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

# JBSA honors the 105th anniversary of military aviation

By Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer  
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Service members and civilians from Joint Base San Antonio gathered at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston MacArthur Parade Field Monday to observe the 105th anniversary of military aviation.

In 1910, then-Army Lt. Benjamin Foulois became the first person to make a military flight, from a military facility, of a government-owned plane flown by a military-trained pilot.

In December 1909, Foulois was sent to San Antonio from Washington, D.C., to assemble a new aircraft, designated Signal Corps No. 1, and learn how to fly. After 54 minutes of instruction from Wilbur Wright and a few hours as a passenger, Foulois, having never flown solo or attempted a landing, taught himself to fly.

Through trial and error, attention to detail, personal risk and devotion to duty, military aviation was born.

“An aviator, in their heart, is birthed from the very beginning,” said Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, Army North (Fifth Army) commander and senior Army commander of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis. “He is the guy out with a red wagon, when everyone else was afraid to get in and go down the steep hill; he was the first one to raise his hand and get in it and ride it all the way down to the bottom. If he didn’t make it, he brought in his older brother to fix the wheels he broke and he jumped back in and did it again. That is the Foulois that we are



Photo by Johnny Saldivar

Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins (left), commanding general, Army North (Fifth Army) and senior Army commander for Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, and retired Air Force Col. Daniel E. “Stump” Sowada (right), Order of Daedalians, Stinsons Flight captain, place the wreath during a ceremony held at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston’s MacArthur Parade Field Monday in recognition of the 105th anniversary of Maj. Gen. Benjamin D. Foulois’ first flight.

here to learn about today.”

Foulois was able to fly the 30-horsepower, two-propeller biplane a total of 7 1/2 minutes and attained a height of 200 feet, circling the field at a speed of 30 mph.

“To me, when you read about the pioneers of aviation, one thing I realize is how far we have come,” Wiggins said. “The expectation that it is safer to fly in an airplane than it is to drive in a car is due to the people right here in this

audience and the people you serve with and for every day. The people we should remember today are those that picked up the challenge and mantle of responsibility and marched on after Foulois, and took aviation to where it is today.”

The innovations in flying training and flight safety made by Foulois still affect how the Air Force operates today.

“Today, the 12th Flying Train-

See FOULOIS, P17



CIVILIAN EXPEDITIONARY WORKFORCE

PAGE 6



NAVY RESERVE CENTENNIAL

PAGES 10-11



COMBAT OPERATIONS FOR MEDICS

PAGE 14

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# Commentary: Transformation demands loyalty, understanding to remain aligned with Army profession

By Command Sgt. Maj.  
**Stephen Bowers**  
Mission and Installation  
Contracting Command



Command Sgt. Maj.  
**Stephen Bowers**

Similar to any corporation or industry, transforming our Army demands a business approach to ensure we can continue to achieve our mission and support our No. 1 customer – the brave men and women serving on the front lines.

It's imperative that all members, from top to bottom, understand why the Army is taking steps to reduce its end strength. The Army's presence in overseas contingencies requires fewer Soldiers in our formation as U.S. operations in theater continue to wind down.

Consequently, we cannot continue to operate financially or at the same level of resourcing as we have in previous years.

The 503,000 Soldiers in the active component today will be reduced over the next seven months to meet a Congressionally mandated end strength of 490,000 at the end of fiscal 2015.

Furthermore, should the ramifications of sequestration continue, the number of Soldiers making up the Army by fiscal 2019 has the potential to decrease to 420,000.

Several changes have been implemented to ensure our Army has the necessary resources for modernization and training while still maintain-

ing the mission capability to engage in conflicts wherever they may be.

Personnel and force structure changes taking place as part of the Army transformation directly affect the Mission and Installation Contracting Command's transformation efforts, and you must be prepared.

Among those changes are a number of programs designed to strategically target Soldiers in certain year groups and ranks in an effort to manage the force. Those include the Qualitative Service Program, Qualitative Management Program, Temporary Early Retirement Authority and selective early retirement boards.

Sadly, many of the Soldiers impacted by these personnel actions will come to find that they need not look any further than themselves when searching for answers on their selection to leave the service. Army leaders realize that there are a lot of people

in our formation whose records and performance aren't in line with our values, which becomes even more critical when identifying Soldiers to fill critical positions of special trust.

Although the vast majority of NCOs I encounter along with the commanding general during our visits to contracting sites are exceptional performers, there is a fraction that must be held accountable for noncompliance with our Army values. I charge all leaders and supervisors to ensure that the essence of the total Soldier is accurately captured in evaluation reports.

The new NCO Evaluation Report that becomes effective Sept. 1 is designed to best measure and evaluate that performance.

It's imperative that any leader or supervisor clearly understand how the NCOER must accurately reflect the Soldier. Our actions today in accurately capturing and evaluating the performance of our Soldiers will have a profound impact on what the future of our Army will look like.

Every leader plays a decisive role in shaping our Army and identifying the right people to continue serving our profession.

Soldiers remaining in formation at the end of fiscal 2019 will be our future Army. In order to get it right, our loyalty must be aligned with

Army values and standards. This means making the tough decisions and holding everybody accountable.

As an organization of mid- and senior-career level Soldiers, I expect accountability and discipline to be accomplished through self-policing in order to preserve our Army culture. Also, preserving our Army culture through accountability cannot be lost in the cultural gap I've witnessed during office visits as baby boomers leave our service and a new generation moves up to lead our service.

Holding people accountable with these force management and evaluation tools is only one piece of preserving Army culture. Our culture is underscored by our loyalty to Army values. Soldiers who deserve to be on this team will be there at the end of fiscal 2019.

There's no doubt that as we move closer to the end of this fiscal year, our command is going to lose some great people. However, there are a number of resources available to our Soldiers and their families to make sure they are being treated with dignity and respect as they transition from service.

The Soldier for Life transition assistance program provides career assistance that includes training, counseling and a multitude of resources all in an effort to secure employ-

ment before a Soldier leaves active duty.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is for commanders, directors and supervisors across the MICC to fully support the Soldier for Life transition assistance program, formerly known as the Army Career and Alumni Program.

Additionally, the Army Materiel Command's "Always a Soldier" veterans initiative is another excellent program for Soldiers transitioning from active duty who wish to continue to serve our nation. Since its inception in 2005, the program has placed more than 600 veterans into AMC civilian positions.

That new start doesn't begin when Soldiers hang up the uniform. It starts at minimum of 12 to 24 months prior by dedicating a sufficient amount of time to transition efforts.

Accomplishing the mission always remains essential, but managing your resources to ensure the successful transition for our teammates is just as critical. There are a lot of jobs available with industry; however, that mindset of working our Soldiers to the last day may hinder a successful search for employment.

We owe it to our Soldiers and their families to provide the best possible start in civilian life when their commitment to our nation has been fulfilled.



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## News Briefs

### 5th Recruiting Brigade Change Of Responsibility

The U.S. Army 5th Recruiting Brigade conducts a change of responsibility ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Sam Houston Event Center, 1395 Chaffee Road on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel D. Atencio will pass his duties and responsibilities to Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen M. Badley in a traditional Army ceremony. Col. Cedrick A. Farrior, commander, 5th Recruiting Command, will preside over the event.

### Friday Night Jazz Returns

Friday Night Jazz returns to the Fort Sam Houston Theater with groove-oriented smooth jazz trumpeter Rick Braun and contemporary jazz saxophonist Steve Cole making their debut appearance at 8 p.m. March 13. An outdoor patio will be setup for guests to socialize and mingle before both concerts. The patio opens at 6 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Arrive early and enjoy the cash bar, food truck snacks on the patio and an unforgettable evening of world-renowned live jazz. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 on the day of the show at the door. Reserved seats are on sale now at [http://outhousetickets.com/venue/fort\\_sam\\_houston\\_theater](http://outhousetickets.com/venue/fort_sam_houston_theater).

### 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 project team

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

# Spring forward safely Sunday: stay seen with reflective belt, clothing

By Jewell Hicks  
Joint Base San Antonio Safety Office

It's that time of the year again ... Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday.

This shift in time moves one hour of daylight from the evening into the morning hours. Many of you will be travelling to work during the hours of darkness, which increases the risk for people driving, as well as for people walking or jogging.

It's important for drivers to pay special attention to the path ahead and expect the unexpected. Pedestrians and joggers need to assess the risk as well and have situational awareness of their surroundings also.

On all Joint Base San Antonio locations, pedestrians and joggers should be familiar with reflective equipment requirements for ensuring their safety during the hours of decreased visibility.

