A publication of the 502nd Air Base Wing – Joint Base San Antonio

WINGSPREAD

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE

65th Year • No. 39 • SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Randolph Icon Turns 80

PAGE 8

29 Days to Showtime

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE AIRSHOW 2011

From Past to Future....Freedom's Front Line

INSIDE ... NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, P4 ... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, P5 ... WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES, P6 ... AF MARATHON, P11

COMMENTARY

Pros of alternative dispute resolution

By Steven Goldman
502 ABW/OL-B equal opportunity

"I strongly support ADR because it continues to break barriers and build bridges to create a more productive environment and improve mission accomplishment."

People are our most valuable and critical asset. The mission cannot be performed effectively and efficiently without them. As the Randolph Equal Opportunity/Alternative Dispute Resolution director, I see firsthand how disputes result in complaints that can be lengthy, costly and stressful as they move through the various stages of an equal employment opportunity, negotiated grievance or unfair labor practice process.

The old adage "time is money" especially rings true in EEO complaints. Depending on the circumstances, I have seen the costs range from $162,000 to $310,000 and higher for the Air Force.

You must also consider court fees, attorney's costs, settlements, etc. Human and intangible factors like respect, trust, a good working environment, cooperation, productivity/efficiency, public image and reputation are also considerations and important to all parties.

I have found a workplace dispute adversely impacts the individual, other employees and customers, and can consume an entire organization by significantly impacting productivity and mission accomplishment.

In my role as the director, I help management and complainants prepare and navigate through each phase of the complaint process, which takes an enormous amount of time for all parties involved in a dispute. Formal EEO complaints can take about 405 days with an average of 274 days even if a settlement is reached.

Therefore, the quicker the resolution, the faster the mission gets back on track. As a trained mediator for the Air Force and state of Texas, I have found ADR is an excellent tool to mediate diverse and complex issues, including personality conflicts that often inhibit effective communication. This process does not prevent an employee from filing a complaint, but is faster; easier; less costly, formal, confrontational, and adversarial; encourages creativity; finds practical solutions; and avoids the unpredictability when decisions are made through more traditional dispute resolution methods.

The parties control the outcome. Resolution through ADR averages only 42 days with many cases resolved in days to several weeks with a higher rate of employee satisfaction.

In fact, 2009 Air Force statistics showed 91 percent of participants were either satisfied or very satisfied with the process, with 97 percent indicating they would use ADR again.

Of all our ADR cases, more than 72 percent were resolved through this process.

Throughout my many years of mediating, I have found ADR saves time, money and other resources; forges better working relationships and communication; increases morale; enhances employee participation in the workplace; and improves satisfaction because the employee feels he or she is an integral part of the organization.

Each time I resolve a dispute through ADR, I am more convinced of the long-term benefits and positive impact on the workplace and parties involved. Supervisors who mediate in good faith have praised the program for giving them the opportunity to hear employees' concerns and resolve issues at the lowest level position.

I strongly support ADR because it continues to break barriers and build bridges to create a more productive environment and improve mission accomplishment. So, ask yourselves, "what do you have to lose?"

Graphic by Joe Beach

ON THE COVER

Randolph's iconic administration building, the "Taj Mahal," officially opened 80 years ago – Oct. 5, 1931. For the complete story, see page 8.
Courtesy photo

WINGSPREAD

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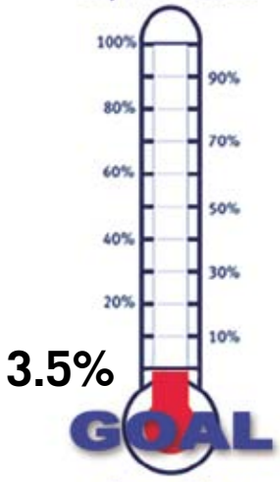
CFC
RANDOLPH AFB
Joint Base San Antonio
Combined Federal Campaign
Sept. 7 - Oct. 28


Contact Your
CFC Unit Representative
For More Informaion

New base entry policy to take effect Saturday

Area business delivery drivers, such as food and f ower deliveries and taxis servicing Randolph Air Force Base, will no longer be granted access to the base with only a bill of lading or receipt.

Starting Oct. 1, the new Joint Base San Antonio security policy change will go into effect changing entry procedures.

• Prior to gaining access to the installation, employees will be vetted through the National Crime Information Center terminal.

• Companies requesting regular access to Randolph may request long-term passes, not to exceed six months.

• Requests for base access pass should include employee's name, driver's license number, state of issue, days of the week requiring access, and local office phone number and email address, and should be dropped off at the Randolph Visitor Center or mailed to Earnest Felder at 925 Third St. West, Randolph AFB, Texas, 78150.

• Once pass is approved, employee must be photographed at the visitor center to be printed.

Businesses with questions should call Master Sgt. John Clowe at 652-5968.

JBSA travel survey offers prizes

Located in one of the nation's largest cities and fastest-growing regions, the expansion of the military mission at Joint Base San Antonio has increased demand on the San Antonio metropolitan area's transportation systems and resources. To balance JBSA's continued efforts with the community's transportation needs, it is important to understand the origin and destination of traffic associated with the military installations of JBSA.

