



WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

No. 22 • JUNE 5, 2015



Dining facility closes for major renovations

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COMMENTARY

AIRMANSHIP, LEADERSHIP, EXCELLENCE

Air Force's 'youngest instructors' continue proud legacy

By Lt. Col. John Neptune

94th Flying Training Squadron commander
U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado

Near the end of every May in Colorado, all eyes turn toward the U.S. Air Force Academy as the public commemorates the graduation of the senior class, who, alongside their ROTC and Officer Training School brethren, stand poised to shape the future of the Air Force as newly commissioned lieutenants.

At the same time, overshadowed by the limelight of graduation, a small group of sophomore cadets attached to the 306th Flying Training Group – a geographically separated unit of the 12th Flying Training Wing located at the Academy – celebrate their own monumental milestone as they become the Air Force's youngest instructors.

The 94th Flying Training Squadron formally recognized 82 Academy sophomores May 20 as fully qualified Air Education and Training Command instructor pilots during its annual G-Wings Ceremony. The 98th Flying Training Squadron held its annual Blue Suit Ceremony May 25, honoring 26 sophomores who have earned the right to be called Air Education and Training Command Jumpmasters.

For the 94th's new cadet instructor pilots, the G-Wings Ceremony marks the culmination of 10 months of rigorous

training, including academics, 81 sorties and a formal flight evaluation in the TG-16A Mountain Swift, during which they are held to the same stringent standards as the squadron's rated officer cadre. As newly minted instructor pilots, these young men and women will join upper-class cadet instructor pilots and execute more than 95 percent of the flying instruction for the Academy's flying program.

Similarly, on the eve of the Blue Suit Ceremony, the 98th FTS's new cadet jumpmasters will have completed academics, ground and wind tunnel training and 200 freefall jumps over the course of their sophomore year to become fully qualified jumpmasters. As with their glider counterparts, these new cadet jumpmasters will conduct the lion's share of instruction for the 98th FTS, conducting more than 98 percent of all basic freefall training at the Academy.

Although the completion of their upgrade training is an incredible achievement, it's merely the beginning of something far greater.

Unlike many of their Academy peers, who spend much of their time studying and applying leadership skills, these new cadet instructor pilots and jumpmasters will wield enormous responsibility as they instruct and lead the Air Force's youngest aircrew, their fellow cadets, in a high-

tempo, operational flightline environment. In doing so, they truly embody the Air Force Core Values:

Integrity: Cadet instructors must hold their students and peers accountable to flight discipline and standards, whether assessing grades, determining how and when to intervene in unsafe situations or making the call on whether or not a student is fit to solo or jump. Doing the right thing is not an option; it's a matter of life and death.

Service Before Self: Cadet instructors are full-time college students with robust military and athletic obligations. The precious time they volunteer exposing, motivating and challenging their fellow cadets to airmanship epitomizes an intense devotion to service.

Excellence: Over the course of the next two years, these cadet instructors will be held to the same standards of excellence, whether on the ground or in the air, as any other Air AETC instructor.

So, as the Academy prepares to send out its latest graduating class to the Air Force at large, the 94th FTS and the 98th FTS stand ready to accept their newest instructor pilots and jumpmasters.

Though they are the Air Force's youngest instructors, they will undoubtedly rise to the challenge and continue the proud legacy of airmanship, leadership, and excellence that has long been ingrained within the 306th FTG.

ON THE COVER

Traneesha Evans (right), 802nd Force Support Squadron mess attendant, serves lunch to Airman 1st Class Keasha Martin, 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron dental technician, May 20 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Rendezvous Dining Facility.

Photo by Melissa Peterson

WINGSPREAD

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The deadline for submissions is noon Wednesday the week prior to publication. All submissions can be emailed to randolphpublicaffairs@us.af.mil.

Dining facility closed for renovations

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Rendezvous Dining Facility is closed through Nov. 15 for major renovations.

During the renovation period, the Kendrick Club is the designated venue for all meal-card customers. Meals will be served at the following times:

Breakfast: Monday-Friday: 6:30-8 a.m.

Lunch: Monday-Friday: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dinner: Monday-Sunday and holidays: 5-6:30 p.m.

Brunch: Saturday, Sunday and holidays: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The dining facility will reopen with a new look and a wider range of food offerings while accommodating a more diverse customer base – anyone with access to JBSA-Randolph. The project is part of the Air Force Materiel Command's Food Transformation Initiative that began in 2010.

For questions, call 652-4404/2555.



AETC releases heritage video

By Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

The Profession of Arms Center of Excellence released three new Airman professionalism videos May 13 as part of the Heritage Today series.

The Heritage Today series was designed to inspire Airmen through stories of Air Force heritage linked to current real-world Air Force operations.

Col. Jeff Smith, director of PACE, said each video's foundation is linked to the core values and created to promote group discussion.

"The Heritage Today series is made up of inspirational videos that bring a common understanding to enablers or traits that define our lives as Airmen," he said. "They are internal commitments to the Air Force Core Values as a way of life."

The first two videos of the Heritage Today series, entitled "Oath of Service" and "Commitment" were released in February. Both videos are featured on YouTube.

The new videos, entitled "Excellence," "Selflessness," and "Trust" are narrated by current Airmen who volunteered to be part of the video project.

Tech. Sgt. Darius Kersh, an instructor at the Robert D. Gaylor Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland; Tech. Sgt. Raymond Santiago, a military training instructor at JBSA-Lackland; and Tech. Sgt. Kandyse Jones, a personnelist at the Air Force Personnel Center at JBSA-Randolph, also contributed to the Heritage Today series as narrators.

To see all videos produced by the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence, visit YouTube.