Pedestrians should use paths or sidewalks along roadways, walk facing oncoming traffic when paths or sidewalks are not available and wear reflective outer garments during periods of darkness or reduced visibility, according to **Department of Defense Instruction 6055.4, DOD Traffic Safety Program**, which is applicable to all services

The instruction also requires the use of applicable fluorescent or reflective personal protective equipment by all DOD personnel exposed to traffic hazards as part of their assigned duties, such as marching troops, police, firefighters, emergency medical ser-

vices, road construction crews, electricians or telephone repair personnel working on outside overhead lines.

Each of the military services also has specific guidance related to pedestrian safety and the wear of reflective materials during limited hours of visibility.

According to **Army Regulation 310-85**, personnel running and not in formation are required to wear a reflective outer garment and or equipment during hours of limited

visibility. The regulation further states that fluorescent or reflective PPE will be provided to and used by all personnel who are exposed to traffic hazards as part of their assigned duties; for example, marching, running, and jogging troops (not in formation).

In **Air Force Instruction 91-207**, the rules for individuals jogging, running or walking on roadways at night or in inclement weather (e.g., fog, rain, sleet, snow, etc.) is to wear clothing/accessories contain-

ing retro-reflective properties visible from the front and back. All individuals who are exposed to traffic hazards as part of their assigned duties shall wear a highly visible outer garment during the day and outer garment containing retro-reflective material at night.

**Operational Navy Instruction 5100.12J** stresses that at night or in periods of reduced visibility, personnel are encouraged to wear brightly colored, fluorescent or other reflective garments when running, jogging, walking or traveling near roadways.

The DOD and all individual service guidance also prohibit the use of portable headphones, earphones, cellular phones, iPods or other listening and entertainment devices (other than hearing aids) while walking, jogging, running, bicycling, skating or skateboarding on roadways. In accordance with service regulations, headsets and personal stereos are prohibited when wearing physical fitness uniforms at all times.

During the hours of darkness – whether as a result of the hour we moved forward on the clock or just during the regular hours of limited visibility – it is critical for pedestrians and joggers to wear clothing or accessories for ensuring you are as visible as possible to vehicle operators.

The choice you make whether driving or walking does matter and may save your life or the life of someone else. Stay seen and stay safe.



Don't be the **INVISIBLE** pedestrian  
wear your reflective belt

Photo illustration by Senior Airman Schelli Jones

# San Antonio Sailors navigate into the hearts of children

By Chief Petty Officer L.A. Shively  
NOSC San Antonio Public Affairs

Sailors from the Navy Operational Support Center San Antonio hoisted sail Feb. 17, navigating into the hearts of youth at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio, while sharing sea stories and racing small hand-made boats in honor of this year's Navy Reserve centennial.

The Navy Reserve is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Established March 3, 1915, as World War I was underway in Europe, then-Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels and his assistant, Franklin D. Roosevelt launched an effort in Congress to create a Navy Reserve in order to have a ready force available to answer our nation's call.

Smiles, laughter and cheers erupted while the Sailors helped little hands assemble foam



Petty Officer 1st Class Jorge Rueda races a "Navy" boat across a makeshift sea with wind power during a regatta he and fellow Sailors held for children at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio. Rueda was at the hospital visiting children, sharing sea stories and racing small hand-made boats in honor of this year's Navy Reserve centennial. Rueda and his fellow Sailors are members of the full-time support staff at the Navy Operational Support Center San Antonio.

boats and then challenged the children to a regatta. The competitors – a Sailor and a child – blew through colorful

straws to send their craft across a makeshift sea of water in a large plastic tub.

There were wayward

boats churning the sea in circles, collisions and, of course, winners who steered their boats across an imaginary finish line. After the regatta, Sailors handed out ball caps representing commands throughout the Navy to the children along with small rubber footballs and soccer balls.

"Today was a blast!" said Erin Johnson, a child life specialist with the hospital. "Thank you so much for coming out and supporting our patients and families."

"The experience was heart-warming," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeremy Hernandez. "I spoke with a young lady who is a very lively little girl – very competitive and who didn't like to lose."

Hernandez said his visit to the Children's Hospital of San Antonio was incentive for becoming more involved in helping families. He said that having Sailors in the community is a chance to connect with neighbors and sees the NOSC doing more events like this in the future.

"I think it's a great idea," Hernandez said. "This is something that is going to become routine; that we'll do all the time."

"It was an awesome day," said Chief Petty Officer Charlie Summers. "At first they were a little shy, but we worked through it and in the end I think they all enjoyed our company. I love doing this kind of stuff."

"It was the first time I did anything like this and I had a great time," said Petty Officer 1st Class Jorge Rueda. "The children were very welcoming and were there



Photos by Chief Petty Officer L.A. Shively

Chief Petty Officer Charlie Summers places a cap on a child's head after racing small hand-made boats in a tub of water during a regatta he and fellow Sailors held for children at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio.

to have fun."

Rueda said that Sailors' presence in the community reminds people that the Navy is not just a sea going service. Reserve Sailors can be a neighbor – somebody you see every day and not necessarily in uniform he

explained.

"That's one big thing about the Reserves, we are a part of the community," Rueda continued. "We're your postmen, your policemen; and then just during weekends we come in and put on the uniform."



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeremy Hernandez (right) presents a Navy-themed medallion on a lanyard to a child he visited at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio.

# USAISR scientists share combat casualty care research

By Steven Galvan  
USAISR Public Affairs

Two research scientists from the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston were selected to be among several keynote speakers at the Health Cell's 2015 State of the Industry event Feb. 10 in San Antonio.

The annual event is designed to promote professional development and collaboration in San Antonio's healthcare and bioscience sector. Drs. Heather Pidcoke and Jose Salinas gave an overview of the USAISR and spoke about their interests in blood and military critical care research.

"Military healthcare is a significant sector in

San Antonio both economically and in terms of innovation," said Health Cell co-founder Beth Eby. "An event designed to represent the diversity of the local healthcare and bioscience industry would not be complete without it."

Pidcoke stressed that the event was an excellent opportunity to make connections with other scientists in San Antonio while showcasing the impact of military research on trauma care.

"Numerous people approached me after our talk to tell me how impressed they were with the USAISR's mission and impact," said Pidcoke, who is a research physiologist and deputy task area manager of coagulation and blood research. "They also

expressed their appreciation for the work that is done here in support of our injured military personnel."

Salinas, the comprehensive intensive care research, single/multiple organ support and vital tissue preservation task area manager also said that the event gave him and Pidcoke the opportunity to showcase the research that the military is doing in San Antonio and provide the audience a different perspective on medical issues faced by the military community.

"I hope that the attendees were able to appreciate the challenges faced by the Department of Defense in taking care of severely wounded warfighters and the role that the ISR plays in addressing these issues,"



Photo by Steven Galvan

Drs. Jose Salinas and Heather Pidcoke, research scientists at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, were selected to be among several keynote speakers at the Health Cell's 2015 State of the Industry event Feb. 10 in San Antonio.

Salinas said.

"Military medicine's special characteristics and its high level of inte-

gration brings a unique perspective to our events and encourage attendees to challenge assump-

tions, seek out new collaborators and create new models," Eby said.

"As a result of the participation of the USAISR, scientist attendees got a peek inside the buildings they usually only see from the highway and learned the stories behind what they see in the news. Both the scientists and the wounded warriors live among us, so understanding their perspective is important to the community."

According to Eby, the Health Cell was founded in 2012 and welcomes all who work in or with healthcare and the biosciences – academic, private sector, non-profit and military – and its monthly events periodically spotlight leaders in military medicine.

## News Briefs

### Continued from P3

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 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.

### 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. To switch primary care managers, call Humana Military at 800-444-5445.

### 'Coffee with Commanders' At Wilford Hall

The 59th Medical Wing "Coffee with the Commanders" program at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center gives patients an opportunity to meet with commanders in an informal setting and address health care-related issues or questions. The event takes place at 9 a.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month near the main pharmacy entrance. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 292-3906.

# Civilian Expeditionary Workforce offers unique development opportunity for IMCOM employee

By Amanda S. Rodriguez  
IMCOM Public Affairs

Joining the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce took André Douglas from program manager to deputy commander.

Douglas, a civilian with the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's resource management directorate at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, applied for the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce to broaden his experience. His tour as the deputy garrison commander of Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, yielded benefits both tangible and intangible.

"Career-wise, it gave me an opportunity to gain 17 months of experience as a deputy commander, making me more competitive for a permanent position inside or outside the continental United States," he said.

As a military retiree, Douglas found himself on familiar ground as he prepared to deploy. After accepting the position in 2013, he attended civilian pre-deployment training at the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind. While there, he went through mobilization processing, which included medical, dental and financial readiness, as well as safety, security and cultural awareness training.