As part of JBSA master planning efforts, the 502nd Air Base Wing is conducting a Traffic Points of Origin Study to evaluate and assess the travel patterns of military, retiree and civilian populations at Fort Sam Houston, Camp Bullis, Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases.

The study will identify areas of traffic flow, installation-oriented travel trends, places of origin/destination and primary modes of travel, with a goal of providing a framework for future transportation and land-use decisions between the installations.

As part of the study, a web-based origin-destination survey has been developed to collect important information on JBSA travel patterns.

The targeted population for this survey includes all JBSA personnel – active-duty, Reserve, Department of Defense civilians and contractors – retirees and dependents 18 years and older who travel on and around the installations of JBSA. These people are encouraged to go to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JBSAsurvey to complete the survey. The survey will be activated Saturday.

As a thank-you reward, each respondent will receive a coupon for a free cup of coffee at the JBSA AAFES Express stores as well as be automatically entered into a raff e to win one of three prizes:

• $100 Gas Card
• $50 Exchange Gift Card
• $50 Exchange Gift Card

Results of the survey will be available to the JBSA public in January.

Barrier testing

The deployable barriers will be tested at the East, South and West Gates from Oct. 5 to Nov. 2. The East Gate will continue to close after 8:30 a.m. and reopen after 3:30 p.m.; the South and West Gates will continue to close after 6 p.m. The barriers will be engaged several times after the gates are normally closed. Motorists approaching a gate after normal operating hours should be prepared to stop and turn around at the blockade and, for their safety, should not attempt to pass through the blockade.

Runway, fire station improvements set for Seguin airfield

By Robert Goetz
502nd Air Base Wing OL-B Public Affairs

Two projects totaling more than $4 million in cost are improving the runway and fire station at Randolph Air Force Base's Seguin Auxiliary Airfield.

The airfield's runway is being rebuilt as part of a $3.87 million project, while a bunkroom and women's restroom are upgrading the facility's fire station at a cost of nearly $166,000.

"The runway has its issues," Peggy Hill, 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron project manager, said. "The asphalt is very old; it was really showing its age. It would have needed maintenance anyway."

A crew from Milcon Construction LLC will strip the asphalt surface of the runway, rebuild the aggregate and resurface it with asphalt, she said. The runway will be crowned in the middle, with a slight slope on each side.

Other improvements in the project, which began this month, will include reconstruction of the taxiway and parking apron, removal of pavement from two abandoned runways and grading several areas contiguous to the runway, including a pond that attracts birds.

The fire station project is about 40 percent complete, with a final completion date set for Jan. 27, Joe Domeier, 902nd CES project manager, said.

"The project will provide a bunkroom for our firemen when they are needed for 24-hour operations such as FEMA support," he said, referring to the use of the airfield by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA is now using the airfield as a staging area for the transport of mobile housing units to wildfire victims in Bastrop County. "In addition, the inside of the existing fire station is being reconfigured to include a female restroom."

Domeier said the 1,600-square-foot bunkroom will include living quarters as well as male and female restrooms with showers.

"These amenities will be required for crisis response," he said. "Fire trucks are kept on-site for immediate response to the airfield as needed."

The 12th Flying Training Wing uses the airfield in its instructor pilot training mission. Located east of Seguin, the airfield was originally constructed with three runways in 1941.

Flying operations at the airfield have been suspended an estimated five months, until the runway project is finished.

2011
JUNIOR ENLISTED
APPRECIATION
DAY

October 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at Stillman Park, Lackland Air Force Base
tickets $1, civilian clothing OK
games • activities • prizes • food • music
hosted by Lackland Top III & First Sergeant's Council
See your unit representative for tickets

NEWS

Official Greeting

Daniel Ginsberg (left), Air Force Manpower and Reserve Affairs assistant secretary, is greeted by Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter (center), 502nd Air Base Wing commander, and Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens, Air Education and Training Command vice commander, on his arrival to Randolph Monday. Ginsberg toured Joint Base San Antonio through Thursday, visiting Air Education and Training Command, Lackland Air Force Base and Brooke Army Medical Center.
Photo by Rich McFadden

National Night Out to promote crime prevention on base

By Alex Salinas
502nd Air Base Wing OL-B Public Affairs

Randolph residents can assist with base crime prevention Oct. 4 by joining the National Night Out festivities at North Park Street, between the Taj and Parr O' Club, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Since 1984, NNO has educated communities on police programs, crime, drug and fire prevention.

Randolph Family Housing is partnering with security forces, the youth center, the fire department and wing safety to host NNO at Randolph.

Cathy Wiley, Randolph Family Housing community director, shared her excitement for this year's NNO campaign.

"Last year's turnout was over 600 people, so we are anticipating more this year," she said. "We will be providing food, drinks, popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy. There will also be a DJ and face painters, courtesy of the Judson High School Galaxies."

She described NNO as the largest event for Randolph residents. At the core of the festivities, Wiley said NNO hopes to see residents come out and get to know each other to promote neighborhood safety.

Staff Sgt. Edward Grant, 902nd Security Forces Squadron police services NCO in charge, reminds base residents crime can happen anywhere, even in the most tight-knit communities and neighborhoods.