AF phases in employees' injury, illness compensation portal

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

The Air Force, in conjunction with other Department of Defense services, is phasing in use of the Employees' Compensation Operations and Management Portal – or ECOMP – which is intended to eventually replace the current system used to file injury and illness compensation claims.

ECOMP is a free, web-based portal for electronic filing of key Federal Employee Compensation Act claim forms managed by the Department of Labor. DOD officials have selected ECOMP for electronic processing of compensation claims, said Annette Castro, Air Force Personnel Center Civilian Future Operations Branch.

Several installations were selected for the initial implementation phase (conducted March 30-April 30) including Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Goodfellow and Sheppard Air Force Bases, all in Texas. Information gathered during that phase will enable AFPC Civilian Force Integration Directorate teams to guide civilian Airmen during upcoming implementation phases.

Using ECOMP, employees will be able

to report a workplace incident and file a claim for compensation from their home computer without the need to use a common access card.

Users can track the exact status of any form or document submitted via ECOMP and can electronically upload and submit documents directly to DOL case files. Additionally, once an employee submits a claim for benefits, the supervisor will receive an email notification that a pending claim is ready for review.

ECOMP will shorten the time employees must wait for a claim number as well. Once a claim is submitted and validated by AFPC, employees normally get their claim number within 20 minutes.

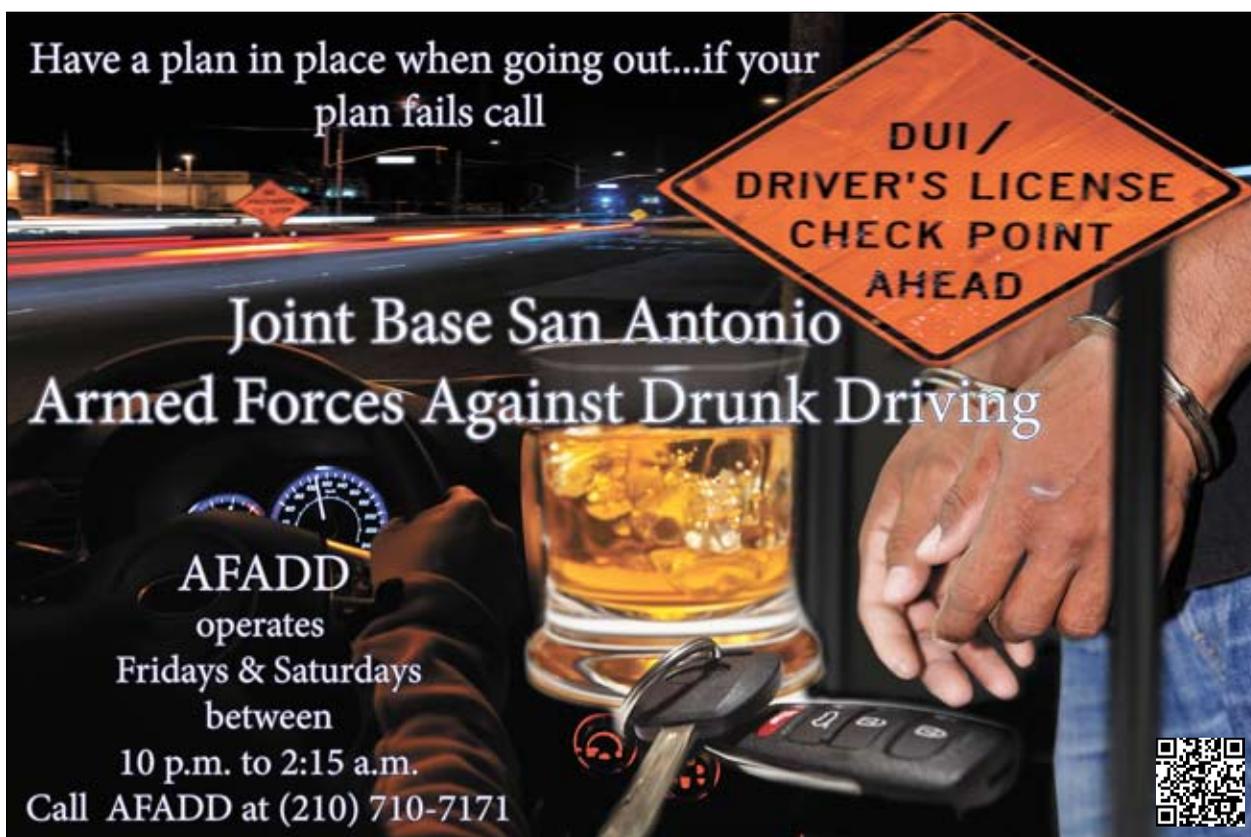
Base officials, including civilian personnel sections, will be notified when their installations are scheduled for implementation, Castro said. Until a base is phased into ECOMP, employees will continue to use the current process to submit a claim.

Additional information about ECOMP and the current process is available on the myPers website under "injury compensation."

For more information about other personnel issues, go to myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

NEWS

Have a plan in place when going out...if your plan fails call



**Joint Base San Antonio
Armed Forces Against Drunk Driving**

AFADD
operates
Fridays & Saturdays
between
10 p.m. to 2:15 a.m.
Call AFADD at (210) 710-7171

Courtesy graphic

Volunteers provide free rides

By David DeKunder

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio volunteers are offering a safe alternative to making it home alive after having a few drinks in the local area.

The volunteers are part of the Armed Forces Against Drunk Driving program. The program provides designated drivers, who are on call Fridays and Saturdays from 10 p.m. to 2:15 a.m., to pick up JBSA military members and their family members who are unable to drive home.

