. ASHLEY DOTSON

commanders of the CAA for their approval in November in the Dominican Republic,” said Robert Pike, U.S. Army Liaison Officer to the CAA. “To defeat any network, it takes a lot of partners. A network of networks is best. We need to

include all of our interagency partners when we are planning and executing counter threat network operations.”

Pike said the main objective of the conference is to create a CAA guide to countering threat networks. This guide

U.S. Army South hosted the Conference of American Armies Specialized Conference on Military Support to Civilian Authorities to Counter Threat Networks at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston from Feb. 4-8. This conference allowed the partnered nations to work together as a team to develop a guide for countering threat networks.

will be based on U.S. doctrine, but the intent is to make it acceptable for all the partnered nations to improve interoperability by creating common themes and terminology in three languages he said. The guide will be translated into Spanish, Portuguese and English.

“This conference gives us the opportunity to come together and get the input from all of the partnered nations,” Pike said. “One of the great things about CAA is that the U.S. is just one of the 26 members so this allows us to come together and work together on this topic. We also develop stronger relationships among the members of the CAA armies.”

Pike said that the team will work on refining the products that come out of the conference and then it will be presented to the Dominican Republic in Aug. where it will be refined and finalized.

“I am very grateful for your valuable collaboration during this conference,” Stammer said, as he concluded the conference. “I believe that together we have started to create some great products that will help all of us to work together to defeat these threat networks.”

IMCOM to realign under Army Materiel Command

From Army News Service

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command will realign as a major subordinate command under the Army Materiel Command by March 1 in an effort to enhance readiness across Army installations, officials announced Feb. 8.

“The Army is implementing aggressive reforms to free-up resources for readiness and modernization efforts and to improve overall efficiency,” said Brig. Gen. Omar Jones, the Army’s chief of public affairs.

Headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, IMCOM was created in 2002 to

integrate and deliver base support to enable readiness for a globally-responsive Army.

IMCOM’s 50,000-strong workforce will remain at their current locations, and no positions will be physically relocated or eliminated during the transition, officials said.

If a review later determines certain positions should be relocated or eliminated, no changes will occur until the incumbent either decides to leave the organization or is properly reassigned, they added.

AMC, a four-star command, currently performs installation support for depots, ammunition plants and other facilities. It

provides service functions from management of installation power-projection platforms to installation contracting services.

The upcoming realignment will consolidate base operations and other similar support functions as well as leverage existing Army expertise in logistics, sustainment and services, officials said.

The move is one of several ongoing management and headquarters reforms to ensure the Army is efficient and prioritizes resources to readiness and modernization — the service’s top priorities.

Last summer, for instance, the Army stood up the Army Futures Command to combine

efforts on tackling modernization. The new four-star command represented the most significant Army reorganization effort since 1973.

Then in December, AFC took command of the Army Capabilities Integration Center, which was renamed the Futures and Concepts Center that is tasked to study and prepare the Army for future warfare.

Last month the Army’s Research, Development and Engineering Command, or RDECOM, came under Futures Command and was renamed Combat Capabilities Development Command.

In the latest transition, IMCOM directorates will

initially remain functionally aligned with their supported Army commands and Army service component commands.

AMC and IMCOM leadership will then conduct an assessment to ensure all IMCOM directorates are best aligned to effectively support senior commanders, officials said.

Realignment under one command, along with continued oversight by the Army secretary, will also increase advocacy within the Army for installation requirements.

“This transition establishes unity of command and effort on our installations, improves the readiness of our Soldiers and formations, and strengthens the well-being of our Soldiers, civilians and families,” Jones said.

SPRING CLEANING



PHOTOS BY STEVE ELLIOTT

It was definitely a joint service effort as hundreds of Joint Base San Antonio Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen cleaned out thousands of pounds of trash from Salado Creek, which runs through JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. The volunteers worked throughout the morning Feb. 16 to clear out a year's worth of accumulated debris.



Seaman Carl Steele, who is waiting to attend Navy Medical corpsman classes, cleans up trash and debris Feb. 16 at the ninth annual Joint Base San Antonio Basura Bash at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's Salado Creek Park.

Basura Bash draws hundreds out to beautify Salado Creek at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

By Steve Elliott

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The ninth annual Joint Base San Antonio Basura Bash had a stellar turnout of volunteers Feb. 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's Salado Creek Park.

"We had more than 500 people register for the event and even more showed up the day of the event," said Sarah Otto from the 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron and this year's organizer. "The Basura Bash is an annual one-day, all-volunteer event to clean the San Antonio Watershed. At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, this was the ninth year of the cleanup effort."

It was definitely a joint service effort, as hundreds of Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen were all in to help clean out thousands of pounds of trash from an important waterway which runs through JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, working throughout the morning to clear out a year's worth of accumulated debris.

There were also many representatives of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and many other local organizations digging in, getting busy and lending a hand in picking up all manners of trash and debris from the creek.

A steady flow of volunteers came and went from the park area throughout the morning, each determined to be a part of something bigger than themselves and make a difference in the appearance of the creek and park areas. Entire families made a morning of the event.

Beyond conserving the waterways' natural resources and protecting their flora and fauna, the Basura Bash serves to educate volunteers and the general public on proper waste disposal, ways to reduce trash and recycling.

Whenever storm water flows instead of soaking into the ground (storm water runoff), it goes to creeks and rivers, picking up contaminants along the way. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent storm water runoff from naturally soaking

into the ground.

Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, waste from pets and other pollutants before it flows into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal waterway. Even soil and grass clippings can have an adverse effect on the aquatic life in our waterways.

Polluted storm water runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediments also fill up the storage capacity of our reservoirs and can destroy aquatic habitats.

Attendance has steadily increased over the past few years, Otto noted. "Last year, we had about 400 people come out. The year before that, it was about 200. This is one of the most well-attended of the Basura Bash events in San Antonio."

Kayaks and canoes were available to those adventurous volunteers who

wanted to clean up from the source on the creek itself. Gloves, bags and other equipment were also provided.

Hosted by the 802nd CES, the Basura Bash is supported by the MWR Outdoor Rec Staff, the Operation's Heavy Repair Shop and many other individuals representing their units across JBSA.

"Thanks go out to all volunteers who have helped make this event a success for the past eight years," Otto said. "While the Basura Bash is a one-day event, you can help keep our waterways clean every day, by making sure trash makes it to the proper receptacles, that items in the bed of your trucks are secured, that chemicals are cleaned from your driveways, and pet waste picked up and disposed of."

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Basura Bash was a part of a larger effort throughout San Antonio that saw local residents, community groups and organizations collecting trash at 20 different locations that connect to San Antonio's watershed.

Military City USA hosts Navy's Leading Petty Officers Course

By Burrell Parmer

NAVY RECRUITING DISTRICT SAN ANTONIO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To assist recruiters in accomplishing the accession goals set by Navy Recruiting Command, Navy career force recruiters assigned to the National Training and Quality Assurance Team, or N-7, traveled from Millington, Tenn., to provide training to Navy Recruiting Districts and Navy Talent Acquisition Groups, or NTAGs, during a Leading Petty Officers Course held at the Double Tree Hotel in San Antonio Feb. 11-15.