"The theme for this year's NNO event at Randolph will be 'It Can Happen Here,' which is intended to raise awareness that even though Randolph is a safe place to live, incidents do occur here," including shoplifting, major vehicle accidents and nearby gang activity off base, Grant said.

"But with Randolph AFB being such a tight-knit community, I do believe safety is much easier to promote," Grant said. "A smaller community allows more interaction between neighbors, therefore making residents more aware of their surroundings and anything unusual in their neighborhood."

> *"Get out and socialize. Know your neighbors whether you live on base, in a house or in an apartment. You should know the people who live around you."*
>
> **Cathy Wiley**
> *Randolph Family Housing community director*

Wiley added that beyond NNO, which is only once a year, getting to know neighbors and being aware of surroundings should be common community practices.

"Get out and socialize," she said. "Know your neighbors whether you live on base, in a house or in an apartment. You should know the people who live around you."

All who have access to base are welcomed to join the activities dealing with crime prevention to "give criminals a going-away party," as stated on the base flier. The only requirement of attendees is to bring their own chairs.

Residents can access Randolph Family Housing information via Facebook and their monthly newsletter.

Family advocacy program combats domestic violence

By Alex Salinas
502nd Air Base Wing OL-B Public Affairs

Mitzi Wood, 359th Medical Operations Squadron Family Advocacy intervention specialist, has been a helping hand during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October for years.

And every year, the message remains untouched.

"We need to bring awareness to issues of violence in intimate relationships," Wood said.

However, while the goal of domestic violence awareness is generally understood, people are still uncertain how to act and use the proper resources in facing relationship issues.

Wood welcomes couples on behalf of Randolph's Family Advocacy program for those at risk or who are already experiencing domestic violence.

"We're not investigators or police," she said. "We're clinicians and therapists, and we're here to make sure intimate relationships remain healthy and safe."

According to Wood, a victim of domestic violence has the right to pursue a case against their partner, whether they are active-duty or not, and reminded that Family Advocacy has prevention and maltreatment programs, meaning they accept cases regardless if violence has played a role or not.

This proactive approach to awareness is paramount for Wood, as well as the national campaign.

Domestic Violence Awareness was first observed in October 1987 and focuses on bringing awareness to violent relationships among couples to prevent violence from happening and to promote the importance of healthy relationships.

"Family Advocacy treats intimate relationships and all couples, married or not, the same way," Wood said. "In the military, whether the active-duty member is the offender or the victim of domestic violence, it affects their job and they need help."

Domestic violence has four components: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Cases do not have to meet all four components to be considered domestic violence; any one has the potential to destroy a relationship.

Family advocacy evaluates the severity and impact of each case it receives as well as educating and treating victims of abuse. The key for couples to avoid or resolve their situation is recognizing the warning signs, and then acting upon them, Wood said.

"What affects one couple may not affect another," she said. "For example, society easily recognizes physical violence and understands how to address it. But society has trouble recognizing and understanding emotional abuse. People who are emotionally abused tend not to act upon it because they can't prove it – it's invisible, but it exists."

From Nov. 18-20, a couples retreat for post-deployers and their partners will occur for the purpose of their reintegration back into society and will "allow couples time to spend with each other, communicate and strengthen their relationship," Wood said. Family advocacy and the Randolph Airman and Family Readiness Center are organizing the retreat. To sign up, call A&FRC at 652-5321.

Those interested in using resources provided by family advocacy should call 652-6308, or visit them at Bldg. 860. Wood and Capt. Amanda Hardy, 359th Medical Operations Squadron Family Advocacy officer, are available for appointment and help.

"We'd rather people come voluntarily before there is an issue," Wood said.

For domestic violence victims living in Bexar County, the Bexar County Family Justice Center is located in San Antonio at 527 N. Leona St., and can be reached at 208-6800. Its hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and those visiting by referral should go between 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline can be reached at (800) 799-7233 and www.thehotline.org.

Fort Sam employee overcomes prostate cancer

By Elaine Wilson
American Forces Press Service

In 2001, Brad Barrett was 41 years old and retiring from the Air Force. Healthy all his life, he figured his final medical exam prior to separation would be a breeze.

The doctors ordered a full range of tests, including a prostate-specific antigen blood test, which is used to detect prostate cancer. The choice to conduct the test was somewhat out of the ordinary; it's not routine until men reach age 50.

It turned out to be a good choice for Barrett. Test results showed his PSA levels were rising, a possible indicator of a prostate problem.

"My level was higher than usual, but not at a level to warrant a biopsy at the time," Barrett, now the antiterrorism officer for the Army Support Activity office on Fort Sam Houston, said.

Doctors recommended Barrett take the test annually and in 2004, his PSA level was high enough to cause concern and a biopsy was ordered.

"The results showed I had early-stage prostate cancer," Barrett said.

The news was upsetting, yet uplifting, particularly when Barrett thought about the consequences if he had not undergone the test as early as he did.

"I was really lucky," he said.

Barrett successfully underwent radiation therapy, one of several options for treating prostate cancer and so far the treatment has been effective. However, he still must go for a test every six months for five years.

"It's traumatic, the days and weeks before a test," he said. "Before I take the test, I always wonder, will I live or die."

