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



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AETC COMMAND CHIEF RETIRES **PAGE 6**



U.S. ARMY NORTH VOLUNTEER RECOGNIZED **PAGE 11**

Army North welcomes new deputy commanding general

By Sgt. Maj. Matt Howard
 U.S. Army North Public Affairs

U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) at Fort Sam Houston welcomed Brig. Gen. James Blackburn, the new deputy commanding general, with a ceremony Jan. 14 at the historic Quadrangle.

Blackburn told the approximately 200 Soldiers, family members and guests in attendance he was eager to start tackling the unique missions Army North faces as the Army component command for North America.

"I'm fired up and ready to get after it," he enthusiastically proclaimed.

Blackburn also said he was excited to be a part of the San Antonio community, noting that in just his first week he had gotten to spend time at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl and meet the leaders of the upcoming San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke
 Brig. Gen. James Blackburn, new U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) deputy commanding general, speaks to Soldiers, family members and guests at a welcome ceremony Jan. 14.

See BLACKBURN, P17

SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY VISITS BAMC



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey (right) greets and passes out coins to Soldiers and Airmen at the San Antonio Military Medical Center Jan. 8. In addition to touring the facility, Dailey spoke at a town hall for Soldiers.

Photo by Lori Newman

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Army Emergency Relief announces opening of scholarship application period, taken until May 1

Army Emergency Relief officials have announced the opening of its scholarship application period. Applications will be accepted until May 1.

AER supports both the Spouse Scholarship Program, as well as the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program for dependent children. Scholarship specifics and the applications are available on AER's website at <http://www.aerhq.org>. The spouse scholarship can be used for full or part-time students, while the Ursano Scholarship is only for full-time students.

Last year, AER awarded 4,245 scholarships,

totaling more than \$9 million to spouses and children of Soldiers.

"The entire scholarship process is on line," said Tammy LaCroix, AER scholarship programs manager. "Applicants are able to create their own profile, submit their documentation online and check their status, which is a huge time saver for both the applicants and the scholarship staff.

"This is a valuable opportunity for the children and spouses of Soldiers," LaCroix said. "We saw an increase in the number of applications last year and hope this trend continues this year."

The entire applica-

tion package for the 2016-2017 school year must be submitted online by May 1. This includes the application as well as the supporting documents which will be outlined for the applicant based on the information provided on the application.

Most applicants will need to provide transcripts (through the fall semester), the Student



Aid Report from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, and the Soldier's Leave and Earnings Statement for active duty Soldiers. AER awards "needs-

based" scholarships, based on the FAFSA and transcripts. The amount of the award varies based on the number of qualified applicants and scholarship funds available. Last year the award amounts ranged from \$500 to \$3,300.

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

(Source: Army Emergency Relief)

Strategy to decrease violence rolls out across the Air Force

Airmen will take the first step of a five-year strategy to decrease interpersonal violence across the service in January when 1,500 Airman implementers attend one of 22 Green Dot prep sessions worldwide.

The Air Force contracted the non-profit Green Dot organization to provide these violence prevention tools to the total Air Force over the next three years.

"As a service, our number one priority has and will continue to be response. However, in order to stop violence before it occurs we must dedicate time to prevention," said Chief Master Sgt. Melanie Noel, Air

Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response senior enlisted advisor. "Helping our Airmen understand what they can do to prevent violence and how they can do it is the first step."

Green Dot prepares organizations to implement a strategy of violence prevention that reduces power-based interpersonal violence, which includes not only sexual violence, but also domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, child abuse, elder abuse and bullying.

"Green Dot is the Air Force's first step in arming Airmen for violence prevention using an evidence based pub-

lic health model," said Dr. Andra Tharp, the Air Force's prevention expert. "Although that sounds complicated, really what it means is that we know Airmen are a vital part of the solution and we will use methods like this that have been subjected to rigorous scientific testing and were proven to be effective in reducing violence."

