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A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING — JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON


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## Actor Bradley Cooper previews 'American Sniper' at BAMC



(Left) BAMC employees from the pathology department greet Bradley Cooper with enthusiasm Jan. 14 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

Photos by Robert Shields



(Above) Bradley Cooper greets Wayne Kyle Jan. 14 at San Antonio Military Medical Center. Kyle is the father of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, the military sniper Cooper portrays in the film "American Sniper."

By Lori Newman  
BAMC Public Affairs

Service members and patients at Brooke Army Medical Center got a surprise visit from Academy Award-nominated actor Bradley Cooper Jan. 14.

About 260 service members and staff were invited to preview

Cooper's new movie, "American Sniper," based on the life of military sniper Chris Kyle. Kyle was a U.S. Navy SEAL who was proclaimed the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history.

As the movie was playing in the auditorium, Cooper was

**See COOPER, P8**

## Texas is 'wide open' for veterans

By Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos  
Army North Public Affairs

Military and community leaders joined the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Veterans Commission as they celebrated the San Antonio launch of the "Texas Wide Open for Veterans" website Jan. 14 at Alamo College.

The website, located at [https://](https://www.texaswideopenforveterans.com)

[www.texaswideopenforveterans.com](https://www.texaswideopenforveterans.com), is a tool for current and future military veterans to find jobs in Texas.

"The TVC is proud of its partnership with TWC and the Texas Veterans Commission to make Texas 'wide open for veterans,'" said Elisio Cantu, commissioner of the Texas Veterans Commission. "This site highlights all of the

unique employment opportunities in the state of Texas."

Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), said veterans had a lot to offer Texas businesses.

"When you take an 18 year old, train him and send him to a place

**See VETERANS, P3**

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# Leaders eat last: being willing to put the needs of others above our own

**By Brig. Gen. Robert Miller**  
Director, Education and Training, Defense Health Agency and Commandant, Medical Education and Training Campus



**Brig. Gen. Robert Miller**

I recently read a book by the author Simon Sinek entitled "Leaders Eat Last" and as you might expect, the title is based on the military tradition of serving food to the most junior before the most senior.

The motivation behind this simple act, which often just happens, is based on a servant leadership approach. Military leaders expect to eat last based on their willingness to put the needs of others above their own. It doesn't stop with food.

I would suggest that great leaders at all levels (military and civilian) truly care about those

they have the privilege to lead.

This got me thinking about why we exist at the Medical Education and Training Campus and our mission and vision statement, which must evolve with the environment for maximum relevance.

Does METC exist solely for the benefits of co-location and consolidation,

which ultimately saves money and fulfills BRAC law? Although I appreciate the importance of these benefits, I would hope that is not the "final answer."

An even more important question involves why each of us chooses to serve and for those in uniform, potentially lay down your life to complete the mission.

For me, the answer was best summed up during my deployment to Iraq in 2006. We are all a part of something much bigger than any one person, and we are often successful because of one thing ... trust.

Warriors trust that those fighting beside them will not leave them behind, regardless of how dire the situation may be. If injured, our

warfighters also trust that medics will be there to save their lives and do everything possible so they can return home to their loved ones. That's what we do. That's our culture.

I would argue that medics are the ultimate servant leaders whose reason for being is the needs of their patient.

This applies to all members of the medical team from the emergency room to the logistics warehouse. That means the METC mission is not just teaching and knowing your craft, which is important. METC is also about something more, something more we can be proud of and make clear to all.

METC is about our services' storied culture of service (eating last)

that everyone trusts when they go into harm's way. METC is directly responsible for transmitting this culture to future generations of medics that will serve in a variety of disciplines anywhere our nation trusts them to serve.

That gets me back to the answer to my original question, why does METC exist? We exist to train medics from all services to complete their military mission and to serve.

Our service culture can't be switched off like a light or left on the tarmac. No, it stays with us long after our military service. It stays for a lifetime. That is why it is important for us to understand that we are actually educating future

**See LEADERS, P16**

## TxDOT, 502nd Air Base Wing partner on travel options study

The Texas Department of Transportation and the 502nd Air Base Wing have partnered on a study of employee commute preferences to better understand regional congestion patterns.

The Active Travel Demand Management Travel Options Study is sponsored by TxDOT to promote travel option programs to employers, employees and other stakeholders along the most congested corridors in the San Antonio area.

The goal is to describe

the benefits, both for employers and employees, of alternative scheduling such as telecommuting, flex-time, compressed work weeks, and ride-sharing options such as carpooling, vanpooling and using public transportation. The project team will document strategies already in place, and provide recommendations and a framework for the travel options that will work best for employees.

The commuter survey portion of this study is a



Courtesy photo

means of understanding individual commute patterns, such as how long it takes and how individuals go about meeting their travel needs on a daily basis. As congestion increases in the San Antonio metro area, the TxDOT and the 502nd

ABW are interested in learning about what other options might be of interest.

Input from customers is the foundation of the study and will also let us know how we can better support our employees. The survey is anonymous

and only takes a few minutes to provide valuable feedback.

The survey link is <http://tinyurl.com/JBSA-commute>. For more information, call 652-3477 or 652-5307. (Source: 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron)



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## News Briefs

### AETC Awards Luncheon

Tickets are on sale for the Headquarters Air Education and Training Command Annual Awards Luncheon, scheduled at 11 a.m. Jan. 30 at the International Ballroom, Parr Club, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Attire for attendees is uniform of the day for military and casual for civilians. For attendees, attire is service dress for military and business suit or pant/shirt/dress for civilians. All meals are \$17, payable by cash or credit card. Meal options are curried chicken with mango and cantaloupe slaw served over jasmine rice and vegetables, beef medallions with pink vodka sauce balsamic grilled vegetables with roasted red potatoes or linguini topped with vodka sauce and grilled vegetables. Call 652-2263 or 652-8026 to RSVP by Friday. An online invitation can be found at <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=219344&k=00604B0A7F53>.

### JBSA Men's Softball Team Tryouts

The Joint Base San Antonio men's softball team hosts their annual tryouts at the JBSA-Lackland Warhawk softball field from 5-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. For more information, call 539-7225 or 671-2866.

### Basura Bash 2015

The fifth annual Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Basura Bash will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 21 at Salado Creek Park, with volunteer check in at 8 a.m. and a safety briefing at 8:45 a.m. The annual cleanup of Salado Creek is held in conjunction with the city-wide cleanup effort for the tributaries of the San Antonio River. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves, hat and sunscreen and can bring their own cleanup gear, such as waders, trash-grabbers, nets, etc. Trash bags will be provided. All participants under 18 must have a parent or guardian onsite and drop offs will not be allowed. All participants must also have a military ID or common access card and sign a waiver to participate. Community service vouchers will be available. Volunteers can register online at <http://www.basurabash.org>. For more information, call 388-2067.

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

# Fort Hood shooting victim hopes to inspire others

By Elaine Sanchez  
BAMC Public Affairs

An Army officer who was severely wounded in a shooting at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, last year is using his near-death experience to give others a new lease on life.

"I believe I was given a second chance," said 1st Lt. John Arroyo. "I hope my story inspires others to realize that it's never too late to make a change or to make a difference."

Arroyo had three deployments under his belt when he arrived at Fort Hood in November 2013.

The California native had enlisted in 1998 as a truck driver, but jumped at the opportunity to become a Green Beret just a few years later. After a dozen years in Special Forces, Arroyo was commissioned and selected for the Medical



Photo by Robert Shields

Army 1st Lt. John Arroyo works on strengthening his right hand Jan. 16 while his occupational therapist, Katie Korp, looks on at the Center for the Intrepid, Brooke Army Medical Center's rehabilitation center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Arroyo, severely wounded in a shooting at Fort Hood last year, hopes his story of survival will inspire others.

Service Corps.