AFADD volunteers will drive active-duty members from JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Active-duty members who need a volunteer designated driver should call the AFADD hotline at 710-7171 and be prepared to provide their name, phone number, location, number of people to be picked up and a drop-off location.

Military members and their family members have the option to have a volunteer drive their vehicle to their residence, as long as the vehicle is insured, Tech Sgt. Shane Kinman, AFADD president, said. Once the volunteer is given permission by the service member or family member to drive their vehicle, another designated driver will follow until the military member or family member is dropped off at home.

Drunk driving continues to be a serious safety issue in the U.S. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 30 people in the U.S. are killed in vehicle crashes involving a drunk driver, which is one death every 51 minutes.

"There's no greater service you can provide to them than to potentially save their life, or somebody else's life, or career, than giving them a ride," Kinman said. "I would rather show up and help somebody outside of work than have to have contact with them after they have made a poor decision."

Kinman said the rides are confidential. AFADD does not report any military members picked up through the program.

An average of eight volunteer drivers per night are on call each night, Kinman said. He said those volunteers have been impacted or touched in one way or another by the consequences of drunk driving.

"You are hard-pressed not to find somebody that hasn't been affected by a drunk driver," Kinman said. "Many of the volunteers have stories about friends or family members that have been injured, killed or in other ways affected by drunk drivers."

Military members, Department of Defense civilians or contractors who want to become a volunteer designated driver can call the AFADD hotline during the week, or contact afadd.jbsa@gmail.com or afadd.jbsa@us.af.mil, or go on the JBSA AFADD Facebook page to volunteer.

Main gate lane closes for construction, maintenance

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Main Gate will shut down one outbound lane 9 p.m. Saturday to approximately 2 a.m. Sunday. Outbound traffic will be condensed to one lane and the construction area will be barricaded with cones. A flagman will be positioned to alert drivers.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph News Briefs

Knee pain study

If you are active duty or medically retired military personnel with post-traumatic osteoarthritis of the knee(s) and have moderate to severe knee pain, learn more about the post-traumatic osteoarthritis knee pain medical research study.

To pre-qualify for this study, you must:

- Be male or female between the ages of 20 and 45
- Have a diagnosis of post-traumatic OA of the knee or knees
- Be in general good health

For more information, call 916-4759.

Air Force Sergeants Association golf tournament

A four-person scramble takes place June 12 at the Randolph Oaks Golf Course. Teams are asked to arrive at 11 a.m. with a start time of 12:30 p.m. Call 652-0891 to register by today.

Discounted tuition for federal employees

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management and Champlain College have entered into an agreement to provide up to a 70 percent tuition discount through the college's truED alliance program.

The agreement allows federal employees to complete an 18-credit undergraduate certificate for \$3,000, a bachelor's degree for less than \$12,000 and a master's degree for as little as \$9,600. Federal employees, spouses and adult family members will have access to the degree programs.

For more information, visit <http://www.champlain.edu/truedfed>.

Sports physicals offered by appointment

A team from the 359th Medical Group will perform sports physicals 8-11 a.m. June 20 and August 8. These exams are by appointment only for children between the ages of 10-18 years who are enrolled with the 359th MDG. Participants are asked to wear athletic attire and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian 18 or older. Required forms include:

- Completed school sports physical forms, available for download from <http://www.uilTEXAS.org/files/athletics/forms/preparticipation-physical-evaluation.pdf>.
- A current copy of shot or immunization record, which can be printed from <https://imr.afms.mil/imr/MyIMR.aspx>.

Other medical issues such as asthma, ADHD or medication refills will not be included in the sports physical and parents are encouraged to schedule a regular wellness appointment to address these needs.

Sports physical appointments can be booked by calling 916-9900 between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

DOD-level awards honor Airman, civilian from JBSA-Randolph

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

A civilian education and training scheduler for the Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron and an airman first class assigned to the 359th Aerospace-Medicine Squadron will be honored this month with a Department of Defense-level award.

Edward Blauvelt, AFSAT International Education and Training scheduler for the Royal Saudi Air Force F-15 Modernization Program, and Airman 1st Class Weslynn Wooten, 359th Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight journeyman, are recipients of the Society of American Indian Government Employees Meritorious Service Award.

The SAIGE award honors American Indians and Alaska natives in the armed forces or federal civilian workforce “whose attributes best epitomize the qualities and core values of their respective military service or other DOD component.” The awards ceremony is scheduled June 18 at the Treasure Island Hotel in Welch, Minn.

Blauvelt, chairman of the American Indian Heritage Committee at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, said he is honored “to win such a high-level award.”

“To be selected as a DOD-level winner is beyond belief,” he said. “It is a high honor that lets me know what we are doing is noticed and appreciated and the American Indian Heritage Committee is making an impact here.”

Blauvelt, who is part Mohawk and Creek Indian, said he could not have achieved the award without the support of his AFSAT team and his former supervisor, Maj. Brandon Dow.

Wooten, who has honored her stepmother’s heritage through participation in activities of the Osage Nation, said the SAIGE award “is probably the award I’m most proud of.”

“I was really surprised to win the award because it is so competitive,” she said.

In his role at AFSAT, Blauvelt drives the acquisition and scheduling of all Royal Saudi Air Force technical training courses within Air Education and Training Command and Air Combat Command and manages an evolving five-year training program for Saudi Air Force students. He helped establish the first-ever RSAF cyber and communication program and was chosen to brief senior Air Force, AETC and 2nd Air Force leaders on the cyber

training program he developed.

Blauvelt said the JBSA-Randolph American Indian Heritage Committee has touched many lives through its education programs, including the American Indian Scholarship open to high school seniors of all ethnic groups whose parents or guardians work on JBSA-Randolph.

