

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

NOVEMBER 3, 2017



COURTESY PHOTO

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will perform at this weekend's Joint Base San Antonio 2017 Air Show and Open House at JBSA-Lackland Kelly Field Annex.

Pilot discovers inspiration through air shows

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Sailor first in Army Medic 68W Program

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AETC holds inaugural flying competition

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Operations Home Cooking and Family Feast kick off holiday season for military members

Local families open their homes to military members

From 502nd Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

Operation Home Cooking and Operation Family Feast are two programs that provide Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Airmen in training an opportunity to enjoy a holiday meal in a family atmosphere with local San Antonio area families willing to show their hospitality.

While both programs allow families to host Airmen, Operation Home Cooking is for Airmen in basic military training while Operation Family Feast is for Airmen in technical training.

Throughout the years, families have generously opened their homes to these young men and women, recognizing many of them are away from home for the first time.

These programs are designed for family participation and not intended for groups. This ensures every family wanting to participate in these programs has an opportunity to do so.

Reservations are required. Host families cannot just show up on Thanksgiving Day with no notice or unannounced and obtain Airmen and trainees.

There are a limited number of Airmen and trainees available. Anyone who makes a request after the total number of available trainees has been reached may be placed on a waiting list and called back if more host families are



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required.

Host families must pick up their Airmen and trainees at the designated location provided. Host families will cover all cost associated with meal and travel. There will be no financial transactions between the host family and trainees. Please discuss food allergies with the Airmen and trainees. In addition, they are not permitted to use tobacco products or consume alcoholic beverages.

Airmen and trainees must be returned to their respective squadrons or dorms according to their designated return time. We ask that you plan accordingly for traffic.

Operation Home Cooking

In its 42nd year, the program provides the opportunity for families to share their traditional Thanksgiving celebrations with Air Force Airmen and trainees.

Host families within the San Antonio metropolitan area may invite trainees as a "General

Request." To request a trainee under the "By Name Request" program, you must be an immediate family member (e.g. parent, sibling or grandparent), and live in the San Antonio Metropolitan area. Exception will be for trainees in the 6th week of training. Out-of-town relatives who have trainees in BMT graduating during Thanksgiving week may request them by name for Thanksgiving lunch and/or dinner.

To request a trainee through either category, call 210-671-5453, 210-671-5454 or 210-671-3701. Requests can be made starting Oct. 30, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The phone lines will remain open till Nov. 23 or until all eligible trainees have been requested, whichever occurs first.

Due to heightened security measures, host families without a current Department of Defense ID card to grant them base access are required to have a background check and

visitor's pass prior to entering the base. Host families can pick up their visitor's pass at the Luke Gate Visitor Reception Center, located off Military Drive and open 24/7, until Nov. 23.

Trainees who are "General Requests" will be picked up at the Pfingston Reception Center, building 6330, JBSA-Lackland, while those who are "By Name Request" can be picked up from their respective squadrons Thanksgiving Day between 7-11 a.m.

They must be returned to their respective squadrons no later than 7 p.m.

Operation Family Feast

Families who have a current DOD ID card granting them base access and live within the San Antonio metropolitan area may host two to four Airmen. Base passes will not be provided to families without a DOD ID card, so they will not be able to host Airmen.

To request an Airmen, please email operationfamilyfeast@gmail.com. The reservation is not finalized and confirmed until a confirmation email has been sent back to the requestor(s). The last day to make a request is Nov. 17.

Airmen will be picked up at Arnold Hall, 1560 Stewart Street, JBSA-Lackland, Thanksgiving Day, between 10-11 a.m. They must be returned to their respective dorms no later than 8 p.m. that evening.

For more information about Operation Family Feast, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/938974492910515/>.

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Joint Base San Antonio
HOTLINES

• Sexual Assault Hotline
210-808-SARC (7272)

• Domestic Abuse Hotline
210-367-1213

• DOD Safe Helpline
877-995-5247

• Suicide Prevention
800-273-TALK (8255)

• Duty Chaplain
210-221-9363

Celebrate America's Military 2017 events

From 502nd Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

The following are local Celebrate America's Military events, with most open to the public. For the most up-to-date schedules, visit celebrateamericasmilitary.com/.

Saturday, Nov. 4

VA Home Loan Seminar

- » Location: Holiday Inn Express SA Airport, 91 NE Loop 410
- » Time: 10 a.m.-noon

Free to attend with registration. This is an in-depth discussion on the Veterans Affairs Home Loan benefit that military members, veterans and spouses have earned through their service to the nation. The seminar reviews the history; eligibility; rules; benefits of using the VA home loan product vs other products; common myths and fees associated with it. The goal is to ensure veterans are well informed prior to making one of the largest purchases they will make. Call 210-477-9460 or visit sanantonio.veteransunited.com/events/ to register.

USMC 242nd Birthday Ball

- » Location: Hilton Garden Inn Live Oak Garden Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road
- » Time: Cocktail hour: 6 p.m., dinner and ball, 7-11:30 p.m.

Open to all with registration. Dress is military class A and civilian formal. Come celebrate with the San Antonio Marines. One ticket includes entrance, dinner, program and coin memento. Visit sanantonio.veteransunited.com/events/ for more information.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

Navy League and Sea Services Breakfast

- » Location: Fort Sam Houston Golf Club, 1050 Harry Wurzbach Road
- » Time: 8-10 a.m.

Speaker is Capt. Brad Lee, the second commanding officer of the USS San Antonio. Join the Alamo Chapter of the Navy League of the United States for their third annual CAM event — a tribute to the men and women who serve in the nation's Sea Services: the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. A buffet breakfast will be served. RSVP and advanced ticket purchase required. Military wear uniform of the day and casual dress for civilians. Call 210-373-3121 for registration. Visit the



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Alamo Council Navy League of the United States at navyleaguesa.org for more information.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

Fort Sam Houston Veterans Day Event

- » Location: MacArthur Parade Field, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston
- » Time: 10:45 a.m.