He was assigned to the 1st Medical Brigade at Fort Hood as a platoon leader. On April 2, 2014, Arroyo was pulling into brigade headquarters parking when he

heard shots fired.

He had just stepped out of his car as another car parked close by. He had no idea the driver was Army Spc. Ivan Lopez, who was just minutes into a shooting

spree across post. Lopez had already shot and killed two Soldiers and wounded more than a dozen others in another building by the time he pulled into the brigade parking lot.

The next shot Arroyo heard was the one that ripped through his throat. Gasping for breath, Arroyo stumbled back to his car and fell to the ground. He lay there, bleeding profusely, struggling to breathe.

"I thought, 'Is this it? Am I going to die?'" he recalled. "But then I heard a voice telling me to get up, to hurry and get up."

With his wife and three children in mind, Arroyo drew on his last reserves of strength to stand up and find help. He held his throat to staunch the bleeding and stumbled toward a man. He suddenly realized he was about to seek aid

from the shooter.

"I was within 10 feet of him, but he never saw me," he said. "He walked right past me into the building and started shooting again."

A few Soldiers spotted Arroyo from across the parking lot. They called out: "Soldier, are you OK?" He was able to answer: "I've been shot." With no time to spare, they raced Arroyo to Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center.

Meanwhile, the shooter was confronted seconds later by a military police officer. She fired a shot at him and he responded by committing suicide. Four Soldiers, including Lopez, were killed and 16 others wounded that day.

Critically injured, Arroyo was rushed to surgery and transferred to Scott and White

See FORT HOOD, P5

## VETERANS from PI

like Iraq or Afghanistan, where he is in a situation where he makes life or death decisions, he has learned the responsibility, resiliency, loyalty and leadership he can bring to the civilian sector," Trombitas said.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert LaBrutta, commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, agreed with Trombitas and added that the skill and knowledge service members gain will translate almost perfectly into the civilian sector.

Hope Andrade, commissioner for the Texas Workforce Commission, highlighted how the site will help transitioning veterans find

jobs in Texas.

"We wanted to make sure our website had a personal connection," Andrade said. "A veteran or an employer can go on our website and fill out our form and they will receive a call or email from someone in the workforce system within one business day."

Andrade also highlighted the social media component of the site.

"It will allow our veterans to stay up to date with the latest hiring fairs throughout the state, and connect directly with employers," she said. "It also has interactive tools to find available jobs in Texas through the Texas Workforce Commission's online job matching

site, and explore Texas through an interactive state match."

The launch of the site is also supported by many Texas businesses because it helps them hire veterans.

"Hiring veterans is good for business," said John DiPiero, an Air Force veteran who works at USAA.

Many businesses are hiring veterans because of the skill set they bring to the table.

"Veterans are highly skilled, experienced, they have an excellent work ethic, they're team players and they are structured and they come to work on time," said Mario Lozoya, director of government relations and external affairs for Toyota Motor



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, deputy commanding general for operations, U.S. Army North, explains the assets military veterans bring to the civilian job market Jan. 14 during the San Antonio launch of the Texas Wide Open For Veterans website. The website will help military veterans find jobs in Texas by providing more direct connections between employers and potential veteran hires.

Manufacturing. "That is a big deal for an employer."

Lozoya added that the intangible assets – corps values, honor responsibility and accountability that veterans have –

were also important to civilian employers. "It helps maintain the integrity of our work force."

For more information, visit <https://www.texaswideopenforveterans.com/>.

# AMEDD establishes enlisted subject matter expert program

By Master Sgt. Michael Kile  
68C (Practical Nursing Specialist)  
Subject Matter Expert

In August 2014, more than 50 enlisted Soldiers, spanning the ranks of staff sergeant to sergeant major, attended the newly established and revitalized subject matter expert, or SME, training session at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Upon completion, all Soldiers received certificates of training and letters appointing each as the Army Medical Department SME to the Army Medical Command sergeant major and surgeon general for their respective military occupational specialties and/or additional skill identifiers.

The 68 career management fields include 24 MOSs and 12 ASIs, each

with a primary and alternate SME. The primary purpose of this training is to ensure complete oversight of, and to effectively manage, the 68 CMF MOS in relation to growth, training, advances in technology, and education.

“Since the history of the Army Medical Department, enlisted Soldiers have served as experts and key advisors on matters that have led to courses of action that underscore the critical role of the Soldier medic and which has significantly shaped the Army medicine doctrine,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Ecker, U.S. Army Medical Command.

“The enlisted subject-matter expert program is now formally recognized as a mechanism for developing future



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Bruce Alan

In August 2014, more than 50 enlisted Soldiers, spanning the ranks of staff sergeant to sergeant major, attended the newly established and revitalized subject matter expert training session. Upon completion, all Soldiers received certificates of training and letters appointing each as the Army Medical Department subject matter expert to the MEDCOM command sergeant major and surgeon general for their respective military occupational specialties and/or additional skill identifiers.

Army leaders and fostering an environment that cultivates and nurtures talent across all skills and occupational specialties,” Ecker said. “We are mov-

ing towards the creation of a high-reliability culture and this is one step towards that end state.”

Close coordination with AMEDD consultants and

their respective areas of concentration assists in the alignment of medical services. All of the SMEs perform their daily assigned jobs in addition

to managing respective MOS/ASI.

The SMEs are not in the assignments manage-

**See SME, P7**

# TRICARE patients must attest to health care coverage on tax forms

By Terri Moon Cronk  
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

As tax season begins, Defense Department officials want to remind TRICARE beneficiaries of changes in the tax laws, which require all Americans to have health care insurance or potentially pay a tax penalty.

For the first time since the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010, all U.S. citizens, including service members, military retirees and their family members, must report health care coverage on their 2014 taxes, said Mark Ellis, a Defense Health Agency health care operations program analyst.

For this year only, taxpayers will “self-attest” on their 2014 tax forms to each month in which they had health care coverage, he said.

The act mandates that health care must meet

minimum essential coverage, and TRICARE coverage meets that criteria for the majority of service members and their families, Ellis said.

TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard, TRICARE for Life, TRICARE Overseas, TRICARE Remote and the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan meet the minimum essential coverage, he added. When purchased, premium-based plan such as TRICARE Reserve Select or TRICARE Retired Reserve also fulfill the act’s requirements.

Uniformed service members who have questions about TRICARE, the act and the individual coverage mandate can visit the TRICARE website at [http://www.tricare.mil/~media/Files/TRICARE/Publications/FactSheets/ACA\\_FS.pdf](http://www.tricare.mil/~media/Files/TRICARE/Publications/FactSheets/ACA_FS.pdf) to download a fact sheet on TRICARE and the act, with TRI-

CARE plans compared to minimum essential coverage, Ellis said.

Military beneficiaries that are solely eligible for care in military hospitals and clinics, for example, parents and parents-in-law, have an automatic exemption from the tax penalty for tax year 2014 only.

The site also has suggestions for those who need to purchase coverage to meet the act’s minimum requirements, he noted. That could include retired reservists, Selected Reserve members, young adults up to age 26 and those who leave military service but need transitional coverage, Ellis said.

TRICARE beneficiaries with tax questions should contact the Internal Revenue Service or their tax advisers, he emphasized.

“The experts there can help them,” Ellis said.

## FORT HOOD from P3

Memorial Hospital for further care.

He was told his voice box and right arm were damaged beyond repair. Yet two months later he was talking again and, after months of rehabilitation at the Center for the Intrepid at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston last year, has regained the use of his right hand.

His swift recovery wasn’t surprising, he said.

“I was given a second chance by God,” Arroyo said. “I should have died in the parking lot that day. I believe I am here for a purpose and will continue to heal.”

Hoping to inspire oth-



Courtesy photo

John Arroyo boards an aircraft in Iraq in September 2007.

ers, Arroyo began sharing his story with everyone from inmates to students to fellow patients and Soldiers. “I want everyone to realize that if they’re breathing, they have the

opportunity for a second chance.”