Reflective of Green Dot's wider scope, command-designated Airmen at each installation will conduct 50-minute long sessions across the Air Force.

Installation leadership will also have oversight of Green Dot through the Community Action Infor-

mation Board and Integrated Delivery System, and track completion through the Advanced Distributed Learning System.

"It's on all of us to take responsibility to prevent interpersonal violence in our Air Force," said Brig. Gen. Lenny Richoux, Air Force CAIB chair. "There are more good Airmen out there who want to take care of their wingman than there are predators seeking to inflict acts of violence inside our family, and I have confidence our Airmen won't let me or each other stand-alone against this criminal behavior."

The 1,500 Airman

implementers will complete training by March 2016. They will return to their units to train peer leader Airmen at each base followed by training for all Airmen.

"Taking care of one another requires an integrated approach using the expertise of the medical community, sexual assault prevention and the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence," Richoux said. "Old-school analog leadership from commanders and supervisors and between Airmen is the key to our success."

(Source: Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs)



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News Briefs

JBSA-Lackland Snow Fest

The 502nd Force Support Squadron transforms the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Amphitheater into a snowy downhill slope from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday. This free event includes two snow slides, a large snow pit, a climbing mountain, an interactive obstacle course, a bounce house, a military working dog demonstration, a fire truck to explore and entertainment by OMG Productions.

Public Hearing On FSHISD Texas Academic Performance Report

A public hearing on the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District's Texas Academic Performance Report (formerly known as the Academic Excellence Indicator System Report) is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday at the FSHISD Professional Development Center at 4005 Winans Road.

Heroes at Home Financial Event Tours JBSA-Lackland

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center is one of 10 military installations selected to host the Heroes at Home financial event tour from 9-11 a.m. Tuesday at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club. The event is a free event that encourages military families toward life changing financial freedom with top level financial advisors. Special guest speakers, financial experts and award-winning authors include Ellie Kay, with "Living Rich for Less," reviews ways to set up a workable budget, pay less for more, money talk with your family, and stretching dollars for vacation and entertainment; Gerri Detweiler, with "Smart Money: Five Ways to Improve Your Credit" discusses free ways to monitor your credit, pay down debt and improve your FICO score; and Ingrid Burns, with "Saving for the Future You Want", provides strategies to start saving early and ways to stay committed. Service members, families, retirees, Reservists and JBSA civilian employees are welcomed to attend. To reserve a seat, call the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center at 671-3722.

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

JBSA Tax Centers open Feb. 1 to assist military, family members, retirees

Tax centers at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston will open Feb. 1 to provide free tax preparation and e-filing of federal and state income tax returns for junior military taxpayers and family members of all deployed members. Services will be available for military retirees on a limited basis.

All tax centers will be open for business Feb. 1 through April 15.

The JBSA-Lackland Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center is located in Room 41 in the basement of the 37th Training Wing headquarters, building 2484, located at 1701 Kenly Ave., across the street from the Gateway Club and adjacent to the parade field.

Service members and their family members in the ranks of E-1 through E-4 and O-1 through O-2, can call the tax center at 671-1001 to schedule appointments for one-on-one tax return preparation beginning Monday. Appointments will be available for the spouse of any deployed member regardless of rank.

The tax lab will be available for walk-in self-service tax preparation on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to all eligible beneficiaries. The program requires registration and creation of an account upon arrival.

Any unfilled appointments will be made on a space available basis starting Feb. 1.

The tax center will service E1-E4 and O1-O2 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In order to meet the active duty requirement, retiree appointments will only be available on Thursdays. By March, service availability for active duty members will expand to include appointments for NCOs and O-3s.

The JBSA-Randolph Tax Center, located next to the

Legal Assistance Center in building 202, is open Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to noon; Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Fridays, 8 a.m. to noon. The center is closed on Mondays.