He said he is also proud of taking the America’s Warrior Veterans, an American Indian honor guard unit, to the Battle of Flowers Parade during San Antonio’s Fiesta celebration.

“We were the first American Indian honor guard unit in the parade’s 150-year history and the City of San Antonio has asked us to come back to be the honor guard for the city’s upcoming Fourth of July Parade,” Blauvelt said.

Wooten, who enlisted in the Air Force following high school graduation in 2013, trains initial and refresher students on the dangers of altitude and how to combat the physiological differences they might experience. She is the leading Airman in her flight’s maintenance section, responsible for the hypobaric altitude chamber and its components, and is the Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory monitor for her flight’s equipment that requires calibration.

Wooten, who was raised in Catoosa, Okla., by her father and stepmother since she was 10 years old, said she was immersed in Osage culture through the influence of her stepmother, taking part in tribal dances and other activities. She is also a registered member of the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations.

“It’s important to me because I know who I am. Growing up in an American Indian town, it’s such an honor to keep that culture alive,” she said.

Since arriving at JBSA-Randolph, her first duty station, Wooten has also immersed herself in the activities of the American Indian Heritage Committee, serving as event coordinator, and helped organize the 15th annual JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Veterans Powwow, the first joint Army-Air Force Powwow in San Antonio. Wooten also belongs to the America’s Warrior Veterans honor guard.

Wooten’s activism extends to the local community, where she co-leads the monthly birthday parties at Boysville, a nonprofit organization in Converse that provides a safe family environment for children in need, and serves as a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas.



Courtesy photo

Edward Blauvelt (far left), Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Weslynn Wooten (far right), 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron aerospace and operational physiology technician, march in the Battle of the Flowers parade April 24 in San Antonio. The two have been selected to receive the 2015 Society of American Indian Government Employee Meritorious Service Award June 18.

Three JBSA-Randolph women recognized for community service

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs



Three Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph women were honored for their community service May 16 at an awards ceremony hosted by Our Empowering Women of San Antonio.

Senior Master Sgt. Yasheda Sullivan, Air Force Reserve Command Readiness Integration Organization individual reserve operations NCO in charge; Airman 1st Class Weslynn Wooten, 359th Aeromedical Dental Squadron aerospace and operational physiology technician; and Nickie Blauvelt, 502nd Force Support Squadron child and youth program assistant, were recipients of the Crystal Award of Excellence from the organization.

Sullivan, Wooten and Blauvelt were three of five women in the San Antonio area to receive the award. This is the first year the Crystal Award has been presented by Our Empowering Women of San Antonio, which began in 2014.

All three JBSA-Randolph women have volunteered or led several community activities or projects, from helping to feed the homeless to promoting cultural diversity to serving the youth of military families.

Sullivan, a 27-year Air Force service member, has raised money, collected food and helped put together holiday meals and gifts for several families and children for area organizations including the Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program, Boysville, St. PJ's Children's Home and the San Antonio Battered Women and Children's Shelter.

She also serves as chairman of the JBSA African-American Heritage Committee.

Sullivan said her passion for helping the less fortunate started at an early age.

"Since I could remember, I've been the underdog advocate," she said. "Anybody that has been hurt, bruised, lonely, lost, left out, or ostracized, those are the people I gravitate to. I've been that way my whole life. It's how God made me."

Wooten is a member of the JBSA-Randolph National American Indian Heritage Month committee. Raised

OUR EMPOWERING WOMEN OF SAN ANTONIO AWARD WINNERS



Senior Master Sgt. Yasheda Sullivan



Airman 1st Class Weslynn Wooten



Nickie Blauvelt

in Catoosa, Okla., Wooten is of Native American descent and is a tribal member of the Choctaw and Cherokee nations.

As a member of the JBSA-Randolph National American Indian Heritage Month Committee, Wooten participates in activities that bring awareness and educate the public about the Native American culture.

Wooten is a volunteer for the Big Brother-Big Sister program, which pairs a child with an adult role model. Being a mentor is something Wooten has been doing since she was in high school, when she helped mentor younger students.

"I like being a good influence and a good mentor," Wooten said. "It's really a rewarding experience. I'm the oldest of five kids so it comes pretty naturally to me. I've had a lot of fun doing it."

Blauvelt is a member of the Randolph High

School Band Booster Club, helping out with the Ro-Hawk band program, in which two of her three children were members.

In addition, Blauvelt works at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Center, where she has developed sports and fitness programs for summer camps and set up clubs for gardening and cooking skills.

"I know that through my own experiences husbands and wives get deployed and you are left by yourself with the children that still have to go and do their thing," she said. "I just want to help them and fill in the void. I just hope I guide them in the right direction and make a difference in a child's life."

Our Empowering Women of San Antonio is a non-profit organization that recognizes both women and men for their hard work and dedication in improving their community, according to the organization's website.

STRAIGHT TALK

For inclement weather notifications, information on the upcoming 2015 Joint Base San Antonio air show and current information on base operating status during a natural disaster, crisis or emergency, call the local Straight Talk line at JBSA-Randolph at 652-7469. Check the JBSA Facebook page for updated announcements at <http://www.facebook.com/JointBaseSanAntonio>.

AF launches baseline hearing testing program for new recruits

By Staff Sgt. Jerilyn Quintanilla
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force launched the service's first baseline hearing testing program March 30.

Developed by the Department of Defense Hearing Center of Excellence located at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, in partnership with the 559th Medical Group, the program tests and documents audiograms providing a hearing readiness screening for all Air Force Basic Military Trainees and officer recruits.

"Our goal with this program is to provide an accurate hearing assessment for new recruits before exposure to job-related hazardous noises," said Michael Elliot, HCE Health Systems Administrator.