Arroyo returned to Fort Hood last month to speak at the hospital’s holiday ball, and to thank the staff for saving his life. One of the nurses was in tears after Arroyo told her another Soldier who had been shot in the spinal cord was walking again, thanks in part to her care.

“I went back to the spot where I was shot,” he said. “I wasn’t upset at what had happened. I felt grateful that I was given a second chance to make a difference.

“I don’t focus on tomorrow; I finish today,” he added. “And I plan to make each day count for something.”

## News Briefs

### Continued from P3

#### **Wounded Warriors, Families, Transitioners Invited To Career Fair**

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston hosts the bi-annual Hiring Heroes Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 4 at the Sam Houston Community Center. The career fair provides an opportunity for wounded warriors, transitioning service members, spouses and veterans to network, collect information and speak face-to-face with more than 58 Department of Defense, federal and private sector recruiters/employers about civilian career opportunities. Individuals planning to attend are encouraged to have their resumes reviewed. The career fair is hosted by DOD and the Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service (Recruitment Assistance Division) at Alexandria, Va. For more information, call 571-372-2123. For resume assistance, call the Transition Assistance Program office at 221-1213.

#### **Taylor Burk Clinic At JBSA-Camp Bullis Taking Enrollments**

The Taylor Burk Clinic located at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis provides accessible, high quality healthcare to active duty military, their dependents, and other TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. A scope of comprehensive services are provided, including acute illness care, preventive health maintenance, health promotion and wellness, education and counseling, and specialty consultation and referral with a 97 percent overall patient satisfaction rate. Hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 916-9900 to make an appointment. If you would like to switch your Primary Care Manager, call Humana Military at 800-444-5445.

#### **New DOD Food Service Charges At Dining Facilities**

The following rates apply to dining facilities not using the a la carte pricing system, such as Slagel, Rocco, B5107, B5105, Medical Readiness DFAC and all basic military training facilities: breakfast, \$3.45; lunch, \$5.55 and dinner, \$4.85. In addition, meals ready to eat and flight meals are priced at \$5.55 each. For more information on dining facilities to include hours, contact information and address, visit <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/library/diningfacilities.asp>.

See NEWS BRIEFS, P12

## FIFTH ARMY CELEBRATES DIVERSE, EXTENSIVE HISTORY



Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins (right) and Command Sgt. Maj. Hu Rhodes cut a birthday cake Jan. 15 during U.S. Army North (Fifth Army)'s birthday celebration at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course. The Fifth Army was activated Jan. 5, 1943, in French Morocco during World War II. During the war, Fifth Army fought its way up the Italian peninsula and on June 4, 1944, became the first Allied army to liberate a fascist controlled city. In 1946, the unit moved to Fort Sheridan, Ill., where it stayed for nearly 25 years before moving to its present location at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle in 1971. Fifth Army was re-designated U.S. Army North in 2004. Wiggins and Rhodes are the commanding general and command sergeant major, respectively, for Army North, and senior Army leaders for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis.



Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins gives a little bit of unit history to the Soldiers and civilians with U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) taking part in celebrating the 72nd birthday of Fifth Army Jan. 15 during a commander's call at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club. During World War II, nearly 20,000 Fifth Army Soldiers died as the Army fought its way up the Italian peninsula. Fifth Army, which moved to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in 1971, was redesignated as U.S. Army North in 2004 and became responsible for homeland defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

## TEXAS RANGERS STOP AT CFL, VISIT WOUNDED WARRIORS



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart

Texas Rangers pitcher Derek Holland (right) provides a personal touch Jan. 16 for one of his fans, Sgt. 1st Class Shimeca Tillis, a licensed practical nurse with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 32nd Medical Brigade, Army Medical Department Center and School, during his visit to Brooke Army Medical Center's Center for the Intrepid facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.



Texas Rangers catcher Robinson Chirinos (right) chats with wounded warrior Senior Airman Darius Cuffie, a supply specialist with the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, during Chirinos' visit to Brooke Army Medical Center's Center for the Intrepid facility Jan. 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

# Mission and Installation Contracting Command injects \$191 million into small businesses

By Daniel P. Elkins

Mission and Installation Contracting Command Public Affairs

More than \$191 million in contracts were awarded to small businesses throughout the nation during the first quarter of this fiscal year by contracting officials with the Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

“These awards are a direct result of the command’s commitment to American small businesses and the attainment of the nation’s public policy goals,” said Mark Massie, associate director for the MICC Office of Small Business Programs at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The MICC Small Busi-

ness Programs consists of personnel around the country who provide aid, advice and counsel to small businesses. In addition to providing advice to individual small businesses, the program also advocates within the command’s 33 contracting offices to ensure small businesses have the maximum opportunity to compete for Army contracts awarded by those activities.

MICC officials and small business representatives across the command continue to conduct acquisition forecast open house events at installations throughout the country over the next two months. The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston event takes place Feb. 3 at the Fort



Illustration by Daniel P. Elkins

Sam Houston Theatre.

Pete Hunter, an assistant director for the MICC Small Business Programs at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said such events help increase competition for Army contracts, broaden industry participation in Army contracts, and assist small businesses in winning Army contracts.

Dollars awarded to small-business contractors help support the achievement of annual government-wide goals

required by the Small Business Act. Small-business directors at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston monitor each small business category throughout the fiscal year to ensure contracts are awarded in each of the following small business categories: small disadvantaged business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, woman-owned small business and historically underutilized business zone small business.

## SME from P4

ment process, however their guidance can assist in ensuring Soldiers with the right knowledge, skills and attributes are in the right positions at the right time.

The culminating results should be creating leaders through talent management, leader and organizational development while simultaneously supporting the AMEDD, MEDCOM and Army’s missions.

SMEs accomplish these goals, serving as the advisor/recommender, in the following areas: enlisted human capital distribution plan; grade plate reviews validating authorized positions; professional filler system management; deployment capabilities including special skills; critical task lists for respective MOS; MOS validation; civilian certification

programs; updates to U.S. Army Professional Development Guide-DA PAM 600-25; updates to Enlisted MOS Specifications – DA PAM 611-21; Enlisted Career Maps Army Credentialing Opportunities On-Line; and other areas respective to MOS/ASI.

SMEs are the central point of access to the MOS for AMEDD Personnel Proponent Directorate, MEDCOM G1, AMEDD Center & School, Medical Education and Training Campus and any other AMEDD agency requiring MOS/ASI information, as well as the link between operational and strategic levels for each MOS/ASI. They are at the tip of the spear for manpower distribution across the MEDCOM and are responsible for guiding the development and standards for the future of their MOS.



Photos by Robert Shields

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Deller (center) poses for a photo with Jacob Schick, Bradley Cooper and Wayne Kyle in the Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center Rehabilitation Gym Jan. 14. Deller brought Chris Kyle's book, "American Sniper," for Cooper and Kyle to autograph.

## COOPER from P1

upstairs in the U.S Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center rehabilitation gym visiting patients, staff and Warrior Transition Battalion Soldiers, signing several movie posters and T-shirts which he handed out.

As Cooper made his way through the hospital to the auditorium, he received a warm reception from everyone he

encountered and as he entered the auditorium, the crowd erupted with cheers.

A few special guests joined Cooper for the event, including Chris Kyle's father, Wayne, and two veterans, Bryan Anderson and Jacob Schick, who were also in the movie.

"I know when Bradley walked in, you all were cheering wildly for him, but it's us who needs to be cheering for y'all,"

said Kyle, a Texas native. "I'm not here for Bradley Cooper, I came here to see y'all."

Kyle praised the service members saying, "I appreciate what each and every one of you do each and every day. This country owes you a huge debt. We just want to be here for you."

Audience members asked several questions as Cooper talked about playing the role of a real military hero.