Although it's not highly publicized, prostate cancer is the most common non-skin cancer in America, affecting one in six men, according to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

The cancer is more commonly seen in older men. More than 65 percent of all prostate cancers are diagnosed in men over age 65. The risk of developing prostate cancer is one in 10,000 for men under age 40, but shoots up to one in 14 for men ages 60 to 69.

Race and family history play a role in men's risk for prostate cancer.

According to the foundation, African-American men are 61 percent more likely to develop prostate cancer compared to Caucasian men and are nearly 2.5 times as likely to die from the disease. Men with a first-degree relative – father, brother or son – with a history of prostate cancer are also at a higher risk; they are twice as likely to develop the disease.

"I didn't have a family history or other risk factors. I'm just very grateful my military doctors went the extra mile and ordered that test."

Brad Barrett
retired Airman

In its early stages, like with Barrett, many men will not experience any symptoms, underscoring the need for testing.

The American Cancer Society recommends an annual PSA blood test and digital rectal exam beginning at age 50. Men at high risk should begin testing at age 40 to 45 depending on family history.

An early detection can prove a lifesaver. Most men diagnosed when the cancer is in the local and regional stages will be disease-free after five years, according to the foundation.

Barrett hopes to be a success story – disease free.

"I didn't have a family history or other risk factors," he said. "I'm just very grateful my military doctors went the extra mile and ordered that test."

For more information on prostate cancer, visit http://www.prostatecancerfoundation.org.

(Editor's note: This story originally appeared in the Fort Sam Houston News Leader in September 2008 and has been updated. Elaine Wilson, who now goes by Elaine Sanchez, was a member of the FSH News Leader staff at the time.)

Observance pays tribute to people with disabilities

By Robert Goetz
502nd Air Base Wing OL-B Public Affairs

At a work station inside Randolph's Blanchard Hall, an Air Force Personnel Center injury compensation specialist attends to his daily duties.

At first glance, there's nothing unusual about the way he goes about his work, but an incoming telephone call reveals the employee can see the words the caller is speaking on his phone's screen.

Michael Reese, a civilian who has been assigned to AFPC since June, was born with a high-frequency sensorineural hearing loss, but overcomes his disability with the help of assistive devices, such as his captioned telephone.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October provides Randolph with an opportunity to pay tribute to Reese and other workers with disabilities, Staff Sgt. Autumn Austin, observance chairman, said.

"This year's theme, 'Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities,' is championed by the efforts of Randolph," she said. "Randolph has paid particular attention to disabled employees by providing the necessary equipment for their work center."

Activities are planned throughout the month, including a table in the base exchange that will display fliers describing the efforts of the Fisher Houses, Wounded Warrior Center, the Center for the Intrepid and other facilities that attend to the needs of wounded warriors; an information fair at the Airman and Family Readiness Center; a tour of the Center for the Intrepid; and a luncheon with wounded warriors and their families.

The events showcase what people with disabilities can accomplish given the proper support and equipment.

Reese, a Kansas native with civilian personnel experience at several Air Force bases, as well as a human resources resume in the private sector, said support in the workplace is important. He said employers and employees should embrace the message of National Disability Employment Awareness Month "with the understanding and vision that great milestones can be achieved as long as everyone remains open-minded and non-critical of those with visual or hidden disabilities."

Reese said those who are disabled "are not looking for sympathy, but rather an opportunity to co-exist and be treated fairly along with others in the so-called 'normal' world we live in."

"Regardless of who you are, you should always be cognizant of others and embrace those who have challenges," he said. "Just because they have a disability doesn't mean they can't do the work."

Reese said he's had to fight throughout his life, starting with childhood, when other children picked on him because of his disability, which also affected his speaking ability. His hearing impairment also prevented him from joining the military, but it didn't stop him from serving as a volunteer at Air Force installations and as a member of the Civil Air Patrol.

Reese compensates for his high-frequency hearing loss by reading people's lips and studying their facial expressions, especially the movement of their eyes and eyebrows.

"I've had challenges trying to hear high-pitched sounds," he said. "Certain words sound alike. But if you have a disability, your employer can provide you with devices to make your job easier. They gave me a Cap-Tel phone, and that allows me to see what was said."

Reese said he received his phone through the Computer Accommodations Program, which provides assistive devices at no cost to federal employees. He has also received hearing aids through the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, which works with Texans who have disabilities and families whose children have developmental delays to improve the quality of their lives and enable their full participation in society.

Reese said employers and helping agencies like the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services play a pivotal role in enabling people with disabilities.

"A lot of people are being underutilized because they don't have opportunities," he said. "It doesn't mean they can't do the job; they just need a little help."

Reese credits his leadership at AFPC with supporting disabled employees, providing him and others with the assistance they need to do their job.

"When leadership supports you, it makes you want to do better," he said. "I owe members of my leadership team, Marty Watson and Robbie Brown, a debt of gratitude for their support and understanding in terms of accommodating me and making me feel welcome."

Reese, the single father of two children, said it's important that workers with disabilities approach life with the right attitude.

"You can overcome if you want to overcome," he said. "Every challenge is an opportunity for me. I choose to deal with negative experiences positively."

