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Army secretary: New fitness test measures combat readiness

By David Vergun
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

"If you can't pass the Army Combat Fitness Test, then there's probably not a spot for you in the Army," said Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper.

"That doesn't mean you'll immediately get kicked out," he added. It means there will be some sort of remedial program, the details of which are still being worked out.

Esper addressed a range of issues, from recruiting and acquisition to offering a tribute to the late Sen. John McCain, during a Defense Writers Group breakfast Aug. 29.

The current Army Physical Fitness Test, which has been around some 40 years, is flawed, Esper said.

"I grew up in the Army with the APFT and I personally never thought it was a good indicator of combat physical fitness, nor did many of my colleagues. The testing has proved that out," he said.

The secretary said studies done by U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command show that the APFT captures "maybe 30 or 40 percent relevance of what you demand in combat ... the ACFT is upwards of 80 percent."

The main purpose of the ACFT is two-fold, he said. First, the test ensures Soldiers are ready for combat. Second, preparation for the test improves physical fitness as it relates to injury prevention.

Losing Soldiers to injuries during PT or field exercises contributes to decreased readiness, he added, because injured Soldiers can't deploy.

At one point, upwards of 15 percent of Soldiers were categorized as non-deployable, he said. That's about 150,000 Soldiers across the entire force. Now, that figure has been reduced to 9 percent, and there

are vigorous efforts underway to lower that percentage still more.

"If you're not physically fit for combat, then we're not only doing you an injustice, we're doing an injustice to your colleagues and peers as well," he said, explaining that if a Soldier can't deploy, that means someone else has to deploy twice as much.

"At the end of the day we need Soldiers who are deployable, lethal and ready," he emphasized.

Beginning October 2020, all Soldiers will be required to take the ACFT, which TRADOC fitness researchers term "gender- and age-neutral."

There's a need to grow the active Army to at least 500,000, with associated growth in the Guard and Reserve, Esper said.

To do that, the Army is planning a modest annual increase spread out over the next several years to get to that number, he said. The additional Soldiers will be used to fill current units that are undermanned and grow additional capabilities.

Asked if he'd consider lowering standards to meet the end-strength goal, the secretary said the Army is not lowering standards, and will not.

"We've raised standards, such as limiting Category IV accessions from the DOD higher end of 4 percent to the Army higher end of 2 percent, putting more stringent requirements on issuing waivers and making sure we truly take into account the holistic person to ensure persons who receive waivers are high-quality recruits," Esper said.

As to attaining higher end strength, Esper said the Army needs to do a better job of recruiting.

One step being taken includes letting Soldiers go home for a number of weeks to assist recruiters by doing outreach, he



SEAN KIMMONS

Sgt. Bruna Galarza demonstrates the deadlift event during a pilot for the Army Combat Fitness Test, a six-event assessment designed to reduce injuries and replace the current Army Physical Fitness Test.

said.

This is particularly important in areas without a military presence, he added. The Army has increasingly become "a family business." Almost all of the Soldiers he's spoken to have told him they have veterans in their immediate family. And, most senior Army leaders have or have had sons or daughters in the military.

Fewer and fewer young people know someone who's served, he said, and so to them, the Army is unknown.

Other efforts to attract quality recruits include putting more recruiters on the street — an effort that began in the spring, and moving recruiting stations to more optimal locations, he said.

Some other approaches include better utilizing Army public relations assets like the Golden Knights and Army bands, he said.

Long-time Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., died Aug. 25 after a bout with brain cancer. McCain was a Navy aviator, a Vietnam War veteran, and a prisoner of war. A U.S. senator since 1987, McCain was a fixture on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and since 2015, served as chairman of the SASC.

Of McCain, Esper said: "His care was always for the Soldiers, the service members and our ability to support our diplomatic

efforts — and if diplomacy failed, to fight on the battlefield."

Esper said he knew the senator for a number of years, not only in his current position as secretary, but when he worked on the Hill in a number of positions.

When it came to the Army and the other services, McCain "talked a lot about the Army's failures over the years when it comes to acquisition and the need to take a bold and different approach to acquisition, and I was fully supportive of that."

The new Army Futures Command, which McCain supported, is addressing some of the senator's concerns, Esper said. Goals for the new command include streamlining the Army's acquisition process and getting more prototypes and demonstrators to the Soldiers for testing early on in the process to reveal strengths and weaknesses of systems and components.

McCain was "very cleared-eyed about what his expectations were of the U.S. military with regard to acquisition matters and he was spot on," Esper said. "He knew it and the military knows it: that we need to field items more quickly and items that are capable that enable Soldiers to fight and win."

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Career fair offers career and job opportunities

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Transitioning servicemembers will find plenty of career and job opportunities and make connections with employers at the Hiring Heroes Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Sam Houston Community Center, 1395 Chaffee Road, located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Seventy employers, from the private to the governmental sector, will be at the career fair that is free and open to all JBSA members, including transitioning, wounded, ill and injured servicemembers, military spouses and family members, veterans, military retirees and primary caregivers.

The Transition Assistance Program at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston is putting on the career fair. The Transition Assistance Program provides

counseling and job assistance to servicemembers who are preparing to leave the military.

The Hiring Heroes Career Fair is held twice a year, in March and September, at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. The first Hiring Heroes Career Fair was held at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston 13 years ago. The upcoming fair in September will be the 26th to be held at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston since 2005.

Candace Hillard, Transition Assistance Program transition services manager, said the fair will provide members of the military community the opportunity to explore the many career options that are available to them in the civilian job sector.

Those career opportunities include positions in various Department of Defense, federal, state and governmental agencies and private sector companies and businesses. Several employers at the fair will be offering positions in

areas JBSA members are skilled, trained and experienced in, including cybersecurity, information technology, law enforcement, financial and medical.

Attendees at the fair will be given a sheet that will list the employers who will be there and the tables they will be located at in the community center.

Since the fair is four hours long, Hillard said job seekers have the chance to visit with all the employers who will be there.

"I would encourage job seekers to network with all the employers, even those they may think they don't have an interest in," Hillard said. "Because that employer may have a position that could fit that individual."

Job seekers are encouraged to bring several copies of their resume and come dressed in professional attire because some employers will conduct on the spot interviews at the

fair.

Hillard said some of those interviews could lead to job offers for transitioning servicemembers and military members.

"It's great to have a job offer on the spot," she said. "That's something we've seen increase in the last few years. Be prepared for an interview on the spot, it will absolutely happen."

Out of the 600 job seekers who attended the last Hiring Heroes Career Fair in March, 41 were offered jobs on the spot, said Hillard.

Hillard said servicemembers who are not transitioning right now can still come to the fair to network, get information from and learn about employers.