Veterans Jacob Schick, Brian Anderson and actor Bradley Cooper tape a "Shout Out" for Brooke Army Medical Center staff and patients Jan. 14 after the pre-screening of the film American Sniper. Schick and Anderson appear in the film with Cooper.

Cooper bulked up and spent months learning the intricacies of military weapons to prepare for the role, for which he recently received an Oscar nomination.

Making this movie was a life-changing experience," he said. "I was terrified when I started. I didn't know if I could actually get to a place where I would believe that I was Chris Kyle."

Kyle served four tours in the Iraq War and was awarded several commendations for acts of

heroism. He was shot and killed in February 2013 while working with a veteran at a shooting range in Texas.

A Marine in the audience stood up and tearfully thanked Cooper for such a real portrayal. "I feel like you are one of my brothers," he said. "I think you did really well and I just want to say "Thank you."

Following the question and answer session, Cooper made his way to an inpatient ward to visit an amputee patient

and sign more autographs.

"It was actually Wayne Kyle's idea to come to BAMC," Cooper said. "You have done so much for all the vets, it's the least we could do is come here and meet you guys."

Cooper said the visit surpassed his expectations. "Everybody has been so nice."

"Hopefully we can inspire some Soldiers who are wounded and having a rough time," Anderson added.

# Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicks off in February

By Debbie Gildea  
Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs

The annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicks off Feb. 2 at 78 Air Force and joint bases worldwide, Air Force Personnel Center officials at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph announced Jan 12.

The campaign, in its 42nd year, will be conducted for six-week periods through May 1, said Bill D'Avanzo, the Air Force voting action

officer and fundraising chief.

Most Air Force bases will begin and end their campaigns during one of three designated periods: Feb. 2 to March 13, March 2 to April 10 and March 23 to May 1.

"For more than four decades, the Air Force Assistance Fund has been used to help Airmen, whether affected by natural disasters, experiencing personal hardship, recovering from injury or illness or making difficult life choices due to age

and other circumstances," D'Avanzo said. "We are family and the fund exists to help our family members get through difficult times."

Contributions, which are tax deductible, go to support four different charities:

- The Air Force Aid Society: Provides Airmen and their families worldwide with emergency financial assistance, education assistance and various base-level community-enhancement programs.



- The Air Force Enlisted Village: Supports Teresa Village in Fort Walton Beach, Florida and Bob Hope Village in Shalimar,

Florida, near Eglin Air Force Base. The fund provides homes and financial assistance to retired enlisted members' widows and widowers who are 55 and older. It also supports Hawthorn House in Shalimar, which provides assisted living for residents, including 24-hour nursing care.

- The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation: Donations support independent and assisted living needs for retired officers and their spouses, widows or wid-

owers and family members. Communities are located in San Antonio.

- The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation: Provides rent and financial assistance to widows and widowers of officer and enlisted retirees in their homes and communities through financial grants of assistance.

For more information about the Air Force Assistance Fund affiliated charitable organizations visit <http://www.afassistancefund.org>.

## Army Emergency Relief announces opening of scholarship application period

Army Emergency Relief scholarship applications will be accepted through May 1. AER supports both the Spouse Scholarship Program, as well as the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program for dependent children.

Scholarship specifics and the applications are available on AER's website at <http://www.aerhq.org>. The Spouse Scholarship can be used for full or part-time students, while the Ursano Scholarship is only for

full-time students.

Last year AER awarded 3,637 scholarships, totaling more than \$8.8 million to spouses and children of Soldiers.

"The entire scholarship process is online," said Tammy LaCroix, manager for AER's scholarship programs. "Last year, we found that the online process worked best for those who downloaded the step-by-step instructions and used them as a checklist.

"Applicants are able to create their own profile, submit their documentation online, and check their status," LaCroix added. "This proved to be a huge timesaver for both the applicants and the scholarship staff."

The entire application package for the 2015-2016 school year must be submitted online by May 1. This includes the application as well as the support-

**See AER, P17**

### Did you know?

One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service.

It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



# ON TARGET

## Sportsman's Range offers shooters variety of options

By Steve Elliott  
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Located a few miles past the main gate of Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis on the city's northwest side is a unique shooting range for local gun enthusiasts to enjoy on the weekends.

The Sportsman's Range is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders to fire their personally-owned firearms – pistols, rifles and shotguns 7.62 caliber or less. Targets range from 7 to 25 yards for pistols and 25 to 125 yards for rifles.

The range does not rent out firearms or sell ammunition, so all shooters must bring their own. They should also bring their own hearing protection, which is required before stepping foot on the range. Foam ear protection is available at the firing line when requested.

"One side of the range is for rifle shooting and the other side is for pistols," said Andy Sanchez, the JBSA-Camp Bullis outdoor recreation supervisor. "The biggest thing for us here is gun and range safety. Families come out together to shoot together; mom, dad and the kids."

All firearms must first be registered at the Outdoor Recreation Center, located in building 6215. Daily range fee is \$10 per person, an annual pass for the gun range is \$60 and a combined archery and gun range annual pass is \$75.

Each person with a DOD ID card can escort up to two non-DOD ID cardholder guests, as long as they are 10 years of age or older. The cost for guests is \$15 each per day and guests have to register their weapons at the Outdoor Recreation Center.

The gun range may close due to inclement weather or unit training, so it is best to call 295-7577 or 295-7529 before coming out to JBSA-Camp Bullis to use

the range. For example, if the cloud ceiling is below 1,300 feet, the range will not be in service.

"I just moved to San Antonio and today was my first time actually shooting a handgun," said Maj. Maribel Morgan, a neonatologist assigned to the San Antonio Military Medical Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. "I think it's a great skill to have and I hope to get to the range at least once a month."

Morgan, who was there with her husband, Julius Morgan and friend, Arthur Salazar, shot several different .45 caliber pistols. Her husband and Salazar helped her learn about how to properly hold, load, aim and fire the weapon.

"Shooting is a great sport," Morgan said. "It pays to be prepared these days, especially when it comes to home protection."

Retired Marine Corps Col. Ron Yowell, now a teacher at Robert G. Cole High School at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said the Sportsman's Range offers shooting opportunities other ranges in area do not.

"At any other non-military shooting range, you can only shoot from a sitting position and only one round at a time," Yowell said. "At the Sportsman's Range, I can do rapid-fire training from a standing or crouching position. I can't do that anywhere else."

In his rapid-fire shooting exercise, Yowell uses his AR-15 rifle, a popular lightweight, intermediate cartridge magazine-fed, air-cooled rifle that can accommodate a variety of small-caliber rounds.

He loads two magazines with two rounds each, then brings the rifle up and fires off two rounds in quick succession. He then drops the magazine out and quickly slams in the second, firing off another two fast rounds.

"It's a holdover from my Marine Corps



Photos by Steve Elliott

The brass flies as retired Sgt. 1st Class Siva Williams fires off rounds from an AR-15 rifle Jan. 3 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis Sportsman's Range.



Army Maj. Maribel Morgan (center) gets some tips Jan. 3 on how to properly hold a .45 automatic pistol from friend Arthur Salazar (right) and her husband, Julius Morgan (left), at the JBSA-Camp Bullis Sportsman's Range.

training," Yowell said. "The Sportsman's Range is the only place to practice that kind of craft."

The retired colonel also noted that while the JBSA-Camp Bullis range may be limited on hours and weather availability, it more than makes up for it on its affordability and flexibility.

"It's a great asset," Yowell said.

It's also an asset many who have been stationed in San Antonio are already familiar with.

"I shot here while I was on active duty," said retired Sgt. 1st Class Siva Williams, who was shooting at AR-15 and a .45 pistol and last stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. "The prices here are very good compared to civilian ranges. I get out here every weekend if the weather permits."