LaMarr Queen, JBSA-Randolph Tax Center tax program coordinator, said service members and retirees have been scheduling appointments since Wednesday, by coming by the center or calling 652-1040. The center will be open until April 15, the deadline to file income taxes with the Internal Revenue Service.

The tax center will have two stations, each with a volunteer, to help active-duty service members, retirees and their dependents prepare and file their taxes. People who are getting their taxes prepared must bring their tax forms, such as the W-2, and Social Security cards. For the first time this year, filers will need to bring their 1095 form, required under the Affordable Care Act, which provides information on their health insurance coverage.

Queen said service members should bring their December 2015 Leave and Earnings Statement. He also said the tax center will have 23 volunteer tax preparers who are certified in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program sponsored by the IRS.

By getting their taxes done at the Tax Center, Queen said active-duty service members and retirees will be able to get their taxes prepared and filed free of charge by a group of experienced and knowledgeable volunteers. He said the volunteers have between five to 20 years of experience preparing and filing taxes.

At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, there will be two tax center locations, both of which will start taking appointments Feb. 1. The first is located at 2414 Stanley



Photo by Alan Boedeker

Elisabeth and Terry Clark (left) speak with volunteer tax preparer Capt. Valerie Gregory prior to their appointment at the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Tax Center in 2013.

Road, building 131, while the second is located the basement of the San Antonio Military Medical Center, Room L44-06.

Hours at both locations are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Active duty members, their family members and military retirees are eligible at both locations. For appointments, call 295-1040 for the Stanley Road location or 916-1040 for the SAMMC location. In accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations, the tax centers are limited to preparing simple tax returns during one-on-one consultations. The tax center is not equipped to prepare complex tax returns.

Service members must bring all necessary documents, including last year's tax return, a cancelled check for direct deposit, a military identification card and a Social Security card for each payer and dependent to the appointment.

Members who are married, or filing jointly, will both need to attend the appointment, unless there is a power of attorney.

Tax preparation can take anywhere from 30 minutes to

a few hours and customers are reminded to arrange for child care during the appointment.

Finally, here are some military-specific tips that may apply to you:

For those deploying, it may be helpful to designate someone to represent you on a federal tax matter. To do this, fill out and sign IRS Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative, and provide it to the person you want to file your taxes. Forms can be downloaded at <http://www.irs.gov>.

For military members serving in a combat zone, the IRS automatically extends the deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing a claim for a refund and taking other actions related to federal income tax.

Members may apply for a deferral of taxes owed if they can show that their ability to pay taxes was adversely affected by their military service.

Members who prefer to self-prepare and e-file taxes may do so at <http://www.militaryonesource.com>.

(Source: JBSA Public Affairs)

TRADOC visit highlights new Army Operating Concept

By Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke
U.S. Army North Public Affairs

The top general for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command spoke to senior leaders at Blesse auditorium at Fort Sam Houston Jan. 8 about changes to the Army's operating concept and the need to prepare for the unknown enemies of the future.

Gen. David G. Perkins, TRADOC commanding general, conducted a town hall meeting to discuss the changes to the operational environment and what his command is doing to ensure Soldiers are ready to meet the new challenges.

"One of our most important duties as Army professionals is to think clearly about the problem of future armed conflict," Perkins said. "Our vision

of the future must drive change to ensure that Army forces are prepared to prevent conflict, shape the security environment and win wars."

Perkins' vision of winning wars added a third element to an old concept. The old Field Manual 100-5 that covered operations was written to win at the operational and tactical level against a known enemy.

In the new TRADOC Pamphlet 525-3-1, The U.S. Army Operating Concept, Perkins and TRADOC focus on three levels of war: tactical, operational and strategic. This new concept of operations is called "Win in a Complex World."