"For non-veteran civilian employees, the pre-deployment training might seem a little stressful," Douglas said. "It's designed to be as

realistic as possible, although civilian deployment is a very different experience. For one thing, we don't carry weapons."

Douglas stepped off the plane at Bagram into a new and more challenging role. He was promoted to a higher pay grade and as the deputy garrison commander of the largest U.S. installation in Afghanistan, he supported a joint-service population of more than 30,000.

"I have never been a garrison commander before, but someone recognized that I had the potential, the right mix of knowledge and experience to do that job," Douglas said. "Potential to lead is what it's all about. Half of the staff were IMCOM civilians, but I also had Air Force, Navy and contract employees. Their technical skill was amazing. I brought leadership, they brought knowledge and perspective. I learned so much from them, it was incredible."

With two children in college and a third on the way, Douglas acknowledged the financial benefits of post differential, hazardous-duty and overtime pay. However, he quickly pointed out what he considered the most important reasons to deploy.

"If you want to deploy, it has to be more than just money. You have to do it because you want to serve – your country, service members, civilians and contractors in combat – and you want to



Photo courtesy of André Douglas

The 2014 Bagram Air Base garrison command team included (from left) Col. Stephanie Gradford, commander; André Douglas, deployed U.S. Army Installation Management Command civilian and deputy garrison commander; and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Bianco.

make a difference," Douglas said.

"They need you and you'll see just how much when you arrive. There's a shortage of Department of Defense civilians there, so people are looking for you, they're happy to see you and you may find yourself taking on other jobs and gaining unforeseen experience because of it. You've got to go with an open mind and willingness to learn."

Using the authorized 21 leave days every three months and focusing on goal-setting, helped Douglas face the realities of living in a combat zone – potential danger, austere conditions and isolation from family.

"It's the best thing I've done in my life, but you've got to prepare yourself for it," Douglas said. "You've got to

have a goal going into it. You go there not just to do a job, it's about learning your profession, doing whatever it takes to support the service members and fill the gaps. Nowhere else do civilian employees truly understand their value."

While in the dynamic environment of Bagram, Douglas counted on a fast-paced, 12-hour (or more) workday and a seven-day work week. A typical day began with a 4:30 a.m. workout, then breakfast and off to work at 8 a.m.

"Every day is different when you're in that environment, based on what's happened during the previous 12 hours and the mission and the mission changes every day. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience to serve with Soldiers, Airmen and Marines," Douglas said. "It's a community

of people who want to do good things. You live together, eat together, cry together. Over there, you're a true family."

Douglas took about a year and a half after his initial application before accepting a position because he was looking for specific experience as either a director of human resources or deputy commander.

"When you sign up, it'll be the greatest thing you've done in your life," Douglas said. "It's that meaningful. I would jump at the chance to do it again."

For additional information about the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce, visit <http://www.imcom.army.mil/Organization/G1Personnel/CivilianPersonnel/CivilianExpeditionaryWorkforce.aspx> or <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/expeditionary/>.

# BAMC conducts unique joint emergency medical tech sustainment training for Army, Air Force personnel

By Lori Newman  
BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center has the only Joint Emergency Medical Technician Sustainment Training within the Department of Defense.

Known as JEST, the joint program delivers emergency medical refresher training to more than 550 Army health care specialists and Air Force aerospace medical service technicians each year through a combination of classroom instruction and field training.

"We are proud to host this invaluable joint sustainment training at BAMC," said Col. Evan Renz, BAMC commander. "It helps to foster teamwork and keep our skills sharp."

Army and Air Force personnel train side-by-side to meet the annual requirement set forth by the Department of Transportation and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

This sustainment training also meets the Army's



Army Sgt. Malourdes Galusha (standing) directs her team as they prepare a simulated casualty for evacuation Feb. 18 as part of the Joint Emergency Medical Technician Sustainment Training at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

TC 8-800 standard and the Air Force Readiness Skills Verification Air Force Instruction 140-06.

"The Army does everything the Air Force does and the Air Force does everything the Army does," said Staff Sgt. Brian Cummings, noncommissioned officer in charge of the course. "Everybody gets a taste of what the other service is doing."

Students receive 48 credit hours for the training, which includes five days of PowerPoint,

lecture and hands-on instruction in the classroom at BAMC and one day of field validation at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

"There are about 296 Air Force medics assigned to the San Antonio Military Medical Center," said Tech. Sgt. Heidi Quigley, 959th Medical Group EMT coordinator. "I am the go-to for Air Force medics to get them scheduled for this class."

"The primary focus of the JEST programs is more tactical field care and evacuation, which I feel is a definite plus," she said. "It's more realistic; it adds that stress factor to it."

At JBSA-Camp Bullis, the students are divided into teams of four or five. They must move tactically through wooded terrain while encountering simulated artillery fire. Once the team reaches the casualties, they must provide tactical field care, call for evacuation, move the casualties to an evacuation site and brief the ambulance team on the status of each patient. "The goal is to get that

all done and get each patient to any definitive care within an hour. We call it the golden hour of care," Cummings said.

Following the tactical field exercise, instructors brief the students on their performance.

Army Sgt. Malourdes Galusha, a reservist with the 5501st U.S. Army Hospital said she really enjoyed this training because of the added field experience. "It was very eventful and knowledge enriching."

"The benefit of training jointly is the different forces will always be on the same page, train on the same equipment and follow the same procedures when we are in a combat zone in theater," said Army Staff Sgt. Juan Leyva who went through the JEST course for the first time.

"It's a lot more in depth ... it allows us to come out in the field and learn how to treat trauma ...



Army Staff Sgt. Derek Pearman (left) and Sgt. Branddon Kovall (right) pack the medical kit before their field skills validation at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis Feb. 18 as part of the Joint Emergency Medical Technician Sustainment Training.

things we would see in the field on a deployment," said Senior Airman Lucas Reaume. "It's a confidence booster, knowing that you can perform under stress and take care of your patients."

BAMC has conducted the joint EMT sustainment training program for about a year and a half.

"This is a unique and

ever-changing program. We are constantly doing something different, trying to make it better," Cummings said.

"This could be a great pilot program for other joint bases to follow. It works and we have received a lot of great feedback about the program from both Air Force and Army personnel."



Army Sgt. Rashaid Irvin (left) treats a simulated casualty Feb. 18 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis as part of the Joint Emergency Medical Technician Sustainment Training field validation as Staff Sgt. Brian Cummings (right), noncommissioned officer in charge of the course, looks on.



Army and Air Force personnel practice their field evacuation skills Feb. 18 as part of the Joint Emergency Medical Technician Sustainment Training at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Photos by Robert Shields

# USAISR Soldier named U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's best warrior

By Steven Galvan  
USAISR Public Affairs

The 2014 U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Soldier of the Year competed at the 2015 U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Best Warrior competition at Fort Detrick, Md., Feb. 2-6 and came out victorious in his category.

Spc. Matthew D. Winans, a bioscience specialist at the USAISR Dental and Trauma Research Detachment, won the USAMRMC Best Warrior competition and will compete at the 2015 Army Medical Command Best Warrior of the Year competition in May at

JBSA-Camp Bullis.

"It feels great to earn the title of MRMC's best warrior," said Winans. "It is a reflection of the outstanding leadership and training I received from the noncommissioned officers at the ISR. The achievement was a team effort."

To prepare for the competition, Winans and Staff Sgt. Pablo Sierra, the 2014 USAISR NCO of the Year, who competed at the NCO level, trained and studied with the assistance of several USAISR NCOs in the different categories of the event. Winans credits the countless hours of training and studying to be the deciding factor in the competition.

"Each competitor was physically and mentally strong," he said. "It was slightly stressful due to the pace of the events and the cold weather. Near the end of the competition, the small gaps between the competitors increased the anxiety for everyone. As the competition progressed, it was wonderful to see the esprit de corps between competitors."

Sierra, who took the runner-up spot in the NCO of the Year competition, will continue to train and study with Winans.

"It was an exceptional performance by both ISR competitors," said USAISR commander

Col. (Dr.) Michael D. Wirt. "Our two Soldiers truly embody the warrior ethos and proudly represented the USAISR throughout the competition."

USAISR Command Sgt. Maj. Quinton Rice Jr. said he was proud of both competitors and attributes Winans' success to the support and motivation from their departments and the entire organization.

"It was a very tough competition," Rice said. "It went down to the last event and Winans outdistanced the top members of eight other organizations under the MRMC umbrellas."

