

County makes progress on flood control by Randolph AFB

By Nolan Hicks

3-4 minutes

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A flood-control channel near Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph that's large enough to drive a Jeep through is well under way and should be finished next fall, county public works officials said Thursday.

The \$6 million concrete drainage system runs under a mile-plus stretch of Schaefer Road and Raf Burnette, roughly between Farm-to-Market Road 1518 and Cibolo Creek. It's designed to control and prevent the type of flooding that has plagued the area.

“This is the area that was flooded in the flood of '98 and created a horrific, traumatic loss of a large subdivision of largely mobile home residences and completely altered the lives of ... probably hundreds of people,” said Bexar County Commissioner [Tommy Adkisson](#), who represents Precinct 4 of Northeast Bexar County. “The more we sweat in peace time, the less we bleed in flooding time.”

Project manager [Arthur Reinhardt](#) said that by the time the project is finished, the county will have installed 3,000 feet of earthen

drainage channels to catch the stormwater north of the street. and 6,000 feet of concrete culvert under the street to carry the water to the nearby Cibolo Creek. When it's all said and done, he added, the system will be able to move 8,000 gallons of water per second.

He said that crews have laid about 4,000 feet of the culvert so far.

Crews have had to rip up the street to install the massive concrete blocks it. Reinhardt said the program calls for rebuilding the street and adding a sidewalk to one side of the road.

The project is part of Bexar County's half-billion-dollar flood control program, which aims to reduce flooding around the county.

Adkisson said the program has grown in importance with all of the new construction in Bexar County, which means more runoff.

“As we see more and more impervious cover from the development in San Antonio, we've got to be aware that if we're not preparing for that runoff to go somewhere, we're going to pay a huge price,” he said.

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