

FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

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JBSA HOTLINES



DOD Safe Helpline
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JBSA Sexual Assault Hotline
808-SARC (7272)

JBSA Domestic Abuse Hotline
367-1213

JBSA Duty Chaplain
221-9363

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



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More than 4,200 Kansans from the Fort Riley area attended an Army Community Listening Session Feb. 9 in Junction City, Kansas. Officials from Department of the Army will be attending the upcoming Fort Sam Houston Army Community Listening Session at 1:30 p.m. March 31 at the Bexar County Main Exposition Hall at 3201 E. Houston St. The hall is next to the Freeman Coliseum and AT&T Center.

Photo courtesy Fort Riley Public Affairs Office

Army plans listening session March 31

By Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos
Army North Public Affairs

The Army will hold a listening session at 1:30 p.m. March 31 at the Bexar County Main Exposition Hall to discuss possible troop reductions at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

“The purpose of the March 31 listening session is to allow Army officials the ability to make an informed holistic decision on where cuts will be made, if a further drawn down of the force is required,” said Mark Greszler, U.S. Army North deputy chief of staff for installation management.

The Army Listening Session is at the Bexar County Main Exposition Hall, 3201 E. Houston St., next to the Freeman Coliseum and AT&T Center.

This session will address the potential reductions of the Army to between 420,000 and 450,000 military personnel. With a possible further reduction in military personnel, there will also be a



Photo courtesy Fort Riley Public Affairs Office
Brig. Gen. Roger Cloutier Jr., Army director of Force Management, is expected to speak at the town hall-like Army Community Listening Session March 31 in San Antonio.

reduction in the civilian personnel.

If these reductions go into place, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston could lose nearly 6,000 Soldiers and Army civilians.

The State of Texas Comptroller estimates that the military impact on the state is \$150 billion and accounts for 6 percent of the state's economic activities.

Joint Base San Antonio, the

largest joint base operating in the Department of Defense, accounts for nearly a third of the impact.

“The community town hall gathering will allow Army leadership to outline what the Army has done so far regarding force restructuring and why budget restraints have led to various stationing decisions,” said Will Garrett, vice president for economic development, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. “This session will also allow the San Antonio community the opportunity to have their voices heard about the Army presence in San Antonio.”

San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor and Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, commanding general U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and senior Army commander of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, as well as leaders from the Department of the Army and other local and state business leaders and elected officials, are expected to attend to address any questions the public may have.

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Financial readiness equals mission readiness

By Ingrid Bruns
Fort George G. Meade, Md.

As a long-time military spouse, I have held various jobs – and I know many of you can relate. I served as a military and family life counselor at an Airman & Family Readiness Center and had the privilege of working with fellow military families to create budgets, develop debt-payment plans, manage credit and save toward goals.

I remember one military spouse in particular who came to see me while her Airman was deployed. She “handled the family finances just fine” by doing what the couple had always done (even before the deployment).

She came to see me after hearing about how the readiness center offers free financial counseling at a spouse meeting. She thought she and her husband could be better at paying down debt and saving for a trip to see family when her husband returned.

I only met with her twice, but together we developed a plan she knew

she could follow and commit to by making minor tweaks to her everyday expenses during the deployment. I happened to see her again shortly before he came home and she gave me a big hug and shared with me she had managed to save enough for the visit home and pay off some of the credit card debt. I do hope that she and her Airman were able to stay on track and reach their goals – healthier finances usually means healthier Airmen.

The financial well-being of our military community is a significant readiness issue. Today’s complex financial environment and uncertain future demand we have the knowledge to make informed choices about budgeting, saving, credit and debt, the Thrift Savings Program, and many more “fact of life” issues.

To further complicate financial readiness plans, our military lifestyle includes frequent relocations and deployments. But our way of life doesn’t have to hinder our ability to manage family finances successfully.

There are a wide

variety of resources available to help put us on the path to financial freedom. Whether you prefer a classroom setting, an online experience, a multimedia approach, or an individual consultation in person or virtually, there is a solution to help meet your needs.

The Military & Family Readiness Centers provide educational opportunities to help you take charge of your finances. There are classes and workshops on specific topics, but you can also meet with a certified financial counselor to get personal assistance with your unique goals.

Emergency financial assistance organizations, such as the Air Force Aid Society can meet immediate financial needs in an emergency situation. The Society provides interest-free loans and grants based on the individual situation for needs such as: basic living expenses, emergency travel, vehicle expenses, funeral expenses, medical/dental care, child care/respite care, or moving expenses.

Military OneSource
(<http://www.military>

onesource.mil/) “Money Matters” provides financial calculators, articles, DVDs and CDs to help with topics, such as financial wellness, how-to strategies, sample budgets, mortgages and foreclosures. Financial consultants are available all day, every day to provide up to 12 sessions (per person, per issue) of no-cost, confidential financial counseling with a certified financial professional. Counselors are available online and by phone at 800-342-9647.

Several non-profit organizations, such as The USAA Educational Foundation (<https://usaaef.org/>) and the Consumer Federation of America’s Military Saves (<http://militarysaves.org/>) program, provide financial education, resources and programs to service members and their families. These programs aren’t about selling you products. They are strictly educational and focus on setting financial goals, managing credit and debt, saving and investing, and risk management.

Financial woes can negatively affect your

personal and family well-being and it can critically injure the effectiveness of your mission readiness. These resources are ideally used as a preventive measure rather than a corrective measure, but like the spouse I worked with years ago, you must be proactive in identifying what you need assistance with and seeking it out.

In spite of any perceived stigma, seek out help and take action for your financial security. Use the resources exclusively available to you as a military community to help you make effective financial decisions and improve your financial capability. Always remember that financial readiness is critical to mission readiness.

(Editor’s Note: The appearance of hyperlinks or inclusion of information for local businesses, activities or resources does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Air Force or the Department of Defense of the external website or the information, products or services contained therein.)

Senior enlisted advisers testify on quality of life on Capitol Hill

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

The senior enlisted advisers from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force were on Capitol Hill Feb. 25 to testify on quality of life concerns in the services.

The possible return of sequestration in fiscal year 2016 colored much

of the discussion.

Uncertainty over possible deterioration of healthcare benefits, compensation and family programs as well as job security were uniform among the four top enlisted leaders speaking before the House Appropriations Committee, subcommittee on military construction, veter-

ans affairs and related agencies.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey said caring for Soldiers, their families and Army civilians, “builds trust, and trust is predictability ... the unwritten contract between the American people, her leaders and the people of our Army.

“Today, we are back in

Iraq facing a new enemy,” he said. “But, perhaps the greatest enemy to the contract I’ve mentioned and to our future is fiscal uncertainty. I’m very conscious that every fiscal decision we make together has the potential to impact a Soldier’s trust in us as leaders. Not only does this affect our readiness today, it affects

the all-volunteer Army of tomorrow.”

Without predictable and adequate resources, Daile said the Army cannot plan and conduct required training or maintain diverse, high-quality Soldier and Family support programs.

“I see a return to

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<http://www.jbsa.af.mil>
<http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao>

News Briefs

502nd Air Base Wing Commander's Calls

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, will hold a series of commander's calls at JBSA locations. The first is at 10 a.m. March 27 at the Bob Hope Theater on JBSA-Lackland. The next is at 1 p.m. March 30 at Fleenor Auditorium on JBSA-Randolph. The final commander's call is at 10 a.m. April 3 at the Evans Theater on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Lincoln Military Housing Closure

The Lincoln Military Housing Office will be closed all day March 27 for an annual awards ceremony and will resume normal business operations March 30. In the event of a maintenance emergency, call 225-5564. For all other emergencies, call 911.

JROTC Blood Drive At Cole High School

The Robert G. Cole High School Junior ROTC is holding a blood drive from 2:30-6:30 p.m. April 2. Hosted by Brooke Army Medical Center, the blood drive takes place next to the JROTC building on the south side of the campus and is open to all those who wish to donate. For more information, call 368-8730, ext. 7018.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Fire Explorers Program

An open house for students from 14 to 20 years of age interested in joining the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Fire Explorers program is scheduled from noon to 2 p.m. April 4 at the main fire station at 3201 Schofield Road, building 3830. For more information, call 913-5334. Additional information about the program is available by visiting <http://exploring.learningforlife.org/services/career-exploring/fire-service/>.