Photo by Rich McFadden

Michael Reese, Air Force Personnel Center injury compensation specialist, uses a captioned telephone device for the hearing impaired to read the words a caller is speaking.

NOW SHOWING at the Randolph Theater

"30 Minutes or Less" (R)
Jesse Eisenberg, Danny McBride, Nick Swardson
Today at 7 p.m.

"Spy Kids: All the Time in the World" (PG-13)
Jessica Alba, Joel McHale, Jeremy Piven
Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

$4.50 for adults – $2.25 for children 11 and younger

Randolph Chapel Schedule

• CATHOLIC
Monday-Friday
11:30 a.m. - Bldg. 975
Saturday
5:30 p.m. - Bldg. 975
Sunday, Oct. 2 only
10 a.m. - Bldg. 975
Confession
Saturday
4:30 p.m. - Bldg. 975

• PROTESTANT
Combined
Sunday Service
Oct. 2 only
10 a.m. - Base theater

For more information, call the Randolph Religious Activity Center, Bldg. 975, at 652-6121.

Base BRIEFS

Lane and road closures

Fifth Street West on the west side of Bldg. 499 between C Street West and Northwest Drive will be closed to traffic Oct. 1-16. Traffic will be detoured to Northwest Drive and C Street West.

New B Street west of Harmon Drive to the base exchange parking lot will be open westbound only and the street west of Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union from the commissary to the BX parking lot will be open southbound only through Oct. 17 because of construction. Traffic from the BX parking lot to Harmon Drive, from the commissary parking lot to Harmon Drive and from Harmon Drive to RBFCU will need to detour through Washington Circle during this time.

ROSC fundraiser

The 24th annual Randolph Officers' Spouses' Club "Deep in the Arts of Texas" Artisan Showcase will be held Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road.

Vendors will sell handcrafted items such as jewelry, woodworks, sculptures, painting, photography, pottery, fabrics and stone masonry, as well as holiday-themed arts and crafts. A raffe and silent auction are planned every hour. Visitors will be able to buy lunch and homemade baked goods.

Admission is $2. All proceeds go to local scholarships and community charities.

Take Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration has scheduled a National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to provide a venue for persons who want to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. Unwanted prescription medications should be brought to the base exchange pharmacy from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 29 to be properly disposed. Call the pharmacy at 652-4127 for more information.

Credit When Credit is Due

The Randolph Airman and Family Readiness Center, 555 F Street West, will present a five-week course, Credit When Credit is Due, every Tuesday starting Oct. 18 from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Participants will learn about money issues and credit responsibility and earn a certificate from the American Center for Credit Education upon successful completion of the course. Cost is $10 for Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union members and $25 for nonmembers; the fee will be collected on the first day of class, and only cash and checks will be accepted.

Call Wendy Warner at 652-5321 for more information.

Holiday chorus auditions

The U.S. Air Force Band of the West announces open auditions for singers to perform in the band's Joint Service Holiday Chorus concerts Dec. 17 and 18 at 3 p.m. at the Edgewood Theatre for the Performing Arts, 607 S.W. 34th St.

Auditions at Randolph will be held Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. on the second foor of the Randolph Arts and Crafts Center, Bldg. 895; call 652-2788. To audition at Lackland, call 671-2021; for Fort Sam, call 221-5010. Repertoire for the auditions is "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard, civilian employees, retirees and adult dependents are eligible.

For more information, visit www.bandofthewest.af.mil or call 672-5030.

Red Cross seeking volunteers

The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers to serve at the Randolph Medical Clinic. For more information, call the Red Cross desk at 652-6372 or stop by the resource management office at the clinic, Room 1C301, next to the records section.

Randolph Air Force Base Retiree Appreciation Day

Oct. 22
from 8 a.m. to noon
at the Kendrick Club

35 base and organizational exhibitors, refreshments, fire and security forces, the San Antonio Zoo, flu shots and health care in Hangar 4, door prizes and many giveaways

Tops in Blue seeks 2012 talent

The Air Force's premier expeditionary entertainment group, Tops in Blue, is seeking the "best of the best" talent in the Air Force for the 2012 team.

The Air Force Worldwide Talent Search takes place at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Jan. 9-16. Total force Airmen who believe they have the skills to sing, dance, act or play musical instruments are encouraged to apply. After an in-depth review of applications, the top 80-100 Airmen are invited to participate in this prestigious competition.

Selected participants compete in six categories including male and female vocalist, instrumentalist, dance, musical variety and non-musical variety.

Participants also go through a series of interviews and auditions to determine their suitability for a spot on the upcoming Tops in Blue team.

Interested applicants may apply online at www.topsinblue.com or mail an application and video to the Air Force Entertainment office by Nov. 15.

Besides performers, Tops in Blue is looking for technicians in audio, lighting, staging and videography for the performing arts. Big rig truck and bus drivers are also encouraged to submit their non-performer application for consideration to attend the Worldwide Talent Search and a place on the upcoming 2012 Tops in Blue tour.

For more information and a schedule of upcoming performances, visit www.topsinblue.com. Follow the group on Twitter at www.twitter.com/aftopsinblue, on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/topsinblue or visit the blog at http://tib.dodlive.mil.