The Air Force previously relied solely on hearing tests administered at the Military Entrance Processing Station. To better ensure readiness, Air Education and Training Command and the Air Force Surgeon General leadership gave the "green light" to develop the program last summer.

"Early testing enables the staff to diagnose, intervene and explore treatment options for the trainee. We're also in a better position to measure exposure to high noise levels throughout a service member's career," Elliot said.

All recruits undergo the hearing assessment as part of medical in-processing within the first three weeks of training. Those needing additional evaluation will retest before their fifth week of training.

Tests are conducted on the training installation; enlisted basic trainees un-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerilyn Quintanilla

Basic military trainees take a baseline hearing assessment May 12 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The assessment measures hearing status to ensure trainees are in compliance with communication and safety needs for their projected Air Force Specialty Code.

dergo testing on JBSA-Lackland and officer recruits at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. A five-member team, including one audiologist and four audiology technicians certified by the Center for Occupational Hearing Conservation, supports the high volume of basic trainees.

"At a minimum trainees will receive at least one other hearing test upon either separation or retirement," said Elizabeth Flanders, program audiology technician.

"Medical personnel will then be able to compare the results of the two tests and get a better picture of any impact the military service may have had on the member's hearing."

Although not the original intent, testing has already identified trainees who do not meet accession or Air Force Specialty Code standards. Early identification is projected to save the DOD about \$350,000 in avoidance costs. Those failing to meet standards for

their projected AFSC have the opportunity to retrain into another career field. Trainees not meeting accession standards must separate from the Air Force.

"This program is just another tool we have to ensure new Airmen are fit and ready to serve in every aspect. It's helping us build a better, stronger force," Elliot said.

For more information about the HCE, visit <http://hearing.health.mil/>.

AFRS NCOs excel at military powerlifting nationals

By Annette Crawford

Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

Two Air Force Recruiting Service NCOs' accomplishments helped their teammates on the Air Force Powerlifting Team earn silver in the 2015 U.S.A. Powerlifting Military Nationals and Southeastern State Bench Competition in Atlanta March 14.

Master Sgt. Michael D. Lear, 347th Recruiting Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Michael L. Parrott, Headquarters AFRS, were among the 14 team members led by their coach, Chief Master Sgt. Troy Saunders, HQ Air Force, the Pentagon.

"Having been the Air Force team coach since 2009, as well as a military powerlifting competitor for over 27 years, I can unequivocally say this year's team consisted of the best in lifting and Airmanship to date," Saunders said. "I can attest that Lear's and Parrott's indomitable accomplishments of strength and spirit were core to the Air Force team's incredible performance at the 2015 Military Nationals."

The Military Nationals are an annual powerlifting competition that is open to all active duty military, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and contractors. Athletes have three attempts at the squat, bench press and deadlift (nine lifts total) with their highest/best lift contributing to an overall total.

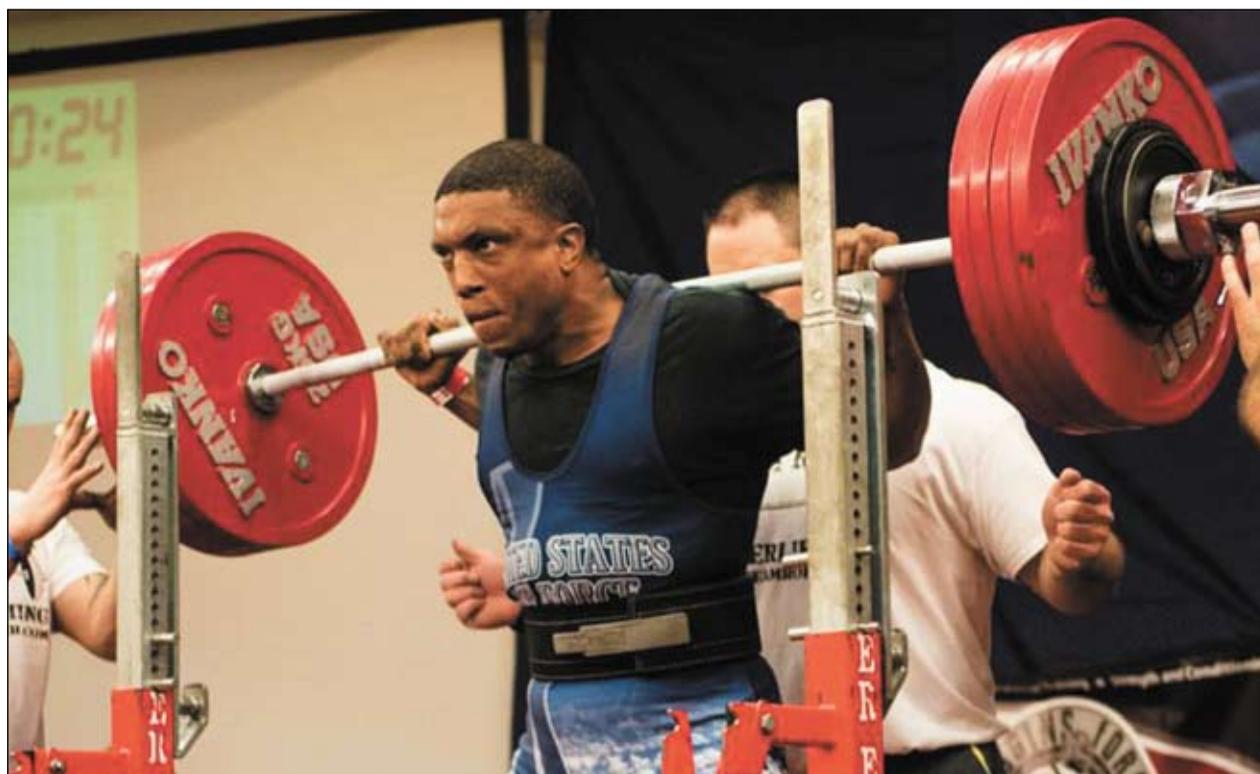
Lear registered in the raw 83-kilogram/182-pounds weight class with a body weight of 82.3 kg (181.5 lbs.) He won gold, broke two American military records and three of four Illinois state records.