Bicycle Registration

More than 23 bicycles were reported stolen in 2014 on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, according to 502nd Security Forces Squadron officials. Approximately 25 percent of these bicycles were recovered and returned to their owner, because the owner knew the serial number or the bicycle was registered with the 502nd SFS. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 18, the 502nd SFS Crime Prevention Unit will register bicycles at the Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Bike owners

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New BAMC 'Sisters In Arms' program aims to match female mentors, mentees

By Lori Newman
BAMC Public Affairs

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a mentor is someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person; a mentee is one who is being mentored, a protégé.

"Sisters In Arms," a new program at Brooke Army Medical Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, aims to match young female service members with senior noncommissioned officers to establish mentor/mentee relationships at Joint Base San Antonio.

"It only takes one follower to make a movement and once it gets momentum, once it catches, it will just flame," said BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Tabitha Gavia. "We expect this to

catch flame and to bring more people into the fold."

The first meeting, held Feb. 26, served as a kickoff for the new program. Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan, deputy commanding general for operations, U.S. Army Medical Command and chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, was the guest speaker for the event.

Keenan talked about what it was like being a young, small-town girl from Arkansas entering the Army in the 1980s, some of her mentors throughout her career and the importance of establishing those relationships.

Being able to connect with people is important, the general said.

"We have to reach out and look for those who might be struggling out there, because I think we

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Photo by Lori Newman

Maj. Gen. Jimmie Keenan, deputy commanding general (Operations), U.S. Army Medical Command and chief, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, shakes hands with Airman 1st Class Tamara Dawson Feb. 26 at the first "Sisters in Arms" meeting. Keenan talked about how important it is to connect with people and develop lasting relationships.

U.S. Army South plays a vital role in mass migration exercise



Photo by Kaye Richey

Soldiers assigned to U.S. Army South prepare for Integrated Advance 2015 Feb. 21 at a warehouse on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. IA 15 is an interdiction operation exercise that was set in the Caribbean and supports the Department of Homeland Security's Operation Vigilant Sentry – a program that deals with intervention and prevention of illegal migrants to the United States.

By Sgt. Mahlet Tesfaye
Army South Public Affairs

U.S. Army South commanded a migrant operations joint task force from Feb. 21-27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in support of the U.S. Southern Command-led Integrated Advance 2015 exercise.

IA 15, a migrant interdiction operation exercise set in the Caribbean which supports the Department of Homeland Security's Operation Vigilant Sentry – is a program that deals with intervention and prevention of illegal migrants to the United States.

Army South, as the Army service component command to SOUTHCOM, played

a key role in the exercise as they worked in a command post on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston while simulating a deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"A migrant operation is one of our most likely missions at Army South so we have to be prepared," said Maj. Gen. Joseph P. DiSalvo, Army South commanding general.

The main purpose of the exercise is to develop working relationships among the different U.S. agencies and departments to deter illegal mass migration, prevent future mass migration and encourage humanitarian relief support from inter-

See MIGRATION, P7

A smooth PCS is all about preparing and planning ahead

By Air Force Staff Sgt.
AnnieLiz Navarro
Joint Personal Property
Shipping Office

A move cannot begin without orders, but that doesn't mean you can't plan ahead. With the peak personal property moving season of May through August quickly approaching, people are encouraged to start proactively planning their moves.

When first notified of a permanent change of station assignment, immediately visit the Defense Personal Property System website at <http://www.Move.mil>. It contains a wealth of information covering many relocation topics. The majority of service members can use this site to set-up and manage their personal property shipments.

DPS website topics include personally procured move information, Department of Defense service policies for personal-property moves, a transportation office locator, loss and damage claims filing information and an authorized weight allowance table

As a start, validate your weight allowance using the table in the "It's

Your Move" pamphlet at <http://www.Move.mil> or the "Plan My Move" pamphlet at <https://apps.militaryonesource.mil>. Service members can find basic entitlement information, shipment estimating tools, as well as "do's and don'ts" info that can prevent people from incurring personal debt due to excess costs.

Once PCS orders are in hand, set up your move online using <http://www.Move.mil> or immediately contact your installation transportation office. Being proactive will maximize your potential to receive your desired move dates.



Courtesy photo

As soon as members get their orders, the Department of Defense's Defense Personal Property System portal website at <http://www.Move.mil> is a good first stop.

If you are retiring, separating or if this is your first move, contact the local installation transportation office to receive one-on-one counseling. A counselor will provide a detailed explanation of entitlements and transportation service providers performance requirements. Listen carefully and ask lots of questions.

The months of May through August are the busiest months for personal property shipments. Prepare early and be as flexible as you can in offering alternate dates for packing/pick-up of your property.

Additionally, never

schedule a pick-up or delivery on the same date you will be vacating or gaining access to your residence. Also, do not schedule two different shipments for pick-up or delivery on the same day. A conflict that causes you to be unavailable during the agreed upon pickup or delivery date can – and will – be billed to you.

Once movement dates are confirmed, the transportation service provider will contact you to conduct a pre-move survey. Make sure you ask for this to occur at least five days prior to your initial pack date. Expect one pack day for every 4,000 pounds of estimated weight.

If you believe you have exceeded your weight allowance, request a reweigh with your TSP prior to accepting delivery of your property.

To ensure your pack and pick-up dates go unhindered, clean residence and furniture, unplug appliances, remove pictures from walls and move items from crawl spaces.

In addition, separate professional gear from the rest of your personal property and ensure the TSP annotates it on your



Courtesy photo

With the peak personal property moving season of May through August quickly approaching, people are encouraged to start proactively planning their move.

inventory. If documented at time of pick up, professional gear does not count against your authorized weight entitlement.

During packing up and pick up, safeguard passports, luggage, etc., and remove unused or unwanted items lying around the house. Time is money to the TSP and if not segregated, they will pack items you didn't intend to ship.

Claims for personal property loss and/or damage can also be filed via <http://www.Move.mil>. Military members and DOD employees have 75 days from their property delivery date to initiate a claim. If there are issues settling a claim, contact

the service-specific claims office. This information is available at http://www.move.mil/dod/claims_css/dod_claims.cfm.

Remember to file claims directly with the TSP. If an agreement cannot be reached on the monetary value between you and the TSP, or you discover additional damage at a later date, contact your service claims office for mediation or assistance.

For more information, call the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Transportation Office at 221-1605, the JBSA-Lackland PPPO at 671-2821 or the JBSA-Randolph PPPO at 652-1848/1849.

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have some people that struggle," she said.

"We shouldn't pass one person in the hall without walking up to them and saying, 'Hi, how are you doing today?'"

Keenan noted that "having somebody you can develop a relationship with when things are hard, to have somebody who you can

go to and ask them those tough questions" is something we all need and "it's not just a Monday through Friday, 12-hour shift thing."

During the packed meeting, Keenan took time to engage with several young service members, asking where they were from and what department they worked in.

"If you look around the room, everybody

here has something to contribute," Keenan said. "I ask that you reach out, that you lean in and listen – that's a key thing, to listen; but also speak up for each other and be there for each other."

Following the meeting, 14 senior NCOs signed up to be mentors and 24 young service members signed up as mentees. As the program grows the hope is to have one

mentor for every five mentees.

"Whether you have identified yourself as a mentor or a mentee, understand that the impact you are going to have on this organization, on Joint Base San Antonio, and on each other is indelible," Gavia said.

The group plans to meet monthly and to have some type of guest speaker or activity.

Mentors and mentees are also required to meet at least once a month on their own.

The "Sisters In Arms" program is open to young service members, senior NCOs and civilians from all the service branches throughout Joint Base San Antonio.

"Although we are called 'Sisters In Arms,' the program is also open to male service

members," said Master Sgt. Vanessa DeDe.

To participate in this program or for more information, call 916-1029. The next meeting is at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the San Antonio Military Medical Center Consolidated Tower, Anesthesia Classroom TK240, second floor. The guest speaker will be Col. Elizabeth Decker, 959th Medical Group commander.

MILITARY CELEBRATES HEROES OF THE ALAMO



Maj. Gen. Jimmie Keenan, deputy commanding general for operations, U.S. Army Medical Command and Chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, delivers the keynote address March 6 during the remembrance ceremony for the Fall of the Alamo. The ceremony commemorated the 179th anniversary of the Fall of the Alamo after a 13-day siege by the Mexican Army. Even though the Alamo fell, the bravery of its defenders inspired thousands of fellow countrymen and Texas to win the war of independence from Mexico six weeks later.



Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Military members from around San Antonio hold flags representing the nations and states of the defenders who fought the Mexican Army during the Battle of the Alamo in 1836. The Alamo fell March 6, 1836 after a 13-day siege. Every March 6, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Alamo Chapter remember the Fall of the Alamo at a ceremony near the Alamo.

News Briefs

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don't have to bring your bicycles; simply have basic information available at time of registration, such as a description and the serial number on the frame. For more information, call 221-0729.

Taylor Burk Clinic 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.

TxDOT, JBSA Partner On Travel Options Study

The Texas Department of Transportation and Joint Base San Antonio 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 ridesharing options such as carpooling, vanpooling and using public transportation. The commuter survey portion of this study is a 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 JBSA 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/JBSAcommute>. For more information, call 652-3477 or 652-5307.

Navy Reservists in San Antonio celebrate a centennial of service

By L.A. Shively
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Navy Reservists in San Antonio are celebrating a centennial of service to the Alamo city and to the country and honored their heritage during a March 8 ceremony that included reading a proclamation from the City of San Antonio, unveiling a Fiesta medal featuring the Navy Reserve Centennial logo, and, cutting a special birthday cake.

The ceremony at the Navy Operational Support Center San Antonio at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston opened with an awards presentation to the Sailors of the Quarter.

Cmdr. Stephen Cazalas, executive officer for NOSC San Antonio, then paid special tribute to the local detachments of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-22 and Amphibious Construction Battalion One, both known as Seabees, for their 73rd anniversary.

Although Reservists are full-time civilians who serve in the Navy part time, San Antonio Navy Reservists have deployed with their units and individually to Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world numerous times, providing surge capacity to the active duty military.

"In every conflict since World War I, Navy Reserve

Sailors have deployed to protect our nation's freedom or served their communities," Cazalas said.

"Although Reserve Sailors in San Antonio mustered and were paid," Cazalas said, describing the early years, "the first site for Navy Reservists to meet and drill regularly was established in 1950 at 311 Arsenal St. and occupied five floors."

Commissioned as San Antonio's Naval and Marine Corps Training Center, only four units drilled regularly at that time. In the early 1980s, the Naval Reserve Center moved to its current location at 3837 Binz-Engleman Road on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, where 630 Reserve Sailors comprising 15 units drill once a month and are assigned orders to spend two weeks training annually. In 2005 the Reserve Center was re-christened NOSC.

In Navy tradition, the centennial birthday cake was cut by the most senior person in the NOSC, Commanding Officer Capt. Steve Brown, along with the most junior person, Seaman Kimberly Lacey.

"We are kicking off an entire year of celebrations where we are trying to show people the great things the Navy Reserve does for the nation and the Navy," Brown said. Brown has served with the submarine force for



Photo by Ed Dixon

Capt. Steve Brown (left), commanding officer, Navy Operational Support Center San Antonio, and Command Master Chief Jermaine Rawls unveil artwork of the Fiesta medal that features the Navy Reserve Centennial logo during a March 8 celebration of 100 years of service of the Navy Reserve in the Alamo City at NOSC San Antonio.

26 years.

"Getting to cut the cake with the Skipper? I never thought I would do anything like that," Lacey said after the ceremony.

Lacey graduated from the tri-service Medical Education and Training Campus last month. She sees her training as an opportunity and said her experience in the Reserve has already prepared her for her life's work as a pedi-

atric nurse.

"Making it was the best accomplishment I've ever done," said 18-year-old Lacey about graduating from corpsman school. "It makes me feel like the rest of my life - I'll be able to do anything - knowing that it was so hard, but pushing through. It was a good life lesson to learn that you can do anything you put your mind to."

5TH RECRUITING BRIGADE CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY



Photo by Olivia Mendoza

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen M. Badley (left) accepts the NCO Sword from Col. Cedrick A. Farrior (second from right), 5th Recruiting Brigade commander, signifying acceptance of his new duties and responsibilities as the brigade's senior enlisted Soldier during a change of responsibility ceremony March 11. Outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel D. Atencio (right) leaves to become the proponent sergeant major for the Recruiting and Retention School at Fort Knox, Ky. The 5th Recruiting Brigade supports the U.S. Army Recruiting Command's mission of "Providing the Strength" for America's Army by recruiting quality young men and women to make valuable contributions to the nation's defense.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel Brewster

Capt. Steve Brown (left), Commander, Navy Operational Support Center San Antonio, cuts the centennial birthday cake with Seaman Kimberly Lacey during a March 8 celebration of 100 years of service of the Navy Reserve in the Alamo City at NOSC San Antonio.

ARNORTH COMMANDING GENERAL SWEARS IN RECRUITS AT SPURS GAME



Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins (center), commanding general, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and senior Army commander of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, speaks with military recruits March 6 at the AT&T Center before they are sworn in before the San Antonio Spurs game as part of Military Appreciation Night activities.



Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins (right), commanding general, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and senior Army commander of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, swears in 35 new military recruits March 6 at the AT&T Center before the San Antonio Spurs game as part of Military Appreciation Night activities. The recruits represented all five branches of the military service.

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national and regional partners.

“This particular exercise is valuable because, over a period of two months, we performed crisis action planning with all the interagency partners who had vital roles,” DiSalvo said.

During the exercise, Army South simulated a deployment to Guantanamo Bay to provide command and control and essential services and support, including medical needs, food, water and shelter to migrants interdicted at sea.

“This exercise allowed us to establish stronger relationships and work together with different agencies to identify areas where better coordination is needed,” said Coast Guard Capt. Miriam Lafferty, the senior DHS representative to the Joint Task Force.

According to Lafferty,

although each agency has its own procedures, vocabulary and authorities, everyone worked together to accomplish the mission.

“I was really impressed with the Joint Task Force’s willingness to seek out the opinion of experts from different agencies in different situations,” Lafferty said.

According to DHS, no single agency has the capability or resources to respond effectively to a mass migration. Therefore, an organizational plan and structure that can rapidly and effectively combine DHS enablers with those of other federal, state and international agencies is necessary and that was the purpose of this exercise.

“Army South worked with five different government agencies during this exercise and learned how essential their capabilities are to successful mission execution,” DiSalvo said.

Army Dental Corps celebrates 104th anniversary

The U.S. Army Dental Corps celebrated its 104th anniversary of becoming an official part of the Army March 3.

Army Dental Services are an essential yet sometimes overlooked facet of military health. One example of this contrast can be found with the service of Col. (Dr.) Roy A. Stout.

While not widely known to most people, Stout was very important to his patients. As an instructor, innovator and oral surgeon, Stout helped seriously injured servicemen by treating facial wounds. Stout was one of the early Army pioneers in the field of maxillofacial surgery – what would later be termed “plastic surgery.”

Less than a decade after the official inclusion of the Dental Corps to the Army, he was treating Soldiers recovering from World War I and during the inter-war period (1920s-1930s) he treated Soldiers’ mandibular cysts and tumors as well as fractures of the maxilla. During this time, he also researched anesthesia techniques and instructed courses on maxillofacial reconstruction.

During World War II, Stout worked beside fellow plastic and orthopedic surgeons at Wakeman General Hospital at Camp Atterbury, Ind. By the end of the war, Stout had moved to the position of senior consultant in maxillofacial surgery of the Army Dental Corps.

During his tenure of service, Stout repaired countless shattered faces and provided an important foundation of instruction for maxillofacial surgery.

(Source: U.S. Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage)



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage

Col. (Dr.) Roy A. Stout repaired countless shattered faces and provided an important foundation of instruction for maxillofacial surgery during his tenure in the Army.



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage

The Dental Corps insignia, circa 1911.

Army Surgeon General recognizes Army Dental Corps anniversary

By Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho
U.S. Army Surgeon General and
Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Command

Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald C. Ecker and I are pleased to recognize the Army Dental Corps and all members of the Army Dental Care System as they celebrated their 104th anniversary March 3.

Your commitment, selfless service and professional dedication to the United States Army and to Army Medicine are greatly appreciated.

