

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

OCTOBER 25, 2019



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Military Exchanges extinguish vape sales

By C. Todd Lopez
DEFENSE.GOV

WASHINGTON — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the Navy Exchange have stopped selling vape-related products.

AAFES removed vape-related products from its shelves Sept. 30. Navy Exchange Service Command removed products from NEX retail shelves and directed NEX concessionaires and vendors to discontinue the sale of vaping products after Oct. 1.

Vape products, including e-cigs, e-cigarettes, vapes and e-hookahs, are electronic nicotine delivery devices that heat a sometimes flavored nicotine-infused liquid into a vapor that users inhale. In recent months, there have been reports of illnesses and deaths believed to be associated with the use of vape products.

“The vapor that users inhale can contain ultrafine particles, carcinogens, volatile organic compounds and heavy metals,” said Public Health Service Capt.



PHOTO BY MARVIN D. LYNCHARD

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the Navy Exchange Service no longer sell vape products.

Kimberly Elenberg, director of Total Force Fitness for the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. “Vaping is not harmless, and researchers are still trying to understand the long-term impacts and health effects from inhaling the vapor.”

NEXCOM officials said Navy exchanges carried two vape-related products. Those

“e-cigarettes” have been removed from shelves. Additionally, NEXCOM directed Navy Exchange concessionaires and vendors to discontinue the sale of vaping products in any NEX location.

AAFES officials said their stores’ offering of vape-related products already was limited, and that its exchanges had already stopped offering flavored vape liquids because of Food and Drug Administration concerns with the appeal of the products to underage customers. By the end of September, AAFES had removed products from two manufacturers from kits shelves.

While proponents of vape products argue vaping is safer than traditional tobacco products such as cigarettes, Elenberg said it’s actually too early to tell.

“E-cigarettes generally contain less chemicals compared to traditional products like cigarettes, but since the long-term effects of vaping are unknown and not understood, there is not enough information at this time to make a determination on

whether it is safer or healthier than other tobacco products,” she said.

Even if the ingestion of nicotine is deemed safer though vaping than through traditional products, nicotine itself is still a dangerous chemical, said Dr. Donald Shell, the director of disease prevention, disease management and population health policy and oversight in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Services Policy and Oversight.

“Nicotine is an extremely addictive, naturally occurring toxic chemical derived from the tobacco plant that affects the nervous system and the heart,” Shell said. “Nicotine is a teratogen, as it is capable of causing birth defects. Other developmental or reproductive toxicities associated with the use of nicotine are unknown.”

While current information regarding nicotine as a carcinogen is inconclusive, Shell said, nicotine is highly addictive, and young adults and adolescents are especially vulnerable to its addictive properties.

Social media: Understanding technology, anxiety

By Senior Airman Ruben Rios
514TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, New Jersey — Do you ever find yourself scrolling through your newsfeed only to feel worse than you did the moment before?

While phones allow us to communicate with others and keep in touch with people who are far away, they can actually cause anxiety and stress.

“For the younger generation, social media is an extension of their values,” said Jacklyn Urme, 514th Air Mobility Wing director of psychological health at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, July 14.

Seeing posts of what others are experiencing can elicit a subconscious stress response.



COURTESY PHOTO

“What you see on social media is not real life,” says Jacklyn Urme, 514th Air Mobility Wing director of psychological health.

The stress can be triggered by a “fear of missing out” or a sense of loneliness.

People tend to post when they are doing something others would find entertaining or fun; as a result it may seem like their lives are perfect. Someone viewing the post could then feel a

sense of inadequacy by comparison.

“What you see on social media is not real life,” Urme said. “The goal is to modify damaging use and find appropriate limits.”

Whether it’s simply habitual or an actual addiction, the damaging use of social media can

become a vicious cycle. If you find yourself frequently stressed while using it, it may be time to consider a break. By taking a break, one can actually decrease stress levels.

Aside from quitting social media cold turkey, some skills a person can employ to combat stress are managing perfectionism, learning to tolerate anxiety, finding values to counter comparison anxiety, knowing and applying values, and developing resilience to better tolerate stress.

There are also resources such as websites and apps that members can use to combat stress, such as Military One Source, a free resource for eligible service members, including active duty, National Guard, Reserve and immediate family members and survivors of those members.

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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
MAJ. KIM BENDER

502nd ABW/JBSA
Chief of Command
Information
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ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE
EN COMMUNITIES
P.O. BOX 2171
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78297
210-250-2052

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Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman

502D AIR BASE WING 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. Why is the process to hire civilians so long? We tend to lose people to outside jobs because it seems to be a good six months before they can start.

A. Thank you for your thoughtful question. The civilian hiring process consists of many steps involving multiple agencies to ensure compliance with law, policy and ultimately fair and equitable hiring practices.

The process begins with the hiring manager working with the local manpower and Civilian Personnel Office to fill an upcoming vacancy. The Request for Personnel Action travels through several different offices to ensure compliance measures are met, in order to bring top-quality candidates into the workforce using fair and equitable hiring practices.

Once the action reaches the Air Force Personnel Center, or AFPC, the action is sent to the appropriate office (i.e., Career Field Teams, Priority Placement Program). The announcements are then posted to the USA Jobs website where applicants can apply.

Once the announcement closes, qualified and eligible applicants are referred via

certificate to the hiring manager. The hiring manager then conducts interviews, if applicable, and makes a selection which is submitted back to AFPC. In turn, AFPC sends a tentative job offer to the applicant.

Each position is unique in that some require certain pre-employment conditions such as security clearances, drug testing, and/or physical examinations. Only after all conditions of employment are met will AFPC send a firm job offer.

There may also be extenuating circumstances that could prevent the selectee from coming on board in a timely manner. These include but are not limited to suitability concerns and/or the selectee traveling from out of state without PCS authorization.

Civilian Personnel Services has made internal adjustments to streamline the process such as collecting bi-weekly data to review the timeliness of each process of the pre-employment

requirements and advising management of pre-employment waivers to speed up the process.

As with every process we are always looking to fine-tune as we move forward. Your feedback and teamwork helps us to achieve an outstanding program and so we thank you for the active engagement and understanding.

Q. I would like to know why some think it is okay to take away Department of the Air Force civilian police overtime at JBSA-Lackland with only two days notice.

A. Thank you for your question. While we understand your concerns (in particular about the short notice), we would like to highlight that it is ultimately management's obligation to be good stewards of their organization and taxpayer money. If they determine the mission does not require overtime, then they have an obligation to ensure employees are

returned to normal duty.

I recommend that if you have concerns about overtime, you speak with your leadership and get their justification for these short-notice cancellations. I do appreciate the feedback, and encourage all supervisors and leadership teams to continue to keep the well-being of their personnel in mind when making decisions and enacting policies within their organizations.

Q. I have a question regarding current and near future retirement benefits for those who retired from active duty military service after June 2011.

I have heard a few rumors and hearsay about this and I would rather get an official word: 1) regardless of when someone retires, they will not collect retirement pay until they are 65 years old, 2) retirees will not receive ANY retirement pay, except what is earned with their TSP.

A. Thank you for helping us

clarify retirement benefit rumors. To clarify the rumors, Airmen who have already retired are not affected by the change in the Department of Defense retirement system while those who entered uniformed service prior to Jan. 1, 2018, are grandfathered under the current retirement system.

The Blended Retirement System (BRS) became effective Jan. 1, 2018, and blends the current 20-year cliff-vested defined benefit annuity with a defined contribution plan that combines Government and service member contributions in a portable Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account.

Modernizing the current retirement system into the BRS not only ensures that the vast majority of all uniformed members receive a portable retirement benefit, but it will also help make uniformed service a more attractive option for those who would like to serve but do not plan to make the Air Force a career.

The BRS is comprised of a TSP with matching funds and a retirement annuity for completing twenty or more years of eligible service. Airmen with a Date Initially Entered Uniformed Service, or DIEUS of Jan. 1, 2018, and later are automatically enrolled in the new retirement system.

Airmen with a DIEUS prior to Jan. 1, 2018, are grandfathered under their current retirement system; however, service members with less than 12 years of service, or less than 4,320 points for the Air Reserve Component (ARC), as of Dec. 31, 2017, had the option to elect the BRS, if they desired. The opt-in window for these individuals closed Dec. 31, 2018; however, certain Airmen may request an extension of the opt-in window if they are experiencing hardship situations.

To check your retirement,

FEEDBACK FRIDAYS
continues on 4



FEEDBACK FRIDAYS

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you can go into your Leave and Earning Statement and view all of the details; if you are in the BRS system, you can also change your contributions to your TSP accordingly.

Q. I live near JBSA-Lackland and frequently go on base to shop or eat. The majority of time the military or civilian personnel on duty at the gate have a friendly, welcoming attitude. Some even acknowledge courteous comments.

However, there are a few who do not respond to a greeting, or they give the impression that life is cruel. A few times it seemed the attitude was “I don’t need your comments.” I think some personnel entering the base could be more “human” or smile. Some of us appreciate the effort, and some may need a warm smile to make their day.