Winans also attributes his success to the

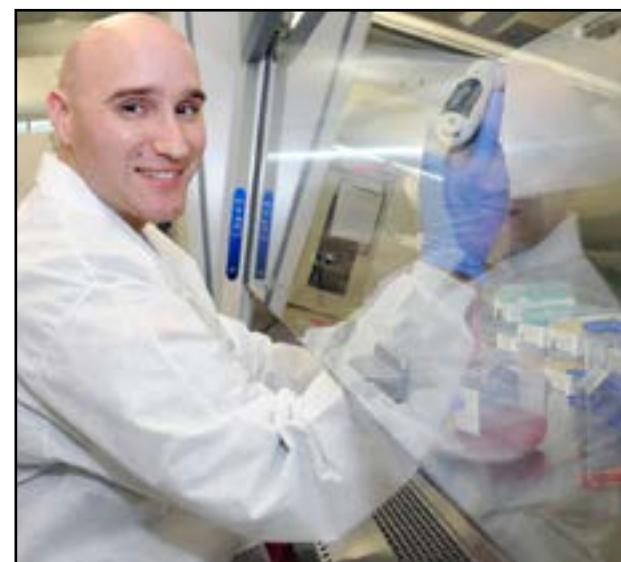


Photo by Steven Galvan

Spc. Matthew D. Winans, a bioscience specialist at U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Dental and Trauma Research Detachment at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, won the U. S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Best Warrior competition and will compete at the 2015 Army Medical Command Best Warrior of the Year competition in May at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

support of his wife and family, his sponsor Staff Sgt. Scott Eriksen and the personal guidance he received from Sierra during the competition.

"Sierra kept saying 'you are never out of the fight,'" said the Wellsville, N.Y. native. "From that advice, I was able to manifest personal courage and stay positive in the face of adversity."

Winans, who has been at DTRD for almost two years and in the Army since 2012, said that he will continue to train and study for the next competition.

"Winans is a stel-

lar Soldier who has the initiative, drive and discipline to accomplish anything he wants," said Staff Sgt. James McAlister IV, DTRD NCO in charge. "I am so proud that he was able to implement the training he received for this competition and I will continue to support him throughout the next one."

Rice believes that Winans will excel at the next level.

"I believe that if our organization continues to support him and provide him challenging training, then he will do exceptionally well," Rice said.

# USAISR receives FDA clearance for burn device

By Steven Galvan  
USAISR Public Affairs

“This is the first time that the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research has been able to take a medical device from a blackboard concept to a full Food and Drug Administration 510(k) clearance using our newly developed internal quality system,” said USAISR’s Jose Salinas. “This marks the beginning of a new model for medical device development within an Army research institute.”

Salinas is the comprehensive intensive care research, single/multiple organ support and vital tissue preservation task area manager at the USAISR on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and is talking about the Burn Resuscitation Decision Support System-Clinical that was developed for use by burn personnel to manage and optimize fluid resuscitation of severely burned patients admitted to the USAISR Burn Center.

“The entire development was handled internally through USAISR processes,” Salinas said. “We were able to conceptualize, test and provide all the necessary data to the FDA for clearance of the system without the need for an external medical device company serving as our sponsor.

An FDA 510(k) is a premarket submission made to the FDA to demonstrate that the device to be marketed is at least as safe and effective and is substantially equivalent to a legally marketed device that is not subject to premarket approval, according to the FDA website.

“We first discussed the concept of computer-

based decision support systems for burn resuscitation at the USAISR in 2005,” Salinas added. “We wanted to explore the possibility of developing an algorithm that would assist providers to improve fluid management in severely burned patients that could also potentially improve their outcome.

“A related technology from the USAISR BRDSS-Mobile/Burn Navigator received the same clearance in 2013, but the process was handled by Arcos Medical, Inc. of Houston through a collaborative agreement with the USAISR,” said Maria Serio-Melvin, program director for information and computer decision support systems and FDA program manager for decision support software medical devices for Salinas’ task area. “This process involved granting a technology license to Arcos to commercialize the technology and also get the FDA 510(k) clearance with ongoing collaboration and assistance from the USAISR.”

The clinical and mobile algorithms are designed to assist care providers in avoiding problems related to over- or under-resuscitating burn patients, a potentially fatal issue. However, the BRDSS-C has been designed and implemented for use by experienced burn providers and includes recommendations and rules tailored for burn experts.

The Burn Navigator, on the other hand, was designed for field deployment and use by non-expert users with little or no burn care resuscitation expertise.

“Because this system is designed to assist care

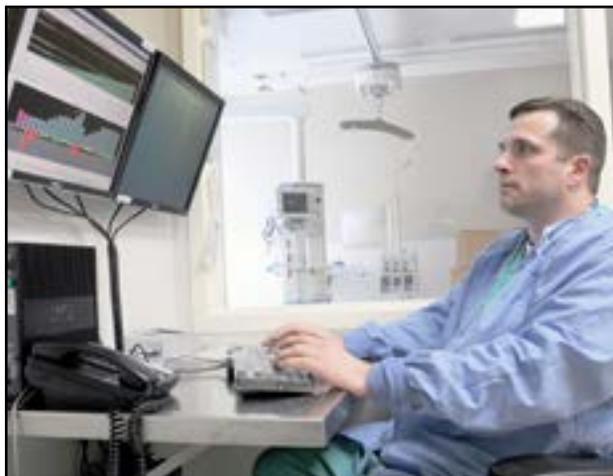


Photo by Steven Galvan

Jeff Fields, a critical care nurse at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center intensive care unit at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, tests the Burn Resuscitation Decision Support System-Clinical system. The system is currently undergoing U.S. Army network certification for deployment in the near future.

providers with decisions it will also help relieve anxiety, stress, and validate decisions while taking care of severely burned patients,” Serio-Melvin said.

“The eventual goal is to have both systems work-

ing together seamlessly. Right now, a Burn Navigator used in a deployed setting can be transferred with a patient through the different care settings in a warzone,” Serio-Melvin added. “In the future, we are hoping that once

a patient arrives at the Burn Center for definitive care, the data from the Burn Navigator will be imported into the BRDSS-C for uninterrupted care.”

“Now we have two products to assist with resuscitation of burn patients,” Salinas said.

Salinas added that while the Burn Navigator is designed for battlefield use, multiple Burn Navigators could also be used stateside during a mass casualty scenario to treat numerous burn patients.

“It would be helpful for the care provider because all of the fluid resuscitation data would be readily available on the Burn Navigator for each patient,” he said.

Although both systems are working as designed, Salinas said that he and his team are looking forward.

“We want to push the envelope and design a system that will automati-

cally resuscitate a burn patient without human intervention in some cases,” Salinas said. “The USAISR is on the forefront of technology and we’ve been asked by the FDA to work on this concept as part of a larger initiative on autonomous systems for the critical care environment.”

“We wouldn’t be here without the unwavering support of MRMC,” Serio-Melvin said. “Now we have two products to assist with the resuscitation of burn patients.”

The USAISR is a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Md., the Army’ major command that leads efforts in support of the full life cycle of medical supplies and equipment, to include research, development, acquisition and sustainment.

## TEN SOLDIERS RECOGNIZED FOR ARMY CAREERS



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

Ten Soldiers were recognized for their careers during a retirement ceremony held at the Quadrangle Feb. 26. Those retirees from left to right are Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James E. Duke, 187th Medical Battalion; Maj. Ross L. Kaplan, Warrior Transition Battalion; Capt. Eric B. Kuyper, Army South; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Johnny R. Bartelle, 87th Support Command-East (Montgomery, Ala.); Chief Warrant Officer 2 Francisco Torres, Company B, Warrior Transition Battalion; Sgt. Maj. Timothy Ricks, Jr., Army North; Master Sgt. Martha E. Harris, Public Health Command-Region South; Master Sgt. Elisa Tijerina, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brooke Army Medical Center; Sgt. 1st Class Dwight D. Crutchfield, HHC, 75th Training Command (Houston); and Sgt. 1st Class Deanna E. Gaskin, San Antonio Recruiting Battalion.

# Navy Reservists in San Antonio celebrate a centennial of service

By Chief Petty Officer L.A. Shively  
NOSC San Antonio Public Affairs

Navy Reservists have had a strong presence in San Antonio and celebrated a centennial of service to the Alamo city Tuesday that began 100 years ago.

A cold wave passed over San Antonio on Christmas Eve, 1914, as the Great War – World War I – exploded in Europe.

With battles raging on all fronts overseas, then-Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels and his assistant, a young New Yorker named Franklin D. Roosevelt in Washington, D.C., saw the need to create a reserve naval force, launching a campaign in Congress to appropriate funding. Until 1913, only the Naval Militia, under states' control, trained men for naval service.