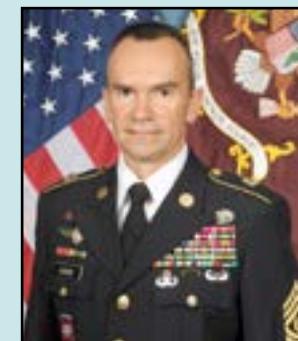
Your tireless efforts have been, and always will be, vital to the health and mission readiness of our Army Force around the globe.

We wish you all continued success as you influence the health and impact the lifespan of our force. Best wishes on your 104th birthday!

Army Medicine is serving to heal ... honored to serve.



Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho



Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald C. Ecker

ICE helps people provide feedback on JBSA services

By Amanda Sanchez
JBSA ICE program manager

If you have ever wanted to tell someone what you think about a service that was provided to you on one of Joint Base San Antonio's locations, or if you have ever wanted to make a suggestion you think would improve service, you need to know about the Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, comment card system.

ICE is a web-based tool that collects feedback on services provided by various organizations throughout Department of Defense.

The ICE system allows customers to submit online comment cards to rate the service providers they have encountered at

military installations and related facilities around the world. It is designed to improve customer service by allowing managers to monitor their customers' satisfaction levels through reports and customer comments.

Customers who submit an ICE comment, such as a complaint, compliment or a suggestion for improvement, quickly and easily provide important feedback that may play a critical role in making changes to services provided throughout JBSA. Submitting an ICE comment can take less than a minute and can be done from any computer or device with internet access.

When an ICE comment is submitted, an email is instantly sent to

the appropriate service provider manager for action. Leaders can then utilize information in ICE comments to identify what is being done well and should be sustained, and what needs improvement. Comments can even help leaders make decisions to redirect resources to better meet customer needs.

ICE allows custom-

ers to submit comments anonymously or to include contact information and request a response.

When a customer provides contact information, they will receive a personalized response to their input, from a manager, within three business days of submitting the comment.

Providing contact information with your

comment allows leaders to not only provide a response, but to gain more information about comments which may need further explaining.

You can submit an ICE comment by visiting <http://ice.disa.mil>. Once on the page, select CONUS under Army or Air Force, then JBSA. Service providers can be selected from their service cat-

egory or by selecting the "Show All" link near the bottom of the page.

If you can't find your service provider, submit a comment to the link titled "Site Suggestions, Questions, Comments" and your comment will be routed to the appropriate service provider.

Submit an ICE comment today and you could be a voice for major change and improved capabilities at JBSA. For questions or more information about ICE, call 221-2543.



Soldiers prepare for gender-integrated Ranger Course

By Nick Duke
Fort Benning, Ga., Public Affairs

The first of four gender-integrated iterations of the Ranger Training Assessment Course at the Army National Guard's Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Ga., concluded Jan. 30 with 58 of 122 Soldiers successfully meeting all requirements.

The second iteration of RTAC began Feb. 6 with 83 men and 17 women working to qualify themselves to attend the Ranger Course.

The female Soldiers who successfully complete all course requirements during one of the four gender-integrated RTACs will be invited to participate in the assessment of the Ranger Course in April.

"This first iteration of an integrated RTAC provided significant lessons learned as we conduct a deliberate and professional way forward to the integrated assessment of the Ranger Course in April," said Maj. Gen. Scott Miller, commanding general of the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning.

During that first iteration, five female Soldiers, out of 26 women who started, successfully completed all RTAC requirements.

Historically, more than half of the Soldiers who complete RTAC will go on to successfully complete the Ranger Course, which is why Miller said RTAC is mandatory for female

Soldiers who want to attend the Ranger Course Assessment.

"RTAC was our decision to give them the best possible pre-Ranger course in order to train and educate the future students to be successful," Miller said. "If they do not meet the prerequisites at RTAC, I am not recommending them to move forward into the Ranger Course."

RTAC is two weeks long and consists of two phases. The first phase, assessment, mirrors the assessment phase at Ranger School, and is designed to assess a Soldier's physical and mental abilities. During this phase, a student conducts a PT test, a swim test, land navigation, and a 6-mile foot march.

The second phase of RTAC, the field training exercise, is designed to assess and train Soldiers on troop leading procedures and patrolling, skills which will be used extensively during the Ranger Course.

A Soldier who completes RTAC should be able to demonstrate physical and mental preparedness for the U.S. Army Ranger Course as well as apply troop-leading procedures; navigate various terrain types while dismounted, and develop and carry out combat orders for combat patrols to the same standard as the U.S. Army Ranger Course.

Maj. William Woodard Jr., Company A commander, Army National

Guard Warrior Training Center, said the physical fitness test was where the majority of failures occurred during the first gender-integrated RTAC in January.

The Ranger physical fitness test consists of 49 pushups, 59 situps, a five-mile run in 40 minutes and six chin-ups.

"The females failed for the same reason the men failed – it was the PT test, almost across the board," Woodard said.

The standards are the same for men and women at RTAC just as they will be for the actual Ranger Course Assessment in April.

"There is absolutely no intention to change any of the current standards," Miller said. "The standards in place will remain the same. There will be no change to those standards."

Those who are unsuccessful at RTAC can still volunteer to attend another RTAC iteration.

"There are some who were pretty close to meeting the standards," Miller said. "As we have subsequent classes, if they raise their hand and say they want to come back into a follow-on course to try and meet the prerequisites, we're willing to let them do that. That's the same thing that would happen with the male Soldiers. That's not anything special for the female Soldiers."

Woodard said one female Soldier from the January

RTAC course is enrolled in the February course.

"She's signed back in and will go through the whole thing again," he said. "It's not fun and it's not easy, and yet she's ready to go through the whole process again."

Woodard said the female Soldiers who have attended RTAC so far have been grateful for the opportunity.

"They were very vocal, direct and thankful for finally being able to do something they really wanted to do," he said.

"They definitely want to be treated the same – no better, no worse and no deference paid because of who they are. They want to be dealt the same hand and allowed to play their cards just like everyone else. As a group they showed an incredible amount of commitment and resolve."

Miller said the female Soldiers who have chosen to seek the Ranger tab have shown a willingness to go above and beyond.

"I look at this as a historic time for the Army," Miller said. "It's always great to see any Soldier, male or female, who is willing to raise their hand and voluntarily step forward and undertake some of this rigorous training."

The next RTAC courses with male and female students prior to the April Ranger Course Assessment began March 6 through 21 and finish with another course April 3-18.



Blake paved way for thousands of Air Force women

By Dr. Robert Kane
Air University
Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

The women of today's Air Force can look back with pride to Staff Sgt. Esther McGowin Blake.

"We consider her the first lady of the Air Force," said William Chivalette, curator of the Enlisted Heritage Hall at Gunter Annex at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. "She raised her right hand to enlist in the U.S. Air Force on the first minute of the first hour of the first day, July 8, 1948, that women could join the United States Air Force, created nine months before on Sept. 17, 1947."

Less than a month before, on June 12, 1948, former President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act (Public Law 625-80), which authorized women to serve as regular members of the U.S. armed forces.

Born on July 7, 1897, in Escambia, Ala., Blake served as a civilian employee of the Army Air Forces Air Service Command at the Miami Air Depot in Miami, now a part of the Miami International Airport, after World War II started.

In March 1944, she enlisted in the Women's Army Corps after the War Department notified her that her oldest son, 1st Lt. Julius Blake, a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot in England, had been shot down over Belgium and was reported



Graphic by Maureen Stewart

missing. He remained "missing in action" for nine months.

Her younger son, 1st Lt. Thomas Blake, who flew a B-25 Mitchell bomber in Italy, later said that his mother joined the Women's Army Corps hoping to free a Soldier from clerical work to fight, thus speeding the end of the war.

"If I can do this," Blake said, "my efforts will be worthwhile."

While Thomas was also shot down after 50 combat missions, Blake saw both of her sons return home by the end of the war with only minor wounds and many decorations.

During the war, Blake served at several bases throughout the U.S., including one year in Alaska near the Aleutians and in the Yukon territory. She separated from the Army in November 1945 and returned to her civil service job in Miami.

However, heeding a recall for women in the military services, she reenlisted in the Army in April 1947. The Army assigned her to Fort McPherson near Atlanta.

ters in Montgomery, Ala.

Blake died Oct. 17, 1979, at the age of 82, at the Veterans Hospital in Tuskegee, Ala., among fellow veterans.