Open to the public. Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, commanding general of U.S. Army North, will host the event. The military formation will begin at 10:45 a.m. Music provided by the 323rd Army Band "Fort Sam's Own" beginning at 10:50 a.m. The Veterans Day Ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. The ceremony will have a special recognition for World War I, Medal of Honor recipients and distinguished quartermasters.

Thursday, Nov. 9

Hiring Red, White and You!

- » Location: Freeman Coliseum Expo Hall 2, 3201 E. Houston St.
- » Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Free and open to the public. Join the Texas Workforce Commission, Workforce Solutions Alamo and other partners for the fourth Annual Hiring Red White and You Job Fair. This event is designed to connect employers seeking qualified candidates with Texas veterans and their family members seeking employment. Call 210-224-HELP or visit workforcesolutionsalamo.org for more information.

UTSA Veterans Ceremony at Sombrilla Plaza

- » Location: Paseo Principal
- » Time: 3 p.m.

Free and open to the public. There will be a guest speaker, roll call, wreath

laying, pass in review and reception to follow. Call the UTSA Department for Veteran and Military Affairs at 210-458-4296 or visit utsa.edu for more information.

UTSA Volleyball Game Appreciation Night

- » Location: Convocation Center, 1 UTSA Circle
- » Time: 7 p.m.

Open to the public. The UTSA Roadrunners take on Charlotte, with free admission for veterans, active duty service members, Guard/Reserve and family members with military ID. Visit utsa.edu for more information.

Friday, Nov. 10

USO JBSA Grand Opening CAMP-Celebrate America's Military Picnic

- » Location: JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Community USO, 1795 Chaffee Road
- » Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Open to military ID card holders: active duty, dependents, Guard, Reserve and retirees. Join us for a Celebration of America's Military Picnic, or CAMP, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and the grand opening of the state-of-the-art JBSA-Fort Sam Houston USO. Enjoy tours of the new center. There will be a barbecue lunch, entertainment, fitness events, games, special guests and a kid's zone, too. Call 210-227-9373 or visit uso.org for more information.

Military Moms and BRATZ Ball

- » Location: Hilton San Antonio Airport, 611 NW Loop 410
- » Time: 4-6 p.m., author meet and greet; 6-7 p.m., cocktail hour; 7-10 p.m., dinner and ball

Open to military ID card holders, including active duty, family members, Guard, Reserve, retirees and invited

guests. Join us at this family-filled "Red Carpet" celebration. You don't want to miss the Inaugural Military Mom's & B.R.A.T.Z Ball, held in "Military City USA." First ball designed with military children in mind. At the special author meet and greet, people will receive an autographed book with the additional meet and greet ticket. Visit eventbrite.com/e/military-moms-bratz-ball-tickets-38130928634 for tickets.

San Antonio Spurs Veterans Appreciation Night

- » Location: AT&T Center, 1 AT&T Center Parkway
- » Time: 8 p.m.

The San Antonio Spurs host the Milwaukee Bucks with tip-off at 8 p.m. Discounted tickets purchased through spursgroups.com/veterans will include an exclusive Veterans Night T-shirt available for pick-up at the game.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day at the Alamo

- » Location: The Alamo, 300 Alamo Plaza
- » Time: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

This Veterans Day, you are invited to celebrate veterans and commemorate San Antonio's long military history at the Alamo. In honor of their service this Veterans Day, all active duty military members and veterans, plus one guest, will receive a free tour of their choice at the Alamo Nov. 11. This offer is good onsite only for both the audio and battlefield tours. All visitors are encouraged to stop by Cavalry Courtyard on the Alamo grounds on Veterans Day to commemorate and thank those who have selflessly served.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony

- » Location: Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, 1520 Harry Wurzbach Road
- » Time: Music prelude, 9:30 a.m.; ceremony 10 a.m.

Visit cems.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftsam-houston.asp for more information about the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

U.S. Military Veterans Parade & Wreath Laying at the Tobin Center

- » Location: 451 Jefferson St.
- » Time: 8 a.m., Junior ROTC drill team competition; 10 a.m., wreath laying; noon, parade.

Open to the public. The U.S. Military Veterans Parade Association presents

JBSA officials offer tips to avoid drain pain

By **Richard Hopewell**
502ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

Our sewers are not designed to cope with modern disposable products, and as a result, these items can cause blockages.

The drains connecting your home (or place of work) to the main sewer are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper, and human waste. They are often no wider than 4 inches.

Approximately 75 percent of blockages involve disposable items. To avoid drain pain and a drain on resources, remember to bag it and put in the garbage ... don't flush it.

Disposables go in the garbage

Disposable products, such as cotton balls, condoms, diapers and plastics can find their way into the environment if they are flushed down the drain. To prevent damage to the environment, the following items

should be disposed of in the ways recommended.

Cotton balls, ladies' products, bandages, diapers, plastics, and dental floss: dispose of these in the garbage along with other household trash.

For condoms, tampons and applicators, wrap well and dispose of in the trash.

Fats, Oils and Greases (FOG)

Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron, San Antonio Water System and San Antonio River Authority across JBSA. Never pour grease in your sink drain and try to use your garbage disposal less.

Grease is a byproduct of cooking. It comes from meat, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces and dairy products.

When grease washes down

the sink, it sticks to the insides of the pipes that connect your home or place of work to the sanitary sewer. It also coats the insides of sanitary sewer pipes which flow to the applicable on- or off-base wastewater treatment plant.

Eventually, the grease can build up until it completely blocks sewer pipes. That can create difficult and expensive maintenance problems. Blocked sewer pipes can cause raw sewage to back up into your home or place of work, or overflow into streets and streams.

Garbage disposals don't keep grease out of sewer pipes. Products that claim to dissolve grease may dislodge a blockage, but will only cause problems farther on down the line when the grease hardens again.

Reducing FOG going down your kitchen sink prevents sewer problems.

Following these do's and

don'ts will help you avoid expensive sewer backups, plumbing emergencies, and resources to cover sewer maintenance and repairs, while helping protect water quality in your community.