A Naval Militia under federal control was created Feb. 16, 1914, with a provision outlining its organization and training in peace, as well as its utilization during war. But the Naval Militia could not, under the Constitution, be called into service except for limited duties, such as to repel an invasion.

The militia could also not be used outside U.S. territorial limits, and as such, did not meet the requirements of the Navy in an overseas war.

Daniels and Franklin proposed organizing a Naval Reserve through an amendment to a Naval appropriations bill sent to both the Senate and House Naval committees with a strong recommendation that it should pass that year.

The proposal was accepted by Congress and the Naval Appropriations Act of 1916, dated March 3, 1915, established a United States Naval Reserve. Men who were U.S. citizens and honorably discharged from the

Navy were offered attractive inducements to re-enlist into the Reserve.

"Experienced Seamen to be paid salary for putting names on rolls," proclaimed a headline in the March 29, 1915 edition of the San Antonio Light newspaper.

The article went on to describe the incentives offered: "To ex-service men joining the reserve within four months after the expiration of a four-year enlistment, \$30 a year will be paid. A record of eight years' service (in) the Navy will command a salary of \$50 a year in the Reserve and 12 years' service, \$100. After service for 16 or 20 years, enlistment in the reserve virtually will be retirement at half-pay," the article stated.

The San Antonio Light article also explained that reserve organizations would be established in every community where two or more members resided. Each member reported to a designated place once every

quarter for muster, inspection and to sign the payroll.

Reserve Sailors in San Antonio assembled at places such as the county courthouse, where Navy Reserve recruiting was located, in public auditoriums and in armories to muster and get paid. Calling members into actual service onboard ship for drills and exercises was optional with the Navy Department at that time, but under such orders Reservists then, as today, received travel, subsistence and full pay at their rating.

When the U.S. entered World War I in 1917, there were 8,000 Sailors serving in the Navy Reserve. Members served in the cockpits of biplanes and hunted enemy U-boats among other duties.

More than 250,000 Reserve Sailors were on active duty – which was more than half of the wartime Navy – when the fighting ended in 1918. These Sailors included 12,000 pioneering women – who were all released from active duty by



Several Navy recruiters and Reserve Sailors from the Naval and Marine Corps Training Center on Arsenal Street in San Antonio demolish a vehicle at a busy downtown intersection as a stunt to bring attention to the dangers of unsafe driving during a citywide Safe Driving Day in 1955.

1920 – not to serve again until World War II.

Although the financial difficulties of the Great Depression and interwar isolationism translated into difficult times for the Naval Reserve, its organizational structure persevered and even expanded with the creation of Naval Aviation Cadet program and the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps.

When World War II erupted in 1939, the Naval Reserve was ready. By the summer of 1941, the majority of all members of the Navy Reserve were serving on active duty and during the next four years, the Navy would grow from a force of 383,150 to 3,405,525 at its peak.

Eighty-four percent of Sailors serving in World War II were Naval Reservists, 100,000 of which were women.

In San Antonio, the first organizational meeting of a postwar Naval Reserve was announced in a Feb. 3, 1947 article in the San Antonio Light.

"The San Antonio Naval Reserve would consist of two

battalions of five divisions," said Capt. Edward E. Kerr, who was to be in charge. Kerr said a typical division would be composed of about 10 officers and 200 enlisted men. The divisions will include various ratings and ranks and enlistment or re-enlistment in the Naval Reserve was open to WWII veterans of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Army.

Regular drills and instruction periods occurred weekly including two weeks of full-time annual training, either afloat or ashore. Navy uniforms and equipment were issued to the affiliates.

In the summer of 1950, San Antonio's Naval and Marine Corps Training Center was established at 311 Arsenal St. and occupied five floors. Units included Naval Surface Battalion 8-28, Company C, 20th Infantry, U.S. Marine Reserve and Naval Construction Battalion 8-7.

During the commissioning ceremony, Capt. Lewis Thomas, commandant of the Eighth Naval District, which included



Reserve Sailors march in the Battle of Flowers Parade during Fiesta de San Jacinto Week 1952 in downtown San Antonio. Reserve Sailors have always been a part of the San Antonio community and are celebrating a centennial of service to the Alamo City this year.



An unidentified Naval Reservist tunes a radio transmitter during the first annual inspection at the newly opened Naval and Marine Corps Training Center on Arsenal Street in San Antonio.

Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, pointed out the necessity of the program according to an article in the June 1950 edition of the San Antonio Light.

Thomas cited the growth of the Naval Reserve throughout the country at that time and particularly in San Antonio where a "Naval uniform was

formerly a rarity."

Following its commissioning, the Naval Reserve trained Sailors in an array of skills and became a principal feature of public events.

In 1951, an annual inspection of the 450 drilling Reserve Sailors was performed over a period of three days by ranking Naval officers from the Eighth Naval District and included uniform assessments, training and medical skills reviews.

Reserve Sailors marched in Fiesta parades, demonstrating Navy skills during Armed Forces Days, held open houses to educate the public on their missions and appeared at social gatherings.

One group of Sailors decorated a vehicle with Navy themes and then demolished it at a busy downtown San Antonio intersection as a Safe Driving Day stunt in 1955.

In the early 1980s, the Naval Reserve Center moved to its current location at 3837 Binz-Engleman Road on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston where Reserve Sailors fulfill

their obligations to country while serving the community.

Since the 2000 attack on the USS Cole, the service added 1,379 reserve billets in the fields of anti-terrorism and force protection. Navy Reservists responded to the call and were integral to operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan after 9/11.

In 2002, the Navy's construction battalions, or Seabees, two-thirds of which are made up of Reservists, were combined into a single division. The new division's mission is to organize, train, equip and direct Seabees in their operations around the world, according to National Defense magazine.

Defense officials assigned homeland security roles to the Navy Reserve in such fields as harbor defense, port security, maritime surveillance, anti-terrorism, force protection and maintenance of shipping channels.

"We are moving away from the 'weekend-warrior' culture," said Vice Adm. John G. Cotton, then-chief of the Naval



Chief Petty Officer Ernest Dieckow (left) and Lt. James Barnhouse (right) inspect a three-inch gun used for training at the Naval and Marine Corps Training Center on Arsenal Street in San Antonio. This weapon was identical to those aboard line ships in the Navy according to the notes on the photo, which was taken in 1955.

Reserve in an interview.

In 2004, the Navy reduced distinctions between active-duty Sailors and Reservists, for example, issuing identification cards that did not specify whether the Sailor was active duty or reserve. Access to commissary privileges was upgraded from once a month to unlimited for Reserve Sailors and the following year the term "Naval" was changed to Navy.

Today, nearly 630 Reserve officers and enlisted Sailors assigned to 15 actively drilling units drill regularly at the Navy Operational Support Center, or NOSC, San Antonio.



Courtesy photos  
Titled "Blood is Vital," this photo of Seaman Apprentice Theodore Demoth, from Seguin, gives a pint of blood while Chief Petty Officer Erwin Reininger, from New Braunfels, checks the flow of blood and Lt. Cmdr. Edward Dadeke, also from New Braunfels, looks on as was taken at the original Naval and Marine Corps Training Center on Arsenal Street in San Antonio in May 1952. Just two years prior to this photo, the Arsenal Street location opened for drills and instruction.



Officers inspect a Naval Reserve radio code training class at the Naval and Marine Corps Training Center on Arsenal Street. The inspection was completed one year after the center opened for drills and training. The inspection covered all aspects of operation at the Reserve Center and took three days.

## IRS begins limited test in 10 locations to increase efficiency, help taxpayers

The Internal Revenue Service announced Feb. 18 a limited test in 10 of its larger Tax Assistance Centers around the country, including one in San Antonio.

The IRS is now testing an appointment-only service approach to determine if it will increase efficiency during a time of severe budget cuts.

The IRS believes an appointment-only approach could benefit taxpayers by helping them avoid long waits in line. IRS is testing this process during the busy tax filing season to ensure a more efficient approach for taxpayers.

“Our hope is that the test locations in San Antonio and Austin will provide a better use of our resources to help people get the assistance they need,” said IRS spokesperson Lea Crusberg.

The IRS Tax Assistance

Center in San Antonio is located at 8626 Tesoro Drive. To schedule an appointment at this location, call 841-2090 or send an email at SanAntonio.Appointment@irs.gov.

“During a challenging filing season with a very limited budget, we need to find ways to increase our efficiency and still provide the best service possible to taxpayers,” said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. “My hope is that this test increases the level of customer service that we can provide our taxpayers.”

The IRS believes the appointments could help taxpayers by allowing them to know in advance that they can get the service they need.