"Win" occurs at the strategic level and involves more than just firepower. It involves the application of all ele-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

Gen. David G. Perkins, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command commanding general, talked to more than 200 leaders at a town hall at Blesse auditorium Jan. 8. Perkins highlighted TRADOC's new Army Operations concept of "Win in a Complex War."

ments of national power," Perkins said. "Complex is defined as an environ-

ment that is not only unknown, but unknowable and constantly changing.

The Army cannot predict who it will fight, where it will fight and with what

coalition it will fight."

During the town hall meeting, Perkins highlighted several areas as keys to winning in the new defined environment.

The five key areas start with presenting the enemy with multiple dilemmas compelling them to react and respond ineffectively. The second, is providing multiple options to set the theater and shape the security environment.

The third key area is to have multiple cross-domain operations in land, air, maritime, space and cyberspace to ensure positive operations.

Fourth is to have multiple partners.

Perkins said that American military is a joint power. Having

See TRADOC, P7

Army, Air Force collaborate on education, innovation

By Capt. Jose R. Davis
Air Education and Training
Command Public Affairs

Gen. David G. Perkins, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command commanding general, visited officials from Air Education and Training Command Jan. 7-8 to collaborate with Air Force leaders on advancing education and innovation within the respective military services.

Perkins spoke with Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander, and Air University leaders at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., broaching on several subjects affecting both commands, from the future of recruiting to the emergence of new technologies.



Photo by Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

Gen. David G. Perkins, commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, visited officials from Air Education and Training Command Jan. 7-8 to collaborate with Air Force leaders on advancing education and innovation within the respective military services.

TRADOC is the Army counterpart of AETC.

"As you deal with a

very fast changing world, everybody wants to innovate so you want to be at the cutting edge," Perkins said. "One of the keys to innovation is a wide-level of collaboration. Those units that collaborate a lot tend to innovate a lot."

Army and Air Force leaders discussed employing technologies to train and educate Soldiers and Airmen, not just in the classroom, but in perpetuity when they return to their units. Leveraging new technologies for continual education is vital to reach and recruit younger generations entrenched in an information-saturated world.

"We talked about things like leveraging the Cloud and personal devices," Perkins said. "The

generation of Airmen and Soldiers we're recruiting are very comfortable in doing things on their personal devices. They want the information right there in front of them; they want to be able to customize how they receive information, so we have to change our education systems to facilitate that."

Recruiting is a challenge, as industry, colleges, and the military services vie for the same pool of potential applicants, Perkins elaborated. Numbers for those who qualify for both the Air Force and Army have decreased in recent years.

AETC and TRADOC officials are adapting to the changing recruiting environment by direct-

ing recruiters to actively educate potential recruits on the many opportunities offered through military service.

"The challenge in many ways in the recruiting environment is that as the military has gotten smaller, fewer and fewer Americans have any personal contact with the military whatsoever," Perkins said. "They don't have any firsthand experience, so many folks don't think of it as an option. They don't know about the professional development, leader development, and the educational opportunities offered in both the Army and the Air Force. So, we have to get our recruiters to spend time educating parents, as well as recruits,

about these opportunities."

Perkins also traveled to Austin, Texas, meeting with retired Adm. William H. McRaven, University of Texas chancellor, to start a dialogue on the similar challenges each faces in administrating a large, complex university system. They shared ideas on developing learning tools that can be distributed in a very diverse manner, Perkins explained.

One of the topics of interest discussed between Perkins and AETC leaders was the relatively new Army University.

Army University officials integrated 70

See COLLABORATION,

P7

New Mission and Installation Contracting Command program reintroduces career series to assist contracting offices with workloads

By Ryan Mattox
MICC Public Affairs

A new program is being developed to reintroduce a career series to assist contracting offices with their workload to support the Mission and Installation Contracting Command's 2025 transformation.

The MICC Contracting Operations Directorate, which stood up in August as part of the MICC 2025 transformation, is developing the Purchasing Agent, also known by its job series 1105, Career Series Program, to ensure these individuals receive a newcomer's orientation, knowledge and skills to become proficient in their jobs.