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs)

FEATURE

Randolph celebrates 80th birthday of iconic building

By Robert Goetz
502nd Air Base Wing OL-B Public Affairs

In the late 1920s, an Army first lieutenant named Harold L. Clark, assigned to the Kelly Field Army Air Service installation in San Antonio, started a series of sketches on the backs of his dispatch sheets that led to the revolutionary layout and architectural design of the flying training center that would soon be named Randolph Field.

But his vision didn't end there. He also sketched the design of a decorative domed tower that would encase the new post's 500,000-gallon water tank, as well as a two-story building at the base of the 170-foot structure that would centralize many of the post's administrative offices.

The majestic structure, which became known as the Taj Mahal, officially opened 80 years ago next week. More popularly known as the "Taj," it is Randolph's pre-eminent landmark and one of the Air Force's most iconic buildings. It is also listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

"It's the most recognizable building on Randolph," Susan Gandy, 502nd Air Base Wing Operating Location B community relations director, said. "There's a lot of history in that building, starting with Brigadier General Frank Lahm, Randolph's first commander."

Clark's "doodles" became reality largely because of Lahm's enthusiasm for the young dispatch officer's vision, she said.

A renowned San Antonio architectural firm headed by the father-son team of Atlee and Robert Ayers translated Clark's sketches into blueprints that set the stage for the construction of both structures – the tower, which was capped by a blue and gold mosaic-tiled dome roof, and the Spanish Colonial Revival-style administration building – a $252,000 expenditure at the time.

Gandy, who has conducted numerous Taj Mahal tours over the years, said Randolph's first cadet class gave the structure its name, according to tradition, because they saw it resembled the 17-century mausoleum in India that is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Peter Law, 502nd Air Base Wing historian and longtime 12th Flying Training Wing historian, said the Taj was the first glimpse of Randolph that inbound cadets saw from the train in the installation's early years.

"There was a train station on (FM) 78, about where the Subway restaurant is – on the Randolph side of the tracks," he said. "Cadets would get off the train and be marched up Harmon Drive to the Taj, where they would in-process."

The Taj, now the headquarters of the 902nd Mission Support Group and the 12th FTW, housed an assortment of offices on the first floor, including the signal office, a photographic unit, the post office, print plant, judge advocate's office and courtroom.

The courtroom, in fact, "is the earliest Air Force courtroom," Law said, "and there is a clock in the back of the JA offices that has been functioning since day one of its installation."

The Randolph Field and Air Corp Training Center commanders' offices occupied the second floor.

The building's rear wing contained a movie theater and auditorium, still a part of the Taj today.

The space below the dome, originally the installation's weather office, later housed the studio of famed mural, landscape and portrait artist William Dean Fausett, who created the 4- by 6-foot oil paintings of a pilot, navigator, bombardier and gunner that now grace the Taj's rotunda. The paintings, which have been hanging in the Taj for more than 60 years, were restored two years ago.

"Those paintings still depict the training we do today," Gandy said, referring to the 12th FTW's mission.

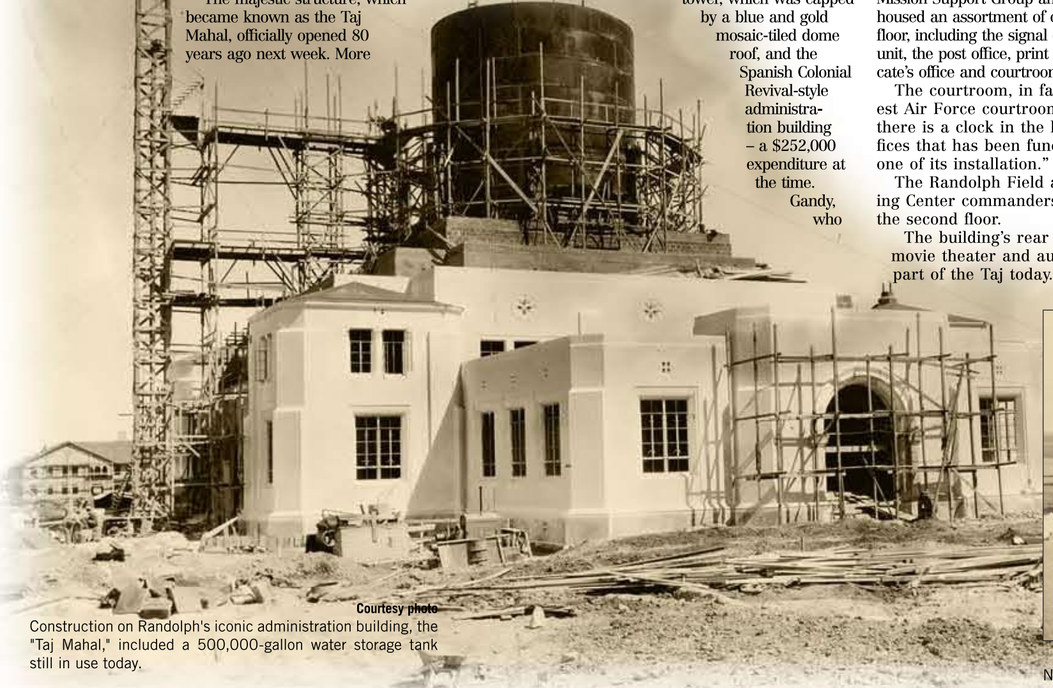
The rotunda was dedicated to the memory of Clark, who retired as a brigadier general in 1946, on May 28, 1974.