The course provides refresher training for LPOs of the Navy Recruiting Districts and NTAGs, according to Chief Petty Officer Kevin Jones, a trainer assigned to NRD San Antonio who assisted the N-7 team.

The weeklong course consists of more than 10 subjects to include, but limited to, market analysis using All-Service Accession Data, or ASAD, building a targeted prospecting plan, and Web R-Tools maintenance.

"The training is meant to build and maintain a strong foundation for the

recruiters," said Chief Petty Officer Christian Torres, a N-7 accessions instructor/trainer. "They are our first-line supervisors who are getting the job done in the field and we must provide them with the proper training to be successful."

According to Chief Petty Officer Nolita Whiten, another N-7 trainer, the LPO Course is held six times per year along with six Division Leading Chief Petty Officer Courses.

"Another purpose of the training is to ensure that the recruiters know how to analyze their markets, cultivate those markets, and know how to properly utilize the tools available to them in order to make mission," Whiten said.

For Petty Officer 1st Class Elbert Anderson, the LPO of Navy Recruiting Station Killeen, NRD San Antonio, the course helps him in developing junior recruiters and assists in market development.

"This is good training and teaches us the fundamentals of being a LPO and about the systems that we are using or should have been utilizing," said Anderson, who leads a large station of



BURRELL PARMER

Chief Petty Officer Nolita Whiten, left, an assessor/trainer assigned to Navy Recruiting Command's (NRC) National Training and Quality Assurance Team, provides instruction on Web R-Tools maintenance to Navy Recruiting District San Antonio's leading petty officers, Petty Officers 1st Class Juan De Leon and Elbert Anderson, during a Leading Petty Officers Course held in San Antonio Feb. 11-15.

five recruiters. "Every time I attend this type of training, I learn something new; it provides a great opportunity for LPOs to learn from each other and share best practices."

The Navy's recruiting force totals

more than 6,100 personnel in more than 1,000 recruiting stations around the globe. Their combined goal is to attract the highest quality candidates to assure the ongoing success of America's Navy.



Joint Base San Antonio FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

March

Aquatics

Lifeguard classes offered

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center offers an American Red Cross Life Guarding class March 9-10 and 16-17; March 30-31 and April 6-7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$160. Participants must be 15 years or older. For more information, call 210-221-4887.

The JBSA-Lackland Aquatic Center offers a Red Cross certified lifeguard class March 9-12. The cost is \$160. Participants must be 15 years or older. This class is a total of 32 hours and participants must pass a prerequisite swim test. For more information, call 210-671-2413.

Participants learn to teach water safety

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center offers a Water Safety Instruction class, March 11-15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The course teaches participants how to teach swimming lessons using the Red Cross Learn to Swim Program, Parent and Child Aquatics, Preschool Aquatics and adult and fitness swimming. Participants must be able to swim 25 yards each of the front crawl, breaststroke and sidestroke and 15 yards of the butterfly at Red Cross Level four or better. Participants must be 16 years or older. Cost is \$160. To register, email charles.waugh.3@us.af.mil. For more information, call 210-221-4887.

Arts and Crafts

Framing offers a spring sale

The JBSA-Randolph Frame Shop, located in the Community Services Mall, building 895, offers 25 percent off select frames March 1-31. An experienced framer helps design the perfect artwork for the home or office. Estimates can not be provided over the phone. For more information, call 210-652-5142, option 3.

Bowling

Participants party and bowl with a DJ under the lights

Come to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center March 2 and 16, 5-10 p.m., to enjoy the glowing light show with a live DJ mixing today's high tempo hit music at Cosmic Bowling with a DJ. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

Spring break bowling specials

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center celebrates Spring Break by hosting Cosmic Bowling with a DJ March 11-15, 1-5 p.m. Come out and enjoy high energy family entertainment under the cosmic lights. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

Make plans to visit the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center during spring break, March 11-14, 1-4 p.m. Bowl for the reduced rate of \$2.75 per person. Rental shoes are \$2.75.

As an added bonus everyone who bowls during this special gets a Bowl One Game, Get One Game Free coupon for a future Saturday Strike Club visit. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

Bring the kids to the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center for a Spring Break Bowling special March 18-22. Children, 18 years and younger, get unlimited bowling all week for \$20 excluding Thursday. Shoe rental is not included. For more information, call 210-671-1234.

Bowlers play in a 9-pin, no-tap tournament

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center hosts a 9-Pin, No-Tap Tournament March 16, 5 p.m. The entry fee is \$20 if paid by March 14. After the deadline, the cost is \$25. Prizes for both men and women categories are awarded immediately following the completion of the tournament. For more information, call 210-671-1234.

Clubs

Variety night entertainment offered at the club

Join the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club for entertainment throughout March. DJs play a wide variety of music at Variety Night, 5-10 p.m., in the Lone Star Lounge. DJs include DJ J Rock March 1, DJ LJU March 8 and 22 and DJ Tony Style March 29. Relax in the lounge or enjoy the cooler weather out on the patio with pool tables and big-screen televisions. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

Bingo fun is at the club

Bingo at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club takes place Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. and Sundays, 3 p.m., in the ballroom. Admission is free to members and \$10 for nonmembers. Play Tuesdays and Wednesdays to qualify for the monthly club member prize giveaways.

Join the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club for Bingo Extravaganza March 4 and 18 with \$15,000 in total jackpots, a complimentary buffet at 5 p.m. and Early Bird bingo at 6 p.m.

Birthday Bingo is held March 12, 7 p.m., at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club. Birthday members receive one free machine and cake. This event is for Randolph Club members only and an ID card is required. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated

Enjoy an early lunch in celebration of Saint Patrick's Day March 14, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Menu selection include corn beef and cabbage, Shepard's Pie, grilled stuffed pork chops with green peppers, fried chicken, herb-baked chicken, shrimp Alfredo with green fettuccine, whipped potatoes with brown gravy, buttered new potatoes, green beans almandine, corn O'Brien, soup and salad bar, key lime pie, green velvet cake, apple cobbler with whipped topping,

bread pudding, green sherbet and St. Patrick's Day cake. The cost is \$11.95 per person. For more information, call 210-645-7037.