In addition, transitioning servicemembers at the fair will find information about opportunities for apprenticeships, internships and certification and skills enhancement training that can help them in their

post-military career through the JBSA Career Skills Program.

Members from the Transition Assistance Program and USO volunteers will be present to review resumes of job seekers, giving tips and pointers on improving resumes that give members of the military community a greater chance of being interviewed for a position.

Hillard said transitioning servicemembers and military members have characteristics and skills such as reliability, flexibility, a hard work ethic, knowledge and loyalty that employers are seeking.

"I think the skill set our military population brings to the table is very valuable," she said.

Registration is not required to attend the Hiring Heroes Career Fair. For more information about the fair, contact the Transition Assistance Program office at 210-221-1213.

JBSA seeks volunteers for nationwide day of service Oct. 27

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio Military & Family Readiness Center Volunteer Program is seeking volunteers to participate in "Make A Difference Day," a nationwide day of community service from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 27 at installations throughout JBSA.

Make A Difference Day is one of the largest annual single days of voluntary service in the United States. Started in 1992, the day of voluntary service is held each year on the fourth Saturday in October.

Units and organizations throughout JBSA that need volunteer help will be sponsoring community service projects during Make A

Difference Day. JBSA started participating in the nationwide day of service in 2017, with 150 volunteers helping out on six community service projects hosted by units and organizations at JBSA installations.

Jai Bell, JBSA M&FRC Volunteer Program work life specialist, said the community service projects that will be held on Make A Difference Day provide an opportunity for volunteers to give back to the JBSA community.

"Make A Difference Day gives an individual or group an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than themselves," Bell said. "Even the smallest act of giving back can mean a lot to a person on the other end."

Active-duty, military family

members, Department of Defense civilians and retirees can volunteer to participate in a service project through the Volunteer Management Information System, or VMIS, on the Army OneSource website. VMIS provides tools and resources for volunteers in local Army communities throughout the U.S., including a list of volunteer opportunities and service projects and a record and tracking of volunteer hours.

Bell said JBSA units and organizations who intend to host a community service project have until Sept. 28 to submit their projects to the JBSA M&FRC Volunteer Program. Once those projects have been submitted, a list of the projects will be posted on the VMIS site Oct. 5. Volunteers

who are registered through VMIS can select which project they want to participate in.

JBSA members who want to participate in Make A Difference Day must be registered on VMIS. To register, JBSA members need to attend the Volunteering 101 workshop that is held every other Tuesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC. The workshop provides information on how to use and navigate VMIS and volunteer opportunities within the JBSA community.

The next Volunteering 101 workshop will be Sept. 18. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC is located at 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797.

Bell said she wants to increase the level of participation within JBSA for

the volunteer event.

"Hopefully, we will have twice as more service projects and volunteers than last year and garner more interest in volunteerism and awareness in the (JBSA) volunteer program," she said.

Last year, Bell said volunteers participated in various community service projects throughout JBSA including cleaning, landscaping, gardening, painting and administrative and organizational work.

For information about Make A Difference Day and the JBSA volunteer program, contact Military & Family Readiness Centers at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-2705/2418; JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-3722; and JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-5321.

Make plans to protect the disabled from fire

By Richard S. Campos
502ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

According to the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, nearly 15,700 people were injured and 3,280 died in 2016 due to fire.

People with disabilities must deal with unique challenges that fires present. With the disadvantages this group of people may have in escaping a fire, they could also have obstacles in their residence that would hamper their safe exodus.

To avoid such a delay, the need in preparing ahead of time without some sort of assistance from a caregiver, neighbor, or relative to protect yourself and your loved ones in the home is vital.

Home Fire Sprinklers

By keeping fires small home fire sprinklers can also protect lives. More

time is allotted to escape a fire with sprinklers in place. Keep in mind to look for a residence that has home fire sprinklers when selecting an apartment or home.

Smoke Alarms:

▶▶ Every bedroom should have a smoke detector installed. Also, they should be outside each sleeping area as well as every level of the home.

▶▶ Test the smoke detector by pushing the test button monthly. Ask for help if you can't reach the alarm.

▶▶ By interconnecting the smoke detectors, if one sounds they all sound. This gives the occupants the advantage of more time to escape.

▶▶ Smoke detectors with sealed batteries work for up to 10 years. For people who find it hard to change batteries, this can be helpful.

▶▶ Replace smoke detectors every 10 years.

For the Deaf or Hard Of Hearing:

▶▶ For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, smoke alarms and alert devices are available.

▶▶ Strobe lights are also available, so when the smoke alarm sounds, the lights warn people of a possible fire.

▶▶ A pillow or bed shaker can wake people who are deaf and asleep so they can escape.

▶▶ For people who are hard of hearing or asleep, a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound alert device can wake them. A pillow or bed shaker is also helpful. These devices are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.

Escape Planning:

Include everyone in the home in escape planning process. Each person should have input about the best way to escape. Home fire drills are important. Everyone in the home must

participate in them. Keep a phone by your bed in case you can't escape and need to call for help.

Speak with someone from the fire department about your escape plan. Request them to review your plan. Ask if your fire department keeps a directory of people who may need extra help. If you have a service animal, agree on a plan to keep the animal with you during an emergency.

For more information about Home Safety for People with Disabilities, visit the NFPA website at <http://www.nfpa.org/education> or contact the fire prevention offices at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-2727, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2921 and JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6915.

(Information contained in this article were reproduced in whole or part from <http://www.nfpa.org>.)

Disabled veterans now eligible for Space-A travel

From Air Force Wounded Warrior Program

The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act was recently signed, which included a measure that will allow fully-disabled veterans the ability to utilize Space-Available travel.

Under the Disabled Veterans Access to Space-A Travel Act, veterans with a service-connected, permanent disability rating of 100 percent will be able to travel in the Continental United States or directly between the CONUS and Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa (Guam and American Samoa travelers may transit Hawaii or Alaska); or traveling within Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands on flights operated by Air Mobility Command.

Prior to this authorization, only military retirees, meaning those with a blue DD Form 2, and current service members



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act includes a measure that allows fully-disabled veterans the ability to use Space-Available travel.

were entitled to this benefit. This particular piece of legislation was originally introduced by the House Veterans Affairs Committee in 2016.

According to lawmakers,

this proposal will allow travel on Space-A at no additional cost to the Department of Defense and without aircraft modifications. Additionally, data from the Government Accountability Office noted

that roughly 77 percent of space-available seats in 2011 were occupied by only 2.3 percent of the 8.4 million eligible individuals for the program.