Do:

- Recycle used cooking oil or properly dispose of it by pouring it into a sealable container and placing the sealed container in the trash.
- Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink.
- Wipe pots, pans and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them. Throw away the paper towels.
- Place a catch basket or screen over the sink drain when rinsing dishes or when peeling food, to catch small scraps that would otherwise be washed down the drain. Throw the scraps in the trash.
- Rinse dishes and pans with

cold water before putting them in the dishwasher. Hot water melts FOG off the dishes and into the sewer pipes.

Don't:

- Use a garbage disposal or food grinder. Grinding food up before rinsing it down the drain does not remove FOG; it just makes the pieces smaller. Even non-greasy food scraps can plug your home's sewer lines. So, don't put food of any kind down the drain.
- Pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings or sauces down the sink or toilet, or into street gutters or storm drains.
- Use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or clean greasy or oily dishware. When you wash them, the grease will still end up in the sewer.
- Run water over dishes, pans, fryers and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Sailor first in Army Medic 68W Program

By William Love

NAVAL HEALTH CLINIC CORPUS CHRISTI

Seaman Daniel R. Frink, the first Sailor in the Army's 68W Utilization Program, was awarded the silver badge by Brooke Army Medical Center Deputy Commanding Officer Col. Traci Crawford at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Oct. 18.

The ceremony recognized the first Navy hospital corpsman to participate in the Army's new program, which launched Jan. 17. The program concentrates on readiness, allowing medics to practice the necessary skills required to maintain their core competencies in preparation for being forward-deployed.

Readiness is a top Navy Medicine priority.

The opportunity for Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi corpsmen to train with Army medics in the program was as welcomed as it was unexpected.

On Aug. 16, Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson visited Corpus Christi Army Depot and toured the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi later that day.

During Johnson's visit, NHCCC commanding officer Capt. Miguel A. Cubano, who up to that time had been unaware of the Army's 68W program, discussed his idea for getting corpsmen practical experience at a Level I trauma center.

Cubano is a surgeon and had already exchanged thoughts with one of his close friends, a director at Ben Taub, in Houston, one of three Level I trauma



CAPT. KEITH NEWTON

From left: Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi commanding officer Capt. Miguel A. Cubano; Hospitalman Daniel R. Frink; Brooke Army Medical Center Deputy commanding officer Col. Traci Crawford; and Enlisted Advisor Deputy Commander Inpatient Services Master Sgt. Richard Russell gather following the presentation of the Army's 68W Utilization Program Silver Badge to Frink on Oct. 18.

centers in Southeast Texas.

Johnson was receptive to Cubano's ideas and suggested that NHCCC hospital corpsmen obtain their hands-on training in San Antonio.

Cubano replied without hesitation.

"Sir, if you open those doors, I'll tell you right now we'll definitely take you up on that," Cubano said, adding that it was as simple as a handshake and a willingness to participate.

"I was very pleasantly surprised at how open the general and his command sergeant major were about

us participating," Cubano said.

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi's priorities are readiness, health and partnerships, so collaborating with the Army on improving readiness in a joint environment is the perfect opportunity for outstanding Navy corpsmen like Frink.

Frink, from Simsbury, Conn., reported to Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi San Antonio Detachment in February 2017.

He participates in sick call for active-duty Army, Navy and Air Force students stationed at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. He also helps manage readiness for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard population in the San Antonio area.

"I had no idea what a hospital corpsman was before walking into a recruitment office for the Navy. My recruiter was an AO2 (Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class) who had nothing but good things to say about the doctors he worked with and around," Frink said. "He sold me on the history and the opportunity corpsmen have in today's Navy."

"When I was able to work at Naval Hospital Guam in the inpatient setting, I had a chance to see my work actively affect someone's life and health. I always enjoyed being able to help someone and Navy Medicine is allowing me to do that."

During his short time in San Antonio, Frink achieved recognition as the Blue Jacket of the fourth quarter, fiscal 2017. His new silver badge is just another indication of his dedication to Navy Medicine.

METC program graduates first international Liberian student

By Lisa Braun

METC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pfc. Yardy Collins holds the distinction of being the first international student from Liberia to graduate from the preventive medicine specialist program at the Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, on Oct. 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Collins, from Monrovia, joined the Liberian army because of his desire to save lives and provide care and treatment to his country and the army. His career goal is to further himself in the medical field and

the preventive medicine course has brought him a step closer.

"I chose to become a preventive medicine specialist because I want to provide good sanitation services to my country," Collins said. "My career goal is to be a professional nurse and a public health specialist in line with this unique course."

According to Oscar Ramos, director of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, or AMEDDC&S, International Programs Division, Collins is one of a selected few from Liberia to attend METC-hosted programs and the only one to have completed the preventive medicine specialist

course from his country and U.S. Africa Command.

"The Armed Forces of Liberia enlisted medical personnel train alongside their U.S. counterparts in support of the U.S. Army Surgeon General's global mission to promote standardization and interoperability throughout the military spectrum, while enhancing partner nations' medical capabilities," Ramos said.

In addition to the formal training, Collins also participated in several DOD Field Study Program trips throughout Texas, exposing him to U.S. culture, government institutions and human rights.

Lt. Col. Paul Lang, Army service lead for the preventive medicine specialist program, knows first-hand the hardships Liberia faces with regard to adequate sanitation.

"Because of my time working at U.S. Army Africa and, specifically, taking part in the Ebola response in Liberia, I have a deep admiration and respect for the people of Liberia and its army," Lang said.

"When I learned we would have a Liberian student in the class, I was very excited. Collins embodies the hard work and spirit of the Liberian people," Lang added. "He is a natural leader whose quiet confi-



LISA BRAUN

Pfc. Yardy Collins (right) graduates from the Medical Education and Training Campus preventive medicine specialist program Oct. 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

dence and high standards were infectious to the rest of his peers and improved the experience for others in the class."