The process typically in place at most IRS offices cannot guarantee when

**See TEST, P13**

## IRS warns tax preparers to watch out for new email phishing scam

The Internal Revenue Service has warned tax return preparers and other tax professionals to be on guard against bogus emails making the rounds seeking updated personal or professional information that in reality are phishing schemes.

“I urge taxpayers to be wary of clicking on strange emails and websites,” said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. “They may be scams to steal your personal information.”

Specifically, the bogus email asks tax profession-

als to update their IRS e-services portal information and Electronic Filing Identification Numbers. The links that are provided in the bogus email to access IRS e-services appear to be a phishing scheme designed to capture usernames and passwords. This email was not generated by the IRS e-services program. Officials urge taxpayers to disregard this email and not to click on the links provided.

Phishing is a scam

**See PHISHING, P13**

# IRS warns of high volume on toll-free customer service phones

By Lea C. Crusberg  
IRS Media Relations

The Internal Revenue Service reminded taxpayers the Presidents Day holiday period typically marks the beginning of the busiest times of the tax filing season for its phone lines. There are other alternatives to help taxpayers find answers to commonly asked tax questions.

The Internal Revenue Service has several easy-to-use, online tools on <http://www.irs.gov>. Taxpayers can check the status of their refund, request a copy of their tax transcript or get an answer to their tax questions around the clock.

"We encourage taxpayers to visit the IRS website as the best place to get quick help and answers to your questions," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen.

To save time and find answers faster, taxpayers should make IRS.gov their first stop. A good place to start is the IRS Services Guide (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5136.pdf>) for a quick overview of online services and resources. IRS information and some tools also are in Spanish.

Here are some of the most common reasons people call us over Presidents Day holiday week and the faster and easier ways to get answers:

## Want to know where your refund is?

More than 90 percent of refunds are issued in less than 21 days. IRS representatives will not provide individual refund information before then. Taxpayers can easily find information about their refund by using the "Where's My Refund?" tool at <http://www.irs.gov/refunds>. It's also available on the Smartphone app, IRS2Go. "Where's My Refund?" provides taxpayers with the most up-to-date information available. Taxpayers must have information from their current, pending tax return to access their refund information. Refund information is updated just once a day, generally overnight, so there's no need to check more than once a day.

## Didn't get a W-2?

Employers were required to send to their employees a Form W-2, Statement of Earnings, by Jan. 31. Employees should allow enough

time for their form to be mailed to their address of record. If a Form W-2 is not received by the end of February, employees should first contact their employer to ensure they have the correct address on file.

After exhausting all options with the employer, employees may contact the IRS and we will send a letter to the employer. However, we would urge you to wait until the end of February to avoid long wait times on the telephone.

## Need a copy of your tax return or transcript?

Taxpayers can easily order a return or transcript on the IRS.gov website, or by mailing us a completed Form 4506-T. See the Get Transcript application (<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript>) to immediately view, print or download your transcript.

Ordering a tax return or tax transcript does not mean a taxpayer will get their refund faster. The two are not connected in any way. IRS transcripts are often used to validate income and tax filing status for mortgage, student and small business loan applications and to help with tax preparation.

## Wondering how the Affordable Care Act will affect you?

This year almost all taxpayers must do something related to new health care reporting requirements. The majority of taxpayers - more than three out of four - will simply need to check a box to verify they have health insurance coverage. For the minority of taxpayers who will have to do more, <http://www.irs.gov/aca> features useful information and tips regarding the premium tax credit, the individual shared responsibility requirement and other tax features of the ACA. Publication 5201, The Health Care Law and Your Taxes, also provides a snapshot of ACA requirements.

## Need answers to tax law questions?

Questions about what filing status means, whether to file a tax return or who can be claimed as a dependent? There's the Interactive Tax Assistant (<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Interactive-Tax-Assistant-%28ITA%29-1>) that takes you through a series of questions just like one of our customer service representatives

would. You can also do a keyword search on IRS.gov; use Publication 17, the annual, searchable income tax guide; or the IRS Tax Map (<http://apps.irs.gov/app/scripts/exit.jsp?dest=http://taxmap.ntis.gov/taxmap>), which allows search by topic or keyword for single-point access to tax law information by subject. Taxpayers can even call TeleTax at 800-829-4477 for recorded information on a variety of general and business tax topics.

## Can't pay a tax bill?

For taxpayers whose concern isn't a refund, but rather, a tax bill they can't pay, the Online Payment Agreement (<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Online-Payment-Agreement-Application>) tool can help them determine in a matter of minutes whether they qualify for an installment agreement with the IRS. And for those whose tax obligation is even more serious, the Offer in Compromise Pre-Qualifier can help them determine if they qualify for an offer in compromise, an agreement with the IRS that settles their tax liability for less than the full

amount owed.

## Need help preparing your taxes?

Free tax return preparation help is available nationwide from volunteers and on the IRS website with Free File (<http://www.irs.gov/freefile>). Local community partners operate roughly 13,000 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) sites nationwide. Find a location nearby by searching "Free Tax Help" on IRS.gov.

IRS Free File is offered by 14 tax software companies that make their brand-name products available for free to the 70 percent of taxpayers who earned \$60,000 or less last year.

Free File Fillable Forms is available for households whose earnings are more than \$60,000 and are comfortable preparing their taxes.

Taxpayers may also use our searchable directory on IRS.gov for help on finding a tax professional (<http://irs.treasury.gov/rpo/rpo.jsf>) with credentials and select qualifications to help them prepare their tax returns.

## TEST from P12

or if a taxpayer can receive assistance; it is on a first come-first served basis. This situation can force taxpayers to wait in long lines, sometimes with waits lasting over an hour.

The other initial test locations are Atlanta, Ga.; Birmingham, Ala.; Chicago; Denver; Fresno, Calif.; Hartford, Conn.; Plantation, Fla.; and Seattle, Wash.. The

appointment-based pilot began Feb. 23.

Overall, the IRS has more than 350 walk-in locations across the nation.

Taxpayers should always check IRS.gov for days and hours of service as well as services offered at the location they plan to visit. For information on how to make an appointment, visit <http://www.irs.gov>.

At these 10 locations, taxpayer service will

continue to be offered without an appointment for those picking up limited forms or making a payment, but the IRS urges taxpayers to use <http://www.irs.gov> to get forms and Direct Pay to make the payment online whenever possible. All other services will require an appointment.

(Source: Internal Revenue Service media relations)

## PHISHING from P12

typically carried out with the help of unsolicited email or a fake website that poses as a legitimate site to lure in potential victims and prompt them to provide valuable personal and financial information. Armed with this information, a criminal can commit identity theft or financial theft.

Anyone receiving an unsolicited email that appears to be from either

the IRS or an organization closely linked to the IRS, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, can report it by sending it to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

In general, the IRS has added and strengthened protections in their processing systems this filing season to protect the nation's taxpayers.

"It is important to keep in mind the IRS generally does not initiate contact with taxpayer-

ers by email to request personal or financial information," Koskinen added. "This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS has information online that can help you protect yourself from email scams."

Phishing made this year's Dirty Dozen list of IRS tax scams. The full list is available on <http://www.irs.gov>.

# Multi-service life-saving training course prepares medics for combat operations

By Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Michael Ellis  
WHASC Public Affairs

Surgeons and nurses from the Air Force, Army and Navy underwent a three-day training course at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Feb. 10-12 to prepare for the various perils they may face in a deployed environment.

The Emergency War Surgery Course has been conducted at WHASC since it was established back in 2004. WHASC is the only location that hosts the course, which is mandatory for general or orthopedic surgeons and is optional for nurses.

“The purpose of the Emergency War Surgery Course is to give deploying surgeons some of the basic trauma skills they will need when they deploy downrange,” said



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis

Maj. (Dr.) Christopher Synder, general surgeon and student in the Emergency War Surgery Course, practices surgical procedures during the advanced surgical skills training Feb. 11 at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The purpose of the Emergency War Surgery Course is to give deploying surgeons some of the basic trauma skills they will need when they deploy downrange.

Army Col. (Dr.) John Garr, commander of the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute.

Sherrilee Demmer, 59th Medical Wing Trauma Education and Injury Prevention coordi-

nator, explained how the Emergency War Surgery Course was formulated.

“The Department of Health Affairs formed a combat surgery committee composed of members from all the

branches of service to decide on what deploying members needed to know,” Demmer said.

Trauma coordinators from all services went to forward operating bases in theater to collect data,” Demmer said. “They then attended the Emergency War Surgery Course and started making performance improvements based on the data.”