Travelers should contact

their local Passenger Terminal for further details and review travel information found on the AMC Travel Page for specific details on the Space-A travel program.

(Editor's note: Passengers seeking Space-Available or Space-A travel must keep in mind that there is No Guarantee you will be selected for a seat. Be aware that Space-A travelers must be prepared to cover commercial travel expenses if flight schedules are changed or become unavailable to allow Space-A travel. Per DODI 4515.13, Section 4, Paragraph 4.1.a, Reservations: There is no guarantee of transportation, and reservations will not be accepted or made for any space-available traveler. The DOD is not obligated to continue an individual's travel or return the individual to the point of origin or any other point. Travelers should have sufficient personal funds to pay for commercial transportation, lodging, and other expenses if space-available transportation is not available.)

FORT SAM HOUSTON

IMCOM welcomes new commanding general

By Susan A. Merkner

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Becker took command of U.S. Army Installation Management Command in ceremonies at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 5.

Becker was promoted to lieutenant general immediately before the ceremony by Gen. Mark A. Milley, U.S. Army Chief of Staff.

Becker replaces Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl, who had led IMCOM since November 2015.

During Becker's promotion ceremony, Milley said the new IMCOM commander was talented and humble, a man who "is not afraid to speak truth to power. We want servant-leaders in our generals."

At the change of command ceremony, Milley praised IMCOM and its employees, thanking them for generating Army readiness by supporting Soldiers, their families and civilians.

"Readiness is much more than manning, equipping and training," he said. "Soldiers can't focus exclusively on their combat mission if they think their family is in lousy housing, or has inadequate medical care, or unsafe schools for their children."

Of the Army's 1.1 million Soldiers, 60 percent are married and most have at least two children, Milley said.

Under Dahl's leadership, IMCOM reduced 1,000 positions "which allowed us to apply those resources to build a Security Force Assistance Brigade, which is in Afghanistan today," Milley said.

"Every base and installation is important, both in CONUS and overseas," Milley added. "Every single Soldier in the Army passes through IMCOM at some point and IMCOM is responsible for the readiness of today's Army."

Dahl was the first commanding general of IMCOM who was not dual-hatted as the Army's Assistant

Chief of Staff for Installation Management. During his remarks at the ceremony, Dahl thanked the command's 50,000 employees for their role in providing continuity in the Army's 75 installations.

Despite budget cuts and doubling down on multiple jobs, IMCOM employees are dedicated professionals who keep the day-to-day operations going, providing facilities, utilities, security and recreational opportunities, he said.

"IMCOM provides platforms for readiness, so our Soldiers are fit, trained and ready for combat," said Dahl, who will be retiring from active service later this month.

Becker thanked family and friends for their support and said Dahl built a great team at IMCOM.

"IMCOM touches the lives of every Soldier, civilian and their family members in the Army," Becker said. "What you do every day is truly impressive. I appreciate all you do to keep the Army strong."

The change of command ceremony Sept. 5 included music by the First Armored Division Army Band, the national anthem sung by Sgt. 1st Class Charmakeitha M. Smith of IMCOM, and an invocation by IMCOM Command Chaplain Col. Yvonne Hudson.

IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Melissa A. Judkins participated in the guidon exchange ceremony with the three generals. The traditional presentation of flowers was held to honor the outgoing and incoming commanding generals' wives.

Prior to taking command of IMCOM, Becker was chief, Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq, U.S. Central Command, Iraq.

He was commander of the Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. He previously served as the commanding general, U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He has had several joint assignments and has served in Iraq and Korea, as well as at Schofield Barracks,



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Becker is now the commanding general of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

Hawaii, and Fort Lewis, Washington.

Becker's awards include the Distinguished Service Medal (second award), the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. He has earned the Combat Action Badge, Parachutist and Air Assault identification badges, and is Ranger qualified.

Becker was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the field artillery upon graduating from the University of California at Davis in 1986 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. He also holds a master's degree in political science from Auburn University.

IMCOM became an independent command reporting directly to the Chief of Staff of the Army in the fall of 2015. Its geographic regions in the continental United States, or CONUS, were reorganized into three directorates based on function — readiness, sustainment and training — and co-located with their supported Army commands (Forces Command, Army Materiel Command, and Training and Doctrine Command, respectively).

The IMCOM directorates outside CONUS were already located with the Army Service Component Commands they support in Europe and the Pacific. The U.S. Army Environmental Command is also an IMCOM organization and was represented in the ceremony by its commander and command sergeant major. All IMCOM directorates were represented at the Sept. 5 ceremony by their directors and command sergeant majors.

410TH CONTRACTING SUPPORT BRIGADE WELCOMES NEW SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER



Members of the 410th Contracting Support Brigade welcomed their new senior enlisted leader during a ceremony Aug. 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Williams relinquished responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Sol NavarezBerrios (right) during the ceremony officiated by Col. Robert McDonald, commander of the 410th CSB. NavarezBerrios comes to the brigade from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command's 918th Contracting Battalion at Fort Carson, Colo. Williams plans to retire from the Army in early 2019.

DANIEL P. ELKINS

MICC pilot program to validate enhanced vendor invoicing process

By Daniel P. Elkins

MICC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

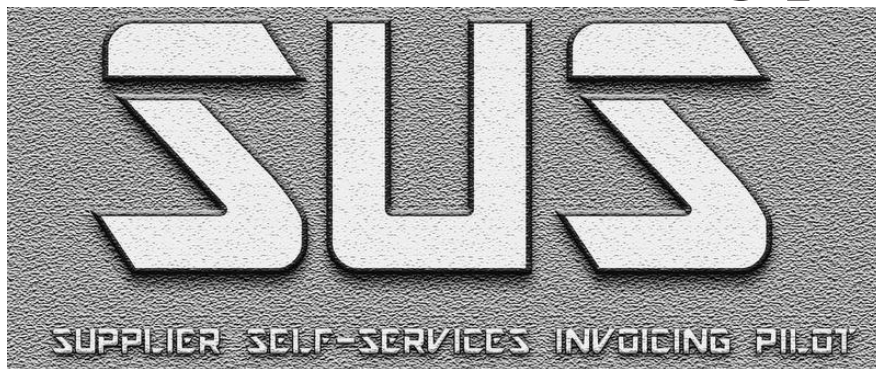
Twenty of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command's 30 contracting offices began participating in August in the Supplier Self-Services invoicing pilot to assist the Army in achieving its goal of 500 vendors actively using the process by the end of fiscal 2018.

In October 2012, the Army initiated a pilot program to reduce the number of vendor invoices requiring manual posting. The Army estimated that approximately 30 percent of vendors' invoices failed to post correctly because invoice information submitted through the web-based Wide Area Workflow did not match purchase orders created in the General Fund Enterprise Business System, or GFEBS.