Join the party at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day March 14, 5 p.m. to midnight, in the Lone Star Lounge, featuring DJ Tony Style. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

Guests fly into the Auger

Join the party at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Auger Inn for "old school" camaraderie, free light refreshments and great music March 15, 5 p.m. Meet neighbors, folks from other squadrons and leadership. There is no cover to join the fun. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

Club hosts live musical entertainment

Join the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club Ballroom March 22 for Band Night. The club opens at 5 p.m., and Roger Tamez and the Show Band starts at 6 p.m. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

March 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 March birthdays are honored March 27, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This is free for birthday members. Cost is \$10 for members without a birthday in March, \$5 for members' children, 6-12 years, \$12 for nonmembers and \$6 for nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children, 5 years and younger, eat for free. Coupons are not accepted. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

Weekly food specials offered

Stop by the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club for weekly food specials. Every Tuesday enjoy \$1.50 beef or chicken tacos in Gil's Pub from 5:30-7 p.m. On Wednesdays, in a sports bar atmosphere, enjoy flavorful 50 cent wings from 4:30-7 p.m. A minimum of 10 wings must be purchased. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

Community Programs

Flea markets available for buyers and sellers

Sell and purchase bargains at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Recreation Flea Market March 2, 8 a.m. to noon, at MacArthur Field parking lot at Worth Road. Sellers can rent tables and chairs at the field the day of the event. Tables cost \$5 and chairs cost 50 cents. For more information, call 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225.

Find bargains and treasures during the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Community Center's quarterly flea market March 2, 8 a.m. to noon, at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center parking lot. Sellers can rent spaces for

JBSA FSS

\$10 and tables for \$5 each. Reservations for space and tables must be paid in cash and in person at the Skylark Community Center, building 6576. For more information, call 210-671-3191.

Head to the JBSA-Randolph Child Development Program, building 1072, parking lot March 23, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., for a flea market. The Outdoor Recreation Center in the Community Services Mall, building 895, rent spaces for \$10. Tables can be included for \$5 more and additional tables can be rented for \$6. The selling of firearms, animals, arts and crafts or food and beverage items are not permissible. For more information, call 210-652-5142.

Musical production begins at the theatre

Come out and enjoy award winning director Shawn Kjos's musical production of Deja Vu, Thursday through Saturday, March 8 to April 13, 8 p.m. Hear favorites from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s in this upbeat and toe-tapping event. This show is sponsored by The Gunn Automotive Group. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Make reservations today. Group rates are available. For more information or to make reservations, call 210-222-9694.

Fitness

Bikers are challenged

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center invites bikers of all ages to get in the saddle and participate in the 15-mile bike ride at Heritage Park March 2, 7:30 a.m. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Fitness Center events are open to all valid Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 210-652-7263.

Runners and walkers celebrate Saint Patrick's Day

The JBSA-Lackland Gilman Fitness Center hosts a Saint Patrick's Day Fun Run, March 15, 7:30 a.m. For more information, call 210-977-2353.

Join the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center for a Saint Patrick's Day 5K run or walk March 16, 7:30 a.m., at Heritage Park. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Fitness Center events are open to all valid Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 210-652-7263.

Dress up in green and join the Fitness Center on the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Medical Education and Training Campus for a Saint Patrick's Day Fun Run March 16, 9 a.m. This free 5K run or walk starts in the Naval Aquatic Center parking lot and is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and guests. For more information, call 210-808-5709.

Basketball players play in a three-on-three tournament

Gather friends and join the JBSA-Lackland Chapparral Fitness Center for a three-on-three basketball tournament March 15, 6 p.m. Register teams no later than March 13. For more information, call 210-671-2401.

Saint Patrick's Day brings a Zumba® fest

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center invites patrons to get a jump start on the Saint Patrick's Day celebrations at the St. Patty's Zumba® Fest March 16, 9:30 a.m. Come dressed in Irish garb to enjoy two hours of heart pumping dance steps. For more information, call 210-221-1234.

502 FSS and USAA presents the 6th Annual
JBSA HALF MARATHON
Hosted by the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center

13.1
FINISH
WHAT
YOU
STARTED

APRIL 28 **7:30 A.M.**

Heritage Park AAFPES will be on site with a variety of vendors.

\$30 early entry by April 5, \$35 after.

For more info or to sign up, go to:
JBSAtoday.com

USAA
JBFCU

Bracket contest hosted by Fitness Center

Join the Fitness Center on the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Medical Education and Training Campus for a Madness Bracket Contest March 19. Brackets must be submitted before the start of the first game. One bracket is accepted per person for all Department of Defense ID cardholders, 16 years and older. Prizes are awarded to the first-, second- and third-place finishers. A tie breaker is determined by guessing the final score of the National Championship Game. For more information, call 210-808-5709.

Spring brings a 10K run

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Central Post Gym invites all Department of Defense ID cardholders and their families to participate in the free 10K Spring Run March 23, 8 a.m. Register the day of the event starting at 7:30 a.m. For more information, call 210-221-2593.

Racquetball tournament held

Participate in the first singles racquetball tournament of the year at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center March 30, 9:30 a.m. This free event is a double-elimination format and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders 16 years and older. Register at the JBFC before March 22. For more information, call 210-221-1234.

Patrons dance the pounds away

Join the JBSA-Lackland Kelly Fitness Center for Zumba® class Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dance the pounds away in this fast pace class. The cost is \$3, payable by cash or check at the front counter. For more information, call 210-925-4848.

Golf

Golfers compete in a scramble

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course hosts the Warrior Scramble March 1, 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for active duty, retired military and members and \$35 for nonmembers. The price includes green fee, golf cart, prize fund and a social after the round. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

Kids join junior league

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course invites kids to sign up for the Professional Golf Association Junior League beginning March 1. Free lessons are held on Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., beginning March 6. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course
DEMO DAY

March 16
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Try out the newest equipment!

Callaway
Taylormade
Mizuno
Cleveland
Cobra
Ping
and more!

For more information, call the Pro Shop at (210) 671-3466

Golf course hosts a Saint Patrick's Day tournament

Spend Saint Patrick's Day out on the green in the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course tournament March 17, with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. The format for this tournament is stoke play and counts towards the JBSA Ryder Cup points. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers and includes green fee, golf cart, prize money and social after the round. For more information or to sign up, visit the Pro Shop or call 210-222-9386.

Couples' scramble held

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course for a Couples' Fun Scramble March 17, 1 p.m. Enjoy golf with a friend, spouse or significant other. The cost is \$30 for members and \$50 for nonmembers and includes fee, cart, prize fund and social after play. For more information or to sign up, visit the Pro Shop or call 210-222-9386.

Individuals compete in a tournament

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course hosts the Spring Individual Golf Tournament March 23-24, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start on both days. Sign up no later than March 20. The cost is \$30 per person and includes a free lunch on the second day. For more information, call 210-671-3466.

Spring brings on Randolph dual

Join the JBSA-Randolph Golf Course for the Spring Randolph Dual March 30-31, with 7-9 a.m. tee times. This is a two-person event; day one is a scramble, and day two is a shamble. It is pre-flight based on Golf Handicap and Information Network* handicaps. Lunch is provided after the first round Saturday, and golfers have a chance to win golf merchandise during a drawing. All golfers who place in this tournament receive a gift card that can be used in the pro shop for golf merchandise. Cost is \$90 for members and \$125 for nonmembers and includes green fees, cart fees, lunch Saturday, a prize drawing, a goody bag and gift cards for the placing teams. For more information, call 210-652-4653.