Lear completed each lift with a 220 kg/485 lbs. squat (an Illinois state record), 130 kg/287 lbs. bench press, 287.5 kg/633 lbs. deadlift (American military and Illinois state record) and totaled 637.5 kg/1,405 lbs. (another American military and Illinois state record).

Parrott registered in the 93 kg/205 lbs. weight class with a body weight of 86.9 kg (about 191 lbs.). He conquered each lift with a 240 kg/529 lbs. squat, 150 kg/330 lbs. bench press, and 275 kg/606 lbs. deadlift. He totaled 665 kg/1,465 lbs. awarding him as a silver medalist in his weight class.

"Although powerlifting is focused on an individual's ability to overcome the forces of gravity, the success of any powerlifter relies on a strong network of support," said Saunders, who is also the USA Powerlifting Association Military Chair.

"Both of these outstanding athletes and Airmen excelled in their ability to congeal team spirit and fostered camaraderie that was reflected not only in their own incredible performances but inspired fellow team members to break American and personal best records," Saunders added. "It was an honor to work with them at this year's nationals, and I suspect they will be lifting for a long time to come."



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Michael Parrott, Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service, is a member of the Air Force Powerlifting Team that won the silver at the 2015 U.S.A. Powerlifting Military Nationals and Southeastern State Bench Competition March 14 in Atlanta.



Master Sgt. Michael Lear, 347th Recruiting Squadron, is a member of the Air Force Powerlifting Team that won the silver at the 2015 USAPL Military Nationals and Southeastern State Bench Competition March 14 in Atlanta.

Courtesy photo

Air Force moves to bring about RPA mission relief

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The Air Force is pursuing a range of options that will, in combination with a reset in the number of sustainable combat air patrols, help alleviate long-term stress on Remotely Piloted Aircraft crews.

Initial efforts were announced by the Air Force Secretary and Chief of Staff earlier this year; new initiatives include incentive pay increases and bonuses for crews, directing additional funds to the mission, augmenting current crew manning, increasing the number of RPA pilot graduates and increasing the use of Guard and Reserve Airmen as well as contractors to bring relief to a community in high demand.

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James says the Air Force will continue to support combatant commanders with RPA missions while also focusing on initiatives that reduce stress on personnel and build readiness that is sustainable over time.

“Balancing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability across the range of military operations with finite resources remains a challenge,” said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. “In order to best meet mission demands and sustain the force, the secretary of defense has approved a cap reset to improve RPA pilot operations tempo. We needed to do this to ensure the long-term viability of this capability.”

After spending much of the last decade in surge mode, the Air Force is looking to put into place measures to bring additional relief to the high-demand remotely piloted aircraft community.

“What our remotely piloted aircraft professionals are doing in today’s fight and in preparing for future conflicts is simply incredible,” said Gen. Hawk Carlisle, Air Combat Command commander. “RPAs fulfill critical demands in every theater 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.”

Operating at a surge capacity for nearly a decade has taken a toll on the force. In order to meet combatant commander requirements, and in response to SECDEF direction, the Air Force surged MQ-1/9 combat air patrols nine times in the last eight years and has sustained those operations to date, according to Air Force officials.

In April, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter approved the reset of the CAP planning guidance to reflect a drop in CAPs from 65 to 60. This initiative was designed to alleviate the state of constant surge experienced by the RPA community.

Air Force leadership recognizes the stakes of not properly balancing mission demands against the needs to develop the force and the potential risk assumed in areas such as retention, training, manning, and combat capability.

“Maintaining operational success and fulfilling combatant command requirements for a sustained period of time has impacted our ability to train the force and risks the health and long-term viability of the enterprise,” said Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Air Force



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nadine Barclay

Airman 1st Class Steven (left) and Airman 1st Class Taylor prepare an MQ-9 Reaper for flight during exercise Combat Hammer, May 15, 2014, at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

Chief of Staff. “Current demand put requirements for active-duty RPA pilots at about 300 per year. However, our current active-duty training production output is only 180 pilots per year. The new plan aims to add more than 100 additional pilot graduates per year.”

To address concerns, the Air Force launched several initiatives in January to deal with the growing strain on RPA capacity and continues to explore options to fix manning challenges.

In January, Secretary James took immediate action to increase RPA pilot aviation pay from \$650 to \$1,500 a month. Now the service is developing plans for a longer-term RPA pilot retention bonus for fiscal year 2016 release and is actively advocating for new incentives.

“We’ve improved the aviator retention pay bonus for traditional pilots flying RPAs, making their bonus consistent with other stressed rated officer communities,” James said. “We are also committed to improving aviator retention pay bonuses for traditional pilots electing to fly RPAs.”

In order to enable force development and necessary training the Air Force will make use of an array of resources.

“In an effort to further improve the health of the force, we will leverage the Air Reserve Component and contractor support to bring relief to the active-

duty force. This will allow manning to be reinvested into the RPA training pipeline.” James said.

Additionally, to bring relief to the active-duty force, the Air Force plans to mobilize reserve component forces to take on three combat air patrols.

The service is also working on funding actions to relieve stress across the RPA enterprise. The Air Force recently moved \$7.8 million into the RPA program to grow school house capacity, increase reserve component manpower augmentation days and contract some downrange and recovery efforts.