These failures require additional touch labor at an additional cost to both vendor and Department of Defense personnel, according to Scott Kukes, the special advocate for competition at the MICC at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The Supplier Self-Services, or SUS, pilot process aims to reduce the number of failures within the invoice submission process by pre-populating and pre-validating invoice information against a GFEBS purchase order for the vendor.

"To reach the Army goal, participating contracting offices must actively engage to identify all contract requirements that meet the criteria for participating in the pilot, advocate to vendors the positive aspects of the pilot, and encourage contracting officer representatives to complete the necessary GFEBS training modules," Kukes said. "All three pieces of this triad — the contracting officer, COR and



COURTESY GRAPHIC

vendor — play an important role in this pilot."

Upon the start of the initial Army pilot, the MICC-Fort Jackson contracting office in South Carolina was identified to participate beginning in fiscal 2013. Championing that effort for the office was Cynthia Hall, the chief of the contract management division.

Hall explained that after obtaining two regulatory approvals, the SUS pilot was formalized as an official exception to invoice submission through the Wide Area Workflow application allowing DOD vendors to submit and track their invoices, receipts and acceptance documents electronically.

Nine vendors elected to participate in the pilot. She cites one example early in the pilot in which a contract to deliver and treat water had multiple contract line item numbers, or CLINs, that required many modifications due to budget constraints and changes in needs by the supported customer.

"In previous years, the vendor was unable to maintain a conformed contract to track the open amount or correct price per CLIN," she said. "SUS provided the conformed contract, correct pricing and

open amounts as well as prevented submission of incorrect invoices resulting in faster payments to the vendor with less manual intervention."

Hall added that the pilot program proved successful with similar issues related to contracts for training where the customers' needs change often. This pilot program allowed for the correction of and quicker payments ranging from two to seven days.

Finding the right vendors to bypass the traditional complex invoicing system for the new pilot did not require much convincing by the office. Working with Installation Management Command at Fort Jackson, Hall said they identified candidates whose contracts, such as refuse and custodial, relied upon timely payment to avoid a break in service and mission failure.

"Most vendors were anxious to participate to see if SUS could improve the invoice process for them to be paid faster," Hall said.

After explaining the pilot benefits and conducting training for participating vendors, the MICC-Fort Jackson office next turned its attention to ensure contracting officer representatives, or CORs, were trained. CORs who already had

access to GFEBS only had to complete one hour of training. Those who did not have access needed the mandated 30 hours of GFEBS training.

Once training was complete, Hall said the contracting office focused its attention on ironing out a few challenges along the way, to include coordinating communications with resource management offices and Defense Finance and Accounting Service review procedures.

"With improved communication throughout the business process, resource managers, CORs, vendors, MICC and DFAS have all seen the benefit of SUS and respond quickly when a change is needed," she said. "For example, the enhancement to require period-of-performance dates was delayed due to delays in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement deviation, so if a vendor failed to populate and the acceptor did not catch it, DFAS would reject and the vendor would have to re-submit for re-acceptance."

Results from the initial pilot test led the acting deputy assistant secretary of the Army for financial information management and deputy assistant secretary of the Army for procurement to expand the

pilot in fiscal 2016. They identified additional Army contracting offices to participate in the pilot in hopes that the increased number of vendors and contracts in the pilot would better validate its effectiveness. Following that expansion, Hall said her office received several calls regarding the pilot program from additional customers supported by the MICC who stated their desire to participate. This led to the addition of vendors who provide contract support to the Army Training and Doctrine Command and Medical Command.

However, in February 2017 the pilot was suspended following expiration of the DFARS waiver allowing its use. Hall said this proved problematic as many vendors wanted to continue in the pilot and could not, or they sought to participate in the pilot and could not. In January 2018 a new DFARS waiver allowed its use once again after which the Army established a participant goal of 500 vendors. Additional MICC contracting offices began engaging potential vendors to participate earlier this month.

With the expansion of participation by MICC contracting offices, Army Contracting Command officials sought and obtained this month a modification to mandatory training requirements for CORs from the deputy assistant secretary of the Army for financial information management. Kukes said this reduces COR training from more than 20 hours to two and a half hours in order to be assigned the necessary GFEBS roles to approve invoices submitted by vendors through SUS.

Progress of the pilot program will continue to be monitored by the MICC Contracting Operations Directorate at Fort Sam Houston.

DOD recognizes enduring contributions to GPC requirements

By Daniel P. Elkins

MICC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A member of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Government Purchase Card Program team earned Department of Defense recognition during the 2018 GSA SmartPay3 Training Forum Aug. 7-9 in New Orleans for his contributions in developing requirements for the government's next generation charge card program.

Leroy Griffith, a program officer, was recognized by the deputy director for program development and implementation for defense procurement and acquisition policy for his contracting support as a member of the technical evaluation board in the development of tailored task order requirements for GSA SmartPay3.

"I feel fortunate for the opportunity to help define the requirements by supporting multiple murder board requirements sessions and responding to many urgent data requests," Griffith said.

That support included providing inputs and recommendations; bank customer support resources; reporting capabilities, data mining tools and

dashboard requirements; training requirements; internal controls; rebate structure and schedule; card issuance and delivery; program purchase card hierarchy structure; and statement pay options and delinquency management.

In a memo to Griffith, LeAntha Sumpter, a DOD procurement and acquisition policy executive, said his recommendations "will improve processes and functions for the Government Purchase Card Program, and help optimize component refunds throughout the maximum 13-year period of performance."

Griffith said tailored task order requirements differ from a standard task order in terms of increased oversight.

"While standard task orders allow some flexibility," Griffith explained, "tailored task order requirements include additional agency and organization-specific requirements that, as a rule of thumb, would increase the level of effort required from the contractor beyond what is required under master contracts but still within their scope."

Ray Estrada, the chief of the MICC GPC Program Management Office, emphasized that Griffith's

subject-matter expertise and participation in the DOD GPC Source Selection Evaluation Board was essential to ensuring that the command and Army had representation with the composition of DOD's SmartPay3 GPC requirements package, technical evaluations and selection of bank card issuer.

"No other Army organization matches the MICC GPC program for its level of complexity, data demands and mission support requirements of a multi-customer portfolio," Estrada said. "If not for Leroy and one other Army Contracting Command agency/organization program coordinator participating in the DOD SSEB, the voice and needs of the Army would have been silent among an SSEB dominated by Air Force and Defense Agency representatives."

GSA officials announced the contract awards for GSA SmartPay3 in September 2015. The current GSA SmartPay2 contracts will expire Nov. 29, 2018, impacting all federal government purchase, travel and fleet card programs.