A. Thank you for your comment! I am thrilled to hear the majority of the time you experience a welcoming attitude from our Security Forces professionals who protect and defend JBSA.

It is unfortunate that you’ve experienced less than that welcoming attitude on a few occasions. Rest assured, my team and I strive to deliver the best customer service each and every day to those who live and work on JBSA.

I do want to say thank you for engaging with our Defenders in a positive way. We also have to keep in mind, everyone has bad days and you never know what someone is going through; they might not feel like smiling all the time, and that’s OK, too.

Installation & Facilities

Q. In regards to the streetlight issue from a previous Q&A (9/13/2019), I have a recommendation regarding a previous Q&A about street lights ...

solar-powered lights!

I have provided a link to an example: <https://www.solar-lightingitl.com/all-in-one-led-solar-street-lighting-systems/>. It would fix the safety issue as well as conserve electricity in an already over-used area.

I know we are at the end of the fiscal year and funding is thin, but this would save money in the long run and the lights are LED so would last longer as well. The final perk is that they do not require new poles; they would attach to the pre-existing poles down Stanley Road at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, as well as free up the circuit in building 2263.

A. Thank you for your question, and for your concern for the safety of our personnel. The 502d Civil Engineer Group’s Energy & Utilities team is continually looking for opportunities to save energy at JBSA.

We have explored solar street lights and the economic viability of converting them to renewable technology. Unfortunately, we still have not been able to make an economic business case to justify the savings to investment. Another issue we are faced with is the street lights are owned by a privatized contractor, CPS Energy, and making investments in non-government assets can be challenging.

As solar technology becomes more cost effective, we are confident that one day we will be able to make a business case to upgrade the roadway lighting system. We will also explore partnership opportunities with government and non-governmental entities for opportunities as technology changes and is not as expensive.

Q. Good afternoon. I use the Medina Fitness Center quite often and I wanted to bring this to your attention.

I noticed over a month now of driving past the gate on the right side (near where the motorcycle safety training is conducted and where all the unused flag poles are), the grass

has grown 1 to 2 feet tall. For the grass to have grown this tall, you can assume it has not been cut in a while because there is “brown grass” near this area where the contractor cut recently.

It is unsightly and not a good first impression when entering the base, as I am sure you would agree.

Do you know why the contractor is not cutting this area? Isn’t there a QAE (Quality Assurance Evaluator) assigned to make sure the work is currently done?

A. Thank you for your keen observation and question. Based on the description you provided, we believe you are referring the area on the JBSA-Lackland Training Annex, just off the motorcycle training pad area to the right as you enter the gate from Medina Base Road.

Our Grounds Maintenance Contract has this area identified as an “Improved Grounds” standard, which requires grass to be maintained between 2-4 inches. CEG recently inspected this area and noted that the circular area was mowed with the exception of an area in the middle, which happens to be sunken in and is therefore is considered unsafe for the large batwing mower to drive over.

The contractor is required to weed-eat the high grass down in that area as much as safely possible, and CEG has engaged with the contractor to ensure this is being addressed. Thank you again for your feedback!

Q. The Stanley Road running track at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston is in deplorable condition! This is the premier running track at Fort Sam for all physical fitness training and activities. It is used by uniformed and civilian personnel.

There is grass growing on the track, and in some areas, complete encroachment of the outer track, narrowing the usable running surface. The track surface is also uneven.

Some weeks ago, a reader commented on a sinkhole in the track marked only with an

orange cone. While the cone was removed and the hole patched somewhat, no other improvements have been made to this track.

With the amount of people who use this track every day, it needs to be better maintained. The grass should be trimmed and removed from the track surface immediately. The surface should be level and smooth with well demarcated lanes.

A. We apologize for the condition of the track. JBSA has many running tracks and our Civil Engineers are developing a contract to provide reoccurring maintenance. CEG is currently developing its investment plan for this year and this track was identified as one of the many investments needed and are optimistic it will be funded given the safety, quality of life, and readiness considerations.

In the meantime, CE has already made some minor repairs and will continue to monitor and address issues until the contract effort is in place and funded. Thanks for your feedback!

Miscellaneous

Q. The Civil Engineering Group restructure is not well known outside of their group. Some individual contacts within the organization are still usable, but trying to determine which office provides which function and contacting them for needed services or functional requirements remains a mystery.

Is there a planned update of the organization diagram, office symbols, organizational contacts and other general information planned for 502d CEG public sites, AF Portal, SharePoint, the GAL, and the Wing Customer Service Guide?

A. Thank you for your question! We realize that the reorganization that occurred late last year has created some confusion.

Recently there have been some leadership positions added and the 502d CEG is still

making a few changes to their organizational structure. As soon as that is finalized, they plan on pushing out their new organizational chart with identified leaders to base mission partners and through our 502d Air Base Wing Public Affairs office.

Throughout the entire reorganization process, the numbers for CE Customer Service have remain unchanged, and all base personnel are encouraged to first work any infrastructure issues or requests through their unit’s assigned facilities managers, who are all well-trained in the service request processes.

Q. My question is about the JBSA base cable in the government and MWR buildings. Is there an AFI or DoDI that says Fox News (only) has to air on the monitors and/or TVs in those buildings, in the JBSA area?

A. Thank you for bringing your concern to our attention. There is no AFI or DoDI to guide what programming is shown at different facilities across JBSA.

However, as a general rule of thumb, our staff does its best to show family friendly and appropriate shows while rotating through various channels to provide our customers with some variety in entertainment.

In facilities with multiple sets, an attempt is made to keep one TV on a sports channel and the other on one of the many news channels available. In areas such as the dining facilities, the staff allows customers to request the remote/change the channel according to their preference.

If a customer finds a certain show or channel offensive or inappropriate, it can be changed upon request. If you see something, say something! If there is a program showing on our TVs that you deem as inappropriate or not aligned with our Wing and Air Force core values, please let the facility staff know and they will do their best to provide more family-friendly and appropriate channels. Thank you for your feedback!

Senate confirms new Air Force secretary

By Charles Pope

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON — The Senate overwhelmingly confirmed Barbara Barrett to be the 25th Secretary of the Air Force Oct. 16, clearing the way for the experienced pilot and former ambassador to lead the service as it faces new threats globally and in space.

The 85-7 vote makes Barrett the third consecutive woman confirmed to lead the Air Force and its 685,000 total force Airmen. Barrett replaces Heather Wilson who resigned in May. Undersecretary Matthew Donovan served as acting secretary in the interim.

“I can think of no position that offers more excitement, challenge and meaning than the secretary of the Air Force,” Barrett said, after the vote. “Our Air Force is the best in the world because of extraordinary Airmen and civilians with

whom I am now proud to serve.”

Barrett’s lopsided confirmation was largely expected. She earned praise from senators in remarks prior to the vote that summarized her extensive background in public service as ambassador to Finland, as a senior official at the Federal Aviation Administration, as an instrument-rated pilot and as someone certified as an astronaut for space travel.

“Ambassador Barrett has had an impressive career both inside and outside of government,” said Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., the chamber’s second-ranking Republican, prior to the vote.

Barrett’s experience as a senior official with the FAA and most recently as chairwoman of the Aerospace Corporation gives her “a deep understanding of the United States Air Force,” Thune said.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein offered his

praise as well. “This is an exciting day for our Air Force,” he said. “Secretary Barrett brings an incredible background and a level of strategic understanding that will propel us into the future. We won the lottery ... again!”

Any questions about Barrett’s confirmation were largely erased in September when she appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Barrett echoed a set of priorities that have been often described by the Air Force’s civilian and military leadership.

She emphasized the need for robust modernization to recover from budget cuts in previous years. She offered unequivocal support for expanding the fleet of F-35 Lightning II aircraft. “The F-35,” she told senators, “is our future and we need it. And we need it sustainably.”

She offered support for an Air Force analysis calling on the service to expand to 386 squadrons from 312. That number is

needed, the analysis says, to meet all demands and challenges posed in today’s world. That target was unveiled last year after extensive review and is captured in shorthand as “the Air Force we need.”

Barrett agreed that continuing to reconfigure the force to confront, and if necessary defeat, “near peer” adversaries China and Russia must remain a focus. And, at a time when the Air Force and other services are confronting suicides and sexual assaults among other quality of life issues, Barrett pledged to work hard to understand and address those problems as well as the underlying issues that cause them.

She also endorsed creating a Space Force as the new and separate sixth branch of the U.S. military.

“If confirmed, standing up a Space Force would be a key imperative,” she told senators during that hearing. “I believe we need the Space Force, in fact,



WAYNE CLARK

Barbara Barrett was confirmed by the Senate Oct. 16 to be the 25th Secretary of the Air Force.

in my opinion, a domain-specific service to organize, train and equip space forces is overdue.”

Barrett also embraced existing policies and themes on topics ranging from the need for the KC-46 Pegasus tanker, to combating cyber threats, to the emerging importance of the Arctic and to working with senators to address ground-water contamination from Air Force bases in their states. She agreed that modernizing the United States’ aging nuclear capability is “one of our highest priorities.”