On Oct. 1, 1987, the Air Force named one of the student dormitories at the Air Force Senior NCO Academy at Gunter Annex in her honor.

"In singling out and recognizing in such a special way one of your own, you pay respect and tribute not only to Air Force Staff Sgt. Esther McGowin Blake, you honor all of us who knew and loved her and who were privileged to share her life," her son Thomas said at the dedication ceremony.

"It's never easy being the first. The trail that Esther Blake blazed made it possible for other women to follow," said Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Horn, the Air University command chief. "Her success opened the doors to allow future women the opportunity to serve with pride. Our Air Force is emphatically better for her efforts."

Today, nearly 20 percent of the active-duty members of the Air Force are women and they serve in 99 percent of the available career fields, including as security forces members and combat pilots.

Furthermore, it wasn't until World War I that women made real strides toward equality. The strong demand for able troops of all genders continued through both world wars, allowing women to finally break out of traditional caregiver and clerical roles and into the more general workforce.

Women made important contributions early on in the field of military intelligence; women were among some of the first and best cryptographers and analysts.

Commentary: Women's History Month an opportunity to inform ourselves, get involved

By Col. Timothy A. Chafos
Commander, 470th Military
Intelligence Brigade

American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways.

Women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social roles in every sphere of life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force, working inside and outside of the home and by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force. Against the odds, women have earned respect and admiration.

Women today share a prominent role in the military; punctuated by the recent repeal of the combat exclusion policy.

However, the road to inclusion has been, and continues to be, long and arduous. This March marks the 28th Women's History Month, a time to stop and appreciate contributions and strides women have made for the benefit of all.

For many of us, it is difficult to imagine that less than 50 years ago, only two percent of the Army could be female and women could not hold command authority. The diversity we now enjoy and expect has been hard fought by female pioneers of the military, industry and academia. Those giants trod a difficult path to make a mark on history.

The history of women in America's military can be traced to the Revolutionary War, but it wasn't until 1901, when congress passed the Army Reorganization Act recognizing the Nurse Corps, that women operated in an official capacity.

Furthermore, it wasn't until World War I that women made real strides toward equality. The strong demand for able troops

of all genders continued through both world wars, allowing women to finally break out of traditional caregiver and clerical roles and into the more general workforce.

Women made important contributions early on in the field of military intelligence; women were among some of the first and best cryptographers and analysts.

In 1949, the Army activated the 600th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment – its first all-female detachment – and opportunities continued to grow for women, particularly in the intelligence field.

The Army Security Agency (predecessor of the National Security Agency/Central Security Service) was the first element to employ women as more than 10 percent of its workforce ... the Army average did not reach that mark for another ten years.

Military intelligence further distinguished itself by being the first to opening positions to women in tactical and deployed units and now enjoys one of the highest ratios of female Soldiers in the Army.

Although there have been significant strides and expansion of opportunities, much is left to be done on a path to true equality and inclusion.

Many industries today suffer from wage inequality and deeply entrenched gender stereotypes. While the Army does not face those particular civil issues, it is lagging in others.

Despite recent notable achievements by female senior officers, including the Army's senior intelligence officer, Lt. Gen. Mary Legere, women make up nearly half of America's workforce but only 14 percent of the Army and only 11 percent of the Army's top leadership positions. This is a cross-industry worst: below law, politics, and business averages, according to the White House Project report, "Benchmarking Women's Leadership."

Obviously, much remains to be done.

Women's equality is not a women-only issue. Diversity, inclusion, and equality require buy-in from all whom inequality and injustice affect.

Most who know me realize I

can't resist recommending a book. Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg's book "Lean In" and her popular "Ted Talk" well relate contemporary challenges in women's rights. A "Lean In Together" campaign has recently started to work for women's equality and emphasize that this gender issue is actually gender-neutral or gender inclusive.

I also recommend "Undaunted: The Real Story of America's Servicewomen in Today's Military" by Tanya Biank for compelling stories of what our fellow service members have experienced. Global research consistently makes it clear that the more women are included and treated equally, the better a society and country do in nearly every measure of development.

Women's History Month provides an opportunity to inform ourselves and get involved. I suggest all of us take some time to research a prominent female figure, learn something new about co-workers, look for ways others have contributed, and celebrate what we have in common.

I suggest you encourage your children to learn about women's issues as well. "We must join our voices with the chorus of history and push forward with unyielding faith to forge a more equal society for all our daughters and granddaughters – one where a woman's potential is limited only by the size of her dreams and the power of her imagination," said President Barack Obama's presidential proclamation for Women's History Month 2015.

The 470th Military Intelligence Brigade will host the Joint Base San Antonio Women's History Month observance at noon March 31 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Theater. The Griffin Brigade welcomes everyone on our Joint Base to this free event and hopes to fill the house. We welcome Ursula Pari of KSAT 12 News as our guest speaker, who will speak on this year's Women's History Month Theme: "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives." I look forward to seeing you there!

Male and female students run in formation Jan. 24 during the Ranger Training Assessment Course at Fort Benning, Ga. The January RTAC was the first of four RTACs that will include female Soldiers. Those female Soldiers who successfully complete all course requirements during RTAC will have an opportunity to attend the Ranger Course in April.

Photo by Patrick A. Albright



QUALITY from P2

sequestration-level funding as the tipping point between our ability to maintain our responsiveness and our ability to maintain trust with our people.”

By the end of 2015, the active Army expects to be down to 490,000 Soldiers. Lt. Gen. Karen E. Dyson, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for financial management and comptroller, said additional sequestration in fiscal year 2016 could mean another 15,000 Soldiers cut from the active force.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Michael D. Stevens represents the interests of more than 320,000 active and Reserve Sailors.

Stevens said while meeting with Sailors and their families around the Navy, he has found an “overall satisfactory quality of life.”

Stevens said with regard to pay and compensation, a major concern to the Navy was the future of healthcare.

“Healthcare is a quality of life issue that consistently resurfaces during my fleet interaction - it is extremely important to our Sailors and our families and is very influential in recruiting and retention decisions,” Stevens said.

During his first Capitol Hill hearing, Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Ronald L. Green – who just assumed his position Feb. 20 – told the committee that, “no matter what, we must make A’s on the battlefield. Combat readiness is comprised of unit, personal and family readiness.”

Green said just within the past year, the Marine Corps had to take significant financial cuts in primary areas while protecting programs such

as behavioral health and sexual assault prevention and response.

“Funding levels for the Marine Corps below the presidential budget may force a choice between quality of life and quality of work,” Green said. “Having to choose between quality of life at home and readiness for combat abroad is not a choice we should have to make.”

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody started his testimony by telling the committee that the active Air Force, its civilians, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve – at 670,000 personnel – is the smallest it has ever been since the service was created in 1947.

“This is historic for us, and it is exacerbated by the fact that we are more globally engaged today – continuing to operate in the longest sustained time in the history of our country,” Cody said.

“On top of all this, we do this with an all-volunteer force, a force that continues to experience uncertainty in terms of capability, compensation and the meaning of service.”

Cody said Airmen are concerned like Soldiers, Sailors and Marines with reductions which might take place and extend to their housing allowances, healthcare and ability to keep serving.

“When I came in 30-plus years ago, if you were a good Airman and you worked hard, you had an opportunity to serve 20 years,” Cody said. “Airmen cannot say the same thing today and we have had to let plenty of good Airmen go before their desired time, so those will be the top concerns that I think they face: the uncertainty of the future and their ability to serve.”

U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research selects civilian of the year

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs

The safety and occupational health manager at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston was selected Feb. 20 as the 2014 Civilian of the Year.

Stephanie Truss has been at the USAISR since 2007, where she was first assigned as a medical laboratory noncommissioned officer while on active duty in the Army. Shortly after retiring from the Army in 2011, Truss accepted her current job as a contract employee, which was transferred to a civil service position in 2012.

As the safety and environmental advisor to the commander, Truss said she feels honored and privileged to be selected.

"I'm not really sure why I was selected as the civilian of the year, but if it could be a shared award, then know that I'm sharing it with everyone at the USAISR," Truss said. "If it were not for everyone at this Institute, I would not be here, therefore this is our award."