For the Army GPC Program, all existing SmartPay2 GPC accounts will have to be cancelled and new



DANIEL P. ELKINS

Leroy Griffith, contract specialist with the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Government Purchase Card Program Management Office at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, earned recognition from the deputy director for program development and implementation for Department of Defense procurement and acquisition policy for his contracting support in developing requirements for the government's next generation charge card, SmartPay3.

SmartPay3 GPC accounts will be issued. Estrada said this represents more than 12,000 billing official and cardholders accounts managed by the MICC.

Military caregiver survey launches at four military installations



COURTESY PHOTO

The U.S. Army Medical Command's Army Public Health Center announced the launch of a survey for military caregivers. The survey seeks to understand the social, economic and health impact of caregiving and identify gaps in services.

From Army Public Health Center Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio is one of four military installations where the U.S. Army Medical Command's Army Public Health Center announced the launch of a survey for military caregivers, those family members and friends who provide assistance to a wounded, ill or injured Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine.

The survey is open to any Family member or friend over the age of 18, regardless of their beneficiary status. The service member receiving caregiver support may be in a Warrior Transition Battalion or going through the Disability Evaluation System or may be suffering invisible wounds and not seeking care at all. The

survey launched May 14 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

"We know that our military caregivers have health concerns and needs of their own and while caregiving can be rewarding, it can also cause additional stress," said John Resta, the deputy chief of staff for public health at the U.S. Army Medical Command and director of the U.S. Army Public Health Center. "We are excited to host this survey to learn more about our Military caregivers and determine ways to best serve them."

Military caregivers improve the lives of our Service members and help speed recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Unfortunately,

their tremendous devotion often comes at a cost. According to the 2014-RAND Hidden Heroes Report, post 9/11 caregivers suffer worse health outcomes, greater relationship strain and more workplace problems than pre-9/11 or civilian caregivers.

The anonymous, 15-minute survey aims to supplement what was learned in the RAND report to understand the social, economic and health impact of caregiving and identify gaps in services.

Surveys can be completed from a cell phone, tablet or desktop. The Army Public Health Center urges friends and Family-member Caregivers at Fort Bragg, Fort Sill, JBLM, and JBSA to take the survey at: <http://militarycaregiver.health.mil/survey>.

Army Medicine to test the limits, name 2018 U.S. Army Best Medic

This year's competition is scenario-based resulting in a more streamlined concept

By Courtney Dock

ARMY MEDICINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Endurance will be tested — both mentally and physically. Soldier knowledge and medical knowledge will be the proving ground for nearly 16 teams of Soldiers competing in this year's Army Best Medic Competition at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis Sept. 16-20.

Senior Army Medicine leaders say teams will be challenged in ways they haven't been in previous competitions — and the Soldiers had better be ready to not only be physically exhausted at the end of the week, but mentally exhausted as well. This year's competition will be very different from years past.

"We've made it more realistic," said Master Sgt. Genora Jenkins, senior operations sergeant, G-3/5/7, Army Medical Department Center & School. "This competition will allow Soldiers to test their capabilities and test what they may or may not know. It will allow for self-reflection."

That kind of self-reflection and feedback is one of the key elements Best Medic organizers are looking for to enhance the spirit of the competition, but also to take back to the overall medical force for training.

"All the competitors can come back after going through this competition and they're exposed to these new challenges," Jenkins said. "They can learn from this and take the experience back to their commands by sharing their feedback. And that feedback helps everyone across the board, giving them

the tools to improve."

In addition to the fact that the competition's setup and logistics are different, the whole competition fits into the Army's shift of focus on winning battles in a multidomain battlefield. This type of feedback is exactly what is needed to ensure Army Medicine continues in its efforts toward an expeditionary medical force that can rapidly deploy when the nation calls.

"The results of this competition will identify where we have gaps throughout the spectrum," said Sgt. Maj. Litt Moore, Chief Medical NCO, Capability Development and Integration Directorate, Army Medical Department Center & School. "This will be an opportunity to get a better level on how we as an organization are preparing for the future."

In years past, the competition has been segmented, with each task standing on its own with its own theme. This year's competition is scenario-based resulting in a more streamlined concept.

"In the past, you had to go through the motions of medical application," said Command Sgt. Maj. Buck O'Neal, Army Medical Department Center & School command sergeant major. "This year's competition will test your knowledge in an actionable practice of medicine with immediate and recurring feedback."

What that exactly means is still under wraps. Leading up to the Army Best Medic Competition, the two-Soldier teams have competed at their local units and regions, with the best teams advancing to



STAFF SGT. MARICIS MCLANE

Spec. Jakari Ford, with 1-229 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, competes for the Regional Health Command-Pacific Best Medic competition at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Aug. 7. The competition brought the best medics across the Pacific Region — Washington, Hawaii, Alaska, Japan and Korea.

the finals in Texas. While the Soldiers have gone through scenarios at their local level, competitors are left in the dark about exactly what they can expect from this final test to ensure everyone is on an equal playing field when they arrive.

O'Neal said that while this is an individual competition, the real results are the bonds forged between competitors, as well as establishing esprit de corps.

"When you bring in the best the Army has to offer, and you

look across at each other and you know you're competing against the best, there's a level of respect and there's a level of camaraderie that's forever built," O'Neal said. "When you see that individual five, 10 years down the road, that's a common bond between you forever and an appreciation for what you've shared through this competition."

Nearly 15,000 combat medics (68Ws) are enlisted in the U.S. Army — the second largest military occupational specialty

in the Army behind infantry. Competitors are not required to be 68W; anyone who has earned the Enlisted Field Medical Badge or the Combat Medical Badge can compete in Best Medic competition. After narrowing the field at the local and regional levels, we will know exactly who the very best medic is in the entire U.S. Army Sept. 20.

"Everyone will compete as a winner," O'Neal said. "But only one team will earn the title Best Medic."



2018 CFC offers enhanced online donation system

**From U.S. Office of Personnel
Management Office of
Communications**

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management, or OPM, announces the start of the 2018 Combined Federal Campaign season, which runs from Sept. 10 through Jan. 11, 2019.

The 2018 CFC season will feature an enhanced CFC Online Donation System (<https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome>) that increases transparency and helps ensure that the contributions made by federal, postal and military personnel, as well as, retirees can reach the people who need help the most.

These new enhancements include the central giving website for all potential CFC contributors that provides federal employees better access to their pledge information and charity payments. Dr. Josephine "Jody" Olsen, Ph.D, MSW, Director of the Peace Corps, has been selected to serve as the 2018 CFC National Honorary Chairperson.