‘Pumpkin Patrols’ ready for fright night duty

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio security forces squadrons will keep careful watch on Halloween to ensure the safety of trick-or-treaters as they go door to door throughout the installation's housing areas.

The squadrons deploy “Pumpkin Patrols” from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 31 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and 5-8 p.m. at JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph.

“Pumpkin Patrol is a Halloween safety initiative that enhances the safety of our trick-or-treaters,” said Tech. Sgt. Antonio Wiggins, 902nd SFS NCOIC of Operations and Police Services. “Even though our number one priority is safety, the goal of the Pumpkin Patrol is to ensure that the children and parents involved in trick-or-treating festivities have a fun, eventful night.”

At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, all housing areas will be open for trick-or-treating, said Officer Brian Mitchem of 502nd SFS police services.

“We will get volunteers from the unit to come out and walk in housing during the trick-or-treating hours,” he said. “We will also have some patrols in certain areas in case anything happens.”



MELISSA PETERSON

Joint Base San Antonio security forces squadrons will deploy “Pumpkin Patrols” to help protect trick-or-treaters from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 31 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and 5-8 p.m. at JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph.

The 802nd SFS at JBSA-Lackland also plans a presence in the location's housing areas, said Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Larrazabal, an Installation Security Team member.

Areas that will be covered are Frank Tejeda West at the training annex, LeMay adjacent to the golf course, Airman Scott Village/North Wherry across from the exchange, and Frank Tejeda East and North Skeet adjacent to the Balfour Beatty Communities management office.

The 902nd SFS Pumpkin Patrol will provide safety in JBSA-Randolph housing, Wiggins said.

gins said.

“Due to the increased number of vehicles and pedestrians on Halloween, Airmen from the 902nd Security Forces Squadron will be out to enforce safety measures along with volunteers from different agencies on JBSA-Randolph,” he said. “With this program, volunteers become an additional set of eyes and ears for security forces. Even though there will be a presence of armed and unarmed SFS members to properly patrol the areas of interest, volunteers are trained on how to be vigilant of suspicious behavior.”

Security forces spokesmen

also offered safety advice to parents, trick-or-treaters and motorists.

Larrazabal advises parents to supervise their children at all times, recommending that they walk with them instead of watching from their vehicles; know the trick-or-treating hours; set a plan with their children, such as meeting places and times, and what to do if they are lost; and set sound guidelines for children who are old enough to be unsupervised.

Larrazabal's advice for trick-or-treaters is to be aware of their surroundings and watch out for vehicles, only approach houses with porch lights on, stay on sidewalks, carry a flash-light or other source of light, and have an adult inspect their treats prior to consumption. He also said trick-or-treaters should not talk to strangers or accept vehicle rides from them.

Motorists should slow down in residential areas and obey all traffic signs and signals, Wiggins said.

“Drive at least 5 miles per hour below the posted speed limit to give yourself extra time to react to children who may dart into the street,” he said. “Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs because in dark costumes they'll be harder to see at night. Also

look for children crossing the street; they may not be paying attention to traffic and cross the street mid-block or between parked cars.”

Trick-or-treating is not the only way to enjoy Halloween. Alternative activities are also planned at JBSA locations.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Road, will host the Exceptional Family Member Program's Halloween Howl Down from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 25. The event will feature a haunted house, hay rides, face painting, trick-or-treating, bounce castles, food trucks, and games and prizes. Attendees can also learn about community resources.

Another event at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston is a haunted trail from 7-10 p.m. Oct. 26 at the golf course.

Lackland Youth Programs, building 8240, 2361 Selfridge Ave., will host its second annual Trunk or Treat from 6:45-8:15 p.m. Oct. 30. Vehicles will be parked as “trunks” to provide treats to children.

Randolph Youth Programs, buildings 584 and 585, Main Circle, will hold its annual Fall Hi-Jinx from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 31. The event will feature games with prizes, face painting and costume contests.

JBSA Fire Emergency Services offers tips for a safe Halloween

By Ricardo S. Campos

JBSA FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ghosts, goblins and other terrifying monsters will soon be haunting your neighborhood. But, of course, these non-threatening creatures of the night are none other than children who are enjoying the revelries of Halloween.

With the excitement of this yearly event, Joint Base San Antonio-Fire Emergency Services requests parents follow a few tips to ensure the night is filled with fun and not tragedy.

In 2013, an estimated 6,100 pedestrian deaths and 160,000 medically consulted nonfatal injuries occurred among pedestrians in motor vehicles, according to Injury Facts 2015, the statistical report on unintentional injuries created by the National Safety Council, or NSC.

The NCS research revealed the reasons for pedestrian deaths and injuries varied by age. Darting or running into the road accounted for about 70 percent of pedestrian deaths or injuries for those age 5 to 9 and about 47 percent of incidents for

those 10 to 14.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has compiled a list of Halloween Safety Tips at <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/news-features-and-safety-tips/Pages/Halloween-Safety-Tips.aspx> to help ensure adults and children have a safe holiday. This includes the do's and don'ts on the trick-or-treat trail.

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape

to their costumes and bags to make sure they are visible.

- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is non-toxic and always test it in a small area first.

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs. Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully

- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing

- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and avoid trick-or-treating alone.

- Tell children not to eat any treats until they return home.

- Teach children to never enter a stranger's home.

For more Halloween safety tips, visit the National Fire Protection Association's website at <https://www.nfpa.org/education> or the National Safety Council at <https://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/halloween-safety.aspx> or contact the fire prevention offices at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-1804, at JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2921 or at JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6915.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

JBSA recognizes Gold Star Mothers, Families

By A.J. Marshall Jr.

SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICE
SUPPORT COORDINATOR ARMY
SUPPORT ACTIVITY

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Survivor Outreach Support Services hosted the National Gold Star Mothers and Families luncheon at the Warrior Family Support Center on the Brooke Army Medical Center campus Sept. 29.

Sept. 22-28 was designated "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week," which included a presidential proclamation designating Sept. 29 as Gold Star Mothers and Family Day to express sympathy, respect and gratitude for the loss that military families have endured.

At the luncheon, 105 Gold Star Mothers and family members, along with other guests, were recognized for their sacrifice and loss of a loved one who



A.J. MARSHALL JR.

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Survivor Outreach Support Services hosted the National Gold Star Mothers and Families luncheon on the Brooke Army Medical Center campus Sept. 29, with Schertz Mayor Michael Carpenter and keynote speaker Brig. Gen. Wendy Harter, Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general.

died while on active duty.

The program consisted of senior noncommissioned officers from four branches of the military, along with their wives, greeting and showing command support to Gold Star Families.

Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Christopher Cary, Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Jason R. Hammel, Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Maxwell B. McGill and Army Command Sgt. Maj. William H. O'Neal II greeted and distrib-

uted Gold Star Flag lapel pins to each Gold Star Family member.

Mayor Michael Carpenter of Schertz presented keynote speaker Brig. Gen. Wendy Harter, Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general, with

the proclamation declaring Sept. 29, 2019, as National Gold Star Mothers and Family Day.

Harter addressed the audience by acknowledging their sacrifice and sense of loss, and the nation's gratitude.

"I know I speak for our military leaders when I say we know how important our family members are in supporting our service members and warfighters," Harter said. "We will continue to support you as you have supported us. That is our vow to you."

Survivors or those who know someone who has lost a loved one while on active duty can call the Survivor Outreach Services at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Office at 210-221-1938 for support and to get on the SOS Express newsletter email list. There is also a Facebook page at "Survivor Outreach Services Fort Sam Houston" that lists area events.

BAMC celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center held a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration Oct. 11 to honor the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States military.

Brig. Gen. Wendy Harter, BAMC commanding general, emphasized this year's theme: "Honoring Hispanic Americans: Essential to the Blueprint of Our Nation."

"This theme invites us to reflect on the service and contributions of Hispanic Americans to the history of our nation," Harter said.

The general spoke about

100-year-old Joe Castellanos, a combat medic who honored his nation and profession in what is considered the bloodiest battle in the Pacific during World War II in Okinawa, where thousands of Americans and Japanese lost their lives.

"We've had many outstanding Hispanic Americans serving our military throughout history," Harter said, "including our guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Alberto Delgado."

Delgado is the command sergeant major for U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and the senior enlisted leader for Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis.

"Through hard work, devotion and loyalty to community and country, Hispanic Americans have pursued the American dream and have made great contributions to the strength, protection and diversity of our nation," Delgado said.

The command sergeant major added that his family pursued the American dream. His parents, both from Puerto Rico, moved to New York, where they met.

"Growing up on Delancey Street on the Lower East Side wasn't always easy," Delgado said. "But, the care for each other, work ethic and intuition that was instilled in me from an early age by my family and the

roots of our culture, shaped my leadership style and ultimately helped me succeed to where I am today."