While the Sportsman's Range doesn't have any type of shooting competitions, they are in the process of standing up a rod and gun club,



While the range is clear Jan. 3, a pair of shooters place their targets at the Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis Sportsman's Range.



Retired Marine Corps Col. Ron Yowell squeezes off two quick rounds from his AR-15 rifle Jan. 3 at the JBSA-Camp Bullis Sportsman's Range. In this shooting exercise he used while he was on active duty, Yowell loads two magazines with two rounds each, then brings the rifle up and fires off two rounds in quick succession. He then drops the magazine out and quickly slams in the second, firing off another two fast rounds.



Army Maj. Maribel Morgan takes aim at a target with a .45 automatic pistol Jan. 3 at the JBSA-Camp Bullis Sportsman's Range. Morgan is a neonatologist assigned to the San Antonio Military Medical Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.



Retired Marine Corps Col. Ron Yowell fires a .45 automatic pistol Jan. 3 at the JBSA-Camp Bullis Sportsman's Range.



There are a variety of targets shooters can take aim at while at the JBSA-Camp Bullis Sportsman's Range. Shooters must bring their own firearms and ammunition.

to allow DOD ID cardholders to sponsor two non-DOD guests and raised the fees to allow our range to continue to stay open. It's working out pretty well.

The Sportsman's Range is just one option in a variety of outdoor activities available at JBSA-Camp Bullis. There is also seasonal hunting and an outdoor archery range available as well.

JBSA-Camp Bullis Outdoor Recreation also offers recreational vehicle storage, a picnic area, primitive camp grounds and the lodge for special occasions.

For more information on outdoor activities and the costs associated with each activity, call 295-7577, 295-7529 or visit <http://www.fortsammvr.com/recreation/camp-bullis.html>.

## News Briefs

### ***Blast, Gunshot Wound Study at BAMC***

People who have sustained a gunshot or blast injury can take part in a Brooke Army Medical Center Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation study investigating the long-term effects of retained metal fragments sustained from combat wounds. Participants must have been injured while deployed by a blast with or without retained metal fragments and it must be more than three months since the injury. Participants must be 18 or older and the study requires one visit, a study questionnaire and a blood draw. Study participants will also receive a gift card as compensation. Call 916-7879 or 916-9181 for more information.

### ***BAMC Behavioral Medicine Seeks Qualified Dog Teams***

The Department of Behavioral Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center is looking for dog teams to assist in the department's health care mission. Interested owners must present necessary certification documents from a nationally recognized curriculum program at the time of interview. During the interview, teams must demonstrate the animal's ability to respond to the owner's commands. For more information or to set up an interview, call 916-2069 or 916-2096. Bring the animal and all necessary documentation to the interview.

### ***ID Cards/DEERS Office Move***

The ID Cards main office formerly at building 367 has relocated to building 2263, on the first floor of 2484 Stanley road. Customers are serviced by appointments only, made by visiting <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/hra/idcard.aspx>. Emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. For more information, call 221-0415/2278.

### ***Army In/Out Processing***

All Soldiers and their families arriving and departing Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston must report to building 2263, room 100A at 2484 Stanley Road. The office recently relocated from building 367. For more information, call 221-2076/0146.

# Civilian police officers throughout Joint Base San Antonio now wearing insignias to display rank

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph  
Public Affairs

Department of the Air Force civilian police officers attired in dark blue uniforms are a common sight at Joint Base San Antonio locations, but some are now wearing oak leaf, bar and chevron insignia that distinguish them by their rank and are comparable with the rank insignia of their military counterparts.

Last month, in compliance with a decision by Headquarters Air Force, Department of the Air Force civilian police and guards at JBSA started wearing commensurate military-type rank based on their general schedule pay grade.

Insignia are worn by civilian police officers at the GS-7 level and above, while entry-level officers at the GS-5 and GS-6 levels, who make up the majority of the JBSA civilian police force, continue to wear no insignia.

JBSA's law enforcement component under the leadership of the 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group comprises the 502nd Security Forces Squadron at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the 802nd SFS at JBSA-Lackland and the 902nd SFS at JBSA-Randolph.

Bryan Gillespie, 502nd SFS director, said the Air Force implemented commensurate rank for several reasons.

"As in the military, visual rank systems aid in establishing an immediate chain of command that is vital in emergency operations and also aids



Police Cpl. Louie Cisneros (left) and Airman Aaron Orvedahl (right), both assigned to 502nd Security Forces Squadron, call in a traffic stop Jan. 14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. In compliance with a decision by the Air Force Security Forces Center, Department of the Air Force civilian police and guards at JBSA started wearing commensurate military-type rank based on their general schedule pay grade December 2014. Insignias are worn by civilian police officers at the GS-7 level and above, while entry-level officers at the GS-5 and GS-6 levels, who make up the majority of the JBSA civilian police force, continue to wear no insignias.

efficient operations of the unit," he said. "Also, as a common practice, police departments have used rank insignia since the 1800s, so inclusion of rank within the Department of Air Force police follows tradition."

Civilians at the GS-7 and GS-8 levels, designated as corporals and sergeants, respectively, wear chevron insignia, while those at the GS-9, GS-10 and GS-11 levels wear single silver bars. These individuals typically serve as superintendents, and shift and section supervisors.

At the GS-11 and GS-12 levels, civilian police officers who serve as deputy chiefs and assistant operations officers wear double silver bars commensurate with rank insignia of an Air Force captain; at the GS-12 level and above, civilians who are directors or deputy directors wear the gold and silver oak leaf cluster

insignia similar to those of majors and lieutenant colonels.

Alberto Jorge-Sanchez, 502nd SFLSG Group Support Staff director, said the Air Force has used

military-type rank for civilian police and guards in the past, but to a limited degree.

"The only rank insignia authorized were corporal for GS-7 and sergeant for GS-8," he said. "There was no rank insignia for GS-9 through GS-14. These grades were given title bars in lieu of rank."

Richard Coon, 902nd SFS assistant operations officer, said the new regulations establish a "clear line of authority."

"It separates you from your troops through the echelon of rank," he said.

Coon said it also provides a visual cue for members of the base community.

"When I'm on site, people will know I'm a supervisor, whether they're civilians or military members," he said.

Gillespie said the insignia allow civilian officers

to be "more accurately recognized for their positions, experience and authority as leaders within the squadron."

"The ranks also help our members to establish their position and experience when operating with outside agencies," he said.

Police Sgt. Travis Cooper, 802nd SFS supervisory police officer, said the wear of rank "is a longtime military tradition that establishes a structure and identifies leadership roles within the unit."

"Young Airmen and less experienced civilian officers can go to their NCOs or civilian officers in a supervisory position to obtain the proper mentorship and guidance as needed and see the rank that identifies their supervisors," he said.

Jorge-Sanchez called commensurate rank "a

sign of inclusiveness within the Department of Defense and security forces family and a tremendous morale booster within JBSA."

"Civilian police officers operate in an environment conducive to the use of military-type rank," he said. "The nature of their work requires easy identification of key civilian police leaders within security forces squadrons and also provides a common framework when working jointly with our civilian counterparts during incidents and emergencies."

Col. Michael Gimbrone, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group commander, said the Air Force's decision on commensurate rank has "many far-reaching benefits."

"Air Force-wide, it serves as a way of standardizing the appearance of the police force from base to base and it provides a visible connection between our civilian and military defenders," he said.

"For the members of the JBSA community, seeing military-type rank helps provide a common understanding of the level of responsibility assigned to any individual member," Gimbrone added. "For the DAF police and guards themselves, it facilitates their interaction with members of the base community and with members of civilian police agencies, along with instilling a sense of pride that goes along with earning the privilege of pinning on and wearing the rank insignia."