"I am pleased to announce that the Honorable Josephine K. Olsen, Ph.D., Director of the Peace Corps, will serve as Honorary Chairperson of the 2018 campaign season. Dr. Olsen assumes the Honorary Chair role at an exciting time in CFC's long and successful history," said Dr. Jeff T.H. Pon, OPM

director of OPM. "Each and every day we as federal employees make a positive difference in our country, cities and communities through our public service, and we have the opportunity to expand that service by supporting the Combined Federal Campaign."

"It is a tremendous honor to be asked to serve as the Honorary Chairperson for this year's CFC," Olsen said. "I've seen firsthand how hardworking, dedicated and committed to public service our federal employees are and have seen the results of their giving in the lives of others. I look forward to participating in the upcoming campaign, and I pledge to do everything in my power to encourage federal employees to continue their long, successful tradition of giving through the CFC."

The CFC is a 57-year federal workplace giving tradition that has raised more than \$8.2 billion for charitable organizations. It is world's largest workplace giving campaign. The funds raised each fall through the campaign help neighbors in need around the corner, across the nation and throughout the world. In addition to pledging money, federal employees can pledge volunteer service hours to participating nonprofit organizations.

Visit the Combined Federal Campaign website at <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome> to learn more.

LACKLAND

25th IS Direct Support Operators reach new heights

Editor's note: Some first names have been removed for security reasons.

By Lori A. Bultman

25TH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The direct support operators, or DSOs, of the 25th Intelligence Squadron have a unique mission, flying as members of U.S. Air Force Special Operations aircrews in what are many times stressful, dangerous missions. As a testament to their heroic actions, three of these operators have earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.

One of the squadron's heroes is Tech. Sgt. Nathan, a DSO who was then a staff sergeant and worked with the 9th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Afghanistan.

Nathan, along with his aircrew, distinguished themselves by conducting an emergency resupply airdrop to a team of U.S. and Coalition Special Operations Forces who were isolated and cut off from their resupply means. Despite the high potential for surface to air engagement, Nathan provided critical threat information as his aircraft transitioned through a potentially lethal range of small arms and anti-aircraft artillery, according to his award citation.

Even though his aircraft was struck multiple times by enemy fire, Nathan's technical expertise and professionalism provided the crew with the situational awareness that allowed them to successfully resupply the friendly forces, halting any further loss of life within the Special Operations



COURTESY GRAPHIC

team on the ground.

Following the airdrop, Nathan continued to supply the aircrew with updates on threats and enemy activity, leading to the aircrew's successful escape, preserving \$72 million in assets and saving the lives of the six aircrew members.

The direct support operator said it felt good to be a part of the team that day.

"It was a great honor to be part of such a vital mission," Nathan said. "We knew going in that this would be dangerous, but the team on the ground needed this resupply. Each of us accepted this risk in order to assist in the rescue of the team."

In addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Airman and his team received the Air Force Association's 2017 Lt. Gen. William H. Tunner Award for their heroic actions.

Tech. Sgt. Joseph, another DSO, earned his Distinguished Flying Cross for actions while he participated in an aerial flight of an AC-130U, 4th ESOS, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, in April 2017. A staff sergeant at

the time, he provided exemplary knowledge and outstanding airmanship during more than 10 hours of close air support which saved numerous American and Afghan lives, according to his medal citation.

Joseph and his crew alert launched in response to two American Special Forces teams under ambush by insurgents. He passed eight threat calls to friendly ground forces, four of which directly correlated and contributed to fire missions. He also helped identify three enemy ambush positions and cued the crew to the location of other enemy combatants who survived a previous engagement.

This Airman's actions enabled the employment of nearly 800 of rounds of ammunition throughout eleven fire missions that destroyed 24 enemy fighting positions.

"The success of our mission depended upon the contribution of every crew member working together to provide the best possible support we could to friendly forces," he said. "I am especially grateful to the teams

on the ground, who day after day are put in immediate harm's way, because none of this would be possible without their commitment and sacrifice."

The third outstanding DSO from 25th IS, Staff Sgt. David, was a member of the Spooky 43 aircrew. That heroic aircrew distinguished itself while conducting the Air Force's most meritorious flight of the year while participating in a sustained aerial flight in Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel in November 2016.

While David and his aircrew provided armed over watch for an American and Afghan ground force, the friendly team was caught in a deadly ambush by a large insurgent force, according to his medal citation.

The friendlies were engaged by small arms, heavy machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire from multiple defensive fighting positions. The crew of Spooky 43 provided close air support to the friendly ground forces to allow them to maneuver, while also providing

protection for friendly casualties.

Due to the outstanding airmanship and bravery under extremely challenging circumstances, the Spooky 43 aircrew destroyed 10 defensive fighting positions, enemy personnel and enemy tactical vehicles in order to save the lives of 50 friendly special operations forces who would have otherwise perished in the enemy ambush.

The Spooky 43 aircrew, including Staff Sgt. David, received the 2017 MacKay Trophy, which is awarded to the aircrew who accomplishes the U.S. Air Force's most meritorious flight of the year. They were also recognized in the Air Force's Portraits in Courage for 2017. The Portraits in Courage profile of the aircrew can be viewed at: <http://static.dma.mil/usaf/70/pic17.pdf>.

The 25th Intelligence Squadron is aligned under the 363rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, 25th Air Force.

JBSA making strides in combating air pollution

By Sarah Otto

502ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

Bexar County was designated as nonattainment for ozone, July 17, under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards set forth by the Clean Air Act.

San Antonio was the last major city in Texas to attain the nonattainment status. This designation was published in the Federal Register (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-07-25/pdf/2018-15919.pdf>), and it will officially go into effect Sept. 24 .

Ozone at higher altitudes occurs naturally, forming a protective layer that blocks ultraviolet, or UV rays, but is harmful to human health and the environment at the ground level. Poor air quality can have mild to severe repercussions on



COURTESY PHOTO

POLLUTION continues on 18

Joint Base San Antonio has been doing its part and made great strides in combating air pollution.

POLLUTION

From page 17

your health, with the elderly, children under 14, athletes, outdoor workers, pregnant women, and those with respiratory or heart diseases being the most at risk.

Short-term symptoms include: irritation of the eyes/nose/throat and shortness of breath. Long-term exposure can lead to loss of lung capacity/decreased lung function and development/aggravation of diseases such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema.

Ground-level ozone, or smog, reaches its highest concentration during the afternoon and early evening hours. On Ozone Action Days, sensitive groups should schedule high-exertion activities in the morning hours, and indoor or low-exertion outdoor activities in the afternoons.