Fort Sam Houston Veterans Day Ceremony



**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON
HOSTS THE 2017 VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
NOV. 8 AT 11 A.M. AT THE MACARTHUR PARADE FIELD.**

**THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THOSE WHO DO NOT
HAVE A DOD ID SHOULD ARRIVE EARLY AT THE
WALTERS STREET GATE VISITORS CENTER.
FOOD AND BEVERAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTERWARD.**

Mobile Medics deploy to help storm victims

By Maj. Dan Yourk
BAMC VIRTUAL MEDICAL CENTER

Two mobile medics from Brooke Army Medical Center and one nurse from Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center deployed to Puerto Rico to provide virtual health support to the disaster response effort there.

In coordination with the BAMC Virtual Medical Center, or V-MEDCEN, Capt. Becky Lux, Sgt. Andrea Bloom and Spc. Christian Bark, along with transportable telehealth equipment, were embedded with the 14th Combat Support Hospital from Fort Benning, Ga.

Hurricane Maria, a category 5 hurricane, hit Puerto Rico Sept. 20 causing a level of devastation and hardship rarely seen in American history. Island-wide power outages, flooding, structural damage and a lack of clean drinking water and food continue to plague this small island territory over one month later.

In response to the decimated infrastructure and failing health care system, the 14th CSH was deployed to establish medical support in Humacao, Puerto Rico.

The 14th CSH established clinical operations in the Hu-

macao area Oct. 12 and started providing care to the local population. The CSH emergency room was quickly occupied with hundreds of local patients seeking care and medical support.

In response to the overwhelming volume of patients, in excess of 150 a day, the mobile medics coordinated with the BAMC V-MEDCEN to establish daily virtual health provider support from the BAMC Internal Medicine Clinic at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and providers at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Fort Gordon, Ga.

"This shows the versatility of virtual health and eliminates the tyranny of distance that so frequently diminishes the medical community's ability to leverage access to provider support from almost anywhere in the world," said Lt. Col. Sean Hipp, BAMC V-MEDCEN director.

The BAMC V-MEDCEN has also coordinated with the Naval Medical Center San Diego and the U.S. Naval Ship Comfort to provide on-demand, synchronous critical care and specialty virtual health support to the providers and medics at the 14th CSH as needed.



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Lt. Col. Jennifer Stowe, an optometrist located at the Brooke Army Medical Center Virtual Medical Center, talks with Sgt. Andrea Bloom Oct. 20 during a synchronous virtual health encounter.

The mobile medics successfully completed a synchronous virtual health encounter Oct. 20 with Army Lt. Col. Jennifer Stowe, an optometrist located at the BAMC V-MEDCEN.

The initial report received indicated that the Soldier was experiencing right eye pain, redness, loss of vision and a cloudy haze over his eye. The

mobile medics connected with Stowe and provided high-definition, synchronous images of the Soldier's eye using an optical exam camera and web-based video conferencing capability.

Based on her conversation with the patient and the physical exam using the virtual health equipment, Stowe was able to establish a diagnosis,

prescribe a recommend course of treatment, schedule a follow-up appointment and keep the Soldier from being evacuated to a higher level of care.

Stowe was extremely impressed with the audio and video quality.

"Without the ability to adequately evaluate the patient's eye and discuss the symptoms with the Soldier, I would have likely recommended immediate evacuation to a higher level of care," she said. "Instead, he is able to continue fulfilling his mission in support of the efforts in Puerto Rico and I'm able to virtually follow-up on his progress."

The mobile medics continued to leverage their virtual health capabilities by connecting with Maj. Sharen Denson, a physician assistant, at the BAMC Internal Medicine Clinic Oct. 23 to provide on-demand synchronous support to the patients in the 14th CSH emergency room. The mobile medics presented, and Denson treated, eight local civilian patients with various types of presenting medical issues.

All the patients expressed a high level of satisfaction with the exam and treatment and expressed their gratitude for the support.

BAMC Warrior Transition Battalion celebrates 10-years

By Robert Shields
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Brooke Army Medical Center Warrior Transition Battalion marked its 10-year anniversary Oct. 20 during a celebration at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Over the past 10 years, the BAMC WTB has cared for more than 5,500 Soldiers, many of them injured in support of combat operations around the globe.

BAMC commanding general Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson said he was proud to help celebrate

the milestone.

"Caring for our Soldiers is not just about healing their wounds medically," Johnson said. "It's about supporting them - physically, emotionally, spiritually, and socially. That includes the service member's family as well."

Johnson thanked the leaders and support staff for making it their mission to care for "our nation's greatest assets - America's sons and daughters."

The event included remarks from WTB Commander Lt. Col. James Mitchell and past WTB

Soldiers as well as a cake cutting, refreshments and displays.

The mission of the WTB is to provide competent and compassionate leadership through mission command, complex case management, comprehensive transition planning, and primary care in a safe environment promoting optimum healing for our wounded, ill, or injured Soldiers returning to the force or transitioning to civilian life as productive Veterans.

Retired Master Sgt. Pamela Mandell, WTB Battalion transition coordinator, a former Sol-

dier in Transition, says her job within the WTB is rewarding.

"It's truly a wonderful experience to be able to help Soldiers who have gone through what I've gone through or experiencing what I've felt," Mandell said. "I love my job. I love seeing the smiles on their faces as they succeed and to see there is life after what they've been through and that they are still productive members of society."

Retired Sgt. Jared Werner, who was wounded by a gunshot in 2013, spent 15 months in recovery. During his time at the

WTB, he benefited from one of the many programs offered to Soldiers. Werner accepted an internship with the Defense Military Pay Office on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. He is now employed there.

Werner offers this advice to other Soldiers who are about to transition from the military. "Have a plan. Have a backup plan to your back up plan," he said. "Make sure you take advantage of your education opportunities and continue to look for employment opportunities."

Bexar County, JBSA partner to help members

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Active duty members at Joint Base San Antonio transitioning out of the military are going to have access to additional resources and counseling through a new program being launched by Bexar County.