Although surgeons are required to attend the courses within two years of a deployment, the course is optional but highly recommended for nurses. Feedback has shown that there are substantial differences in the readiness and capabilities for nurses who attend the course.

“Early on we were hearing from people downrange that it was sometimes taking six weeks for the nurses to get up to speed,” Demmer said. “The nurse that comes through this course is way up to speed compared to the nurse who does not.”

Another benefit of having a single tri-service course with standardized curriculum is the opportunity to explain how each service differs in a deployed environment. Students received instruction on medical joint operations and ways in which they could better assist each other, which will ultimately increase patient care.

“It is important to have specialized training because the types of situations, patients and injuries these surgeons and nurses will encounter



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerilyn Quintanilla

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jason Barnett (right) focuses on a surgical procedure during an Emergency War Surgery Course Feb. 11 at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The purpose of the 3-day multi-service training course was to provide surgeons with the basic trauma surgery skills needed to treat patients injured in combat. Barnett is an obstetrician-gynecologic oncologist assigned at the San Antonio Military Medical Center on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

are much different from those seen in the civilian sector,” Garr said.

“In the end it’s all about the wounded troop,” Demmer said. “From the beginning,

the focus of the course was to provide doctors and nurses with the best training possible so they can take care of the patient; that remains our focus today.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis

Surgeons in the Emergency War Surgery Course at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland listen to the advanced surgical skills for exposure in trauma lesson Feb. 11. The Emergency War Surgery Course has been conducted at Wilford Hall since it was established in 2004.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis

Instructor Maj. (Dr.) Scott Trexler (center) and Maj. (Dr.) Christopher Synder (right), general surgeon and student in the Emergency War Surgery Course, practice surgical procedures Feb. 11 at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

# Researchers investigate respiratory health of deployed personnel during operations

By Ronald W. Wolf  
Army Medicine

Military personnel who deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation New Dawn were commonly exposed to airborne hazards such as dust and smoke, Army Medicine researchers say.

Some may have developed respiratory diseases and still have medical consequences as a result.

Army Medicine researchers are continuing to investigate possible long-term effects of this exposure, and need your help.

Retired Col. (Dr.) Michael J. Morris at the San Antonio Military Medical Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is the lead investigator for the Study of Active Duty Military for Pulmonary Disease Related to Environmental Deployment Exposures, also known as STAMPEDE.

Morris and his team

need volunteers who deployed to OIF, OEF or OND, developed respiratory symptoms while deployed, and who still show these symptoms to assist with a research study. The STAMPEDE team aims to enroll 300 patients from any branch of military service.

The following are study eligibility requirements for individuals who would like to be considered for STAMPEDE:

1. Deployment to OIF/OEF/OND on active-duty status;
2. Developed chronic respiratory symptoms during or soon after deployment;
3. Can exercise on a treadmill;
4. Had no history of pre-existing lung disease before deployment;
5. Are able to spend a week in San Antonio for testing procedures;
6. Can provide civilian or Veterans Affairs medical records if available.

Participants enrolled in the study will undergo a standardized testing protocol to include: surveys, blood work, chest imaging, echocardiography (examination of the heart), several different breathing tests, exercise testing, laryngoscopy (vocal cord examination), and bronchoscopy (airway examination).

While there is no guarantee of benefit from joining the study, it is possible that participants will benefit from identification and evaluation of shortness of breath and learning if any lung disease related to deployment is the cause of this shortness of breath.

The ongoing research of Morris and his team is important because active-duty personnel still deploy to areas where exposure to particulate matter from dust, sand storms, burn pits, explosions, and vehicle exhaust is common. This research may help build

the knowledge base needed to treat Service members and veterans more effectively in the future.

A number of medical studies already have looked at the consequences of exposure to airborne dust and smoke from burn pits among Service members, going as far back as the first Gulf War. In the 1990s, the possible consequences of exposure to oil fires in Kuwait were considered. More recent studies conducted since 2000 were unable to clearly link exposure to airborne particulate matter to long-term chronic respiratory disease.

The matter is not closed, however, and Morris and his team of experts on respiratory disease are investigating the causes and effects on individual health and how to provide the best care for those who continue to deploy where airborne particulate matter is



Photo by Marine Sgt. Brian Kester

Army Medicine researchers are investigating possible long-term effects of exposure to dust and other airborne particulate matter. They are looking for volunteers who deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation New Dawn, developed respiratory symptoms while deployed and are still showing symptoms.

common.

Active-duty and Reserve personnel outside of the San Antonio area can contact (see information below) the Pulmonary Clinic at the San Antonio Military Medical Center to discuss possible enrollment in the study. If a patient is accepted to the study, they must obtain permission from their unit, which will be responsible for the travel and lodging costs.

Those who deployed

during OIE/OEF/OND and are no longer active duty (retirees and veterans) with TRICARE eligibility will also be considered for the study. The individual will be responsible for any travel and lodging costs.

Individuals who wish to be part of the study can be evaluated at SAMMC by calling 916-3976 or by email at [us-army.jbsa.medcom-bamc.list.bamc-stampede@mail.mil](mailto:us-army.jbsa.medcom-bamc.list.bamc-stampede@mail.mil).

## Civilian employees will have 27 pay dates in 2015 instead of usual 26

By Janis El Shabazz  
Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs

Civilian employees will have 27 pay dates in 2015 vice the usual 26, so some employees might need to adjust their Thrift Savings Plan contribution elections to receive the maximum agency matching contributions for 2015.

The Internal Revenue Code imposes a limit each year on the amount that an employee can contribute annually to a

tax deferred retirement plan like TSP.

The maximum 2015 contribution amount for traditional or Roth TSP is \$18,000 and the maximum amount for 2015 catch-up contributions is \$6,000.

Catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions and are separate from regular TSP contributions.

To be eligible to make catch-up contributions, you must be at least age 50 in the year the contributions are made,

must be in a pay status, and must be scheduled to reach the elective deferral limit for regular TSP contributions during the calendar year.

For those who are eligible, catch-up contributions provide a way for individuals to secure their retirement, especially for those who begin investing later in their careers.

"If employees under the Federal Employees Retirement System wish to receive the maximum matching contributions

for 2015, they must ensure they do not reach the \$18,000 contribution limit before the last pay day of the year because TSP contributions stop when an employee's contributions reach the annual maximum limit," said Erica Cathro, AFPC Human Resources Specialist.

Air Force civilians can adjust TSP elections through the Employee Benefits Information System.

For more information about this topic, to

include viewing the TSP and Catch-Up Contributions Chart and other personnel programs, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>. To access EBIS, select the link under the 'I would like to' section and log into the site with the social security number and EBIS personal identification number.

New users who do not have a PIN must click the 'new user' option to create one. Employees who have forgotten their PIN can reset it by

providing six pieces of previously established information. After answering the security questions select the "forgot login" link and enter the requested information.

For more information on other personnel programs go to myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

Individuals who do not have a myPers account can find instructions to create an account at <http://www.retirees.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120510-068.pdf>.

# Secretary of the Army details sequestration dangers, talks priorities

By Jim Garamone  
Army News Service

If sequestration triggers this year it will affect every person and mission the U.S. Army has, Army Secretary John McHugh said Feb. 25 during a Defense Writer's Group breakfast in Washington, D.C..

McHugh told reporters that right now his top three priorities are the budget, anything dealing with deployed or forward-deployed forces and combating sexual assault and sexual harassment.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 is still the law of the land and that imposes caps on military spending. For fiscal 2014 and 2015, Congress provided relief,

but the caps are due to come back in full force in fiscal 2016. If that happens, the active-duty force would drop to 420,000 Soldiers. Today, the force is just under 500,000.

"There will virtually be no corner of the Army that will be untouched," McHugh said. "Obviously, the primary concern that we discuss in these very uncertain times are the readiness ratings for Soldiers and whatever tomorrow's missions might be."

Army readiness would drop as the service would not be able to protect funding for home-station training. The reduction in end strength itself would be a disaster, he said. The Army would have to



File photo

If sequestration triggers this year, it will affect every person and mission the U.S. Army has, said Army Secretary John McHugh Feb. 25 during a Defense Writer's Group breakfast in Washington, D.C.

cut more brigade combat teams, or BCTs, with all the concomitant effects on dwell time and mission capabilities.

"It's likely, in the ac-

tive component, that we would have to come down to 27, 28 BCTs," McHugh said. "That provides reduced capacity to go out and do missions."

Sequestration would waste millions of acquisition dollars, the secretary said. The service has made great progress in saving money via multi-year procurement contracts. Under sequestration, those contracts would be in breach and the prices go up.