Thursday is steak night

Take a break from the kitchen and dine at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course Green Side Grill Thursdays, 4-7 p.m., for Steak Night. Make reservations before 2 p.m. on Thursday and pay \$16 per person. For reservations made after 2 p.m. on Thursday, the cost is \$18 per person. The meal includes steak, potato, vegetable, dinner roll, dessert and a fountain drink. For reservations, call 210-671-2006.

Information, Tickets and Travel**Disney* offers discounts to military**

Patrons can purchase tickets from all of the JBSA Information, Tickets and Travel locations. Disney* is once again providing the Military Salute Tickets to eligible service members through Dec. 19. The number of tickets that can be purchased is six per military member or retiree ID card. The military member or retiree must accompany their party at the gate to activate the tickets. Walt Disney World* has no blackout dates; however, DisneyLand* has blackout dates during April 14-22. Call for specific pricing. These are special order tickets and take 1-14 days for delivery. For more information, call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston ITT at 210-808-1378, the JBSA-Lackland ITT at 210-671-3059 or the JBSA-Randolph ITT at 210-652-5142.

Patrons enjoy special attraction tickets

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Information, Tickets and Travel has special attraction tickets for sale. Bring the kids to see PJ Masks! Live at the Majestic Theatre March 7 with tickets costing \$43, \$33 and \$23. Purchase tickets to see

the Sound of Music at the Majestic Theatre March 9-10. Tickets cost \$79.50, \$61.50 and \$43.50. Join Mickey and his friends for Mickey's Search Party April 10 with tickets costing \$25 and April 11-14 with tickets costing \$22-\$59. Order now before time runs out. For more information, call 210-808-1378.

Kinder Casino trips available

Travel to the Coshatta Casino Resort in Kinder, La., with the JBSA-Randolph Information, Tickets and Travel. The trip includes round-trip motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, a \$23 voucher from the casino and friendly service from the tour guides and bus driver. The bus departs at 7 a.m. and returns at approximately 9:30 p.m. the next day. Cost is \$65 for double occupancy or \$130 for single occupancy. The 2019 trip schedule is March 19-20, May 21-22 and Nov. 12-13. For more information, call 210-652-5142, option 1.

Explore the Greek Islands

The JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel Leisure Travel offers a trip to Athens, the Island of Mykonos and the Island of Santorini May 22 to June 1. Rates start at \$4,900 per person and includes airfare. Additional discounts are available. A \$200 non-refundable land only deposit per person and a \$10 service fee is required at the time of booking. Final payment is due April 1. For more information, call 210-671-7111.

Patrons enjoy a memorial day getaway

The JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel Leisure Travel office invites patrons to travel round-trip from San Antonio to Guanacaste, Costa Rica May 23-27. Rates start at \$1,300 per person and includes round-trip

airfare, travel protection, airport transfers and all-inclusive hotel accommodations. Full payment and a \$10 service fee are due at time of booking. For more information, call 210-671-7111.

Military & Family Readiness**Co-Parenting workshop helps separating families**

Review co-parenting obstacles, family stabilization, alternatives to litigation and more during Between Two Homes, a two-day workshop, March 6 and 13, 8 a.m. to noon, at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. This workshop meets the Texas court mandated requirements. To reserve a seat, call 210-221-2418.

Assistance with Tax Preparation

Review new tax laws, income brackets, filing basics, and more during a Tax Preparation class March 15, 10-11:30 a.m., at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center. Information on free tax resources and special tax situations for active-duty military is provided. To register, call 210-652-5321.

Workshop helps to understand others

Learn to map out the strengths of an entire team, work effectively with natural talents and embrace diversity by appreciating the difference in others during the Four Lenses Temperament Discovery workshop March 19, 9-11:30 a.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center. Registration is required. To register, call 210-671-3722.

Hiring Heroes Career Fair held

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military and Family Readiness Center hosts a Hiring Heroes Career Fair March 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Sam Houston Community Center. This event provides continuing outreach, recruitment assistance and services to wounded, ill, injured and transitioning Service members, Veterans, spouses and primary caregivers to increase awareness of job opportunities. For more information call 571-372-2123 or 210-221-1213.

Key Spouse continuing education training

JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center hosts a Key Spouses Continuing Education Training March 21, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 210-652-5321.

Participants learn to unlock professional connections

Learn to build a professional profile and maximize networking capabilities during a LinkedIn workshop March 27, 9-11 a.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center. To reserve a seat, call 210-671-3722.

Parents prepare for baby

Active-duty expecting parents receive information on financial planning from conception to college, support programs within the community and parenting skills during the Bundles for Babies workshop March 29, 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center. To register, call 210-652-5321.

Outdoor Recreation

Texas license to carry classes offered

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center offers Texas license to carry classes March 9 and 16, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$75 per class. Successful completion of this class is required for a Texas LTC. To register for a class, visit <http://www.chlregistration.com>. Once on the website, select "register for class." Then select "Dan Willis-Leatherneck Arms." Class details are available online at <https://www.jbsatoday.com>. For more information, call 210-295-7577.

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated with a scavenger hunt

The JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake lodging invites patrons to check into any lodging unit March 15-17 for a chance to win park prizes during the Saint Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt. Guests that find the plush toy in their lodging unit bring it to the office to receive the prize. There are no exchanges on gift certificates and the gift certificate has no cash value. For more information or reservations, call 1-830-226-5357 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

Archery takes on another dimension

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center hosts a three-dimensional archery competition March 23 and 24, 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 210-295-7577.

Outdoor exposition offered

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center offers an outdoor recreation and hunting exposition March 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to show what the Rod-N-Gun Club has to offer. Enjoy music, free hot dogs and drinks while talking to vendors about information on outdoor recreation and hunting needs and viewing the Sportsman's Range, the three-dimensional archery competition and a variety of hunting rental equipment. This free event is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and their families. For more information, call 210-295-7529.

Bikers hit the road

Join the JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation for a motorcycle spring ride through the Texas Hill Country March 23, 10 a.m. Depart Kelly Field Club, building 1676, at Port San Antonio and travel to Leakey, Texas. Gas and lunch are at the rider's expense on this 200-mile round trip. The ride is open to all licensed motorcycle operators. Patches available while supplies last. For more information, call 210-925-5532.

Boat special available

Patrons can rent any boat at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake in March for 50 percent off. Cost includes all required safety equipment such as life vests, but does not include fuel. The rentals are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participants must have taken the Boater's Safety

Course through the State of Texas. The course is offered at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake or the Outdoor Recreation locations on JBSA installations. For more information, call 1-830-226-5357.

Bunny costumes available to rent

Easter is just around the corner and the JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation has a variety of Easter bunny costumes available to rent for \$40 per day. The costume rental includes a bunny suit, fuzzy slippers, gloves, mask, apron and bow tie. For more information, call 210-925-5532.