Delgado highlighted heroes such as Cpl. Joseph DeCastro, the first Hispanic American Soldier presented the Medal of Honor, and Pvt. David Barkley, the first Hispanic American to receive the Medal of Honor posthumously, as well as several others, including Master Sgt. Leroy Petry, a Soldier with the 75th Ranger Regiment who received the Medal of Honor for his service during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"Hispanic Americans have bravely fought for our nation from the very beginning of

American history," Delgado said. "I am proud of our heritage and contributions to our service. Our Army is stronger because of this diversity. Together, we must continue to strive for equality and treat everyone with dignity and respect, no matter where they come from, what they look like or how they practice their faith."

The ceremony also included Staff Sgt. Jamie Cruz, a Soldier in the BAMC Warrior Transition Battalion, who performed Spanish music on guitar.

BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Oates closed the ceremony and thanked everyone for their contributions and participation.

U.S. Army MEDCoE represents at AUSA

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. Justin Avery represented the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, during kiosk presentations at a national professional development forum Oct. 14-16 in Washington, D.C.

Avery, who considers San Antonio his hometown, presented information about the MEDCoE, the newest of the Training and Doctrine Command's centers of excellence at the 2019 Association of the United States Army, or AUSA, Annual Meeting and Exposition during the three-day event. Avery is assigned as the Military Deputy for the CoE's newest staff directorate, the TRADOC Capability Manager-Army Health System, or TCM-AHS within the Fielded Force Integration Directorate, or FFID.

TCM-AHS was appointed by

the TRADOC Commanding General in August to act as TRADOC's centralized manager for fielded force integrator activities associated with medical commands, brigades, field medical units and the Army Health System.

The theme for the MEDCoE's kiosk was "Army Medicine Starts Here" with a goal to inform AUSA attendees, who may not already be familiar, of the breadth and depth of their mission, current priorities, and initiatives. Visitors to the MEDCoE kiosk received information and materials describing how MEDCoE is responsible to drive Army Medicine into the Army and the Army Profession into Army Medicine's Professionals. They are the proponent for the Army's medical education and training, medical capability development and medical doctrine development and integration.

Several of the center's senior

leaders, to include Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Sargent, MEDCoE commander, had other key engagements and professional development opportunities during the annual event, which was attended by approximately 30,000 key leaders from the Army, Department of Defense, Congress and industry partners.

However, Avery said he felt more pride than pressure to ensure MEDCoE's kiosk within the TRADOC and Army display was interactive, informative and made a good impression on attendees.

"I'm honored to be selected to represent the Medical Center of Excellence, and be able to articulate to the rest of the Army the importance of the Medical Center, the newly created TRADOC Capability Manager and the importance we bring to the Warfighter," Avery said.

Under the MEDCoE, as charged by TRADOC, the TCM-

AHS is the modernization proponent and the capability developer for all things medical. TCM-AHS coordinates, integrates, and synchronizes doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities and policy, or DOTMLPF-P domain activities in support of the Army Health System as a whole.

"Our mission is critically important to ensure our medical force gets the right capabilities, the right training, the right equipment, and the right personnel to do the wartime operational medicine mission as well as ensuring that our force is medically ready," Avery said.

An aeromedical evacuation, or MEDEVAC pilot by trade for nearly 20 years, Avery said he is most proud of the capability development he has been involved in over the last five years. When he was not manning the MEDCoE display, he said he looked forward to hearing pre-

senters at AUSA's warrior's corner and getting the opportunity to visit some of the hundreds of exhibits that were available.

During AUSA, Avery was joined by Sgt. 1st Class Hunter Black, a highly experienced combat medic with a background in special operations and several combat deployments. Black represents the MEDCoE's Directorate of Simulations, or DOS. Created earlier this year, MEDCoE's DOS works closely with TCM-AHS to push forward with advancements and innovations in Army Medicine.

"The lasting impact of the work we have been fortunate to have been involved in means a great deal to me because it will affect the future of Army Medicine and the Army over the next 10 to 20 years," Avery added.

The theme for the 2019 AUSA was "America's Army: Ready Now, Investing in the Future."



Joint Base San Antonio FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

November

Aquatics

Patrons swim all year long

Head over to the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Pool Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for free lap swimming.

Open swim takes place Monday through Friday from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday from 1-5 p.m. The cost to swim is \$3 per person and \$2 per person for children younger than 10. For more information, call 210-671-3780.

Bowling

Patrons party under the lights

Get the party started at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Nov. 2 and 16, 5-10 p.m. with high tempo pop music, bowling and a glowing light show. The cost is \$3.75 per person, per game. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

Bowlers celebrate Veteran's Day

Come out to the JBSA-Randolph bowling center to celebrate the Veterans' Day weekend with the special bowling rate of \$2.75 per game, per person with \$3 shoe rental. This special runs from noon to 6 p.m. on Nov. 9 and from 1 to 4 p.m. Nov. 10. The bowling center will be closed on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

Come out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Veteran's Day weekend, Nov. 9-10 during normal business hours and pay the special blowing rate of \$2.50 per game, per person with \$2.50 shoe rental. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

Bowlers enjoy a Black Friday special

Avoid the crowds on Black Friday and come hang out at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Nov. 22 during normal business hours. Spend the day bowling for half price – buy one game of bowling and get the second game free. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

Annual tournament held for Thanksgiving

Join the JBSA-Randolph bowling center Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. for the annual Thanksgiving Bowling Tournament. The tournament is a scratch format. Cost is \$60 per person and prizes are given out based on the number of entries. To sign up, or for more information call 210-652-6271.

Thanksgiving AETC family day special offered

Treat the family to a fun-filled day Nov. 29, from 1-8 p.m. at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center. Treat your family to a fun filled day and take advantage of the "Rent-a-Lane" special. This special includes two hours of bowling, shoe rental, a 20 ounce soda each, a large pizza

and costs \$50 for up to six people. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

Canyon Lake

Movie Night held at the lake

Come out to JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. for a free movie night, complete with popcorn and hot chocolate. The movie can be enjoyed by the lake or from the comfort of your car. For more information, call 830-964-3544.

Patrons rent boats at a discount

Patrons can rent any boat at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake for half price in November and December. The price includes all required safety equipment such as life vests but does not include fuel. Now is your chance to take advantage of a less crowded lake and save money too. Patrons must have taken the boater's safety course through the State of Texas, at the JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake or the Outdoor Recreation office at any of the three JBSA primary locations. Patrons can also reserve boats through jbsamarinasuper@gmail.com or call us at 210-601-7763 for more information and reservations.

Bunkhouses and bungalows are half priced

Customers may rent one of the Bunkhouses or Bungalows for half price during the months of November and December. Enjoy the cool crisp air at the lake during the day and at night bask in the warmth of this cozy one room Bunkhouse or Bungalow. Each unit sleeps up to four people and is equipped with a refrigerator, microwave, air conditioning/heating. Customers need to bring their own linens. JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake is still a popular place in the fall/winter months so please make reservations early. For more information or to make a reservation, email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com or call 830-964-3576.

Clubs

Guests fly into the auger

Head over to the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. for Auger Night. Join the party at the Auger Inn for "old school" camaraderie, free light refreshments and great music from the Guilty Party band. Meet your neighbors, folks from other squadrons and leadership. No cover to join the fun. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

Holiday meals to go

Relax this Thanksgiving and let the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club do the cooking. The cashiers accept orders Nov. 12 through Nov. 22 and all orders must be picked up on Nov. 27, no later than 5 p.m. No pick ups are allowed Thanksgiving Day. Customers are given a receipt at time of

purchase, which needs to be presented at time of pick up. Reheating instructions are included. The cost of the meal is \$85 for members and \$90 for nonmembers. Meals feed 4-6 people. The price for just the turkey or just the ham is \$45 for members or \$50 for nonmembers. Coupons, club bucks or gift certificates are not accepted as payment for this event. To place an order or for more information, call the Catering Department at 210-658-7446 or the cashiers' cage at 210-652-4864.

Save yourself some time during the hustle and bustle of the holidays by taking advantage of the Gateway Club's holiday meals-to-go from Nov. 1-27. Place your order at least two days in advance of pickup. Orders must be paid for at the time the order is placed. Please add \$15 to pick up freshly prepared hot meals and specify this at the time of order. There is also a \$15 carving fee to have your ham or turkey sliced. The last day to order is Nov. 22 for a Nov. 27 pickup. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

Bingo fun is at the club

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club offers bingo every Sunday at 3 p.m. and Monday – Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Ballroom. Admission is free for members and nonmembers pay \$10. Members have the chance to win the full jackpot and nonmembers can try to win a half jackpot. Don't forget to play every Tuesday and Wednesday to qualify for the monthly member prize giveaway.

Bingo Extravaganza takes place Nov. 4 & 18, with \$15,000 in total bingo jackpots, with a complimentary buffet at 5 p.m. and early bird bingo at 6 p.m. Admission is free for members and nonmembers pay \$10. Members have a chance to win full jackpots and nonmembers can try to win a half jackpot.

Birthday Bingo takes place Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. Patrons are invited to celebrate their birthday at the club and receive a complimentary bingo machine and cake. Randolph Club members only. ID card and proof of club membership required. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

Thanksgiving style buffet offered

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club invites everyone to come out Nov. 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for an all-you-can-eat pre-Thanksgiving buffet featuring many Thanksgiving favorites. For more information call 210-645-7034.