Other artifacts from the Army Air Corps' and Air Force's history, including photos, memorabilia and a Hall of Valor dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients, are displayed in the rotunda and east and west corridors of the Taj.

The Taj's observation deck, at the same level as the former artist's studio, offers a breathtaking view of Randolph and much of the San Antonio area, Gandy said.

"We take small groups to the top of the Taj," she said. "People consider it a privilege to go to the top of the tower. The elevator we use is the original elevator – it's the second oldest operable elevator in San Antonio."

The Taj celebrates its 80th anniversary Wednesday and continues to be a requested site for tours, retirement ceremonies and events like the annual Taj-ganza, which takes place every December.



Courtesy photo
Construction on Randolph's iconic administration building, the "Taj Mahal," included a 500,000-gallon water storage tank still in use today.

Courtesy photo
New cadets are issued their gear at Randolph Field in 1935.

Courtesy photos
Top: The layout of Randolph Field in 1931 and the design of the "Taj Mahal" reflected the vision of Army 1st Lt. Harold Clark, who later became a brigadier general.
Bottom: Randolph's "Taj Mahal" as seen in a recent aerial photo. With the planting of more than 7,000 trees – many of them live oaks – on a once treeless landscape, Randolph Air Force Base is now designated as a "Tree City, U.S.A."

Stowing the line

Col. Scott Peel, 902nd Mission Support Group commander, assists John Guerra, 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron natural resource manager, in placing a monofilament recovery and recycling container by the pond next to the Randolph Oaks Golf Course. Monofilament fishing line is nonbiodegradable and can last 600 years in the aquatic environment.

Photo by Don Lindsey

SPORTS — HEALTH — FITNESS

Sports BRIEFS

Fitness celebration

The Rambler Fitness Center offers a jump start on holiday calories with a fitness celebration Saturday at 8 a.m. at Eberle Park. There will be a 5-kilometer run/walk for experienced runners and a 1.5-mile run/walk for young athletes and their parents who would like to participate together. A 10K bike ride will start after the 5K is completed.

Registration for youth basketball, cheerleading

Registration for the 2011/2012 basketball and cheerleading programs takes place through Oct. 31 at the Randolph Youth Center, Bldg. 584.

These programs are for boys and girls ages 5-18. The registration fee is $45. All players must have a current sports physical on file by the start of the season.

Coaches are also needed. Call the youth center sports director at 652-3298 for more information.

2011 golf survey

The Randolph Oaks Golf Course requests its customers take a survey to let them know how to improve their customer service. There is a survey kiosk in the lobby of the facility or it can be completed online at http://ngfsurvey.com/cgi/start.asp?SC=randolphoaks

Customer feedback is important and enables management to make decisions concerning improvements to the course and operation.

Custom club fitting

The Randolph Oaks Golf Course offers a certified custom club fitting pro shop. Call 652-4653 to schedule a personal fitting.

Randolph runners succeed at AF Marathon

By Alex Salinas
502nd Air Base Wing OL-B Public Affairs

Photo by Ben Strasser

Air Force marathon runners leave the starting line Sept. 17 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. A record-breaking 13,000 runners participated in the event.

Five Randolph runners sponsored by the 902nd Force Support Squadron attended the 15th annual Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 17.

13,000 runners from all 50 states and 12 countries were in attendence, shattering last year's overall participation and previous record of 12,000 runners.

The Air Force Marathon events consist of a full marathon, half marathon, 10-kilometer run, 5-kilometer run and wheelchair race.

This year, registration closed in June, which was the earliest it had ever sold out.

Alfred Pena Jr., Air Education and Training Command capabilities and integration information technology strategic planner, was the lone runner of the sponsored five who ran in the full marathon, which required him to run for 26 miles and 385 yards.

Of the 770 active-duty members who ran the full marathon, Pena clocked in at 77th place with a time of 3:32:14.

"My goal was to finish with a time of 3:45:00, so I was very pleased," Pena said. "The weather was perfect for running. The first few miles were a little hilly, but it was a nice moderate course overall."

While Pena flourished in the competitive aspect of his race, Yasheda Lyons, Air Force Recruiting Service program management operations NCO in charge, shed some sweat for another reason.

"I run to keep myself in shape and perform well on the physical training test," Lyons said. "Running in the Air Force Marathon was a goal I wanted to achieve. I knew I wouldn't set a record or be the fastest runner, but it's a great feeling coming across the finish line and receiving a medal. I now know how Olympic runners feel."

The Air Force Marathon brought out runners like Lyons who not only share a passion for exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, but also set goals and achieve them.

The remaining three runners, Joshua Cates, F-15E electronics weapons assignment officer, David Fain, AETC Fire and Emergency Services functional manager, and Debbie Landry, Air Force Personnel Center Airman Assignments Division chief, did just that when they crossed the finish line in the half marathon.

"My goal was to be under the 1:40:00 mark in the half marathon and I ran my personal best of 1:36:00, and finished 15th out of 283 runners in my age group," Fain said.