Youth and Children

Sports registration continues

Registration for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs baseball, softball and t-ball continues at the W. Ed Parker Youth Center until teams are full. Practices begin March 25. For more information, call 210-221-3502 or 210-221-4492.

Youth participate for free

Celebrate recreation and fun and participate at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs for free March 4-9. Youth can participate in clubs, activities and open recreation. If youth want to become members the cost is \$40 per year. Stop by Youth Programs, building 585, to check out everything offered. For more information, call 210-652-3298.

Youth put on a show

Join the JBSA-Youth Programs as a cast of 25 youth perform Aladdin Junior at the Fort Sam Houston Elementary School cafeteria March 7-9. The Thursday and Friday performances start at 7 p.m., and the Saturday shows start at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The performances are free to the community. Please come out and support all the hard work of the military youth who have been rehearsing and working hard since October. For more information, call 210-221-3502.

Youth participate in a Comic-Con show and play

Join JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs for a Preteen Comic-Con Show and Play March 8, 7-9 p.m. Youth are encouraged to participate in the cosplay dress contest to win prizes. Cost is \$3 for members with a card and \$5 for members without a card. The event includes a photo opportunity, games, activities and light refreshments. For more information, call 210-671-2388.

Basketball is played

Youth are invited to participate in Midnight Madness March 16, 7-10 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston W. Ed Parker Youth Center with snacks, music, basketball and fun. Youth, 9-13 years, play 7-8 p.m. Youth, 14-18 years, play 9-10 p.m. For more information call, 210-221-3502.

Summer camp registration begins

JBSA Youth Programs Summer Camp registration opens March 18 and continues until full. Summer camp is available for children, 5-12 years and have completed Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten. Spaces are offered starting April 9 and fees are based on total family income. Summer camp includes meals, great learning and fun activities in and around the centers. Parents can request care by going to www.militarychildcar.com and select the

location they want. Once the offer is made, parents need to contact the appropriate Youth Programs office to secure their reservation. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-22-5151, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2388 or JBSA-Randolph 210-652-2088.

Parents offered a break

JBSA Youth Programs offers parents a break through the Give Parents a Break or Parents' Night Out program March 23, 1-5 p.m., at JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs and JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs. Children, 5 years, and in kindergarten, through 12 years, are provided snacks and entertained with activities and games. The cost is \$25 per child with a multiple-child discount or free with a GPAB referral. Late pickup is subject to \$5 for the first five minutes, then \$3 for every minute after that. Pre-registration and a minimum number of participants is required. For JBSA-Lackland, call 210-671-2388 to register children 5-12 years, and to register children 6 weeks to 4 years, call 210-671-3675. For JBSA-Randolph, call 210-652-2088 to register children 5-12 years, and to register children 6 weeks to 4 years, call 210-652-1140.

High school lock-in held

Come hang out all night with friends and staff at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs High School Lock-In March 23, 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., at the Patch and Chaffee Youth Center. The cost is \$15 per youth. Youth must be a registered Child Youth Services member and a signed permission slip is required. For more information, call 210-221-3630.

Youth sports volunteers needed

Adult volunteer coaches are needed for upcoming sport seasons at all JBSA Youth Sports Program. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5513 or 210-221-4492, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2388 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-2088 or 210-652-3298.

Congressional Award Program – Go For the Gold

JBSA-Youth Programs offers help to youth, 14-18 years, wanting to sign up for the Congressional Award Program. Youth set goals in personal development, voluntary public service, physical fitness and expeditions or explorations. Once youth reach the bronze, silver or gold medal level, they earn an award that is presented by a member of Congress. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-3502 or 210-221-3630, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2388 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-3298.

STAY CONNECTED

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

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ARNORTH COMMANDER RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

U.S. Army North Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, second from left, was presented the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award at the Boy Scouts of America, Alamo Area Council Brunch Feb. 13 in San Antonio. Buchanan, who attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1973, was presented this award for exceptionally distinguished service in his military career and to the community. Only one in every 1,000 Eagle Scouts has been awarded this high honor. Also pictured, from left, are Mike Crowover, National Eagle Scout Association Chairman; Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan; Jim Lynch, Alamo Area Council Commissioner; Jim Jeffrey, Alamo Area Council President; and Michael de los Santos, Alamo Area Council Scout Executive.



COURTESY PHOTO

U.S. Army North preps for Army Combat Fitness Test

By Sgt. Andrew Valles

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army North Soldiers at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston participated in training for the Army Combat Fitness Test, learning techniques to better prepare for the new test Jan. 28.

“We conducted the ACFT train up, showing proper technique for the Three Rep Max Deadlift and the Hand-Release Pushup,” said Sgt. 1st Class Towaski Christian, U.S. Army North Master Fitness Trainer. “We are going to train every third Monday of the month showing Soldiers proper techniques for all events.”

The ACFT is a six-event test that is age- and gender-neutral. The ACFT is designed to provide Soldiers with a modern assessment of their physical fitness and help them maintain a high level of fitness, while ensuring they are capable of handling physically demanding combat situations.

“The ACFT is a more combat-focused PT test, whereas the Army Physical Fitness Test was a test of physical ability on three



SGT. ANDREW S. VALLES

U.S. Army North Soldiers work on proper techniques for the Hand-Release Push-Up during training for the Army Combat Fitness Test Jan. 28 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

events. The ACFT is a six-exercise event that will test the full body capabilities of a Soldier,” Christian said.

The new test was created to better prepare Soldiers for combat-related tasks and will replace the current Army Physical Fitness Test beginning October 2020.

“It’s about change and

putting more into just doing the three events that we do for the APFT,” said 1st Sgt. Johnna M. Covington, Headquarters Support Company first sergeant. “This will show the overall physical readiness of all our Soldiers, a total body workout opposed to just the three events.”

The events each Soldier

must complete are three repetition maximum deadlift, standing power throw, hand-release push-up, sprint-drag-carry, leg tuck, and a two-mile run.

The Army has published the ACFT Training Guide with exercises, drills and training aids to help develop strength, endurance and mobility using

“Don’t be afraid to ask for help. There are a lot of people that are trained up on the ACFT and they are ready and willing to share the knowledge.”

Sgt. 1st Class Towaski Christian, U.S. Army North Master Fitness Trainer

common strength training methods. Additionally, the Center for Army Lessons Learned published an AFCT handbook discussing the six events, testing procedures, with a training guide.

“Don’t be afraid to ask for help,” Christian said. “There are a lot of people that are trained up on the ACFT and they are ready and willing to share the knowledge.”

For more information about the ACFT, visit the Army’s microsite at <http://www.army.mil/acft>.



DANIEL P. ELKINS

Brig. Gen. Bill Boruff, left, commanding general of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command, speaks to Churchill and Warren high school students as part of the San Antonio Job Shadow Day Feb. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Area high school students shadow MICC mentors

By Ben Gonzales

MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Mission and Installation Contracting Command priority of developing adaptive leaders skewed toward a younger audience with the mentorship of 29 San Antonio high school students at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 5.