Under Truss' guidance, the USAISR is on track to earn an the Army Safety in Excellence streamer for the third year in a row. The streamer is awarded to Army units without any Class A or B accidents for 12 months; have 100 percent completion of composite risk management training; and completion of the Army Readiness Assessment Program within the last 24 months. The USAISR is in the top 25 percentile of safe worksites within the Army.

"I love being able to help

people in any method that I can and what a better way than assisting them in keeping safe," Truss said.

During the last several months, Truss has diligently been promoting and implementing the Voluntary Protection Program. The VPP is an Occupational Safety and Health Administration program that identifies worksites that exhibit exemplary safety performance beyond compliance. Truss hopes to move into the next stage of the VPP by earning the Star Site recognition – the highest level of recognition.

"Through the support of the VPP Communicator Team and the involvement of the entire staff, my short-term goal is to complete the VPP final stage with flying colors," she said. "My long-term goal is to attain a master's in occupational health and safety and to continue to foster a safe working envi-

ronment to maintain VPP standards in the upcoming years."

Truss said she enjoys her job because she is able to work toward making a difference every day, but her job doesn't come without challenges.

"Promoting change in a positive way is challenging," Truss said. "Often, we get very complacent in doing things and when changes must occur being understanding but yet effective in the implementation and enforcement of the changes can also be interesting."

Truss' advice to anyone who would like to be selected as the civilian of the year is to always work hard and do the right thing.

"Work knowing that your efforts are noticed and appreciated," she said. "The reward is not always an award, it can simply be a meaningful 'thank you.'"



Photo by Steven Galvan

Col. (Dr.) Michael Wirt (left), commander of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, presents the 2014 USAISR Civilian of the Year, Stephanie Truss, with a certificate during the command awards ceremony Feb. 20.



Col. (Dr.) Kirby Gross (left), acting commander of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and USAISR Sgt. Maj. Quinton Rice Jr. (right) cut a ceremonial cake March 2 with the oldest and youngest USAISR Soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mason (second from left) and Pfc. Andres Penagosnino to celebrate the Army's Hospital Corps 128th birthday.

Photo by Steven Galvan

USAISR celebrates Army Hospital Corps birthday

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research staff at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston celebrated the Army's Hospital Corps 128th birthday March 2 with the reading of the original general order and a cake cutting ceremony hosted by USAISR Sgt. Maj. Quinton Rice Jr.

Rice stressed that this ceremony is important because it serves as a reminder of the Hospital Corps, long-standing proud and distinguished history and traditions.

"A lot of Soldiers don't know about the Hospital Corps history," Rice said. "As Army Medicine Soldiers, we need to know where our roots come from, because just like in the past, we're all cream of the crop Soldiers and our attitude should be that of servitude."

General Order 29, issued March 1, 1887, established the Hospital Corps and a new chevron for hospital stewards to wear that was similar to the ones worn by all Army noncommissioned officers. Hospital stewards, up until then, were Soldiers detailed from the line and had no official rank.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Johnson, a respiratory NCO at the USAISR Burn Center and master of ceremonies read the history of the Army Medical Department, General Order 29 and the establishment of the Hospital Corps.

"The Hospital Corps of the United States Army shall consist of hospital stewards, acting hospital stewards, and privates; and all necessary hospital services in garrison, camp, or field (including ambulance service) shall be performed by the members thereof, who shall be regularly enlisted in the military service; said Corps shall be permanently attached to the Medical Department, and shall not be included in the effective strength of the Army nor counted as a part of the enlisted force provided by law," Johnson read from General Order 29.

General Order 29 further stated "that the Secretary of War is empowered to appoint as many hospital stewards as, in his judgment, the service may require; but not more than one hospital steward shall be stationed at any post or place without 'special authority' of the Secretary of War."

Since 1887, hundreds of thousands of Soldiers have served in the Hospital Corps. Rice added that he's honored to be a member of the Army's most premier corps.

"Army Medicine continues to select the best Soldiers to serve in its ranks," Rice said. "A lot of our Soldiers have college degrees and certifications not needed in other fields of the Army. We should always remember that we are part of the best enlisted corps and should live the Army Medicine motto: Serving to Heal ... Honored to Serve."

AMEDDC&S NCO called upon to intensify curriculum, training for chaplain assistants

By Pablo Villa
NCO Journal

Staff Sgt. Donovan Eaddy knows how vital religious support can be for Soldiers. That is why he approaches his job with a solemn seriousness.

Eaddy is a 56M – a chaplain assistant. Like all chaplain assistants – a sizable amount of who are NCOs – he is charged with providing force protection for his unit's chaplain, to ensure fellow fighters have an outlet for religious support.

Eaddy was doing just that on Aug. 7, 2010, when he was wounded in an improvised explosive device blast in the Khost-Gardez Pass in Afghanistan's Paktika Province.

"I was out going to get religious supplies so my guys could worship freely," Eaddy said of the mission he was conducting that day as part of the famed Rakkasans – the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. "Do I regret it? I regret the pain. But will I stop going to get my guys supplies so they can practice and pray? No."

That gritty resolve helped Eaddy get through the ordeal and return to duty, in order to continue helping his fellow Soldiers engage in religious activities. It also put him in high demand to pass on the lessons forged in combat to new chaplain assistants in a recently revamped course at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The course conducted

by the Department of Pastoral Ministry Education has existed in some iteration at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston since the late 1990s. But in its infancy, the course existed solely to train Army chaplains.

Today, it still conducts training for chaplains through the combat medical ministry course, but now it also integrates training for chaplain assistants through its emergency medical ministry course.

The courses run concurrently to allow both chaplains and chaplain assistants — what's known as a Unit Ministry Team, or UMT – to hone their new skills together. The change in scope of education for chaplain assistants was long overdue, said Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Miller, a lead instructor for the DPMT.

"A chaplain assistant, by Army Regulation 165, provides force protection, because chaplains are prohibited from carrying fire arms," Miller said. "That's their primary mission. One of the things we struggle the most with is getting word out on what chaplain assistants provide for both the Chaplain Corps and the Army."

"Chaplain assistants are not drivers. They're not exclusively administrative personnel. Their primary mission is to serve as a part of a team with a chaplain," Miller added. "They provide the force protection so the chaplain can focus the religious support, but they do that collaboratively. Each piece needs the other."

Miller took the reins of the DPMT's instruction



Photo by Pablo Villa

Chaplain (promoted to Lt. Col. after this picture was taken) Robert Miller, left, and Staff Sgt. Donovan Eaddy are lead instructors of the combat and emergency medical ministry courses for the Department of Pastoral Ministry Education at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

in 2012. This was after completing the chaplain's course in 2010. When he arrived, he said the program was in great shape, but had some room for improvement. With the urging and support of Chaplain (Col.) Brent Causey, the AMEDDC&S command chaplain, Miller began an overhaul of the curriculum.

"When I took the course in 2010, one of the things I noticed was that it was more hospital focused," Miller said. "It was a good course, but I also was concerned that we were not really focusing on what chaplain assistants needed."

"The course was ostensibly dealt with trauma

ministry, within a hospital setting, which was an extension of the established Clinical Pastoral Education program," Miller said. "Chaplain assistants don't really have as strong a function in that setting. So, the question was, 'What can we do for them? How can we better utilize their skill sets?'"

Miller said the first thing senior leadership desired was a senior NCO to be an instructor.

"The guidance was to incorporate a senior NCO with a level of experience that he can bring to the table to be one of my instructors," Miller said.

That's when Eaddy came into the picture.

"The reason we

brought him here is more than his rank," Miller said. "What Eaddy brings to the table is he is a 56M who has deployed and who has worked with numerous line units, so he understands the full spectrum of combat operations. He was deployed as a chaplain assistant. He is also a wounded warrior. So, not only does he bring the intellect, competency and the skills of a Soldier; he also brings experience, knowledge, and requirements of the 56M."

With instructions to take a critical look at the two-week course, Miller and Eaddy collaborated over several months in order to recommend improvements on the

course curriculum. The pair looked at ways to incorporate field training, in addition to the classroom, with a full integration of both the 56A and 56M.

"Eaddy and I worked very closely to make the course more UMT-focused," Miller said.

That means, that in addition to the classroom learning, students spend approximately 25 hours in a Trauma 1 facility responding to trauma alerts and interacting with wounded warriors.