Police Sgt. Steven Bostic (left), 502nd Security Forces Squadron desk sergeant, participates in use of force training with Tad Robertson (right), 502nd Security Forces Squadron training instructor Jan. 14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. In compliance with a decision by the Air Force Security Forces Center, Department of the Air Force civilian police and guards at JBSA started wearing commensurate military-type rank based on their general schedule pay grade as of December 2014. Insignias are worn by civilian police officers at the GS-7 level and above, while entry-level officers at the GS-5 and GS-6 levels, who make up the majority of the JBSA civilian police force, continue to wear no insignias

Photos by Johnny Saldivar

# Honoring the legacy of Navy nurses worldwide

By Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle

Commander, Navy Medicine Education and Training Command and Director, U.S. Navy Nurse Corps



Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle

Jan. 6 commemorated the 72nd anniversary of one of the most tragic, yet heroic and triumphant, moments in Navy Nurse Corps history.

On that date in 1942, 11 Navy nurses and three civilian nurses were taken prisoner by Japanese forces in the Philippines. During their 37-month imprisonment, these nurses – known as the “Band of Angels” – continued to care for the sick and injured despite the fact they suffered from their own malnutrition and disease. They were liberated in February 1945.

Throughout World War II, Navy nurses served at 40 naval hospitals, 176 dispensaries, and on board 12 hospital ships. They earned over 300 military awards and honors for their efforts.

From the proud and humble beginnings of the first Navy nurses, “The Sacred Twenty,”

to today’s force of more 4,000, Navy nurses are committed to duty and heroic sacrifice in the service of our country. Navy nurses have set the highest standards for our profession since its inception, and we continue to carry the banner of that proud legacy.

Today, we continue this proud tradition of selfless service at home and around the globe, at military treatment facilities, ambulatory care centers, research facilities, education and training commands, and a broad range of opera-

tional settings.

Navy nurses are also at the forefront of joint operations, serving alongside health care providers from our sister services and with allied forces medical teams.

Paying homage to the “Band of Angels,” I would be remiss if I did not highlight our continued presence and commitment to our mission in the Pacific, where Navy nurses are on call and ready to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, as well as annual partnership missions like Pacific Partnership. We are a team of professionals who serve with one overall mission: to provide the best possible care for our patients.

This charge to care both on and off the battlefield is truly a calling, not just a career. It’s a calling to deliver competent and compassionate nursing care whenever and wherever we are needed.

For many patients, the first person they see when they open their eyes after surgery, ill-

ness, or an injury is their Navy nurse. No matter where they are serving, Navy nurses stand ready at bedsides around the globe and are a vital force in any setting.

I am humbled by our

Navy nurses who are recognized for bravery, heroism, and leadership throughout our naval history. From the proud and modest beginnings of the first Navy nurses and the “Band of An-

gels” to today’s force of nurses, our professional Navy Nurse Corps waves the banner of our Navy legacy – providing caring, compassionate, and competent care, anytime, anywhere.



Photo courtesy Navy Medicine Live

Navy Nurse Corps prisoners of war pose with Vice Adm. Thomas C. Kincaid, Commander of 7th Fleet and Southwest Pacific Force, after their rescue from Los Banos, Feb. 23, 1945. They were imprisoned Jan. 6, 1942 while stationed in the Philippines.

## NMETC staff, instructors help make hospital corps school students’ holidays brighter

By Petty Officer 1st Class

Jacquelyn D. Childs

Navy Medicine Education and Training Command Public Affairs

The Navy Medicine Training Support Center’s Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions leadership hosted a trip to San Antonio’s Sea World Dec. 23 for Navy students attending Hospital Corps “A” and “C” schools at the tri-service Medical Education and Training Campus.

CSADD members alerted students to the once-annual free entrance offered to all military personnel, provided the students transportation, and paid for parking.

The Sea World trip was one of several events NMTSC enlisted leaders and CSADD members hosted for students during the holiday leave period.

It was part of an effort to “ease the pain” for approximately 300 Navy,

Army and Air Force students who were not able to make it home for the holidays, many of whom spent their first Christmas away from home, according to Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Haydee Perez, an NMTSC CSADD and Petty Officer Association leader.

“A lot of the students didn’t have the money to go home, and some are so close to graduation they couldn’t take leave now and have leave

for after they graduate,” Perez said. “So we hosted these events to keep them busy and allow them the opportunity to interact outside of the classroom.”

Perez said many students historically are not aware of Sea World’s annual military appreciation day, and many of those who are miss the event because of a lack of transportation.

When the students returned from Sea World

in the evening, they were invited to a dinner and movie night at the barracks hosted by NMTSC’s POA. The students dined on pizza and wings while socializing and watching National Lampoon’s “Christmas Vacation.”

“It was a way to boost morale,” Perez said. “A lot of the students who came met for the first time and got to know each other on the trip.”

For Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Rogelyn

Cambe, NMTSC POA treasurer, the Sea World trip was a way to introduce the students to the Navy Medicine family concept.

“It’s just letting them know they have a family within the Navy,” Cambe said. “This environment’s a lot different than on the ship where you’re all there together sitting around a cooked meal. We wanted to let them know they have some-

# U.S. Air Force's European consolidation results announced

By Capt. Sybil Taunton  
U.S. Air Forces in Europe and  
Air Forces Africa Public Affairs

The Office of the Secretary of Defense announced the results of the European Infrastructure Consolidation review Jan. 8, which will realign several missions in U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa within seven years.

Under the EIC, the Defense Department will divest three installations in the U.K., including realigning missions from Royal Air Force Mildenhall to other installations in Europe and consolidating intelligence centers at RAF Croughton.

As required by the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, the DOD also used the EIC process to validate Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, streamlining efforts, previously approved and

announced in 2012. The DOD has concluded the Lajes streamlining process should continue and is expected to complete by the fall of 2015. The Air Force will adjust the size of the unit to reflect the level of support required while keeping forces at the installation.

"We understand these changes will have substantial impacts on the local areas, but we are dedicated to working closely with our community neighbors, defense partners, personnel and families to ease the impact of these transitions as much as possible," said Gen. Frank Gorenc, the USAFE-AFAFRICA commander. "These infrastructure consolidations will allow USAFE-AFAFRICA to better meet alliance mission requirements."

The divestment of RAF Mildenhall will result in the move of currently as-

signed missions to other installations within the command. Upon completion of the realignment process, which is anticipated to occur after 2020, the Air Force is estimated to save \$125 million annually, primarily in infrastructure maintenance costs and facility upgrades.

While there will be no difference in operational capabilities, the divestment is also projected to reduce approximately 1,300 military, civilian and local national positions.

In addition, roughly 2,600 personnel are projected to be relocated to other locations in the U.K. as well as to Ramstein and Spangdahlem Air Bases in Germany.

"The U.K. remains an essential location for forward-based and ready forces," Gorenc said. "Our close relationship

with the U.K. government and integrated missions with U.K. forces remain integral to USAFE's ability to execute successful missions in support of our NATO allies."

Additionally in the U.K., intelligence and support elements located at RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth will consolidate. This will be an investment into a new intelligence complex at RAF Croughton to create efficiencies in operational mission support.

This consolidation will result in the divestiture of RAF Molesworth and RAF Alconbury in 2022 and the inactivation of the 501st Combat Support Wing.

It will also result in



the projected reduction of approximately 200 military, civilian and local national positions from Alconbury-Molesworth and the relocation of 1,200 personnel to RAF Croughton.

"The RAF Croughton site ensures continuation of the strong U.S. intelligence relationship with the United Kingdom and will result in an exponential increase in U.S.-NATO intelligence

collaboration efforts," Gorenc said.

Not only will the consolidation of missions at RAF Croughton result in greater efficiencies and operational synergy, it will also allow the U.S. government to meet mission requirements in the most financially responsible way.

"The consolidation at RAF Croughton will realize savings of approximately \$74 million each year, with a return on investment of approximately four years," Gorenc said.