MICC officials hosted students from Churchill and Warren high schools as part of the San Antonio Job Shadow Day to show students what kind of skills and education they may need in their future careers.

The MICC joined more than 118 area businesses to mentor more than 3,000 students to help shape San Antonio's future workforce. Churchill High School and Warren High School students teamed with eight MICC mentors to explore career paths in contracting, legal, operations and others.

Job Shadow Day is sponsored by SA Works in partnership with Junior Achievement to allow a half day of experience-based learning while mentors explained how to prepare for and succeed in a professional workforce.

As part of Job Shadow Day, students visited mentors' work areas, engaged in discussions on professionalism and ethics, and learned interview skills. Brig. Gen. Bill Boruff, MICC commanding general, and Command

Sgt. Maj. Marco Torres, MICC command sergeant major and a mentor for the day, took time to answer questions from the students as well as give them insight on how to succeed in life and their careers.

"Education is very important, but it is also important to take care of yourself physically, mentally and emotionally," Torres said. "Students sharing the day with us represent the best among young men and women in our classrooms throughout San Antonio. Their budding interests in business and law reflects a sincere desire for continued growth and learning. These same traits can be found in our professional uniformed and civilian workforce today at the MICC and in our Army."

While students came to learn about job skills, they also made an impression on Greg Walker, MICC commandant and mentor for the day.

"The day was about giving back to our community and the great opportunity to mentor our young, bright, future leaders," said Walker, who is also a retired Army first sergeant. "Job Shadow Day was both rewarding for the students and insightful for what they need to do to prepare for their future whether they join the Army or go on to college and professional careers. After spending the day with the students, I certainly left feeling that America's future is in great hands as these students are definitely some of our nation's best and brightest."

Cole students earn awards at national journalism convention

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A pair of Cole High School students have each earned a superior rating for their photography from a national scholastic journalism organization.

Raquelle Bennett and Laura DeLeon, who are juniors at Cole, achieved the rating at the Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association, or JEA/NSPA, National High School Journalism Convention held in Chicago in November 2018.

The Cole students earned their superior ratings after submitting their photographic entries in competition categories that included high school students from across the U.S. The entries were judged by high school photography teachers, professional photographers and photo-journalists throughout the nation.

Bennett achieved the superior rating in the photography portfolio category, DeLeon in the themed photo category. In each of those categories, only three students were awarded the superior rating.

Brenda Marafioti, Cole High School photography and journalism teacher, said a superior rating is the highest rating a student can achieve in a JEA category and takes a



DAVID DEKUNDER

Raquelle Bennett, left, and Laura DeLeon, both juniors at Cole High School, each won a superior rating medal at the Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association National High School Journalism Convention competition held in November in Chicago.

high standard of work to attain.

Marafioti said Bennett and DeLeon accomplished a rare feat by each earning a superior rating as high school juniors. Also, they were the only students from Texas to win the superior rating in their categories.

"I'm incredibly proud of them," Marafioti said.

The photo entries submitted by Bennett and DeLeon, with help from Marafioti, were

among the best from their photography class projects.

Bennett said her photos were judged with several criteria in mind.

"They wanted a variety of photos that showed who you are as a photographer, what you are able to do and what you are capable of doing," Bennett said.

Bennett said portrait photography allows her to be more creative because she is able to communicate to the

people in the photos what she wants them to do.

"I like to do portraits and work with people," she said. "I feel like with models you have a lot more say, like you can tell them to do a specific thing or make a specific facial expression."

For her category, the themed photo contest, DeLeon submitted a photo of the Alamo. In that category, which had the theme of "My Town," students were required to

submit an image that showed the background and history of where they're from.

The photo, put together by DeLeon, is a composite of several images taken by her of people moving around the Alamo, during a part of a day, using different shutter speeds.

By capturing the movements of people, DeLeon said her photo of the Alamo is making a connection between history and present day.

"When anyone thinks of San Antonio, they think of the Alamo," she said. "(The photo) still shows how connected and busy it is to San Antonio people."

DeLeon said she was really excited when she learned she had been awarded the superior rating.

"I felt really proud, ecstatic," she said.

Marafioti said both of her students have photographic skills and talents that make their photos stand out.

"Raquelle is an outstanding and gifted photographer," Marafioti said.

"She's very gifted, but she's also very hard-working and she's not afraid to think outside the box," Marafioti added.

"Laura is incredibly dedicated to her work," Marafioti said. "She will always try to find a new and different way to tackle a project."

Bennett and DeLeon both received medals for earning their superior ratings.

LACKLAND

149th MDG, 149th FSS participate in response training

By Airman 1st Class Katie Schultz
149TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Texas National Guard's 6th CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package Task Force participated in an emergency response training exercise at the Round Rock Public Safety Training Center Feb. 5.

The 6th CERFP is made up of Texas Air and Army National Guard members, including Airmen from the 149th Medical Group's Det. 1 and the 149th Force Support Squadron's Fatality Search and Recovery Team. This task force may be called upon to assist first responders for domestic operations within FEMA region 6, which includes Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

During the exercise, members practiced responding to a simulated attack by searching for and extracting victims, providing decontamination and medical stabilization before turning them over to local first responders for transportation to area hospitals.

Capt. Jesse Hernandez, a medical plans and operations officer with the 149th MDG Det. 1, said the exercise focused more on providing local civil support versus the typical deployment training his team conducts during drill weekends.

"Who you're actually working with may change, but for us medics, a patient is a patient whether we're out on the battlefield or helping in a local city because of a CBRN threat," Hernandez said. "We still provide the same level of care, and we follow the same clinical guidelines that we're given."

In addition to the standard medical training they receive in technical school, members of Det. 1 undergo chemical training and learn how to provide guidance to local leadership on how to protect first responders and treat patients who have been exposed to something hazardous.

"We try to make the simulations as realistic as possible," Hernandez said. "They have an amazing training facility here in Round Rock, and we're

fortunate to have access to a rappel tower for our response medics and the engineers and have rubble piles to be able to pull patients out. There are not many other places we'd be able to get this kind of training."

In addition to having access to a facility that supported all of their training requirements, the members were able to align their efforts with their Army teammates when practicing repelling and extraction techniques.

"It's been a great experience working with our Army counterparts because they're willing to jump in wherever they're needed and help us get the job done, and we're also able to refresh each other on our training," said Senior Airman Robert Baldree, an aerospace medical technician with Det. 1, who specializes in search and extraction. "The reason this has been so successful is teamwork, constant communication and willingness to participate. If we can't come together, we can't complete the mission."

For Tech. Sgt. John Castillo, a search and extraction medic with the 149th MDG Det. 1, this type of training was critical for him and his team when they responded to the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

To combat the devastation caused by flooding, Castillo's team members set up tents to support a local hospital that had lost power. They then provided medical care to people for 10 straight days. Though the team did not deal with chemical contamination during that hurricane response, they were able to use other skills.