The lessons prepare UMT members to address the trauma, crisis, grief, death, spiritual health, and other ministerial concerns that arise in a Combat Support Hospital or Combat and Operational Stress Control Detachment, and is designed to prepare UMTs for medical ministry associated with deployments.

The revamped courses for chaplains and chaplain assistants began in January 2013. Miller said the DPMT is projected to conduct seven concurrent iterations per fiscal year. The approximately 210 Soldiers who take part each year experience an arduous 14 days.

Eaddy says the training is demanding in order to prepare students for potentially difficult times. The suggestions Eaddy made that have been added to the curriculum reflect that.

"One of the additions that we made was for our students to receive a tour and brief of the morgue at Brooke Army Medical

See CHAPLAIN, P15

CHAPLAIN from P14

Center,” Eaddy said. “You would be amazed at the number of chaplains and chaplain assistants that have not been exposed to death at that level. So, we are trying to train a chaplain or chaplain assistant, to be effective in combat by exposing them to how a body is handled after death. It’s something they might face downrange. How we handle death is as important as how we handle life.”

Beyond the classroom portion of the training, students also face challenging tests in the field. They are exposed to such things as combat surgical hospital procedures, mass casualty training and memorial ceremony execution. All of these are encountered by the UMTs with an eye toward ensuring the Chaplain Corps core competencies of “nurturing the living, caring for the wounded and dying, and honoring the dead.”

“We keep in mind and we teach, ‘What can the chaplain assistant do?’” Eaddy said. “Where can the chaplain assistant be that can help the mission out more? We fine tune some of the things that are taught in Advanced Individual Training (AIT).

We reiterate to chaplain assistants the regulatory guidance. Not only do we show them how to conduct a ramp ceremony, we show them where you can find the field manuals and regulations on a ramp ceremony so that they can go back and stage it in their unit correctly.”

One of the last endeavors the UMTs undergo during the course is a trip through the simulated training exercise, or STX, lanes. It is a harsh exercise meant to teach the UMT how to maneuver under indirect and direct fire, in order to highlight the importance of the chaplain assistant.

“We throw at them high-intensity practical exercises,” Miller said. “We allow the chaplain assistants to fully voice what they have learned and how they can improve at the same time with the chaplains. They are in this course getting to see how integral a chaplain assistant is to the UMT, because without a 56M, I am just a chaplain. With him or her, we a fully functional UMT and that’s what we’re trying to get them to realize. Whether you’re a private or whether you’re a sergeant major, as a chaplain assistant you have the

responsibilities of force protection and ensuring that your unit ministry team can function.

“When we get done we ask the chaplains, ‘So how did it feel?’ Almost unanimously, they say, ‘For the first time in my career, I felt dependent upon somebody else to get me out of harm’s way.’ Many of the chaplains we train may have deployed downrange and have experienced being on a forward operating base.

“But, not all chaplains have actually been involved in a firefight. We want to get them ready so that doesn’t surprise them,” Miller said. “More importantly, we don’t want our chaplain assistants with their heads in the sand. We want them to be that force protection element that every commander or command sergeant major wishes he or she had.”

While Miller says one of the long-term goals of the course is to make the CMM/EMM course mandatory training for all 56As and 56Ms, he says recent gains have reinforced the notion that the training that he and Eaddy are doing is valuable.

“For the first time, we’ve been authorized to issue a Department of the Army Form 1059



Photo courtesy of Department of Pastoral Ministry Education

During a simulated training exercise on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, chaplain assistants learn how to maneuver under direct and in direct fire.

(an academic evaluation report),” If students are going to come here, and commanders are paying for it – both in the officer and enlisted side – they’re going to have to go back and say, ‘Either we are or we are not competent in nine different skill levels,’ and that’s going to be reflected in their Enlisted Record Brief and Officer Record Brief.”

Miller also says he will continue to improve upon the training offered for both chaplains and chaplain assistants in order to build UMTs that will continue to offer comfort and solace to Soldiers during the direst of times.

“Combat will always be a part of the Army,” Miller said. “If we don’t intensify the training, then what will be presented will intensify the loss. We use clips of hardcore war videos that make them think about what they may one day end up facing, so when they face it, it doesn’t shock them. They can look at that and say, ‘OK, I’ve seen this

before, emotionally. I can act on this right now.’

“Whereas most Soldiers are trained to either give orders or take orders, we want to have a unit ministry team that is trained to fully function in support of the commander’s master religious program.”

“They are like shadow warriors, always there, yet not always seen. Most commanders expect that their UMTs are the professionals who will go in and make a situation better, never make it worse. They may feel they don’t really need a chaplain or chaplain assistant,” Miller said. “But when they need one – when there’s a suicide, when there’s a death of a soldier, when there’s a Soldier who just doesn’t know what to do – they want to know where the chaplain and chaplain assistant are because that’s the intensity that we give them in those two weeks.”

Eaddy hopes to expand upon the field training exercises the students face. His most recent ef-

fort is the installation of a defensive driving element to training, which may be implemented by the latter half of 2015.

But he says the biggest skill he can help hone for his fellow chaplain assistants – particularly those who are NCOs – is being keenly aware of regulations, as they will save lives, lift spirits and embolden the next chaplain assistants in line.

“That’s what I’m instilling in them because that is one of the main things the NCO Corps was originally built up on,” Eaddy said. “Take this training very seriously because you don’t know where you’re going to be tomorrow.

“That NCO is actually able to take this training and train their Soldiers. It will continue to keep the training going even after the war is stopped. If you fail to continue to do these steps, you will lose these steps. So, it’s very important for these chaplain assistants to stay fresh with their skills.”



Photo courtesy of Department of Pastoral Ministry Education

A chaplain assistant leads a chaplain through a situational training exercise lane at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Army installation management chiefs call for efficiencies

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

Katherine Hammack opened the Association of the U.S. Army's "Hot Topics" forum on installation management, March 10, by telling the packed house in Washington, D.C., about what she had recently testified before the House Appropriations Committee.

"We know that degraded readiness makes it difficult for us to provide for the common defense," said Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army (installations, energy and environment). "The Budget Control Act creates risk for sending insufficiently trained and under-equipped Soldiers into harm's way - and that is not a risk this nation should accept.

"I would be negligent if I didn't talk about Army Installation Man-

agement and the need for another round of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission - we need another round of base realignment and closure in 2017 and although our need for a BRAC is more exposed by the downsizing of the Army's force structure, it is really a way to manage infrastructure that is left over from World War II when we were an Army of 8 million," she said. "As we shrink to an Army of 490,000 or smaller, we see a growth in excess infrastructure."

Hammack said that with an Army of 490,000 active-duty Soldiers, excess infrastructure lies at 18 percent. Excess infrastructure will get larger as the Army's population gets smaller - 475,000 Soldiers by the end of 2016, down to 450,000

by the end of 2017.

Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson, commander of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, later said, "There are other looming concerns ... a near-term threat to our effectiveness is sequestration ... it can't be ignored.

"The Army has been on a tight budget for a few years ... fiscal year 2015 doesn't look any better," he said.

Halverson said training would be underfunded, which would result in decreased training levels; Soldier and family readiness programs would be weakened and investments in installation training and readiness facility upgrades would affect long-term readiness.

He added that base operations support,

sustainment, restoration and maintenance funding levels do not allow the Army to fix everything. Hammack had testified about the shortfall, saying the Army had a \$3 billion maintenance backlog and 5,500 major work orders because of reduced sustainment funding in 2013 and 2014.

"Fiscal year 2016 is a breaking point for our Army," Halverson said, adding that it would be difficult for the Army to lead around the world because installations have bills to pay and utility costs are the largest expense other than civilian pay.

He cited a few examples of those costs. Fort Bliss, Texas, has a water bill of about \$200,000 per month; Fort Bragg, N.C., spends nearly \$3

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Photo by J.D. Leipold

Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson, commander of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, addresses members of the Association of the U.S. Army March 10 during the "Hot Topics" forum on installation management.

Eagle Scout project benefits Joint Base San Antonio environment

By Bryan Hummel
Natural Resources Specialist
502nd Civil Engineer Squadron

An Eagle Scout service project by a member of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Troop 23 will have a long-lasting environmental benefit to the JBSA community.