All families are invited to enjoy Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Gateway Club with an all-you-can-eat feast and assorted beverages. Members feast for \$26.95 per person; nonmembers for \$28.95 per person; members' children, ages 6-11, for

JBSA FSS

\$12.95; nonmembers' children, ages 6–11, for \$14.95 and children five and younger eat for free. Menu includes carved meat selections, chicken, ham, and roast pork loin with vegetable varieties, a 5 cheese macaroni, potatoes with gravy and much more. Salad, desserts and breakfast omelet options also available. No Reservations. Walk ins Only. Coupons Not Accepted. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

Community Programs

Calling all thrill seekers

The third annual JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Zombie Run will take place November 16 from 4-8 p.m. in. Run through three miles of dilapidated, brain eating monster infested terrain all while trying to make it to the finish line unscathed. Interested participants can sign up now at <https://bit.ly/zombierun2019>. This event is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and their guests. The registration fee is \$7.50. To sign up.

Volunteer sign ups are also being accepted for anyone looking to participate in the event. There are openings for participants to play the roles of zombies during the run, as well as makeup artists to transform participants into zombies. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union, THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, Kapsuun Group, Natural Grocers, Silver Eagle and AT&T. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended. To sign up as a volunteer or for more information, email 502FSS.FSK.JBSACommunityevent@us.af.mil or call 210-652-5763.

Community Services

The Harlequin Theatre puts on a show

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's Harlequin Theatre presents the outrageously funny comedy A Doublewide, Texas Christmas by Jones, Hope and Wooten Nov. 1-23. It's Christmas time in the newest-and tiniest-town in Texas and it's beginning to look a lot like trouble. Not only are the trailer park residents dealing with the stress of the holiday season, but they've just discovered that Doublewide is being doubled-crossed by the county. With their official incorporation papers in jeopardy, this band of eccentric Texans throw themselves into taking on the "Big Guys." Determined to bolster their legitimacy, they first set their sights on the county-wide "Battle of The Mangers" competition. They conspire to win this smack down with their "Nativity at the Alamo" entry by any means possible.

Cost for military is \$20, Civilians \$22 and students \$18. These shows are sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Make your reservations today. Group rates available and shows are open to the public. To make reservations and for more information on the show, season tickets, Flex Passes and children's tickets, call 210-222-9694.

Families come out for game night

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Sam Houston Community Activity Center Nov. 6, 6-9 p.m., for a fun night of games and a Kid's Favorites Buffet. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$3 for children ages 3-9 and free for children

2 and younger. For more information, call 210-808-6262 or 210-808-6263.

Patrons tackle trivia night

Come to the Sam Houston Community Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Nov. 8, 6-8 p.m., to show how smart you really are. Have fun with "Geeks Who Drink" bar trivia, a homegrown Pub Trivia Quiz modeled after those in Ireland and the UK. Quizzes cover everything from celebrities in trouble to wordplay to bad television. The bar will be open and great food will be available to order. For more information, call 210-808-6262 or 210-808-6263.



JBSA-Randolph Park Club
TURKEYS & HAMS TO GO
Place orders between
Nov. 12-22
& Pick up
Nov. 27 by 5 p.m.
To place your order or
for more information,
call (210) 658-7446.

Patrons learn how to make wreaths

Come out to the JBSA Fort Sam Houston Sam Houston Community Activity Center on Nov. 25, from 6-9 p.m. and learn how to make a Christmas wreath that will make your neighbors envious. The cost is \$30 per person and includes all supplies to take your own wreath home. Light food is provided and the bar is open for drink purchases. Bring your friends and make it a fun night of camaraderie. For more information or to make reservations, call 210-808-6262 or 210-808-6263.

Customers experience a new lunch option

Every Monday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sam Houston Community Activity Center raises the bar on food options for lunch on JBSA Fort Sam Houston. If you are tired of the same old lunch, try our Monday lunch with a different entrée each week. The cost is \$8 per person. All lunches are made to take with you and include a beverage. For more information, call 210-808-6262 or 210-808-6263.

Fitness

Students compete in a shoot-out

Students of the METC campus are invited to a basketball three-point shoot-out and free throw contest Nov. 2, 10:30 a.m. at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston METC Fitness Center. Contestants compete in just one competition or both. Awards are given for the top scores. For more information, call 210-808-5709.

NPC JBSA Lackland

Bodybuilding Classic

XLIV

**Saturday
Nov. 16**

Pre-Judging 9 A.M. | Finals 6:30 P.M.

Hyatt Regency
123 Losoya St.
San Antonio, TX 78205

Purchase Tickets at
JBSA-Lackland Fitness and Sports
1951 Biggs Ave. Bldg. 2513
Monday- Friday, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

For more information, call (210) 671-0854 or (210) 671-1995
or visit JBSAtoday.com
NPC Sanction # 3302

Customers are appreciated

The JBSA Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center says thank you Nov. 6 to all the customers that have made and continue to make the Fitness Center such a wonderful place to work out. Visit the center 6-8 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 5-7 p.m. for customer activities, giveaways, facility tours, equipment tutorials and light refreshments. For more information, call 210-221-1234.

Veterans Appreciation Day

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center appreciates veterans. The Fitness Center is hosting an open house Nov. 8, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., for veterans in recognition of all those who have served this great country and in appreciation for all their sacrifices. Come take a tour to see how the fitness center can help improve quality of life. The fitness center offers top-of-the-line equipment and excellent programs. Fitness center staff are on hand to answer questions. 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 fight against suicide

Head over to the JBSA-Lackland Medina Fitness Center Nov. 9 at 8 a.m. to take part in their 5K run to fight against Veteran Suicide. This event is to honor the military men and women who have courageously served and fought for our country. Our goal is to join together as a team to fight against veteran suicide. You can run, ruck, or walk. We suggest you carry a rucksack or backpack that weighs 20 lbs. The 20 lbs. represents the 20 veterans that take their lives every day. Registration begins at 7 a.m. Registration is free and they are taking sign-ups now. For more information, call the Medina Fitness Center at 210-671-4477.

Teams compete in a tournament

The JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center is hosting a Walleyball tournament Nov. 14. Teams must have at least four players. This is a double elimination tournament with rally scoring. For more information, call 210-977-2353.

Turkey Trot or Great American Smoke Out run or walk

Patrons are invited to come out to the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center jogging trails Nov. 15, 11 a.m., to trot their way to a healthy holiday season and support "The Great American Smoke Out" by running or walking a 5K. All participants are entered in a drawing to win a turkey for a holiday feast. 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.

Basketball Tournament held

Teams comprised of military students assigned to METC Campus are invited to sign up the Second Annual Five vs Five Basketball Classic Tournament at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston METC Fitness Center Nov. 30, 10:30 a.m. Prizes are given to top finishers. For more information, call 210-808-5709.

Golf

Patrons compete in a scramble

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Warrior Golf Scramble is held Nov. 1, 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. The fee includes green fee, golf cart, prize money, and social after the round. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

Veterans Day tournament held

Join the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course for a two- person team Veterans Day Tournament Nov. 11. With this tournament, holes 1-6 are played as a scramble, 7-12 are played as a best ball and holes 13-18 are played as a modified alternate shot. Net and gross are paid and the team handicap is the lowest of the two handicaps. Cost is \$20 to enter. For more information or to sign up, call 210-652-4653.

Teams compete in a tournament

Golfers are invited to play in a three-person Turkey Shoot Nov. 11, 12:30 p.m. at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course. Teams must have a at least one male and one female. Junior golfers are welcome. The cost is \$25

for members and \$35 for nonmembers and includes green fee, cart and social after the event and prizes. Fifty percent of the field will win a turkey. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course hosts turkey shoot Nov. 23 at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. This is an 18-Hole, Two Player Scramble. Players make their own teams and the Pro Shop will make the pairings for the event. Winning teams are awarded a certain percentage of their combined team handicap with prizes for both Gross and Net. Entry fee is \$20 per player and covers prizes for the event. Deadline to sign up is Thursday, Nov. 21. There is a \$30 a late entry fee after Nov. 21. For more information, call 210-671-3466

JBSA FORT SAM HOUSTON AMPHITHEATER BEHIND THE AQUATIC CENTER

ZOMBIE RUN
NOV. 16 • 4-8 P.M.
\$10 REGISTRATION FEE
TO SIGN UP, VISIT
HTTPS://BIT.LY/ZOMBIERUN2019
OPEN TO ALL DOD ID CARDHOLDERS & THEIR GUESTS
STUDENTS PARTICIPANTS ARE FREE
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (210) 652-5763

SPONSORS: GUNN AUTO GROUP, Budweiser, at&t, NATUREL GROCERS, KANSAS GROUP, Sprint, RBCU, MWR, FORCE SUPPORT SOLUTIONS

No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Golfer's take advantage of a sale

Do you need some new golf equipment for yourself or possibly for a gift? Shop on Nov. 29, Black Friday and receive a 15 percent discount on all merchandise in the Pro Shop with the exception of Ping equipment. For more information call 210-652-4653.