The Bexar County military service officers program will provide services and counseling to transitioning service members and veterans who are looking for job and educational opportunities in the civilian sector and need access to housing, health and other vital services once they leave the military.

Bexar County is providing \$250,000 for the first year of the program.

Col. David Rough, 502nd Force Support Group commander at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said the program will start in January with two military service officers assigned to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The military service officers will work with active-duty members six months before they transition out of the military and throughout the time they enter civilian life and become veterans. They will keep in touch with the veterans on a monthly basis.

The military service officers at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston will be housed in the Joint Personnel Processing Center, building 2263, with the Transition Assistance Program.

Plans are to expand the military service officers program by adding officers at JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph next spring.

Rough said the creation of the military service officers program shows that the local community



COURTESY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

values its veterans.

"We talk about the motto of how San Antonio is 'Military City USA,'" he said. "This is clearly indicated by this program."

Rough said the addition of the Bexar County military service officers is needed to serve a significant number of active-duty members at JBSA who are transitioning out of the military and will stay in the Bexar County area.

Of the 4,000 service members per year at JBSA who are transitioning, more than half – between 2,200 to 2,500 – decide to work or remain in the Bexar County area, said Rough.

The partnership between Bexar County and JBSA for the military service officers program started after Bexar County Precinct 3 Commissioner Kevin Wolff

pitched the idea to Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, during a meeting this summer.

Wolff, a Navy veteran, said he can relate to the challenges transitioning service members face when they enter civilian life.

"This bold new plan gets to the heart of the issue," Wolff said. "As a veteran myself, I remember all too well the difficulties of transitioning to civilian life, applying for a job, finding an apartment and such. This (program) will help to address those issues before they separate from the military."

Rough said one advantage military service officers bring for transitioning service members is they have connections to local businesses and companies who value and want to hire veterans. In addition, he said military service officers can also educate other businesses and companies on the attributes a transitioning service member brings to the workplace.

Once the Bexar County military service officer program starts in January, Rough said it could become an example of how a partnership providing resources for transitioning service members can work.

"I am confident this is going to become the premiere transition assistance partnership in the continental U.S.," he said.

Rough added it is up to active-duty service members who are transitioning to take the initiative to utilize the resources the service officers program will bring.

"A very important part of this is the transitioning service members," Rough said. "They have to take advantage of the opportunities (the program) offers."

Army North JOC prospers through unity of effort

By Sgt. Christopher A. Hernandez

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ever since Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, approximately 30 Army North personnel coordinated support and logistics during disaster relief operations at the Joint Operations Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The JOC personnel consist of Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and civilian contractors proactively engaged in nonstop operations.

"This is the largest and longest response effort since Army North came into creation," said Lt. Col. Ricarlos Caldwell, AR-

"There's a lot of great joint activity going on with all branches, and I'm certainly honored to be a part of this effort."

Col. Robert Parker, 186th Air Operations Group operations director

NORTH JOC chief. "We've had three large-scale hurricanes that hit in rapid succession, so we had to find a balance in maintaining situational awareness, supporting the elements out in the affected areas and managing

time requirements back here."

According to Air Force Col. Robert Parker, operations director for 186th Air Operations Group, Meridian, Miss., this unity of effort is a critical component of disaster response situations.

"All of us are concerned about the welfare of the people of Puerto Rico. We're supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency and civil authorities there, and we're doing all that we can to bring them back to normalcy," Parker said.

Members of the JOC sustain full-scale operations and planning 24/7, 365 days a year to ensure all needs and concerns are expeditiously met during times of crisis.

"My duties include managing

the operational center, specifically with integrating all of the directorates that provide personnel to support hurricane relief," Caldwell said. "Additionally, we collate all of the raw data that comes in, determine who needs to know it, and generate reports that feeds into larger operational concerns to include developing orders and messages."

The destructive trifecta of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria gave ARNORTH JOC a multitude of challenges that contributed to their overall learning experience.

"There's a lot of lessons learned; in which, we can do better ... priorities changed each day, so we constantly found ourselves making changes along

the way," said Lester Goins, ARNORTH Joint Operations Planning and Execution System analyst. "Therefore, we try to keep track of everything we did for historical purposes and to better help the American people."

In spite of the few difficulties, the ARNORTH JOC continues to push forward and provide support for military and civilian agencies in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

"I personally learned a lot about the Army component and have a new appreciation for them during my time here," Parker said. "There's a lot of great joint activity going on with all branches, and I'm certainly honored to be a part of this effort."

LACKLAND

CATM instructor returns to JBSA, trains next generation of Airmen

By Senior Airman
Stormy Archer

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As a basic trainee, Senior Airman Robert Allore completed his combat arms training at the JBSA-Lackland Medina Training Annex.

Five years later, Allore finds himself back at the Medina Annex, training the next generation of Airmen as a 37th Training Support Squadron combat arms training instructor.

"Having the opportunity to instruct basic trainees is outstanding," said Allore. "I fully remember my CATM experience during (basic military training). I sat in this very classroom and looked at the exact same blue boards that we have here now.

"To now be on the other side teaching new Airmen coming to

us from BMT is a very surreal feeling. Being able to give them the knowledge that I have and seeing them make progress is what I really enjoy about instructing."

As a combat arms instructor, Allore trains basic trainees, service members preparing for deployment or permanent change of station and members requalifying on their weapons.

"I love teaching," Allore said. "I like helping people and trying to pass on knowledge and wisdom. I enjoy improving not only myself, but other people as well. This job does exactly that. You have the opportunity to teach multiple people, not just security forces, every career field."

There are many things Allore enjoys about his job, but what he

CATM continues on 14



SEAN M. WORRELL

Senior Airman Robert Allore (left), 37th Training Support Squadron combat arms instructor, teaches a basic military trainee on how to take care of a malfunction on an M16A2 rifle during their qualification course July 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Medina Annex.