In addition to the changes within the U.K., the 606th Air Control Squadron at Spangdahlem AB will be relocated to Aviano AB, Italy. The move of the squadron and its 300 positions is expected to save the Air Force approximately \$50 million in military

See USAFE, P17

# U.S. Army plans to further consolidate footprint in Europe

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

While the big news coming out of the Pentagon Jan. 8 was the closure of U.S. Air Force facilities at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, the Army will also consolidate or close several facilities in Europe.

The Department of Defense announced changes to the U.S. military presence in Europe during a Jan. 8 press conference at the Pentagon.

The changes are the result of a two-year process, called the European Infrastructure Consolidation to review U.S. force presence and

facilities in Europe.

Changes recommended by the EIC will occur over the next several years, and are expected to "produce savings that will enable us to maintain a robust force presence in Europe," said Derek Chollet, the assistant secretary of defense for International Security Affairs.

Chollet said the changes would consolidate some existing support infrastructure, but would not affect operational ability, or the ability of the United States to support its partners in Europe.

In Germany, the Army's Barton Barracks

at U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach will be returned to the host nation. At U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz, the Hopps-taedten Waterworks, the Pfeffelbach Waterworks, and the site at Husterhoeh Kaserne will close. A portion of the Army-run Pulaski Barracks will also shutter.

The Weilimdorf Warehouse Site at U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart is also slated for closure, as is the Mainz-Kastel Station and the Amelia Earhart Hotel at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden. The Army will partially return to



Germany the Artillery Kaserne, part of U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria.

In Italy, about half of Camp Darby, near Livorno, will be returned to the host nation. Additionally, the Vicenza Health

Center – an Army-run facility – will be converted to outpatient and specialty care only.

In Belgium, the Brussels-leased site at U.S. Army Garrison BENELUX will close down, as will the Schinnen Emma Mine site in the Netherlands.

Recommendations for change, as part of EIC, were developed using a process similar to what the DOD has used in the past to develop recommendations for Base Realignment and Closure, said John Conger, the acting deputy under secretary of defense for installations and environment.

"We looked at capac-

ity, requirements, military value, at cost, and at the diplomatic dynamics involved in each action," he said.

The announced changes in Europe will not happen immediately and will likely happen alongside other changes not directly related to EIC, he said.

"These recommendations will be executed over the next several years," Conger said. "That does not mean everything will remain static while these changes occur. There were consolidations made before EIC, and there will undoubtedly be future basing actions."

# Free tax preparation, advice available to military families

By Nick Simeone  
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

With the new year comes the annual dread of tax-filing season and the confusion and stress that can go along with it, especially for military families whose tax returns can be further complicated by frequent relocations, involvement of rental properties and other aspects of military life.

To ease the burden, the Defense Department, through Military OneSource (<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>) is teaming up again this year with H&R Block to offer no-cost tax preparation to the military community with a promise of guaranteed accuracy, a service that otherwise could cost military families hundreds of dollars or more.

Military OneSource

offers no-cost tax consultation and no-cost tax preparation and filing to service and family members, as well as to reservists regardless of activation status, survivors, and separated service members until 180 days after their retirement, discharge or end-of-tour date, said Anthony Jackson, a Military OneSource program analyst.

Since it's online, the service is available to eli-

gible tax-filers regardless of where they are. "They can do one federal and up to three state tax returns – again, at no cost to the service or family member," Jackson said.

This year, he said, the service is adding features to accommodate those with special tax-filing needs. "If your tax situation includes rental property, charitable deductions or mortgage interest, this software

can accommodate those particular situations," he explained.

Tax experts also are available by phone at no cost for anyone who may have questions before they start using the online tax preparation software.

"You're getting individuals when you're talking – tax consultants who are thoroughly educated on the military situation, no matter what it is," Jack-

son said. They also have knowledge of special tax exemptions for combat duty and other situations unique to the military.

The tax service being offered by Military OneSource is currently active at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>.

Military OneSource was established by the DOD in 2002 to provide comprehensive information on military life free of charge.

# Tuition assistance, VA education benefits guidance updated

The Department of Defense recently updated guidance on the utilization of tuition assistance and Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits.

The DOD and DVA have announced that service members are no longer authorized to use both TA and DVA benefits from the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Re-

serve program (chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code) or Reserve Educational Assistance Program (chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code) for the same course.

To implement this policy change, DOD required all schools participating in the Tuition Assistance program to sign updated memo-

randa of understanding stating that the schools will not certify the same class for both Tuition Assistance and chapter 1606 or 1607. As of Sept. 4, 2014, all participating schools have signed such memoranda.

Soldiers can use TA and DVA benefits from the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program or

Post-9/11 GI Bill program simultaneously for the same course through the TA Top-up benefit.

The amount of the Top-up benefit can be equal to the difference between the total cost of a college course and the amount of TA that is paid by the Army for the course.

The amount of the benefit is limited to the

amount that the person would receive for the same course if regular GI Bill benefits were being paid.

In no case can the amount paid by TA combined with the amount paid by DVA be more than the total cost of the course. If a Soldier receives the Top-up benefit, his or her regular GI Bill benefits will be

reduced.

Reserve component Soldiers who qualify for Chapter 30 Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits may use those benefits concurrently with TA.

For more information, call 888-442-4551 or visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov>.

*(Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)*

## NMETC from P14

one to talk to during the holidays."

Other holiday events hosted by NMTSC's CSADD and enlisted leadership organizations included a Brunch with Santa for Sailors and their families, a student game night and a movie marathon.

According to students, they welcomed the opportunity to get off post to visit Sea World, and were impressed by the leaders in the organizations, indicating they will seek future opportunities to get involved.

"I really enjoyed the trip to Sea World," said Seaman Apprentice Elora Hoffman, a Hospi-

tal Corps School student. "I'm a small-town girl, so everything's new to me. I'd really like to know when the next CSADD meeting is scheduled so I can go."

NMTSC is an echelon four command and reports directly to the Navy Medicine Education and Training Command, which manages Navy Medicine's formal education and training programs. Both are part of the Navy Medicine team, a global health care network of Navy medical professionals around the world who provide high-quality health care to eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide.

## LEADERS from P2

servant leaders for a lifetime of service.

That service is not only to our nation while in uniform, but ideally even after taking off the cloth of our country in service to wherever you may call home.

This final point is why I believe it is critical to develop academic affiliations with other institutions of higher learning that may allow our graduates to walk away with degrees and certifications that will allow them to practice their craft in the civilian world at some future date.

This expertise is much needed throughout our country and is another

reason why METC exists, even if not appreciated by all at present. We can do both and are working hard to make this vision a reality. More on that topic in a future article.

To summarize, I believe our mission is clear: to "Train the World's Finest Medics, Corpsmen and Technicians."

But we need a new vision statement, one that sees a little farther and a little more clearly. That is the following: "Train for the mission... Educate for a lifetime of service" to our nation, her people, and the communities we call home.

That is who we are and why we exist, our culture, both at METC and at the DHA Educa-

tion & Training Directorate as this noble task applies to both officers and enlisted. We eat last together, like the family we are.

Although I understand we have problems to solve and are lacking staff in certain critical areas, it is the challenge we have been given.

This is not a competition between services or siblings, although it may feel like that at times.

To be honest, I often think about how much easier this would be to accomplish if we were doing this in a deployed setting where trust is ever present.

So there you have it. The key to the success of our organization gets

back to one thing ... trust in our services' storied culture of service.

We must instill trust in those we have the privilege of supporting and those we are training, because we care and believe in our mission and vision.

Be proud of what you do, your culture, and your role in the process of creating future servant leaders.

Getting back to the book that resulted in my writing this article, be inspired to "always eat last" and having the privilege to serve. When asked what you do at METC be proud to state that at METC, we "Train for the mission ... educate for a lifetime!"