The program will fall under the umbrella of the newly created MICC Academy. A guide for simplified acquisition procedures, a utilization plan and training course materials will be developed for those in the 1105 series. The program also assists field offices with the integration of this new career series in their workflow process.

"We know we cannot just bring in all of these 1105s into the workforce without educating them," said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Gabbert, the MICC commanding general. "This program is designed so as soon as they graduate from this program they will have all the basic tools to perform contracting actions like simple buys and reverse auctions. They will know the basic building blocks to support the organization."

Renee Burek, MICC's 1105 program coordina-



Photo by Ryan Mattox

Renee Burek (left) discusses the 1105 career series program with Kim Wentrcek at the Mission and Installation Contracting Command on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Burek is the 1105 program coordinator for the MICC and Wentrcek is chief of business operations for the MICC Contracting Operations Directorate.

tor, is responsible for facilitating the program, inspiring collaboration and encouraging effective communication. Burek will oversee any Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certification and training, forecast funding for training requirements, track any issues or trends for command resolution and be available to conduct one-on-one career development guidance.

The establishment of a program coordinator provides new employees in the 1105 career series with a person at MICC headquarters to assist them with career development needs.

Program officials are re-engineering the processes and procedures to ensure standardization and efficiency for simplified processes and simplified acquisition procedures, or SAP. MICC officials are gathering information and looking at areas where simplified acquisition procedures have become

overly complicated.

"We have received feedback from the field offices of areas under SAP that have become overly complicated," Burek said. "We want to make sure the training is based upon standardized minimum requirements. We will need to ensure these minimum requirements are agreed to by the entire MICC enterprise to ensure proper standards are applied to contract management reviews."

The program will include a utilization plan to assist with position management of the re-introduction of the 1105 series. The utilization plan will include core competencies that are required for each of the target grades.

"It is critical to demonstrate growth in knowledge and capability through the grade structure," said Maureen Huston, MICC procurement analyst at Fort Hood, Texas. "We want to be able to use this series

to its utmost. Well-trained 1105s not only get the simplified acquisition procedure mission done but also allow more 1102s to be available for higher dollar value, complex source selections."

Program course developers are creating training course materials to support the development of the first-year acquisition worker. Some material was gathered from other federal agencies for training, and based on agreed standards, to develop other 1105 training courses.

The aim of the training is to provide practical training for entry-level individuals before entry into the workforce. The MICC has 73 individuals in the 1105 career series

and a goal to have 180 across the command.

"One of the training initiatives is to depict the workflow visually displaying how the work product is accomplished utilizing the multitude of system applications and tools," said David Westfall, MICC contracting officer at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. "The objective of this initiative is to provide our new 1105 personnel with an easy to understand graphic guide, which has been developed in large part by Sgt. 1st Class David Archibald of the 735th Contracting Team – to assist them in their first year of development. It should serve as an introductory guide to our common acquisition

systems, and assist them in getting acclimated to their new work environment."

Headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, the MICC is made up of more than 1,500 military and civilian members responsible for contracting for Soldiers. In fiscal 2015, the command executed more than 36,000 contract actions valued at more than \$5.2 billion across the Army, including \$2.25 billion to American small businesses. The command also managed more than 600,000 Government Purchase Card Program transactions in fiscal 2015 valued at an additional \$747 million.

News Briefs

Continued from P3

Programs Help Soldiers Get Commission, Become Medical Officers

The Inter-Service Physician Assistant Program and Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program exist to help Soldiers gain a commission and become medical officers. These opportunities will be briefed by program managers from Fort Know, Ky., at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Feb. 1, at the Military & Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797, in Suite 95, the facility's auditorium. For more information, call (502) 626-0386 or (502) 626-0381.