Cates shared a similar experience.

"I did quite a bit better than I expected to," he said. "I think the cool temperature and low humidity helped me. I certainly enjoyed the weekend and it was a great race, and it was a lot of fun to run with people from all over the Air Force."

Landry, who was within five minutes of her personal goal, was pleased with her final results.

"I was able to break two hours and finish in 1:55:55," she said. "According to the results, I finished 245th of 2,541 women, and 33rd of 296 in my age category."

All five runners recognized the efforts of Rikk Pradro, 902nd Force Support Squadron sports manager, and the Rambler Fitness Center staff for helping them represent Randolph at Wright-Patterson AFB.

In sum, Fain described the nature of this year's record-breaking marathon event, the hard work each of the five 902nd FSS-sponsored five put into their race and their privilege of representing the Air Force and their base as "a tremendous success."

Randolph Intramural Flag Football Standings

359th MDG	6-0	902nd SFS	1-5
359th AMDS	5-2	AFRS	1-6
AFPC	4-2	558th FTS	0-1
902nd CES	3-3		

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE
FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON
www.RandolphFSS.com

902nd Force Support Squadron Briefs

MISCELLANEOUS

• Customer Appreciation Oktoberfest

Don't miss out on the annual 902nd FSS Customer Appreciation Oktoberfest today at the Parr O'Club patio and deck from 5 to 10 p.m. There will be some great German food to include bratwurst, schnitzel, German potato salad, sauerkraut and streusel. And you can't have an Oktoberfest without good German beer such as Warsteiner and Hofbrau Oktoberfest.

There will be a DJ from 5 to 7 p.m. and then the Psychic Cowboys will entertain from 7 to 10 p.m. with fantastic music. There will be fun games for the kids along with face painters and interactive inflatables. Come out for some fabulous fun! This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union, USAA, Broadway Bank and Budweiser. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS CENTER – 652 – 5321

• Heart Link

Any spouse new to San Antonio or the military should head to the Airman and Family Readiness Center Oct. 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Heart Link. Heart Link orientates spouses to all the services and programs on Randolph AFB. A light breakfast will be served as well as lunch and there will be some great door prizes. Call 652-5321 to register for this one-of-a-kind program. Free child care is available, but needs to be scheduled in advance.

AUTO SKILLS CENTER– 652-2952

• Teen auto maintenance class

Teens will learn to change a flat, check fluids and tire pressure and more in the Oct. 20 class from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The cost is $35 plus supplies and the sign-up deadline is Oct. 13.

GOLF COURSE -652-4653

• Columbus Day golf tournament

Celebrate Columbus Day with some great golfing Oct. 10. Tee times are 7-9 a.m. and the entry fee is $10 plus greens fee and golf cart.

INFORMATION, TICKETS and TRAVEL – 652-5640

• Wurstfest tickets

Wurstfest is a unique celebration rich in German culture and full of Texas fun. Enjoy the New Braunfels 10-day "Salute to Sausage," with a variety of live entertainment, delicious food and lots of fun for the entire family. The event runs Nov. 4-13. Stop by ITT for more information and discount tickets.

• Texas Renaissance Festival tickets

Step into the 16th century at the annual Texas Renaissance Festival, one of the nation's largest, most acclaimed renaissance fairs. The festival runs weekends through Nov. 27. Stop by ITT, Bldg. 897, for more information and discount tickets. Discount tickets are $18 for adults and $7 for children ages 5 to 12.

PARR O'CLUB – 652-4864

• Last deck night

Head to the Parr O'Club deck Thursday for the last deck night of the season. The bar opens at 4:30 p.m., the southern-style buffet is from 5 to 7 p.m. and Floodgage will provide the entertainment from 5 to 9 p.m.

The cost for this buffet is $5 for Randolph club members or $10 for nonmembers. Deck nights are open to all DoD ID cardholders and are sponsored by Randolph Family Housing and Budweiser. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

RAMBLER FITNESS CENTER – 652-2955

• Breast cancer awareness month

The Rambler Fitness Center is promoting breast cancer awareness during the month of October. Wear something pink, such as socks, shirts, hats shorts or shoes to the following classes and the class is free.

Oct. 6 at 10 a.m.: Senior's class
Oct. 12 at 5:15 p.m.: Cycling class
Oct. 17 at 6 p.m.: Yoga class
Oct. 22 at 9 a.m.: Kickboxing class
Oct. 25 at 6 p.m.: Kickboxing class

YOUTH PROGRAMS – 652-3298

• Sports registration

Registration for the 2011/2012 basketball and cheerleading programs takes place Oct. 3-31. These programs are for youth ages 5-18 years old and the registration fee is $45. All players must have current physical on file by the start of the season. Call 652-3298 for more information.

• "Fall into Fitness" fun run/walk

Join youth programs for their quarterly 2.5-mile family fun run/walk Oct. 8 at 8:30 a.m. at Eberle Park. This is a free event.

• Preteen "Lock-In"

All preteens, ages 9-12, are invited to a lock-in Oct. 14 from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the youth center. The night's festivities include scavenger hunts, an obstacle course, movies and much more. The cost is $20. Call 652-3298 for more information.