**NEC Innovation Showcase**

The winter Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Innovation Showcase is scheduled for 1 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday at the Sam Houston Community Center, 1395 Chaffee Road. Hosted by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Network Enterprise Center, the showcase will feature more than 25 live demonstrations of various technologies from a wide array of companies focusing on network forensics, cyber security, signal management solutions and much more. Register for this free event at <http://www.FederalEvents.com>.

**Ostomy Support Group**

The United Ostomy Association of America ostomy support group holds its first meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the pediatric residents conference room, TN-122, on the first floor of the San Antonio Military Medical Center's consolidated tower.

**Get Lucky At Monte Carlo Night**

Roll the dice at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club from 6:30-11 p.m. Jan. 30 and enjoy a night of gaming, food and the chance to win prizes such as a large flat-screen TV, iPad or tablet, spa gift certificate, Kindle Fire and more. Cost is \$20. There is limited space so reservations are required. This event is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor is implied or intended. Call 222-9386.

**Bowlers Receive Free Games When Purchasing Food**

Through February, patrons spending \$7 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Snack Bar can show your receipt at the bowling counter to receive two games free, including rental shoes. This special is valid every Wednesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to close. For more information, call 221-3683.

**'The Murder Room' At Harlequin Dinner Theatre**

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre starts their 2015 season with "The Murder Room" by Jack Sharkey. This is a fast-paced British farce, with a kooky plot full of ups and down, mistaken identities, hysterical characters, lots of action and witty, clever dialogue. Who is trying to kill who, how and where? It runs through Feb. 28 and is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No federal endorsement of sponsor is implied or intended. For more information or to make reservations, call 222-9694.

**ID Cards/DEERS Office Move**

The ID Cards main office formerly at building 367 has relocated to building 2263, on the first floor of 2484 Stanley road. Customers are serviced by appointments only, which can be made by visiting <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/hra/idcard.aspx>. Emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. For more information, call 221-0415/2278.

**Army In/Out Processing**

All Soldiers and their families arriving and departing Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston must report to building 2263, room 100A at 2484 Stanley Road. The

office recently relocated from building 367. For more information, call 221-2076/0146.

**Air Force Comptroller Office Relocation**

Finance personnel services for Air Force military and civilian personnel relocated from building 4196 to building 2263, room 300. For more information, call 221-1415.

**Helping Us Grow Securely Playgroup**

The interactive playgroup for parents and children up to age 5 meets 9-11 a.m. each Tuesday at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Middle School Teen Center. No registration required. Call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

**Take Aim at Sportsman's Range**

Hours for the Sportsman's Range at JBSA-Camp Bullis are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting. Cost to shoot is \$10 per DOD ID cardholder and \$15 per non-DOD ID cardholder. A DOD ID cardholder can purchase an annual pass for \$60. Cardholders are allowed to sponsor two non-DOD ID cardholder guests. Guests must be in the same vehicle as the sponsor. Call 295-7577.

**Military and Family Life Counselors**

Military and Family Life Counselors address a variety of issues such as stress, anxiety and deployment. MFLCs are licensed mental health professionals who provide situational, problem-solving counseling anonymously and confidentially. No written records are kept and it is free to military and family members. Contact a MFLC at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

at 517-6666 general number, 243-4143 for Army students and 488-6804 for Air Force and Navy students; at JBSA-Lackland, call 540-5025 or 540-5030 for adults, 627-0054 or 540-5033 for children and youths; and at JBSA-Randolph, call 627-1223 or 426-1412 for adults, 627-0338 or 627-0525 for children and youths.

**Spouses' Club of Fort Sam Houston Area**

The Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area has a variety of events coming up such as monthly luncheons, community outreach and fun activity clubs like Bunko, a book club and bingo. Call 705-4767.

**Loan Locker/Lending Closet**

The loan locker provides temporary loans of household items to incoming and departing permanent party personnel, students and TDY, retirees and civilians assigned to the area. Items available include: high chairs, pack and plays, strollers and booster seats, pots and pans, dishes, silverware, coffee pots, baking dishes, irons, ironing boards, toasters, vacuum cleaners, tables and chairs. Bring a copy of your orders. To utilize the Lending Closet at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-1681. The Loan Locker at JBSA-Randolph is open Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., call 652-5321 for details.

**Immigration, Naturalization**

An Immigration and Naturalization Service representative will answer questions about immigration and citizenship from noon to 2 p.m. second Tuesday of every month at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. Call 221-2418 or 221-2705.



**Military.com Spouse Experience**

The Military.com Spouse Experience takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at the Pearl Stable, 307 Pearl Parkway. All military spouses – past, present and future – are invited. Register

online at <http://www.spousebuzz.com/military-spouse-experience>. Lunch is provided.

**All-Army Drill Meet**

The 5th Army ROTC Brigade All-Army Drill Meet takes place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 200 E. Market St. Free parking is available at the Federal Courthouse Building. Call 295-2014 for more information.

**CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

<b>PROTESTANT SERVICES</b>	11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>Main Post (Gift) Chapel</b>	<b>Main Post (Gift) Chapel</b>
Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way	4:45 p.m. – Reconciliation
8 and 11 a.m. - Traditional	5:30 p.m. - Evening Mass
<b>Dodd Field Chapel</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Building 1721, 3600 Dodd Blvd.	8 a.m. - Morning Mass, AMEDD
8:30 a.m. - Samoan	8:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC
10:30 a.m. - Gospel	9:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, MPC
<b>Army Medical Department</b>	11:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC
<b>Regimental Chapel</b>	12:30 p.m. - Morning Mass, DFC
Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.	
9:20 a.m. - 32nd Medical Brigade	
Collective Service	
11:01 - Contemporary "Crossroads"	
<b>Brooke Army Medical</b>	
<b>Center Chapel</b>	
Building 3600,	
3851 Roger Brooke Rd.	
10 a.m. - Traditional	
<b>CATHOLIC SERVICES</b>	
<b>Daily Mass</b>	
Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel	
Building 3600,	
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.	
11:05 a.m., Monday through Friday	
<b>Main Post (Gift) Chapel</b>	
Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way	
	<b>JEWISH SERVICES</b>
	8 p.m. - Jewish Worship,
	Friday, MPC
	8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat,
	Friday, MPC
	<b>ISLAMIC SERVICE</b>
	1:30 p.m. – Jumma, Friday,
	AMEDD
	<b>LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES</b>
	1 p.m. - LDS Worship, Sunday,
	AMEDD
	<b>BUDDHIST SERVICES</b>
	1 p.m. – Buddhist Services,
	Sunday, AMEDD

*For worship opportunities of faith groups not listed here, please visit the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Chaplain's website at <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain>.*

**USAFE from P15**

construction funding. Following the relocation of the 606th ACS, Spandgdahlem AB will receive the 352nd Special Operations Group, currently located at RAF Mildenhall. This move will include about 10 CV-22 Ospreys and 10 MC-130J Commando II aircraft, and associated

personnel. An exact timeline for EIC movements is still being considered, though some relocation efforts are expected to start within a year. Larger efforts, which include consolidation and divestments, will take place after facilities are ready to receive the mission relocations. Divestments are expected to be com-

plete within seven years. "We took a serious and pragmatic look at how we can most effectively meet our commitments," Gorenc said. "These changes increase our ability to meet the needs of a new dynamic security environment in Europe. Our vow to NATO's Article 5 remains unbreakable and unwavering."

**AER from P9**

ing documents which will be outlined for the applicant based on the information provided on the application. Most applicants will need to provide transcripts through the fall semester, the Student Aid Report from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the

Soldier's leave and earnings statement for active duty Soldiers. AER awards "needs-based" scholarships, based on the FAFSA and transcripts. The amount of the award varies based on the number of qualified applicants and scholarship funds available. Last year, the average award was \$2,600 for

children and \$1,900 for spouses. AER is a private non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to active and retired Soldiers and their families. Since its incorporation in 1942, AER has provided more than \$1.6 billion to more than 3.6 million Soldiers, families and retirees.