U.S. Air Force Band of the West now has a new home

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It used to be the starting point for the Air Force's newest trainees at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, but when visitors open the front door of this building, they will be greeted by the sounds of beautiful music.

The Air Force Band of the West is moving to the former reception center, building 7246 on Carswell Avenue, where Airmen began their Air Force careers at basic military training.

"I know we're excited to get in there and start rehearsing and utilizing those facilities right away. I know that as a team, we're all in this together."

Master Sgt. Christin Foley, U.S. Air Force Band of the West vocalist

"This was the reception center that all of us entered when we stepped off that bus and started basic training," said Chief Master Sgt. Martha S. Garcia, Band of the West chief enlisted manager.

Band of the West has been at its current location, Howard Hall, since 2009. All that will

change when they are handed the keys to their new home the end of October.

"This move is a game changer; an absolute game changer," according to Maj. David Alpar, Band of the West commander.

Renovation of the former reception center began in 2014. The center was gutted so the

needs of the musicians and its mission could be met to the best of its ability. However, due to congressional sequestration, construction was halted and did not resume until December 2016. Alpar said things are moving forward again, with a definite end in sight and many new perks the band will enjoy.

"First and foremost, it puts us in one location," said Alpar.

The \$7 million dollar renovation sends a positive note to the musicians moving in.

"I think it will just help to have a dedicated space to feel like your job is important and that the Air Force gave you this facility to work in," said Garcia. Some of the musicians who have taken a tour of the soon-to-be ready facility agree.

Master Sgt. Christin Foley, a vocalist who has been with the band for over eight years and

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BAND

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likes what she sees.

"I know we're excited to get in there and start rehearsing and utilizing those facilities right away," said Foley. "I know that as a team, we're all in this together," Foley added.

Some of the new features at the new location include more room, soundproof modules, taller ceilings, individual rooms for each group and a private feedback area after rehearsals. Garcia said in the past, two rock bands shared a room and had to schedule rehearsals. That's all about to change.

"This will add to the quality of work we already produce," said Garcia.

With the new features, Foley will have all the equipment she needs in one place, instead of

searching for microphones and other essentials needed to rehearse.

"In that new building, some of those rooms are going to be pre-established with equipment and I can just go in and utilize the equipment there without running around," said Foley.

The new features are especially appealing to one of the newest members of the band, Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Robinson.

Robinson, Band of the West flutist for over a year, said current band rehearsals are challenging because of BMT Airmen marching by outside. Now that she has seen the new building, she can't wait to move.

"I really got excited about joining the band and serving my country and playing music at the same time," said Rob-



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

Band of the West is moving to its new home, the former basic military training reception center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, in early November.

inson. "It's a dream come true that we can do both things."

With the big move getting closer and the holidays just around the

corner, packing is underway in a meticulous manner. Band members are packing their sheet music and charts to take to the new building. De-

pending on what sheet music they might need, will dictate which will get packed last.

Band of the West presently has 50 musicians as

well as support staff. Alpar is looking forward to this new chapter.

"The mission will always continue. That has to happen," said Alpar.

CATM

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enjoys the most is being able to positively impact someone's career. Especially if it is someone early in their Air Force career.

"The best things about being here with basic trainees, they are so motivated to learn," said Allore. "These Airmen are the future. To instruct, knowing that these Airmen are going to go out and do big things in their career, and having the ability to have a positive impact on someone's career, even if it is one person, that what makes

being here so important to me."

Allore is hopeful that his time at CATM will help propel him to the next step in his Air Force career.

"I have always wanted to be an instructor, and there is no better place to do that than JBSA-Lackland, Allore said. "I'm using the skills and tools I have learned here to one day become an MTL."

For anyone else chasing their dreams in the Air Force, Allore has a few pieces of advice.

"Stay motivated, live by the core values and just keep pushing each and every day."

Inspired by air shows, now a pilot at JBSA -Randolph

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

With the 2017 Joint Base San Antonio Air Show and Open House at Kelly Field on Port San Antonio scheduled to take place Nov. 4-5, the next generation of aviators is just waiting to be inspired.

For Maj. Joe Stallings, growing up on the east coast provided many opportunities to get inspired to serve after going to air shows each summer on a regular basis.

Fast forward to 2017, and Stallings is now an instructor pilot at the 559th Flying Training Squadron, part of the 12th Flying Training Wing, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. He is also the JBSA Air Show and Open House director of flight operations, responsible for coordinating the military and civilian aircraft that will thrill the

crowds Nov. 4 and 5 during the show.

The JBSA public affairs team had a chance to catch up with Stallings and find out how air shows inspired him to join the Air Force and fly the aircraft he used to see in the skies every summer.

Question: When was the first time you went to an air show? Were you inspired?

Stallings: I grew up in southeast Virginia, surrounded by Langley Air Force Base, Naval Station Norfolk and Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach. My family went to air shows every summer, and I remember watching the Thunderbirds, U.S. Navy Blue Angels and many other performers. It didn't take me long to figure out I wanted to be flying at air shows instead of watching them.

Question: What is the coolest part about air shows in

your opinion?

Stallings: Air shows offer a look behind the scenes to see these impressive machines up close and meet the air crews that make it happen every day protecting our country.

Question: If you could only see one act fly at the air show, who would it be and why?

Stallings: I love watching the military demos. After flying in the Air Force for a few years, I understand the hard work that makes them happen. However, my favorite acts are the older warbirds. It's amazing to watch such unique aircraft still flying, especially the ones with only a handful still airworthy, such as the B-29 Superfortress, B-17 Flying Fortress, and P-39 Airacobra.

Question: How proud are you to serve in the Air Force?

Stallings: I feel privileged to serve in the Air Force, particularly doing something as



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Joe Stallings, an instructor pilot with the 559th Flying Training Squadron, which is part of the 12th Flying Training Wing headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. He is also the JBSA 2017 Air Show and Open House director of flight operations, responsible for coordinating the military and civilian aircraft that will thrill the crowds Nov. 4 and 5 during the show.

fun as flying and instructing other pilots so we can continue our rich aviation heritage is simply the best job in the world.