Patron's join a dinner club

Bring friends and family for an evening of dinner and games and leave the cooking JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course's Back Swing Cafe. The first and third Wednesday of each month, the Backswing Café hosts a family-friendly night of food and fun. Board games will be available to play. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Discounted Spurs and Rampage tickets available

JBSA-Randolph Information, Tickets and Travel has

tickets for the Spurs and Rampage at discount prices, up to 20 percent off with no service fees. To purchase tickets, go to <http://spurs.com/randolphitt> and use the promo code: RANDOLPH and print the tickets at home. For more information, call 210-652-5142.

Renaissance Festival tickets available

JBSA-Randolph Information, Tickets and Travel offers tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival, where the sights, sounds, tastes and beauty of the 16th Century come alive. The festival runs weekends through Dec. 1. For more information, call 210-652-5142.

Football fans rejoice

The JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel office offers complete packages for Dallas Cowboy games starting at \$300 per person and include ticket, tailgate party with free food and drinks, one night stay at the Omni Mandalay Hotel and round-trip transportation to game, tailgate party with buffet, beverages and a meet & greet with a Cowboy legend. For more information, call 210-671-3059.

Patrons swim with dolphins

The JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel office offers discounted prices to swim with the dolphins at Discovery Point at SeaWorld® San Antonio. Animal trainers introduce small groups of guests to their amazing Bottlenose Dolphins. Wade into the waters and get to know these marine mammals up close and personal through hugs, kisses and rubdowns. SeaWorld® provides wet-suits and towels to borrow during your adventure. This is a year-round event, whenever the park is open. Reservations are required. Guests 48" tall may participate in the Beluga, Dolphin or Sea Lion Swim. For more information, call 210-671-3059.

Military & Family Readiness

Digital couponing becomes easier

Participants review mobile apps for couponing and ways to save on traveling, dining out, military discounts, rebates and more during the Couponing in the 21st Century workshop Nov. 5, 10-11:30 a.m., at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center. To reserve a seat, call 210-652-5321.

Key Spouses attend training

A two-part evening Key Spouses Initial Training, is slated for Nov. 5-6, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center. This is a mandatory training for all newly appointed Key Spouses and highly recommended for Key Spouse Mentors, both days must be attended for credit. To register, call 210-671-3722.

Military Spouse Expo

Military spouses are welcome to join us for an upbeat, getting-to-know-you networking expo. Connect with over 20 JBSA organizations to learn about local resources and upcoming events, Nov. 6, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. For details, call 210-221-2705.

Support group for single parents offered

Long- and short-term single parents learn about resources, network with other parents, and participate in open discussions Nov. 6, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Youth Center. Lunch is provided for registered attendees. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

Transition assistance now offered for spouses

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Transition Assistance Program hosts TAP Too, Nov. 8, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., a workshop specifically designed to help military spouses prepare for the transition from military to civilian life due to the retirement or separation of service by their service member. Learn about popular topics that impact our transitioning community, psychological aspects of transition, changes in financial obligations, and more. To register visit <https://e.afit.edu/np5Pf4> or call 210-221-2705.

Training provides voting assistance

Appointed Unit Voting Assistance Officers attend training Nov. 13, 9:30-11 a.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center to learn about their roles and responsibilities for assisting eligible voters. To register, call 210-671-3722.

Initial counseling required for transitioning members

Service members must complete an individual Initial Counseling with a Transition Assistance Program adviser and fill out a personal self-assessment or an individual transition plan no later than one year before retirement or the end of their enlistment. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-1213, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3722, or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-5321.

Outdoor Recreation

Concealed handgun license class offered

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center, bldg. 6215, provides License to Carry classes Nov. 9 and 23, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Successful completion of this class is required to apply for a Texas CHL. To register, go to: <http://www.chlregistration.com> and select "Register for Class" and then select "Dan Willis - Leatherneck Arms." Class details are available on-line at <https://jbsatoday.com>.

Patrons go on a winter motorcycle ride

JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation hosts the Winter Motorcycle ride. The 200-mile round trip ride departs the Kelly Club at Port San Antonio and goes through the Texas Hill Country. The event is open to everyone and riders pay for their own food and gas. Complimentary patches are available while supplies last. For more information, call 210-925-5532 or 210-925-5533.

Patrons learn how to safely operate boats

The JBSA-Randolph Outdoor Recreation, located in the Community Services Mall (bldg. 895) offers the boater safety class needed to rent boats at all JBSA Outdoor Recreation locations, and JBSA Rec Park @ Canyon Lake. Classes are offered Mon., Wed. and Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for only \$2 per person. Please allow at least two hours to complete this course. For more information, call 210-652-5142, option 2.

Equipment rental for every event

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Equipment Center has equipment rentals for everyone, including camping equipment, water fun, fishing boats, speed boats, sports and party equipment. In addition, the Equipment Center has a Resale Car Lot. For more information, call 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225.

Come to the JBSA-Randolph Community Services Mall and see what items are available to rent for that fall gathering or special occasion. Equipment Checkout has tables, chairs, canopies, ice chests, and water jugs that might be needed for those birthday parties, family reunions and picnics. What about extra guests coming for that special get together? Equipment Checkout has the extra items needed to make their stay more comfortable. Patrons can rent roll-a-way beds with mattresses, aluminum cots, and sleeping bags for great prices. For more information, visit the Community Service Mall, bldg. 895, or call 210-652-5142, option 2.

Youth and Children

Military families are celebrated

Come to the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs Nov. 8 from 6-7 p.m. for the Month of the Military Family Appreciation Dinner. This fun filled event gives our registered families an opportunity to enjoy a free delicious and relaxing meal and enjoy the camaraderie of other families and staff. Reservations are required and must be made by Nov. 4. For more information, please call 210-671-2388.

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs is celebrating military families with a hot dog dinner Nov. 14 from 5-6 p.m. Come out to this free event. For more information, call 210-652-3298.

Parents are offered a break

All JBSA Youth Programs offer to give parents that much needed break through the give parents a break or parents night out programs. The cost is \$25 per child with a sibling discount or free with a give parents a break referral. The last day to register is the Wednesday prior to the event. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston hosts PNO Nov. 15 from 1-5 p.m. These events take place at the CDC Annex, bldg. 1720, for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old and at the School Age Program, bldg. 1703, for children (Pre-K) 5 to 12 years of age. To sign up, call CDC Annex 210-221-3835 Main CDC 210-221-5139 or 210-221-5151 for the School Age Program.

JBSA-Lackland hosts PNO Nov. 16 from 6:30-10:30 p.m. For reservations for youth ages 5-12, call 210-671-2388 and for infants/children ages 6 weeks to 4 years, call 210-671-2366.

JBSA-Randolph holds PNO Nov. 15 from 6 to 10 p.m. To register children ages 3-12, call 210-652-3298 and for ages 6 weeks to 2 years, call 210-652-1140.

Winter camp registration opens

The registration for 2019 Winter Camp begins Nov. 18 for all three JBSA locations. Request a slot by logging into MilitaryChildCare.com and select the preferred location. Once a slot is offered, parents need to visit Youth Programs to complete the registration. Fees are based on total family

income and all required paperwork must be on file in advance to include immunizations records with a current flu vaccination. Offers are made until camp is full.

Lackland Winter Camp is held from Dec. 23 through Jan. 6. There is no camp on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. For more information, please call 210-671-2388.

Fort. Sam Houston Winter Camp is held from Dec. 23 through Jan. 6. There is no camp on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. For more information, please call 210-221-5151.

Randolph Winter Camp is held from Dec. 19 through Jan. 6. There is no camp on Dec. 25 & 26 and Jan. 1 & 2. For more information, please call 210-652-3298.

First steps basketball offered

Register children ages 3-5 for First Steps Basketball Nov. 18 to Dec. 6 at JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs. Kids can learn the fundamentals of basketball in a non-game/team format. First step teaches the fundamentals of basketball in harmony with the gross motor movements of preschool and early school-age children. Parents are required to participate in the learning sessions as an extension of the instructor. The cost is \$35 per child. For more information, call 210-671-2388.

Registration for children ages 3 and 4 years for First Steps Basketball is through Nov. 30 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston W. Ed Parker Youth Center. Practice begins December and the season begins in January. The cost is \$40 per child and a copy of the immunization record and a sports physical is due at registration. For more information, call 210-221-5513.

Youth help in Santa's Workshop

Santa's Workshop is conducted for youth ages 9-18 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston W. Ed Parker Youth Programs, bldg. 1630, Nov. 16, 2-4 p.m. This is a great opportunity for youth to make holiday gifts and decorations for parents, grandparents, or any other special people in their life. The cost is \$3 per session and registration is required by the Thursday prior to the event. Join Youth Programs and celebrate the holidays with fun and gifts. For more information, call 210-221-3502.