"Whether it's readiness, or our acquisition/modernization programs or the sheer numbers of available Soldiers to go out and do missions, all would be severely diminished," he said. "We would be unable to follow the current defense strategic guidance."

The secretary is also focused on the 147,000 Soldiers the service has in harm's way or that are

forward deployed.

"Many of them are on active missions," he said.

McHugh said that balancing the Army's available resources against the "absolutely essential" needs of those Soldiers, as well as getting them the equipment and the training they need is something he needs to spend time on.

The third priority is dealing with sexual assault and sexual abuse. "This is totally unacceptable to our core values," he said. "It rips apart our Army and I truly believe if we don't get this under control it calls into question the integrity of the entire Army. If we don't fix this, we're a far lesser Army."

# Air Force secretary: sequestration harms Air Force readiness

By Terri Moon Cronk  
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

The Air Force's readiness edge could slip away if sequestration is not lifted permanently, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James told members of a Senate panel Feb. 25 at a fiscal year 2016 defense appropriations in Washington, D.C.

Appearing with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, James said sequestration "threatens everything" if the law to force budget cuts is not lifted.

The Air Force is under duress, James told the panel.

"Your Air Force is unquestionably the best on the planet, but we are strained," she said. "We are the best because our men and women who execute the mission each and every day are doing the very best job possible.

But we mustn't take this for granted."

The Air Force secretary said her priorities are taking care of people, striking the right balance in preparing for today's and tomorrow's national security challenges, and making every dollar count.

During her travels to 60 bases and 12 foreign countries last year, James said, airmen have told her their biggest concern is downsizing the force.

Today's Air Force is the smallest it's been since it was established in 1947, and the average aircraft is 27 years old, the secretary said.

"This is at a time when the demand for our Air Force services is absolutely going through the roof," she added.

"We are working to meet the combatant commanders' most urgent needs," James said. "But

a budget trajectory that results in sequestration will not allow us to sustain this pace. We will either break or we won't be able to execute the Defense Strategic Guidance if we are returned to sequestration."

The Air Force instead needs to modestly upsize, James said, with a total force of 492,000 active duty, National Guard and reserve troops to execute the defense strategy.

Such an increase would help relieve operational strain, deployment and bolster the force's nuclear enterprise, the secretary said. A force plus-up, she added, would also increase the cyber teams the Air Force is trying to build and "shore up" existing undermanned fields, such as maintenance.

The Air Force strives to make every dollar count, James said, adding that the service is progressing

in numerous areas, including cutting headquarters by 20 percent, mostly in personnel. The service also is proposing to retire A-10 Thunderbolt "Wart-hog" aircraft, and will ask for another round of base closures, she said.

But if sequestration returns in fiscal year 2016, she said, "The choices will be more dire," and "very important systems would perhaps have to be shelved."

Cutting force structure would risk that the Air Force becomes too small to accomplish its missions, Welsh told the Senate panel.

And reducing Air Force research and development costs to save money would hurt future readiness, he said.

"The option of not modernizing isn't an option at all," the general said. "Air forces that fall behind the technology curve fail,"



Department of Defense photo

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James have said the Air Force's readiness edge could slip away if sequestration is not lifted permanently.

Welsh added. "And joint forces without the full breadth of air space and cyber capabilities that modern air power brings will lose."

If funding remains at Budget Control Act levels, the Air Force's short-term readiness recovery will stall, he said.

"Our long-term infrastructure investment that

we're trying to start will remain a dream. We'll be forced to recommend dramatic fleet reductions. Our modernization programs will be delayed again, allowing our adversaries to further close the capability gap," Welsh said.

"The casualties will be Air Force readiness and capability well into the future," the general said.

# INSIDE THE GATE

## JBSA Glow In The Park 5K

Brush on your neon war paint, don your glow-in-the-dark running shoes and light up the night at the first-ever Joint Base San Antonio Glow in the Park 5K run Saturday at MacArthur Parade Field on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Get warmed up at the pre-run

party with games and activities at 5:30 p.m., runners will leave the starting line at 7 p.m. Open to all Department of Defense ID card holders of all ages. Bring the strollers, kids and the whole family to have fun and glow the night away. Register at the event for \$15. All participants receive a goody bag with a t-shirt, glow gear and a bib number. For more information, call 857-8385.

## Spouse Information Fair

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family

Readiness Center holds a military spouse information fair from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday at building 2797. This free information fair is for spouses and family members to meet with support agencies from throughout JBSA. Call 221-2705.

## Cowboys for Heroes

Lasso up some fun for the 10th Annual Cowboys for Heroes event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 28 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center, 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.

# OUTSIDE THE GATE

## Our Soldiers' Run

The Alamo Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army hosts a 5- and 10-kilometer run at 7:30 a.m. March 15 beginning at the Texas A&M-San

Antonio campus, One University Way in San Antonio. Cost is \$35. For more information, visit <http://www.alamoussa.org/osr> or call 385-8248 or 808-224-6795.

## 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. March 20. Admission is free and tickets are not required. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information on USNA Women's Glee Club, visit <http://www.usna.edu/music>.

## Briscoe Museum Military Salute

The Briscoe Western Art Museum, located at 210 W. Market St. in San Antonio, of-

fers 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>.

# Controlling stray, roaming animals on JBSA

By Brian A. Desormeaux  
502nd Civil Engineer Squadron

The 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron works hard to insure the base population and visitors have a memorable experience while working or visiting Joint Base San Antonio.

One task they are assigned is the control of stray and roaming animals within the con-

finer of JBSA perimeter fencing.

The members of the 502nd Civil Engineer Operations Flight understand that all animals should be treated in a humane nature. When trapping animals for removal, they use live traps and try to ensure not only the safety of the base population, but the safety of the animal as well.

It is difficult to mitigate the presence of stray and roaming animals when they have found a food source being replenished by base residents or visitors. Refrain from feeding any animal that does not belong to you or that is running wild on JBSA. This is for your safety and the safety of the animal.

Many of these animals may be diseased or

pest-ridden and require medical care or just a better living situation. Contact with these animals can become a negative experience for both the animal and the person.

If stray or roaming animals are seen on any JBSA location, call the 502nd CES customer support line at 671-5555 to report the location and type of animal.

## FOULOIS from P1

ing Wing is the source of America's air power; we train the instructor pilots that go out and train the rest of the pilots in the Air Force," said Col. David Drichta, 12th Operations Group commander at JBSA-Randolph.

"We also have the initial pipeline for re-

motely piloted aircraft as well as introduction to fighter fundamentals. That source of America's air power is the execution today of what happened on this day back in 1910 with Lieutenant Foulois," Drichta added. "If you look back at the birth of aviation, we have instruction from 105 years ago continuing here in the

rich tradition of San Antonio and military aviation. We come from a long line of people who have been doing this before us, and we will continue to take the fight into the future."

The ceremony was concluded with a wreath laying to honor the accomplishments of Foulois and his eight-man team and to remember the be-

ginning of San Antonio's military aviation heritage.

"In the spirit of what happened here, I want to congratulate each and every one of you and thank you for continuing to recognize and celebrate the history of aviation," Wiggins said. "It has been an honor for me to stand here today and be a part of this tradition."



## CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### PROTESTANT SERVICES

#### Sundays

#### Main Post (Gift) Chapel

Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way  
8 and 11 a.m. - Traditional

#### Dodd Field Chapel

Building 1721, 5584 Dodd Blvd.  
8:30 a.m. - Samoan  
10:30 a.m. - Gospel

#### Army Medical Department Regimental Chapel

Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.  
9:20 a.m. - 32nd Medical Brigade  
Contemporary Service  
11:01 - Contemporary "Crossroads"  
**Brooke Army Medical  
Center Chapel**  
Building 3600,  
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.  
10 a.m. - Traditional

### CATHOLIC SERVICES

#### Daily Mass

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel  
Building 3600,  
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.  
11:05 a.m., Monday through Friday  
**Main Post (Gift) Chapel**  
Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way

### 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday

#### Saturday

#### Main Post (Gift) Chapel

4:45 p.m. - Reconciliation  
5:30 p.m. - Evening Mass

#### Sunday

8 a.m. - Morning Mass, AMEDD  
8:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC  
9:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, MPC  
11:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC  
12:30 p.m. - Afternoon Mass, DFC

### JEWISH SERVICES

8 p.m. - Jewish Worship,  
Friday, MPC  
8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat,  
Friday, MPC

### ISLAMIC SERVICE

1:15 p.m. - Jummah, Friday,  
AMEDD

### LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES

1 p.m. - LDS Worship, Sunday,  
AMEDD

### BUDDHIST SERVICES

10 a.m. - Buddhist Services,  
Saturday, AMEDD

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

## 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>.