Peter Kershaw contacted the JBSA Natural Resources Office in 2014 about a possible Eagle Scout project that would benefit the environment. After discussing a few options, he decided to build 10 rainwater collecting wings which capture and store rainfall and provide supplemental water for wildlife.

Across JBSA-Camp Bullis, there are approxi-

mately 200 wildlife water "guzzlers." These guzzlers have been collecting rainwater for decades and have been maintained solely by volunteers and natural resources staff.

Over the years, a few of the rain water collectors, or "wings," had been damaged by high winds, feral pigs, wildfire and old age.

Kershaw wanted to build 10 sets of wings to replace those damaged or missing. He raised money and got many of the supplies donated by a local home improvement store. After receiving the supplies, 10 Scouts from Troop 23 came out to build the guzzlers Dec. 22.

"You can get a lot more

accomplished when you have good teamwork," Kershaw said.

The scouts got to practice using drills, screw guns and impact drivers to screw all the pieces together, and then to screw the metal roofing to the treated lumber frames.

Not only did they learn valuable carpentry skills, but saw firsthand the value of the Boy Scout Motto: "Be Prepared." They practiced the motto by having all the materials cut to length and many of the pilot holes pre-drilled several days prior to bringing the rest of the troop out to help.

"We used treated lumber and deck screws to hold everything together, so even though the



Photo by Bryan Hummel

Members of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Troop 23 help construct 10 rainwater collecting wings to capture and store rainfall and provide supplemental water for wildlife at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

construction happened quickly, these guzzlers should last for decades running strictly on gravity power," Kershaw said.

On Feb. 16, Kershaw, fellow scout Matthew

Schiek and their fathers took the wings into the field, across the 28,000-acre training area, to the guzzler locations and replaced the damaged or missing wings.

Kershaw will be awarded his Eagle Scout this summer, but his efforts will provide supplemental water to the native wildlife for years to come.

2015 Total-Force Climate Survey now available

Total-force Airmen will have an opportunity to express their opinions to Air Force leadership during the 2015 Total Force Climate Survey through April 27.

“The purpose of the survey is to assess the opinions and perceptions of Air Force active-duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilian personnel on a wide range of issues including job satisfaction, available resources and unit performance,” said Brenda Gainey, the acting Air Force Survey Office chief.

“As with past surveys, unit leaders will have access to their units’ results to enable them to improve their organization and their organization’s ability to accomplish the mission,” she said. “Every Airman’s input is very important to the process. Leaders need honest feedback from the Air Force’s most valuable resource: Airmen.”

Since 1999, the Total Force Climate Survey has evolved with the goal of reducing how long it takes to complete the survey while optimizing the amount of information collected. The survey includes the opportunity to comment on how to improve the unit, and the recognition and resources sections have been expanded.

The survey office began sending individual email invitations in stages March 13. Aggregated reports by Personnel Accounting Symbol Code will be available to commanders whose units have at least 10 respondents. For units with fewer than 10 participants, responses will be included in the parent unit’s report. Results are expected to be available after June, and leaders will be encouraged to brief results to their organization within 30 days.

“Your feedback will

directly impact leaders’ decisions on issues that affect the total force” Gainey said. “That’s why it’s critical that all Airmen take time to complete the survey.”

For more information about the survey and to view the results of the previous survey, go to the Air Force Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil>, enter “Air Force Survey Office” in the search window, select the survey office link and click on the “Total Force Climate Survey” link in the left hand column.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs go to myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil/>. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one at www.retirees.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120510-068.pdf.

(Source: Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs)

EFFICIENCIES from P16

million monthly on electricity and the power bill at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, runs a staggering \$5.2 million monthly.

In all, the Army consumes about \$1.3 billion a year for utilities, he said.

Hammack said the Army was not just standing still over utility costs but was working to manage those costs and operations, installation energy as well as resiliency and sustainability through partnering – one of which is the utility energy savings performance contract which allows private industry to invest

on Army installations to make improvements in energy efficiency at no cost to the Army.

“The Army has the most robust energy savings performance contract in the federal government – over \$2.2 billion in private-sector capital has been invested in improving the efficiency on installations since the program started in the late 1990s,” she said.

In the last five months, the Army Office of Energy Initiatives launched a 28-megawatt biomass system on Fort Drum, N.Y., and the largest solar array in the Department of Defense at 18 megawatts on Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

She said there were another 12 projects in the pipeline with the potential for more than 400 megawatts at one site, while Fort Benning, Ga., will soon break ground on a 30-megawatt solar array.

“These are some of the energy partnerships that we have – innovative partnering, leveraging private-sector expertise, leveraging private-sector funding and ... delivering at or below the cost of conventional energy,” said Hammack, adding that Office of Energy Initiatives has not only resulted in energy efficiency, but water efficiency, energy security and small-scale renewable energy investment.

INSIDE THE GATE

Parenting Order Legal Clinic

March 27 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center, building 693 at 555 F Street West. Officials from the Judge Advocate General's office and Texas Attorney General's office will answer questions about family care plans, visitation, paternity and child support. Bring any court order available to the clinic. Call 652-6781 for more information.

Cowboys for Heroes

March 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center. Lasso up some fun for the 10th Annual Cowboys for Heroes event, featuring free authentic cowboy cooking on 1800s-style chuck wagons, live horseback riding performances, mutton busting, family hay rides, pony rides, two mechanical bulls, trick roper, photo opportunities and much more. Open

to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. Registration for youth mutton busting is required and must be done day of the event. This event is sponsored in part by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP. No Federal endorsement of sponsor implied or intended. For more information, call 857-8385.

Easter Egg Hunt

Joint Base San Antonio youth ages 2-12 are invited to an Easter egg hunt from 10 a.m. to noon March 28 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Pershing Ball Park. Children ages 2 and younger start off the hunt with other age-appropriate groups following every 10 minutes. Call 221-3502.

Take Aim at Sportsman's Range

Hours for the Sportsman's Range at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, weather permitting. Cost to shoot is \$10 per Department of Defense 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. Call 295-7577.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is operated by the Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area and profits go towards scholarships and grants. The shop is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and first Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for shopping and 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for consignment from Department of Defense ID card holders. Donations also accepted. The shop is located at 3100 Zinn Road, one block south of Outdoor Recreation and one block behind the Family Medicine Clinic. Call 221-5794.

Immigration, Naturalization

An Immigration and Naturalization Service representative will answer questions about immigration and citizenship from noon to 2 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Call 221-2418 or 221-2705.

OUTSIDE THE GATE

U.S. Naval Academy Women's Glee Club

The internationally-acclaimed U.S. Naval Academy Women's Glee Club performs at the Music from St. Mark's Concert Series at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, located at 315 E. Pecan St. at 7 p.m. Friday. Admission is free and tickets are not required. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The Naval Academy Women's Glee Club travels regularly around the country, representing the Naval Academy and the naval service. For more information on USNA Women's Glee Club, visit <http://www.usna.edu/music>.

Housing Summit For Veterans, Surviving Spouses

The Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals hosts a free housing summit for active duty, veterans and surviving

spouses from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the KB Home Training Center, 4800 Fredricksburg Road. Check-in is at 8 a.m. Attendees will receive important information on their VA and Texas veteran home benefits from various speakers, housing and credit counselors. Home loan pre-approvals can also be obtained. Whether ready to buy a home or not, each veteran may get their VA Certificate of Eligibility at the event. For more information, visit <http://www.veteranshousing-summit.com>.

'No Soldier Left Behind'

The Brave Diamond Warriors Productions presents a play titled “No Soldier Left Behind” at 8 p.m. April 16 and 17 at the Carver Community Cultural Center, 226 N. Hackberry St. Tickets are \$25, \$35 and \$5, with children 12 years old and under admitted free. Call 207-2234 for reservations.

Texas Military Polo Club

Interested in a challenge and know how to ride a horse? The Texas Military Polo Club is offering polo lessons. For more information,

call 512-484-4384 or visit <http://www.facebook.com/texasmilitarypolo>.

Military Salute At The Brisco Museum

The Briscoe Western Art Museum, located at 210 W. Market St. in San Antonio, offers a military salute program that allows year-round free admission for active duty military and up to four members of their family. The program begins Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. with entertainment by the 323rd Army Band “Fort Sam's Own” Intrepid Winds combo, guided tours, snacks and refreshments. For more information, visit <http://www.briscoemuseum.org>.

Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets at 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited. Call 539-1178.