STAY CONNECTED

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

<https://jbsatoday.com>



LACKLAND

Honorary commanders visit 433rd Medical Group facilities

By Tech. Sgt. Iram Carmona
433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 433rd Medical Group hosted 13 honorary commanders at its new administration building and joint medical and dental clinics at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Oct. 5.

The honorary commanders met with the group's senior leadership for an introductory round table briefing, and a question and answer session, and then a tour of the new medical administration building.

Col. Michael C. Brice, 433rd MDG commander, led the briefing along with Cols. Paul Deschner, 433rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Gregg Wentworth, 433rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, and Bradley Butler, 433rd Medical Squadron.

"When the honorary commanders come out, they get a chance to see what it is the reservists do, day in and day out, and what kind of challenges they face," Brice said. "They're also able to see the kind of expertise they can bring back to their civilian jobs and become leaders there in addition to being out here."

Next, they visited various clinics where they met Reserve Citizen Airmen, who demonstrated some medical equipment and explained how their skill sets benefit service members.

One of the tour guides, 1st Lt. Julie Ramsey, 433rd Aerospace Medical Squadron medical service corps officer, cherished the opportunity to speak about being a Reservist.



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. IRAM CARMONA

Lt. Col. Eric K. Wilke, 433rd Medical Squadron emergency services physician, briefs 433rd Airlift Wing honorary commanders on lifesaving medical equipment used by Reserve Citizen Airmen during patient transport in medivac aircraft Oct. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

"I feel it is a privilege to be able to not only present our amazing facility, and work areas but, more importantly, the personnel involved," Ramsey said. "It is an absolute honor to have been the guide walking the honorary commanders through Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center."

The honorary commander's tour ended with a look at the Air Force Postgraduate Dental School and Clinic, where they

received a briefing led by Lt. Col. Michael Bates, 433rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron dentist. Bates described the facility's mission, capabilities and services.

The tour left an impression on the honorary commanders.

"It's amazing the professionalism of each of the different people that we came in contact with, and it was inspiring," said David Hennessee, honorary commander.



1st Lt. Julie Ramsey, 433rd Aerospace Medical Squadron medical service corps officer, discusses the support Reserve Citizen Airmen provide to the wing.

How to make ICE comments to effectively get results

By Jeff D. Champagne

502ND AIR BASE WING
INTERACTIVE CUSTOMER
EVALUATION SITE
ADMINISTRATOR/PROGRAM
MANAGER



Joint Base San Antonio aims to provide exceptional customer service and support to service members and their families. If those Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, service providers meet or don't meet expectation, you can take actions that provide results.

The ICE system is a real-time direct link to leaders and managers that oversee more than 350 ICE service providers across JBSA.

Providing written feedback is important because it formally documents your complaint or complaint and notifies associated management that you are serious about sharing your most recent experiences.

When ICE is used effectively, it has a tremendous effect within the Armed Forces, which is accountability. ICE managers and leaders are required to be responsive to the needs and feedback of their customers and local community.

If you are faced with an issue or problem associated with your ICE service provider, first attempt to resolve concerns at the lowest level possible, which starts with a representative from that location. You can also try giving them a call or sending an e-mail to have your concerns voiced.

If that doesn't work, submit an ICE comment. A designated ICE manager will receive and respond to your comment,

which are eventually routed up through the 502nd Air Base Wing commander for awareness.

When providing feedback via ICE, be specific and provide as much detail as possible. Take the time to explain what happened and what you would like to be addressed. The more detail you are able to provide the better the ICE manager is able to understand your needs and concerns.

ICE comments that include actionable feedback and exact details, such as who, what, when and where are most effective.

If you leave feedback through the ICE system and don't provide details about your experience, then there is little that can be done. But if you write an ICE comment about an office not picking up the phone, and you provide the day, time and phone number, it will be much easier to understand where exactly the problem may be.

Do not submit threatening or angry comments. If you find yourself extremely upset because of your customer service experience, take a moment to understand that the ICE manager that is reading your comments is not necessarily responsible for the problem. ICE managers work with many organizations and mission partners to help resolve feedback and

concerns.

When leaving ICE feedback, the program does not require the submitter to provide contact information. You have the right to remain anonymous. On the other hand, when customers provide contact information, it allows for an open dialogue which leads to a holistic approach to remedy your concerns.

ICE managers are responsible for reviewing their ICE submissions daily. But when we receive an ICE comment that has no name or contact information, it limits what can be done to right the wrong.

ICE comments with a name and contact information require a direct and immediate response from ICE managers within three business days.

For those who think, "but if I leave my name and contact information, I will subject myself to retribution," that's just not the case. The ICE system does not track information on any individual who submits a comment, though information such as an IP address can be retrieved for a criminal investigation.

ICE managers who respond to comments are prohibited from using contact information as a means to track down a customer for retaliation. In fact, ICE policy prohibits retribution and actually protects customers.

According to the Department of Defense's ICE policy, the purpose of the ICE system is to enable DOD organizations to collect feedback and improve on the services they provide.

RANDOLPH

Push button enhances safety at service station

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An emergency fuel shutoff push-button switch is now in operation at the Air Force service station on the east side of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

“Emergency fuel shutoff push buttons are required wherever there is a potential for an accidental release,” said Mokhtar Gaballa, 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron electrical engineer. “The introduction of air into a fuel receiving system poses extreme hazards that can result in fire and/or an explosion. Hazards are compounded when an air/fuel mixture is passed through receipt filter/separators where static electricity is generated and ignition can occur.”

EFSO push-button stations are required near tanks, tank car and tank truck loading and off-loading areas, refueler truck fill stands, aircraft direct fueling stations, pumps and fuel



TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG

An emergency fuel shutoff push-button switch is now in operation at the Air Force service station on the east side of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

piers, Gaballa said.

The push-button switch enhances safety at the JBSA-Randolph service station and

enables the facility to meet current electrical safety code requirements.

“All fuel pumps shall shut

down and all motor-operated valves shall close when an EFSO push button is pressed,” Gaballa said.

The project to install the fuel shutoff push button switch was authorized after fuels contractors discovered a deficiency at the fuel shutoff’s previous location, said Randy Galloway, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels bulk storage technician.

That location, about 50 feet from the service station, building 179, had a transfer switch, not the push button required by electrical, electrical safety and petroleum fuel facility codes.

“The new button is what the UFC 3-460-01 requires,” Galloway said, referring to United Facilities Criteria for petroleum fuel facilities. “Also, its location is central to the islands and the distance is no closer than 25 feet as required.”

The project – a collaborative effort of 502nd LRS fuels contractors; Scott Mikos, 802nd CES Program Management

installation chief; Sylvia Rodriguez, 802nd CES construction manager; and the contractor, Henock Construction of San Antonio – required Henock to install a weatherproof emergency shutoff push-button switch on the exterior of building 179, connect it to the electrical panel inside the structure and provide signs that identify the EFSO push-button switch and instructions for use.

The contractor was also authorized to provide and install all the parts to complete the electrical work for the project.

The service station is in the 502nd LRS Vehicle Operations motor pool facility, where fuel pumps dispense diesel fuel, regular unleaded gasoline and E-85 unleaded gasoline to some 500 government vehicles, including fire trucks, ambulances and buses, as well as to flight line equipment, lawn equipment and power washers. In addition, vehicles are staged and parked there on a regular basis.

Occupational competency modeling is topic of podcast

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

The process to create occupational competency models for the Air Force is the focus of episode 17 of Air Education and Training Command’s “Developing Mach-21 Airmen” professional development podcast series, released Oct. 10.

On the podcast, the

AETC public affairs team sits down with Lt. Col. Jamie Wiley and Vincent Villanueva, the director and deputy respectively, from the HQ AETC Occupational Competencies Branch, talking about their charge and efforts to break old training mindsets and develop competency models across the Air Force’s 266 career fields.

Topics include “what” and “why” these compe-



tencies matter and how they can help the Air Force give Airmen the skills they need to be

successful in a given job; how competencies link directly to an Airman’s professional development and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein’s focus area of revitalizing squadrons; and examples of how they build these competencies in conjunction with the career fields and in a cross functional manner.

The professional development podcasts are designed to help commu-

nicate and inform Total Force Airmen across the globe on relevant, timely topics related to the recruiting, training, education and development fields and can be listened to on the government network on the AETC website at <https://www.aetc.af.mil/News/Developing-Mach-21-Airmen-Podcast/>, or via mobile application as well as on Apple Podcasts (iTunes). For An-

droid or Google mobile users, the podcast can be found on their favorite third-party podcast phone application.

Future episodes are set to cover a wide range of topics, including Project Nexus, the classroom of the future at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, a partnership between NASA and Pilot Training Next, and much more.

Celebrate America's Military honors Military City USA

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

San Antonio has been home to a consistent military presence for nearly 300 years and it's why it's called "Military City USA." The city has one of the nation's largest active and retired military populations.

Joint Base San Antonio educates more Department of Defense students than any other installation, hosts the largest concentration of cyber and Intelligence communities second only to the National Capital Region in D.C., oversees more active runways than any other installation, houses

the DOD's largest hospital and only level one trauma center, and supports more than 565,000 personnel who live and work in four counties and four Congressional districts.