Ozone is created through chemical reactions involving sunlight and emissions from materials such as paints or solvents — volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, — and from nitrogen oxides, or NOx, created from combustion processes, such as from vehicle engines, generators, lawn mowers, etc.

Bexar County is being classified as “marginal” on the severity scale, and has two years to reduce air emissions and regain attainment status.

Joint Base San Antonio has already been doing their part and has made great strides in combating air pollution.

Since 2005, NOx emissions have been reduced by more than 90 percent by implementing best management practices at power production sites and by investing in solar power generation, van-pool programs and enacting an anti-idling policy. VOC emissions have steadily decreased on JBSA by

decreasing paint and solvent use and buying low-VOC chemicals wherever possible. With the nonattainment designation, JBSA will be looking into further programs to help reduce emissions.

While we do not know what restrictions will be required, there are always things you can do to help improve our air quality, such as:

Limit your driving: carpool, use mass transit, walk, ride a bike, teleconference and use online services, such as electronic banking.

Operate your vehicle properly. Avoid jackrabbit starts and drive the speed limit.

Avoid excessive idling of your vehicle. Avoid drive-through restaurants, turn off your vehicle while loading/unloading, etc.

Refuel your vehicle after 6 p.m. on Ozone Action Days. Sign up for Enviroflash at <http://www.environflash.info>, or get the Enviro Air Quality Index app for air alert

notifications.

Make sure you follow the recommended maintenance schedule for your vehicle.

Keep your vehicle's tires properly inflated.

Do not continue dispensing fuel after the pump “clicks.”

Replace your vehicle's gas cap securely after refueling.

Use electric or hand-powered lawn care equipment.

Conserve energy at home. Turn off lights/electronics when not in use, use energy efficient light bulbs and appliances, run the clothes washer and dishwasher only when full.

Look for the ENERGY STAR label when buying home or office equipment.

For self-help projects on base, use water-based or solvent free paints, primers, specialty coatings, sealants, caulk and adhesives that say “Low VOC” on the label whenever possible.

If you have R134A Refrigerant for A/C in your

home or car, if possible replace it with 410A/407C.

If re-roofing at home, ensure coal tar is not in the ingredients. You will need to look at the Safety Data Sheet to determine this.

For on base, construction and renovation contract will be required to have a New Source Review, or NSR, Permitting process initiated, before construction, and must be coordinated with the JBSA Environmental Office and must have a Permit Construction Authorization, or PCA, from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, or TCEQ.

For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ozone-designations/designations-san-antonio-metropolitan-area>, or for specific questions contact the JBSA Environmental offices at JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-4844; at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-1142; or at JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-4668.

Managing psoriasis at JBSA

By Staff Sgt. Kevin Iinuma

59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Because psoriasis tends to be a life-long disease, it helps to learn about it and see a board-certified dermatologist. A bit of knowledge and help from a board-certified dermatologist can give patients some control over the psoriasis.

“Psoriasis is a hyperproliferative and inflammatory skin condition that essentially results from an overactive portion of our own immune system,” said Maj. Justin Bandino, 59th Medical Wing dermatopathologist at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. “As these cells pile up on the surface of the skin, you may see thick, scaly patches.”

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, psoriasis is common. About two percent of people living in the United States have this condition. Psoriasis is not an infection or contagious and is not something that someone can prevent because it is usually a genetic trait.

“Psoriasis cannot be eliminated, only managed and is best managed by a dermatologist,” said Capt. Jared Roberts,

59th Medical Wing Dermatology chief resident. “It is important for patients and primary care providers to recognize the signs of psoriasis and then get an appointment to be seen by a dermatologist.”

Dermatologists can create treatment plans that may include topical medication, provide skin care advice, and tips to help prevent flare-ups. To control psoriasis, some people also need ultraviolet light treatments or medication that works throughout the body.

“Thankfully, medications available to treat psoriasis have greatly increased over the last few decades, particularly with the introduction of biologics,” Bandino said. “Biologics are typically injectable medications that are like ‘laser-guided bombs’ for psoriasis because they only target a very specific portion of the immune system that is overactive. Although not perfect, these biologics have been seen as ‘miracle drugs’ for patients with psoriasis.”

Advances in research have led to safer and more effective treatments for psoriasis. Knowledge is the key to living well with psoriasis.

RANDOLPH

12th FTW continues heritage of innovation

From 12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Two 12th Flying Training Wing instructor pilots demonstrated the latest innovation of Air Force training for members of renowned pilot associations at an event hosted by the Order of Daedalians Aug. 27, 2018 in the Parr Club at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Capt. Jay Moore, a 560th Flying Training Squadron and Lt. Col. Joe Stallings, the 12th FTW Chief of Innovation, showcased virtual reality simulators for more than 40 Daedalians, Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association "River Rats," and A-1 Skyraider Association participants. Just as those professional societies honor early aviation pioneers, today's Air Force aviators were hoping to win their confidence for contemporary changes.

"12th FTW members have been spreading the message of pilot training enterprise changes to stakeholders in an effort to promote knowledge-sharing and support," said Stallings, after the event.

The wing's Airmen are building a network with academia, industry, and across all services at Joint Base San Antonio to spark new ideas and establish the foundation for a city-wide innovation hub.

"Since 1st Lt. Benjamin Foulois piloted the first military flight in a Canard biplane over Fort Sam Houston 108 years ago, San Antonio has been an incubator of innovation in military aviation," Stallings said.

Stallings admitted that the aviators on hand for his event



SEAN WORRELL

Capt. Jay Moore (left), 560th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, demonstrates a virtual reality simulator for one of the more than 40 veteran Air Force aviators who attended a briefing Aug. 27 in the Parr Club at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

were skeptical at first until they heard about today's challenges and after hands-on experience with the VR devices.

Moore briefed the assembly on today's rapidly changing strategic threat environment which is driving some of the changes. He answered questions about recent pilot training syllabi modifications and he outlined the future of undergraduate pilot training. Another topic was the recent initiative at Austin called "Pilot Training Next." 12th Operations Group squadrons are integrating lessons learned from PTN to streamline flight training.

The veterans tried out standalone VR headsets containing hours of inflight, 360-degree videos. Several flew the T-38C Talon VR

systems and glimpsed the future of pilot training.

"We are not just accepting the status quo," said Lt. Col. Justin Chandler, commander of the 99th Flying Training Squadron earlier this year during a demonstration of a VR laboratory inside Hangar 6 at JBSA-Randolph.

Chandler and other 12th FTW commanders are using a portion of the \$64 million of "Squadron Innovation Funds" that Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. David Goldfein, announced in a February 2018 press release for "Airmen-led innovations that increase readiness, reduce cost, return time back to Airmen or enhance lethality of the force."