"We had done similar training exercises prior to the hurricane, and that prepared us for how to respond," Castillo said. "These exercises prepare us for real world events because the training we do individually and collectively all comes together very cohesively. We're always with the same battalion and train together on joint search and extraction training exercises. We know exactly what to expect from each other so we can respond immediately."



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KATIE SCHULTZ

Army Maj. George Hurd, the 6th CERFP battalion commander, plays the role of a patient who has to be decontaminated by Army National Guard engineers from Kingsville Feb. 5.



Staff Sgt. Jacquelyn Montoya, left, and Senior Airman Kimberly Gaona, members of the 149th Fighter Wing's MDG Det-1, which is part of the 6th CERFP task force, perform an operations check prior to deploying into the disaster incident site during response training Feb. 5 in Round Rock.

25th AF mentors coach students for national competition

By Sharon Singleton

TWENTY-FIFTH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Twenty-Fifth Air Force members adopted two teams from San Antonio's Thomas Jefferson High School to help prepare them for this year's CyberPatriot competition.

Created by the Air Force Association to encourage students toward a career in cybersecurity, CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program that culminates annually with the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, where teams from across the United States compete for gold, silver and platinum medals in online cybersecurity challenges.

Carlos Estrada, CyberPatriot team member and Jefferson Army Junior ROTC senior, said the school's program would simply not exist without the mentors from the 625th Operations Center. "More than that, without our mentors and the technical support they provide we would not have this team," Estrada said.

The 625th OC mentors coach students on leadership, team-building skills and technical knowledge, pushing them to success throughout this year's competition.

"One thing I learned from CyberPatriot is personal computer



SHARON SINGLETON

Thomas Jefferson High school Army Junior ROTC CyberPatriot team members get some coaching from George Cue, left, an employee with 25th Air Force's 625th Operations Center, during their Jan. 31 meeting.

security," said Elena Benevidez, first-year CyberPatriot team member.

Students agreed that success of the team and school pride made the experience valuable.

"CyberPatriot gave me the chance to see what kinds of cyber careers exist and what different opportunities are out in the world," Estrada said.

Jefferson's CyberPatriot mentors are teaching students about operating systems, routers, switches and internet protocols while they prepare for the state and semifinal rounds of competition in February and March.

"We have more than 300 teams here in San Antonio, which, for three

consecutive years, is more than any other city in the nation," said Joe Sanchez, chief of the 625th Network Operations Division within the Twenty-fifth Air Force. "To put that into perspective, we only had 24 teams the first year in 2010. It was easier to manage the mentoring program with just those 24 teams. With the 300-plus teams we have today, it is rather difficult to assign mentors to each, which makes our need for volunteers tremendous."

Answering part of that call is a group of information technology professionals from the 625th OC, who use their military training and civilian

experience to mentor these future cyber warriors.

"These mentors from the 625th NOD impart invaluable knowledge to students," Sanchez said. "From the young Airman who is only a year out of technical training, to the civilian who has been doing this for 20 years – our mentor team is sharing experiences and coaching students who will lead the way in technological development."

George Cue, 625th OC member and CyberPatriot mentor, has been with the program since the beginning, and witnessed first-year teams advance to the gold and platinum rounds with the coaching of their Twenty-Fifth Air Force mentors.

"After attending a few after school workshops this year, students were able to go from round one all the way to state," Cue said. "Our freshmen/sophomore team advanced to the gold level and our senior team advanced to platinum. For brand new teams with only two months of experience, they did extremely well and I am super proud of them."

This year's CyberPatriot season will conclude with the San Antonio Mayor's Cyber Cup, March 30 at the Freeman Coliseum. For more information, visit <http://www.uscyberpatriot.org>.

BASH program keeps Kelly Field safe

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The air space above Joint Base San Antonio has all kinds of missions and one program is supporting the runways by making it safe for humans and wildlife to co-exist.

The Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) program is continuously working to mitigate wildlife hazards, such as bird strikes to the aircraft.

"We have a combined the BASH program with the 12th Flying Training Wing, 433rd Airlift Wing and 149th Fight Wing," said Bryan Wilmunen, 502nd Air Base Wing aviation safety program manager.

In addition to daily aircraft

traffic, JBSA also is a major corridor for migration between North and South America. Peak times for the birds are early morning and right before sunset.

"The wildlife hazard to flying is relentless," Wilmunen said. "It's persistent. It's never going to go away."

Kelly Field averages 50 bird strikes a year. Between five to 10 percent of those birds will cause damage to aircraft. JBSA-Randolph averages 38 bird strikes a year, while JBSA-Seguin Auxiliary Airfield averages three, said Maj. Alexander Sieg, 12th Flying Training Wing BASH manager.

While catastrophic bird strikes are few and far between, they can damage an

engine, dent a windshield or break other parts of an aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration reports at least 3,000 wildlife strikes a year to Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps aircraft. Those strikes cause in excess of \$75 million in damage every year.

The average annual cost of strikes to aircraft assigned to Kelly Airfield is approximately \$76,000, while the average annual cost of strikes to all aircraft near Kelly Airfield is \$176,000, according to the BASH program brochure.

The species most commonly involved include doves, meadowlarks, grackles, bats and falcons. Vultures often cause the most damage because there are groups of them that

swarm around any carcasses near the airfield.

There was once an incident when a dead racoon was discovered about 15,000 feet from the runway. About 30 vultures were feasting on the remains, which created a hazard for aircraft in the area. The circling birds were scared off with loud noises while the carcass was removed and disposed of, Wilmunen said.

"The goal is to make this airfield unattractive to wildlife," Wilmunen said.

The United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services makes wildlife management recommendations to mitigate damage to aircraft. The USDA works with federal, state and local agencies, using wildlife control techniques and technologies to deter

hazardous species on or near an airfield.

One way to achieve that is keeping grass at a uniform height between seven to 14 inches.

The grass needs to be short enough that animals can be seen, but long enough that birds can't see each other. This makes the area unappealing to animals, which is the ultimate goal, Wilmunen said.

Along with discouraging birds to flock in the area, there's also the challenge of keeping out coyotes, feral dogs and other animals.

"The best way to deal with the dogs and coyotes is to sort of follow and chase them until they find an opening in the fence line," Wilmunen said. "When we have an aircraft strike of an animal, it's never good for the animal."

RANDOLPH

JBSA-Randolph wheel and tire shop keeps ‘everybody rolling’

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Student fighter and instructor pilots fly dozens of sorties each day from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, spending nearly all of that time in the air.

However, their aircraft also touch ground during takeoff and landing, and it is during those moments that they rely on a small team of professionals who work each day to ensure their aircraft's wheels and tires are able to withstand the rigors of the runway.

The 12th Maintenance Group Aircraft Wheel and Tire Shop comprises two full-time technicians along with supplemental help provided by 12th MXG Aerospace Ground Equipment personnel.