“We’re redirecting funds into the RPA community and will request support from within the Department of Defense to cover additional requirements,” James said. “This is an absolutely critical mission set and investment is required to ensure its long-term viability. We’re committed to getting this right.”

The service recognizes the demand for ISR and RPA pilot skills will remain.

“The demand for ISR capability will always exist,” James said. “We are focused on developing and managing ISR assets to be agile and responsive enough to support global and theater requirements in a seamless manner while at the same time, managing the stress on Airmen. We are taking action to provide near-term operational relief while addressing quality of life concerns.”



iMatter site gives AETC Airmen voice to share ideas, innovations

By Capt. Jennifer Richard
Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command's new iMatter website gives all command Total Force Airmen access to an AETC-specific tool for sharing innovations and improvement ideas.

The concept took hold based on Gen. Robin Rand, AETC commander, hearing ideas directly from Airmen during his command site visits.

"Air Education and Training Command has great Airmen doing great things every day," said Rand. "I want every Airman in the command to know they have a voice to me - 24/7. In addition to my AETC Commander Facebook page and the AETC public website, iMatter helps accomplish this goal by offering a venue to post innovative suggestions or ideas."

iMatter allows AETC Airmen to post their suggestions for improving processes and procedures as well as their ideas on how to improve the command. Airmen provide their inputs via a simple, online form. Then, each submission is reviewed by the AETC Innovation and Transformation Office, which oversees the command's Air Force Smart Operations program. According to rules of engagement posted on the iMatter site, posts must be respectful and well-researched and not complaints or personal opinions.

"No idea is off limits," said Charles Wyatt, master process owner for the AETC Air Force Smart Operations program, "but this is not the Inspector General Complaint System."

Once an idea is submitted, the ITO sends the idea to the appropriate functional area of responsibility to consider. Depending on the response from the functional, the ITO staff may see if there is an opportunity to apply their AFSO skills in ways such as conducting additional research or holding an AFSO event. For

each idea, the exact process differs depending on the scope of the recommendation or problem.

"We really do try, as much as reasonably possible, to implement submitters' ideas, and we'd like to get the entire process - from beginning to end - completed as quickly as possible," said Wyatt. "And just about every step of the way, as a suggestion moves along the path, the submitter gets notified and informed about the status of the idea."

With iMatter now live, AETC leadership is looking to Airmen at all levels to begin using the site and submitting their ideas. AETC will conduct a cost-benefit analysis of iMatter around the July-August timeframe to measure the site's impact, according to Maj. Alan Haedge, chief of command policy and special programs for AETC, so now is the time for Airmen to make their voices heard.

"Think about the power that 62,000 Airmen across AETC can have," said Haedge. "There are tons of folks out there with great, innovative ideas; hopefully they'll take the time to put those ideas on the iMatter site. Commercial entities such as USAA and Starbucks actually use similar tools and have had great success. In fact, USAA has generated over 500 patents since 2010 with their respective innovation program."

"This program is intended to help complement existing Air Force programs and to focus on AETC-specific areas of innovation," added Haedge.

To start using iMatter, Airmen can visit the site, <https://app10-eis.aetc.af.mil/imatter/SitePages/home.aspx>, and access a variety of resources, including an iMatter User's Guide and instructional videos. Each iMatter site visitor must use his/her Common Access Card (CAC) and select the non-email CAC certificate in order to access the site. For non-CAC users or to find out more, contact the AETC Innovation and Transformation Office at AETC. AFSO21.Workflow@us.af.mil.



Safety day features various agencies

Brian Tyler (left), Universal City Police Department senior patrolman, explains the effects of 'drunk goggles' to Tracy Mackey (right), Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Lodging Office employee, during the annual safety day event hosted by the JBSA-Randolph Lodging Office. This tool allows the user to experience the vision impairment and disorientation that accompanies high blood alcohol levels and is used to show the dangers of driving while intoxicated. The event featured mission demonstrations from multiple agencies that contribute to the safety of JBSA-Randolph members, including 359th Medical Support Group Public Health technicians, 502nd Air Base Wing Safety office members and 902nd Security Forces Squadron defenders.

Photo by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade



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



International flight surgeons learn about night-vision goggle course

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Three flight surgeons attending a course for international medical officers at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, took a brief break from their studies to visit the 359th Aerospace and Operational Physiology Training Flight May 20.

Surgeon Commander Polpakkara Promod of the Indian navy, Lt. Col. Choi Kyungpil of the Republic of Korea air force and Capt. Tahir Nawaz of the Pakistan air force, students in the Advanced Aerospace Medicine for International Medical Officers Course, traveled to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph for a briefing on the Air Force's Night-Vision Goggle Advanced Academic Instructor Course.

"The purpose of the informational meeting was to discuss how the Air Force conducts night-vision goggle training and to talk about the opportunities the Air Force has in training our international partners about night-vision goggles," Lt. Col. Dan Roberts, 359th Aerospace and Operational Physiology Training Flight commander, said.

The course offered at JBSA-Randolph, the only one of its kind in the Air Force, provides advanced instruction to Airmen who are already familiar

with NVGs, allowing them to share their knowledge with novice NVG users. It is required for aircrew flight equipment specialists and anyone who teaches initial NVG training.

"We take experienced aircrew members and train them on advanced concepts," Roberts told the three flight surgeons. "We immerse them in the technology and also teach them what they can't do – that there are limitations with NVGs."

In addition to discussing the course, which maintains a ratio of 12 students per one instructor, and showing the visitors teaching devices such as a virtual terrain board, Roberts informed them of the flight's international course, which is taken to the United States' international partners and tailored to their mission.

