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Water management vital for Joint Base San Antonio

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Implementation of proactive water management is essential in San Antonio where periods of drought increase the need for proper aquifer management.

As we move into the warmer months, we need to be aware of the fact that critical stages of drought management quickly occur with lack of rain.

As stewards of the environment, Joint Base San Antonio has a responsibility to preserve the Edwards Aquifer.

During the summer, activities such as using swimming pools, irrigation and car washing increase.

Along with the additional demands placed on the Edwards Aquifer through our growth and expansion, we need to evaluate and modify our operations to minimize withdrawals.

Excessive use must be curtailed and system losses reduced to offset drought conditions through proper management.

Poor water management will lead to depletion of the aquifer and result in the declaration of more extensive use restrictions.

As of the week of Feb. 21, the Edwards Aquifer level was approximately 671feet.

During the hot summer months, the aquifer can drop as much as a foot per day.

The next critical stage occurs when the aquifer falls below 660 feet for three consecutive days. At JBSA there is a policy to conserve water all year around.

According to this policy, watering is restricted to before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m.

Military family housing units with even number addresses are allowed to water on Saturday and Tuesday, while odd number addresses can water Sunday and Thursday.

All installation facilities are allowed to water Monday and Friday. Athletic fields are watered on Monday and Wednesday and Golf Courses any day.

Commanders throughout Fort Sam Houston must maintain and promote sound water conservation measures.

They must also educate their personnel on the importance of water conservation and the need to eliminate water waste.

Everyone at JBSA installations, to include employees, housing residents and contract personnel, are required to comply with these water conservation measures.

Failure to do so can result in administrative actions taken against the installations.

Joint Base San Antonio staff at Fort Sam Houston and Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases will conduct assessments on a daily basis to identify water misuse and waste.

When users are notified of discrepancies, they need to be corrected immediately.

Persons found in violation of these measures will be held accountable.

Everyone is asked to do their part to conserve water through proper management and control.