“Without the Aircraft Wheel and Tire Shop, you can’t go too far,” said technician Royzell Spencer, who has served the JBSA-Randolph shop for more than 20 years, most of those as a civilian. “We keep everybody rolling.”

Spencer, who was an aircraft mechanic for most of his 21 years on active duty, said he and Michael Riddle, a technician with five years’ experience, build, inspect and tear down all the wheels from JBSA-Randolph’s trainer aircraft fleet of T-1As, T-6As and T-38Cs.

“We’re one of the few shops here that deal with all three aircraft,” he said.

Aircraft tires do not last long, Spencer said.

“Tires are changed as needed, based on a wear limit,” he said. “The typical lifespan is two weeks for T-38 tires and four weeks for the T-1 and T-6, but they may be retired earlier depending on damage.”

Conditions on the runway – when the surface is hot or it’s wet from rainfall – are the primary reasons for tire failure,

Spencer said.

“We have more blown tires when the runway’s wet,” he said. “It can cause the brakes to lock and that can lead to a blowout.”

Technicians replace about 10-15 tires each day, Spencer said.

“We replaced 432 last month,” he said.

Wheels are replaced far less frequently, but they undergo rigorous inspection.

Technicians receive wheels from the flightline each day and follow a procedure of cleaning, inspection and reassembly or replacement. Cleaning is a prerequisite for inspection since wheels are covered with brake dust and other debris when they arrive from the flightline.

“Each wheel has an inspection cycle,” Spencer said. “It’s once a year for the T-38, every tire change for the T-1 and every 10 tire changes for the T-6. They’re also inspected each time a tire is damaged.”

The 12th MXG’s corrosion control, nondestructive inspection and machine shops also play roles in the process. For example, the NDI shop uses specialized equipment to scan wheels for any cracks that can compromise a wheel’s integrity and lead to an event that endangers the pilot and damages the aircraft.

The worst damage Spencer has seen was a wheel on a T-38 that was ground in half when the brake locked up.

“When something like that happens, pieces from the wheel – bolts, nuts and washers – can scatter all over the place and even end up in an engine or the flight control area,” he said.

The tire shop technicians rely on an array of equipment to help them carry out their duties, notably a tire cage, called the “big red box,” used for inflating tires; machines that wash



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG

Roy Spencer, 12th Maintenance Group Aircraft Wheel and Tire Shop technician, inspects seals that were recently washed inside the Aircraft Wheel and Tire Shop on Feb. 14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



Glenn Nickelson, 12th Flying Training Wing aerospace ground equipment mechanic, conducts a final inspection on a wheel, checking each bolt by hand inside the 12th Maintenance Group Aircraft Wheel and Tire Shop on Feb. 14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

wheels and parts; and a bead breaker that does what the name indicates – breaks the beads on a tire.

Spencer said tires have improved over the years.

“They do last longer,” he said.

“Another thing that helps is the nitrogen we use to inflate tires; the pressure is steady, more so than the air we used in the past.”

AETC partners with university to expand virtual reality trainer's capabilities

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Education and Training Command is partnering with a South Dakota-based university known for its science and engineering curriculum to enhance the capabilities of the virtual reality trainers used in pilot training.

The educational partnership agreement between AETC and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology will allow students and faculty at the university to enhance a virtual reality trainer, or VRT, from the major command's Pilot Training Next program in Austin.

"AETC wants a virtual reality trainer in the school's VR lab with the idea that they will work on improving the trainer," said Lt. Col. Cory Waldroup, 99th Flying Training Squadron chief of innovations. "The technology team will focus on gamification and its application to achieving desired learning objectives."

Waldroup visited the univer-

sity upon the arrival of the PTN VRT last month to meet with faculty and students and spend time in the school's virtual reality lab. He is planning additional visits to familiarize the team with the basics of pilot training.

AETC has identified five desired learning objectives for the project, starting with gamification and a learning management system based on scalable difficulty, Waldroup said.

"This is listed first because it is probably the biggest potential win," he said. "A training platform that has elements of game playing will increase user engagement. Gamification through point scoring, leaderboards and other competitive measures could reduce the steep learning curve of attaining aviation skills. That would be a game changer."

An incorporated LMS could have countless benefits, including the ability of an instructor pilot to assign maneuvers to trainees, Waldroup said.

"In addition, a read-out of standard deviations by trainees would better prepare the next



COURTESY PHOTOS

Air Education and Training Command is partnering with the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology on a project to enhance the capabilities of the virtual reality trainer used in pilot training. Standing in the school's virtual reality lab are, from left, Dr. Jan Puszynski, SDSMT vice president of research; Lt. Col. Cory Waldroup, 99th Flying Training Squadron chief of innovations; 2nd Lt. Mitch Sims, 12th Training Squadron; Dr. Jeff McGough, SDSMT Computer Science and Engineering Department head; and Dr. Lisa Rebenitsch, SDSMT virtual reality lab director. AETC sent a VRT from the Pilot Training Next program in Austin to the South Dakota university so a technology team at the school can work on improving the trainer.

instructor pilot," he said. "Years of usage by a pilot – potentially as far back as high school junior ROTC – could build a profile allowing IPs to more effectively instruct that trainee."

Other objectives for the project are quick-pick scenarios with deep repetitions, improved crew/wingman dynamics through networked scenarios, higher resolution where the user is looking for increased realism and better tactile feedback through realistic input controls.

Quick-pick scenarios would give trainees the opportunity to sit down at a VRT and select a specific maneuver or scenario to focus on, Waldroup said.

"In the past, trainees would 'chair-fly,'" he said. "This involved working through maneuvers and scenarios in their mind. They would sometimes enhance this experience by

sitting in front of a poster of the cockpit or even by replacing the control stick with a plunger affixed to the floor. Virtual reality would make chair-flying real-time and much more beneficial."

AETC's partnership with the South Dakota university complements the command's commitment to a paradigm shift in pilot education manifested in Pilot Training Next, the initiative that uses existing and emerging technologies to decrease the time and cost of pilot training without sacrificing the depth of learning.

Work on the VRT at the South Dakota university will be conducted in the virtual reality research lab, said Dr. Jeff McGough, SDSMT Computer Science and Engineering Department head and professor.

"Some of the VR lab work is done by undergraduates

through undergraduate project teams," he said. "For the SDSMT-Air Force collaboration, the research will be part of faculty and graduate student work."

McGough said he sees the collaboration as a "fabulous opportunity" for the school.

"Computer science and engineering is involved in research on improving engineering education through the use of virtual and augmented reality," he said. "The donation of the flight simulator and connection with AETC educators will enhance and extend this research in novel and impactful new directions. Beyond the specific research goals, working together can help us better understand the Air Force's needs, which we hope will establish future projects to develop new tools in the dynamic landscape of high-tech education."



Dr. Jeff McGough, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Computer Science and Engineering Department head, evaluates a virtual reality trainer sent from Air Education and Training Command's Pilot Training Next program. A technology team at the school has begun work on improving the trainer used in pilot training.