Hosted by the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, Celebrate America's Military is a series of events honoring the men and women who serve in the nation's military: active duty, Guard and Reserve from all branches. The following is a partial list of some of the planned events. For more information, visit <http://www.celebrateamericasmilitary.com/events.html>.

PRAYER BREAKFAST HONORING MILITARY CHAPLAINS

Date/Time: Oct. 28, 7:30-9 a.m.

Location: Whitley Theological Center, 284 Oblate Drive

The CAM Prayer Breakfast is designed to honor military chaplains and their contributions to the spiritual well-being of service members and their families. The breakfast will feature remarks from active duty, Guard and Reserve chaplains, as well as an inspiring keynote highlighting the hope and resilience of our nation's finest. Free to attend for CAM sponsors, military (active, Guard, Reserve) and their spouse/guest. Military guests can register at <https://sanantoniococ.wliinc25.com/events/2019-CAM-Military-active-guard-reserve-and-Guest-Registration-4810/register>. Cost for all others,

to include veteran and retired service members, is \$25 per person and can be bought at <https://sanantoniococ.wliinc25.com/events/2019-CAM-Celebrate-Americas-Military-4781/register>

CAM TIP-OFF

Date/Time: Oct. 29, 5-7 p.m.

Location: Morgan's Wonderland, 5223 David Edwards Drive

The official opening of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce's annual "Celebrate America's Military" presented by The Boeing Company and hosted at Morgan's Wonderland. This unique event celebrates the spirit and resiliency of those wounded in military service, and of civilians who also face daunting physical challenges — but who all demonstrate the undying spirit to overcome and succeed. There will be a fun and exciting exhibition wheelchair basketball game involving disabled

veterans from ParaSports and participants in the Morgan's Wonderland STRAPS (South Texas Regional Adaptive and Paralympic Sports) program. Playing alongside these athletes will be representatives of the local business community and our valued CAM partnering organizations. Free to attend for CAM sponsors, military (active, Guard, Reserve) and their spouse/guest. Military guests can register at <https://sanantoniococ.wliinc25.com/events/2019-CAM-Military-active-guard-reserve-and-Guest-Registration-4810/register>. All others, to include veteran and retired service members, are \$10 per person at <https://sanantoniococ.wliinc25.com/events/2019-CAM-Celebrate-Americas-Military-4781/register>

BAMC VETERANS DAY

Date/Time: Nov. 1, 11 a.m.-1

p.m.

Location: Brooke Army Medical Center, 3551 Roger Brooke Drive

The theme for this year's celebration is "Tomorrow's History Is Today," and it will feature living history performers who will talk with beneficiaries throughout the hospital about what military life was like in the late 1800s, during World War I, and during World War II. Additionally, there will be a concert by Steve Griggs in the medical mall, along with information tables from a variety of organizations, including the City of San Antonio with Bexar County, the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve, and others. There will also be a presentation in the fourth floor auditorium featuring a local high school color guard, a local singing group, and a keynote presentation by retired Maj.

CELEBRATE continues on
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CELEBRATE

From page 17

Gen. Juan Ayala, director of the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs for the City of San Antonio. The celebration is open to authorized ID holders.

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN VIETNAM VETERAN EVENT

Date/Time: Nov. 2, 10 a.m.

Location: 1514 W. Commerce St., San Antonio

What started in 2016 as an appreciation luncheon for, and panoramic photo of, West Side Vietnam Veterans evolved into 2019's open invitation to all veterans in San Antonio, and its surrounding areas, from all wars and conflicts. At the southwest corner of Commerce and Colorado, there is a mural named "You Are Not Forgotten." Funded by San Anto Cultural Arts in 2006, lead muralist Mike Roman created the mural to honor his father, Antonio Roman, who served in the Vietnam War and earned two Purple Hearts. Featuring a free lunch for all veterans, a Q&A with muralist Mike Roman and his father, a rededication ceremony for the mural, and live music throughout the day, "You Are Not Forgotten" is a significant gathering of the West Side community of San Antonio, Texas. Call 210-442-9292.

UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD FOOTBALL

Date/Time: Nov. 2, 4-7 p.m.

Location: Gayle and Tom Benson Stadium

UIW football will host Nicholls in a marquee match-up between the 2018 Co-Southland Conference Champions. This game will feature a number of military elements, including a field-size American flag during the National Anthem and a military enlistment ceremony at halftime. As with all UIW Athletics events, all active duty, Reserve, Guard, DOD civilian and veteran military members will receive free entry. Each military member can claim up to four free tickets per event by visiting <https://uiw.universitytickets.com/w/default.aspx> and using the code "MILTY" prior to checkout.

Officials urge caution around bats

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After a bat that tested positive for rabies was found at a Joint Base San Antonio residence recently, installation health officials are reminding residents to be careful, use common sense and take cautionary measures if they spot a bat on the installation.

A bat that was found in the yard of a residence at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 30 tested positive for rabies, a disease that can be spread from wild animals to pets to people.

According to the Texas Department of Health, approximately one percent of bats in the San Antonio area carry the rabies virus. In 2018, there were 25 cases of bats testing positive for rabies in Bexar County.

Bats can get into homes and structures through small openings, one-half to one-fourth inches, such as crevices, eaves, window blinds or shutters.

Staff Sgt. Amber Salinas, 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron community health element chief, said JBSA residents or members who spot a bat near or inside a structure should not attempt to touch it with their hands.

"If you see a bat resting outside on a wall of your residence, under roof hangings, or on the ground, leave it alone," Salinas said. "You are not at risk unless you handle it."

Salinas cautions people to keep children and pets away from an area where a bat has been found, so to prevent exposure to a bat that may have rabies.

"For bats that get trapped and are found inside a residence or installation building, the best way to remove it is to open a nearby window and doors, as bats will want to go outdoors," Salinas added.

If the bat doesn't leave, JBSA members and residents can call the Civil Engineering Emergen-



COURTESY PHOTO

According to the Texas Department of Health, approximately one percent of bats in the San Antonio area carry the rabies virus. In 2018, there were 25 cases of bats testing positive for rabies in Bexar County.

cy Service Call Desk at 210-652-3151. JBSA residents also have the option of contacting their housing office to get the bat removed.

Beverly Benson, Army Public Health Nursing rabies prevention program manager at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said people should avoid contact with a sick bat, which can be flopping around on the ground, because of the possibility they could contract rabies from it if they touch it. If residents find a sick bat, she said residents need to keep their pets and children away from it.

Rabies is spread to a pet or human from a bite or through a scratch with saliva from a rabid animal infected by it. The virus can also be transmitted by a pet who has been infected to other pets and humans they bite or scratch.

Any bare skin contact with a bat or its saliva, or waking up to a bat in your room, could put you at risk for exposure to rabies, according to Seattle & King County Public Health. Teach your kids not to touch bats, or any wild animal, and be sure to keep your pets away from bats. Talk to your family

about the importance of respecting wildlife from a distance.

Any JBSA residents or members who find a sick or dead bat are urged to call the Civil Engineering Emergency Service Call Desk.

People who are bitten or scratched by a bat, or any animal that is infected by rabies, should wash the area that was bitten immediately with soap water and go to a medical provider immediately to get checked out. The rabies infection can be prevented through a series of five shots. A pet that comes in contact with or is bitten by a bat should be taken to a veterinarian immediately.

If not treated, Benson said rabies is a disease that is 100 percent fatal once symptoms begin.

Benson said bats have small teeth that even if they bite you, sometimes that bite can't be felt and a person may not realize they have been bitten. Bats also leave small teeth marks that can disappear quickly.

For example, a sleeping person who wakes up to find a bat in the room they were in or

sees a bat in a room in which a child or other person was in, should seek medical assistance immediately.

"You don't want to take any chances," Benson said.

Salinas said residents should keep their pets vaccinated against rabies as Texas law requires annual booster shots for pets.

Residents can take measures to prevent bats from entering their homes, as bats can enter tiny openings.

Preventive measures include having chimneys capped, openings around eaves caulked or filled in, filling any electrical or plumbing holes outside leading into the house, having one-fourth inch mesh hardware cloth installed behind vents or shutters, utilizing draft guards under doors, keeping window screens maintained and not leaving doors open.

Benson said bats are beneficial to the environment in that they eat insects. Because of this, she said JBSA members or residents should not intentionally harm or touch a bat.

Bats enjoy eating large amounts of night-flying insects like mosquitos, termites and agricultural pests, diminishing mosquito-related diseases and the need for pesticides, according to Bat Conservation International.

Others pollinate many valuable plants, ensuring the production of fruits that support local economies, as well as diverse animal populations. Fruit-eating bats in the tropics disperse seeds that are critical to restoring cleared or damaged rainforests.

Even bat droppings (called guano) are valuable as a rich natural fertilizer. Guano is a major natural resource worldwide, and, when mined responsibly with bats in mind, it can provide significant economic benefits for landowners and local communities.

For more information, contact the 359th AMDS Public Health Flight at 210-652-1876.