"We are willing to challenge the question, why are we doing it this way?" "Because we can't afford to make those

decisions with the threat that might emerge in the international framework," said Chandler.

There are other considerations for him and other 12th FTW "innovators."

"Recent aircraft mishaps, ongoing maintenance and aircraft availability challenges, as well as manpower shortages both for aircraft and simulator instructor pilots provide a framework to describe major challenges with sustainment of the pilot training pipeline," Stallings said.

At a small fraction of the price of traditional simulators and roughly the cost of two hours of T-38C flying time, VR offers students the chance to increase their repetitions for each maneuver they learn.

"Ultimately, the goal is to increase instructor pilot

"These recent virtual-reality projects are the latest in a series of modernizations for the wing and the beginning of a wave of grassroots, bottom up innovation."

Lt. Col. Joe Stallings, 12th Flying Training Wing Chief of Innovation

graduate quality and decrease training timelines, so the VR training capitalizes on immersive ground training and raises the starting point toward proficiency before students even start their first flight," Stallings said.

Having also recently completed syllabi beta tests and a pathfinder program to demonstrate the capability of using electronic flight bags for in-flight publication use, 12th FTW Airmen are taking the initiative to find better ways to train and seize the competitive advantage.

"These recent virtual-reality projects are the latest in a series of modernizations for the wing and the beginning of a wave of grassroots, bottom up innovation," Stallings said. The Wing will take these innovative projects on the road next month to showcase their efforts in National Harbor, Maryland at the Air Force Association's Air, Space, and Cyber Conference Sept. 17-19.

Lt. Col. Richard Cole, last of the 80 Doolittle Raiders, turns 103

Editor's note: For security purposes, some personnel in this article are referred to only by their first names.

By Senior Airman Gwendalyn Smith

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On April 18, 1942, sixteen B-25 bombers lined up on the USS Hornet and prepared to drop bombs onto Japan for a much-needed comeback following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the Bataan Death March. Leading the way for 80 men was Lt. Col. James Doolittle, giving them the title "Doolittle Raiders."

At Doolittle's side was his co-pilot, 26-year-old Lt. Richard "Dick" Cole. As the last living member of the famous Doolittle Raiders, Cole celebrated his 103rd birthday Sept. 7 at the Singing Water Winery in Comfort, Texas. At the

celebration Cole was surrounded by family, friends and Airmen.

"This event is the celebration of a lifetime of achievements of a 103-year-old man," said retired Col. Kevin Smith, event co-coordinator. "Dick Cole has done so much for our country. He's a hero in every sense of the word. Ever since his retirement they have continued the tradition of paying tribute to those who died on the mission and those who have since passed all the way up to today."

At the beginning of the celebration, 79 Airmen from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph stood in a formation to represent the other 79 members of the Doolittle Raiders, not only to honor a tradition, but to symbolize the continuation of a deeply rooted legacy. During the formation, the 12th Flying Training Wing conducted a flyover with four T-38s while Cole stood at



SENIOR AIRMAN GWENDALYN SMITH

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Richard Cole (at left in the white shirt), the last surviving Doolittle Raider, stands in formation during his 103rd birthday celebration Sept. 7 at Singing Water Vineyards in Comfort, Texas. The formation was comprised of 79 Airmen who stood to honor the 79 other Doolittle Raiders.

attention.

"Richard Cole is such a humble man," said retired Col. Joe Jones, event co-coordinator. "At all of the celebrations like this they always recognize the other raiders. He knows he is one of 80 not just the one. That's something he's always carried with him."

"These young Airmen that came out today need to see our

history so they can be those future Doolittle Raiders themselves," Smith said. "Honored isn't even close enough to the word we could use to pay tribute to such a hero."

For many of the Airmen who participated, it was an event they will not soon forget.

"As a new officer and new member of the Air Force it's

really cool to be a part of this," said 2nd Lt. Shawn, 12th Training Squadron Remotely Piloted Aircraft student. "The Doolittle Raiders is something we learn about in our education and it's amazing to be able to see the difference from their generation to ours, it's important to honor that tradition, and understand where we come from to carry on that legacy."

Randolph hosts 360° leaders course

By Airman Shelby Pruitt

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 360° Leadership Course is a complex, hands-on universal leadership course focused on enhancing senior leaders while providing important and necessary tools for leaders to manage and respond to various issues and challenges they may face.

Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, and Col. Peter Velesky, 502nd ABW and JBSA vice commander, in coordination with senior commanders and senior enlisted personnel will host a 360° Leadership Resiliency Skills Program workshop throughout JBSA.

On Sept. 10-14, the course is provided at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club. At Arnold Hall on JBSA-Lackland, it will take place Oct. 22-26. At the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Community Center, the leadership course is scheduled for Oct. 29-Nov. 2.

The leadership course is a five-day, all-inclusive class that highlights important topics such as leadership, military values, self-care, stress and how to manage it, anger management, biofeedback, relaxation, yoga, meditation, mindfulness, humor and health, spirituality, couples and parent-child communication, conflict resolution, sex and relationships, journaling and sleep.

This course will also provide insight into sexual assault and domestic violence, financial management and planning, combat stress, post-traumatic stress, suicide prevention and alcohol management.

Along with psychological fitness, the leaders course covers physical fitness as well. Physical training planning, injury prevention, pain management and nutrition are topics that can be explored.

While the course is typically geared toward NCOs, the leadership course can be adapted to target other groups as well. Generally, NCOs are the primary target because they have the greatest direct impact on the health and wellness of the unit. The NCOs are expected to implement the techniques and mentorship learned at the course to the troops they lead.

“The best part of this course, is giving NCOs the ability to take what they’ve learned and apply it to their own formations and offices.” said



AIRMAN SHELBY PRUITT

Col. Peter Velesky, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio vice commander, talks with NCOs during the 360° Leadership Course Sept. 10 at JBSA-Randolph.

Velesky. “They’ll be able to see some of the same things they talk about in this course in their own people and now they will know how to reach out using these skills as a leader.”

Spouses are encouraged to attend the final two days of the course. It provides military spouses with information that can be beneficial in their personal lives and in their relationships. As community leaders, spouses can use this course to expand their own leadership abilities.

In order to attend the leadership course, an NCO is typically nominated by his/her commander or first sergeant.

“It is the only program that has been externally evaluated by the Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury,” said Steve Salazar, a 360° Veterans’ Association member. “In 2012, they published a report with statistical evidence that the course improved sleep, reduced psychopathology and improved well-being.”

With around 60 courses conducted, more than 2,100 military members have participated since implementation in March 2010 and it is consistently rated as one of the best courses in military careers.