For more information on the

JBSA 2017 Air Show and Open House, visit www.jbsaairshow.com. You can also follow the air show on JBSA's Facebook and Twitter pages using #JBSAairshow.

CAM EVENTS

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the annual Veterans Parade in downtown San Antonio Nov. 11 during the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce's Celebrate America's Military Week. The annual wreath-laying ceremony takes place at the Tobin Center. Representatives from each branch of the military services and special guests speak briefly, then carry wreaths to the entrance of the Alamo in recognition of the nation's and Texas veterans. The parade steps off soon after at noon. Join the celebration by lining the downtown streets and waving your American flag, showing your pride as you honor veterans past and present, who served or serve to defend us and our freedom and the freedom of others around the world.

Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Commemorative Ceremony

» Location: San Antonio National Cemetery, 517 Paso Hondo St.

» Time: 1:30 p.m.

Guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Mark Brown, deputy commander, Air Force Education and Training Command. Comprising former slaves, freedmen and black Civil War veterans, the historic Buffalo Soldiers persevered through the most difficult conditions imaginable to become some of the most elite and most decorated units in the U.S. Army. The annual Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Commemorative Ceremony at the San Antonio National Cemetery honors these past heroes with a keynote speaker, the reading of a memorial list, military honors and taps and a benediction.

Salute to Service: UTSA Military Appreciation Football Game

» Location: Alamodome, 100 Montana St.

» Time: 6 p.m. kickoff

Tickets for veterans, active duty, Guard/Reserve and their family members are available. Purchase tickets by Nov. 9. Visit utsa.edu for more information.

UIW Military Appreciation Football Game

» Location: Benson Stadium at the University of the Incarnate Word, 4301 Broadway

» Time: 9 a.m. tailgate, 2:30 p.m. kickoff

The University of the Incarnate Word Cardinals football team plays Central Arkansas University with kickoff at 2:30 p.m. UIW Athletics and Extended Academic Programs will host a pre-game military appreciation tailgate. Free admission for active duty, Reserve, Guard, veterans, Department of Defense civilians, ROTC, JROTC, enlistees and family members. Parking costs \$8 per vehicle. First 500 fans will receive a military appreciation draw-string bag. Call 210-805-3000 to contact UIW Cardinal ticket sales. Children 2 and older will need a full price ticket. Visit military.uiw.edu/military-appreciation-day for more information

San Antonio Spurs Veterans Appreciation Night

» Location: AT&T Center, 1 AT&T Center Pkwy

» Time: 7:30 p.m.

The San Antonio Spurs host the Chicago Bulls with tipoff at 7:30 p.m. Discounted tickets purchased through spursgroups.com/veterans will include an exclusive Veterans Night T-shirt available for pick-up at the game. To access the military discount for all other games, bookmark spurs.com/salute.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Segs4Vets Mobilizing America's Heroes 5K Run/Walk

» Location: Freetail Tap Room, 2000 S. Presa St.

» Registration: 7:30-8:30 a.m. Event

time: 9 a.m.-noon

Open to the public and registration required. Segs4Vets is hosting the 3rd annual Segs4Vets 5K run/walk as part of the Veteran's day weekend activities in San Antonio. This event is unique as there are past and present Segs4Vets recipients who attend with their families while utilizing their mobility devices to participate. The event will feature a 5K run/walk beginning at the Freetail Tap Room and continue through parts of the Southtown's neighborhood. Prior to and following the race, we will provide opportunity for sponsors' booths to promote their business. Post-race festivities include food, beverages, awards ceremony and door prizes. For more information, email at Segs4Vets5k@gmail.com or call 210-913-2563.

Harlem Globetrotters World Tour Salute to Veterans

» Location: AT&T Center, 1 AT&T Center Parkway

» Time: 2 p.m.

The Original Harlem Globetrotters salute veterans in San Antonio. To access the military discount for all games, spurs.com/salute.

Saturday, Nov. 18

San Antonio Rampage – Military

Family Night

» Location: AT&T Center, 1 AT&T Center Parkway

» Time: 7 p.m.

The San Antonio Rampage hockey team host the Texas Stars with puck drop at 7 p.m. All military and friends of CAM can access this special discounted ticket offer by going to spursgroups.com/novemberhockey and using the offer code: MILITARY. Children 24 months and younger get in free.

Stars Behind the Stripes

» Location: La Fontana Springs Event Center, 27618 Natural Bridge Caverns Road

» Time: 6-10 p.m.

A night of wining and dining presented by 1000ostrong.org to honor the spouses and significant others who support the members of our Armed Forces. Red carpet arrival at 6 p.m., gift bags and surprise gift raffle, Champagne, dinner prepared by a world-renowned chef, live music, intimate evening of dinner and dancing, and free on-site child care. For more information, visit <http://1000ostrong.org/>.

For the most up-to-date schedules, visit celebrateamericasmilitary.com/.

RANDOLPH

AETC holds inaugural flying competition

By Maj. Brian Nickerson
19TH AIR FORCE

The excitement and anticipation from the crowd was palpable when entering the Fleenor Auditorium on Oct. 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The evening marked the culmination of the past year's flying training production from across Air Education and Training Command and the inception of the first AETC Flying Training Awards ceremony. Reminiscent of events like the Strategic Air Command's Bomb Competition, the Flying Training Awards pay tribute to those exceptional individuals and teams whose tireless efforts continue to produce highly qualified aircrew for the Air Force over the last fiscal year.

Maj. Gen. Patrick Doherty, 19th Air Force commander, conceptualized the idea earlier in the year to prioritize, recognize and show the aircrew and instructors of AETC that they are valued. The general also emphasized the importance of honoring the teamwork that permeates each of the wings within the



Members of the 12th Flying Training Wing pose with senior leadership after winning the "Wing of Wings" award during the inaugural flying training awards ceremony Oct. 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The awards pay tribute to the individuals and teams who continue to produce highly qualified aircrew for the United States Air Force.

SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER

command.

"Everything we do relies on incredible teamwork," Doherty said. "Airpower is a

team sport – the ultimate competition – and I think it is imperative that we recognize the teams that accomplish the mis-

sion the best, doing it in a way that cares for their people, sustains the aircraft fleet for the long haul, and accomplishes this in a way that lifts teams to greater heights of production and quality of instruction."

With that guidance, his team at 19th AF began to develop an event that would keep attendees talking for weeks to follow. Aircraft from across the country began to arrive and populate the southern ramp. The normal sounds of T-38s, T-6s, and T-1s flying overhead were punctuated by C-130s, F-16s, and F-35s.

During the event, the audience was presented with videos capturing the extraordinary work each unit in 19th AF accomplishes on a daily basis. The only sounds that could be heard above the presentation were the prideful cheers as a particular aircraft or mission was on display.

"The flying business and sortie production by maintainers is hard work requiring constant preparation and men-

AETC AWARDS continues on 19

Key Spouse training class addresses emergency preparation

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A continuing education training session from 9-11 a.m. Nov. 6 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center will prepare Key Spouse Program members for assisting individuals and families affected by emergencies ranging from airplane crashes to natural disasters.

During the session, which is open to key spouses and key spouse mentors, attendees will learn about the Emergency Family Assistance Center process and what duties they can expect to perform.

"When an EFAC is activated, we can't do a lot without volunteers," said Criselda Guerrero-Smith, JBSA-Randolph M&FRC community readiness consultant.

Key spouses are uniquely suited to

serve as EFAC volunteers because they have been selected by unit commanders for the Key Spouse Program, Guerrero-Smith said. Key spouses support the families of deployed Airmen and ensure they have a direct line of communication to their loved ones' units and M&FRCs.

"In just two hours of training, key spouses will have an opportunity to make a world of difference for their community should an emergency situation arise," she said.

According to the EFAC Operations Guide, EFACs are activated "when needs are beyond the capability of the agencies primarily tasked to provide immediate crisis intervention." The EFAC's mission is to promote "short- and long-term recovery and the return to a stable environment and mission-ready status for Department of Defense personnel and their families following an all-hazards in-

cident."

Installation commanders stand up EFACs when the need arises, and M&FRC chiefs typically activate the centers so disaster relief and services can be provided to individuals and families affected by a disaster, Guerrero-Smith said.

M&FRCs serve as the primary location for EFACs unless there is a need for a larger space or alternate location based on the situation, she said.

M&FRC community readiness consultants, Military and Family Life Counselors, personnel from helping agencies such as mental health and the chaplain's office, and representatives of other base units staff EFACs.

"Helping agencies come to the EFAC so people don't go bouncing from office to office on base," Guerrero-Smith said. Key spouses and key spouse mentors

provide valuable assistance as volunteers at EFACs.

"Some of their roles are escorting people, supporting parents who may need help with their children and attending to the staff's needs," Guerrero-Smith said.

During the training session, key spouses will be introduced to the EFAC process and to the various scenarios they may face.

"We will also assess their strengths so their roles can be defined," she said.

EFAC training is similar to base exercises in that it promotes readiness, Guerrero-Smith said.

"We don't want to be reactive; we want to be proactive," she said. "We need our volunteers to be a big part of that."

Key spouses and key spouse mentors who wish to attend the EFAC training session should call the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC at 210-652-5321 to register.

AETC AWARDS

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tal alertness,” said Doherty during his opening remarks. “It is tough on the body. We are incredibly proud and thankful for the people that strap on the mission.”

This year’s award winners are:

- » **Top Future Aviator Category:** 1st Flying Training Squadron, 306th Flying Training Group, Pueblo, Colorado
- » **T-6 Category:** 8th FTS, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma
- » **T-1 Category:** 48th FTS, 14th FTW, Columbus AFB, Ohio
- » **T-38 Category:** 469th FTS, 80th FTW,

Sheppard AFB, Texas

- » **Combat Systems Officer/Remotely Piloted Aircraft/Air Battle Manager Category:** 558th FTS, 12th FTW, JBSA-Randolph, Texas
- » **Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Category:** 435th Fighter Training Squadron, 12th FTW, JBSA-Randolph, Texas
- » **Pilot Instructor Training Category:** 559th FTS, 12th FTW, JBSA-Randolph, Texas
- » **Fighter Category:** 61st Fighter Squadron, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Arizona
- » **SOF/Mobility Category:** 415th Special Operations Squadron, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
- » **Rotary Category:** 71st SOS, 58th SOW,

Kirtland AFB, New Mexico

- » **Top Maintenance Group:** 12th Maintenance Group, 12th FTW, JBSA-Randolph, Texas
- » **Top Maintenance Group in Gray Jet Division:** 54th Fighter Group, Holloman AFB, New Mexico
- » **Top Maintenance Group in Gray Tail Division:** 58th Maintenance Group, 58th SOW, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
- » **Top Operations Group in White Jet Division:** 12th Operations Group, 12th FTW, JBSA-Randolph, Texas
- » **Top Operations Group in Gray Jet Division:** 56th Operations Group, 56th FW, Luke AFB, Arizona
- » **Top Operations Group in Gray Tail Division:** 189th Operations Group, 189th Airlift Wing, Little Rock AFB, Arkansas

» **Top Wing White Jet:** 12th FTW, JBSA-Randolph, Texas

» **Top Gray Jet Wing (Fighters):** 56th FW, Luke AFB, Arizona

» **Top Wing Gray Tail:** 58th SOW, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico

» **Top Wing of Wings:** 12th FTW, JBSA-Randolph, Texas

Aircrew returned to their bases in the following days, knowing their hard work over the past year was greatly appreciated.

“Whether they are individuals or teams, their efforts, professionalism, energy and love of training aircrew for our country’s defense and those of our key ally partners needs to be recognized and celebrated,” said Doherty.