"Our international course is not in-residence," he said. "Rather than bringing folks here and showing them our technology, we train them to the technology they have."

Roberts said the flight sends two instructors to international courses. Recent courses have included one in Lithuania and a NATO session attended by participants from nine countries.

Roberts' presentation impressed Promod.

"It was evident that the U.S. Air force imparts training of high quality to future



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Lt. Col. Dan Roberts, 359th Aerospace and Operational Physiology Training Flight commander, speaks to a group of flight surgeons from the Indian navy, Republic of Korea air force and the Pakistani air force May 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

NVG instructors," he said. "This training involves use of didactic lectures as well as a good infrastructure in the form of dark rooms, a virtual terrain model and other accessories."

Promod said his country is looking at the possibility of starting an NVG instruc-

tors' course based on the U.S. model.

"The setting up of an NVG instructors' course would help in making a maximum number of aircrew more proficient in the use of night-vision goggles and enabling them to be more aware about the capabilities and limitations," he said.



JBSA-Randolph Library offers summer reading program for all ages

Martha Samborski, 802nd Force Support Squadron senior library technician, reads to a group of children during story time May 20 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Library. The library offers a summer reading program, "Read to the Rhythm," for patrons of all ages. The program runs from June 10 to July 22, with weekly Wednesday morning events geared toward school-age children, including musical story time and a performance by members from the Magik Theater. Registration for the program runs through Wednesday and can be accomplished at the library or online at <http://www.jbsalibraries.org>. To view a complete schedule of program events, visit the library or their website. For more information, call the library at 652-5578.

Photo by Melissa Peterson

JBSA-Randolph pools open for summer

Emily Norman (left) and Ryan Stevens, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph lifeguards, clean the Parr Club pool May 20 at JBSA-Randolph. The Parr Club Center Pool is open with hours as follows:

- Monday, Wednesday-Friday: 1-8 p.m.
- Saturday: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sunday: 1-6 p.m.

To contact the Center Pool staff, call: 652-2060

The South Pool near the Rambler Fitness Center opens Monday with the following hours:

- Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To contact the South Pool staff, call: 652-2053

All children younger than 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Children ages 11-13 must pass a swim test before swimming alone. For questions about fees, swimming lessons and parties call 652-5268.

Photo by Melissa Peterson



'Laredo Escadrille' steps back in time for 50th anniversary reunion

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

An undergraduate pilot training class whose members grew up together as aviators at Laredo Air Force Base turned back the clock May 15-17 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Assembled for their 50th anniversary reunion, Laredo AFB Class 66-E, which called itself the "Laredo Escadrille" and distinguished itself throughout the Vietnam War and beyond, were guests of honor during a "re-graduation" ceremony that recalled that February day in 1966 when they earned their silver wings.

"All of us, we stand on your shoulders," Col. Matthew Isler, 12th Flying Training Wing commander, said after reciting the Airman's Creed. "We stand on the proud heritage, the tradition of honor and the legacy of valor with each of you, and we're proud to support your graduation today."

Isler listed some of the accomplishments of that class, which included 7,000 hours in combat and 71,000 military flight hours; two Silver Stars, both earned by Capt. Dave Burney; 17 Distinguished Flying Crosses; and 147 Air Medals in Combat. At the peak of their Air Force careers, Class 66-E's ranks featured "numerous majors, three lieutenant colonels, three

colonels and one four-star general."

Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command, presented certificates to 19 class members or their representatives and thanked them for showing his generation "how to win and how to fight."

"I want everyone to reflect a minute on what it was like for these gentlemen in 1966, when they graduated," he said. "Our nation was in the middle of a nasty conflict and they knew what they were going to have to do."

Rand drew a parallel between Class 66-E and the current members of the 435th Fighter Training Squadron in attendance.

"Many of those folks standing back there, too, are going to do what you did," he said.

Class 66-E's "re-graduation" was the highlight of their seventh in a series of reunions that began in 2001 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Other activities included tours of the Taj Mahal and the historical displays at the 99th and 435th Flying Training Squadrons, a 435th FTS briefing, dinner at the Parr Club, a round of golf at the Randolph Oaks Golf Course and sight-seeing in downtown San Antonio.

Retired Maj. Tal Haas, who flew nearly 3,800 hours in the C-130, said his class shares a special bond.



Members of the Laredo Escadrille celebrate their group's 50th anniversary reunion May 18 at Joint Base San Antonio Randolph.

Photo by Harold China

"We all went our separate ways, but we still have camaraderie," he said. "Our Air Force training was the bond that holds us together. We knew nothing about flying when we came in and they taught us how to do that."

Haas called his class "unique."

"We all get along," he said "We have many backgrounds, but a unique personality."

Haas said more than 30 young men entered Class 66-E in January 1965, and 17 of them graduated 13 months later. Most of them had combat roles during the Vietnam War.

"Everybody who went to Vietnam came back alive," he said, including 2nd Lt. George Rose, who was shot down over North Vietnam on June 21, 1972, and was a prisoner of war until his release March 28, 1973.

Haas said the class drew its nickname, "Laredo Escadrille," from the famed Lafayette Escadrille, the squadron of American pilots who volunteered to fight for France during World War I.

One of the parallels between the two units was the number 38, he said. Thirty-eight American pilots joined the French Air Service in World War I and Class 66-E was set to be the first class to train in the new T-38 Talon at Laredo AFB. However, the T-38 was not quite ready, so the young pilots earned their wings by training in the T-33 and T-37.

Larry King, a C-130 pilot who transported war supplies to Vietnam, recalled his pilot training as a special time in his life.

"As I get older, I look back and realize that the experience means a lot more to me now than it did at the time," he said.