Officer Candidate School Board Interview Panel

The 502nd Force Support Squadron's Military Personnel Branch conducts an Army Officer Candidate School structure interview panel board at 8 a.m. Feb. 4 at building 2263, 1706 Stanley Road, room 117B. All Soldiers must have a bachelor's degree and cannot be over the age of 33, without exceptions. Soldiers must be U.S. citizens, have a general technical score of 110 or higher, a security clearance and cannot have more than six years active federal service. Soldiers are required to have a Department of the Army photo or photo in Army Combat Uniform. Do not apply if you are on assignment or scheduled to deploy. Visit <https://www.hrcapps.army.mil/site/protect/branches/officer/Operations/Accessions/OCS/index.htm> for a listing of OCS requirements and forms. All OCS applicants must see their S1/G1 prior to submitting their OCS packets. All OCS packets must be turned by Saturday. For more information, call 221-0885.

Annual Youth Basketball Clinic

The African American Heritage Committee and Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Youth Programs present the 7th Annual Youth Basketball Clinic Feb. 5 at the JBSA-Lackland Youth Center, building 8420. The session for ages 5-9 is from 4:30-6 p.m. and for ages 10-15 from 6-7:30 p.m. The clinic will focus on dribbling, shooting, conditioning drills and offensive/defensive footwork. Cost is one canned food donation for the San

See NEWS BRIEFS, P16

AETC Command Chief culminates 31 years of service to Air Force, people

By Tech. Sgt. Beth Anschutz
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, command chief for Air Education and Training Command, retired Friday at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph after a 31-year Air Force career.

Before his final salute, Tapia took a moment to reflect on his time as an Airman and what he will miss most about serving his nation and taking care of Air Force people.

Tapia, an El Paso, Texas, native, started his career in Basic Military Training at JBSA-Lackland in 1985, after which he completed the Basic Personnel Course at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

Tapia said he appreciates his humble beginnings, filing paperwork as the "A through G guy" in a military personnel flight at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., because it set the stage for his career.

After cutting his teeth in the file room, Tapia served as an accessions clerk with the 3507th Airman Classification Squadron at BMT. It was here he gained confidence and learned the importance of standards.

At the age of 19, he was responsible for in-processing briefings for groups as large as 150 people. As a representative of his squadron and because of the proximity of basic trainees, young Airman Tapia was held to high standards.

"Our shoes were shined. Our uniforms



Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, command chief of Air Education and Training Command, shares a laugh with the 47th Medical Group at the base clinic on Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, Jan. 9, 2014.

were sharp and our haircuts were clean," Tapia said. "To this day, I will not bring home an Air Force uniform that has not been tapered or without the pockets sewn down. These standards have stayed with me for my entire career."

Tapia went on to hold duties in personnel management offices at the base and major command level. He worked for the Air Force Personnel Center and held a joint duty assignment at Headquarters Alaskan Command.

Tapia said each assignment helped him expand his experience and knowledge in his field, but it was his opportunities to help people that gave him the tools to be a leader.

During an interview

for his first command chief position, Tapia was asked if his personnelist background would hinder him in a fighter wing, surrounded by flyers and maintainers. He told them what he knew. "I said, 'Sir, after 23 years, no one has ever asked me for my opinion on whether a block 52 engine or a block 40 is better on an F-16, but every single day people ask me about people,'" Tapia remembered with a smile.

According to Tapia, it was this understanding of how to care for people, combined with a tour as a special assistant to two chief master sergeants of the Air Force, that set him up for success as command chief.

"There are a lot of people in the mainte-

nance field for 20 plus years, when they become a command chief, who have to learn all of a sudden how a Basic

Housing Allowance is set or what happens in a promotion board, or how

See TAPIA, P17



Courtesy photo

Then-Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia speaks with then-Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray during his duties as his special assistant.

Psychologist gives advice on dealing with depression

By David DeKunder
Joint Base San Antonio-
Randolph Public Affairs

The period during and after the Christmas holiday season can sometimes be stressful and bring on symptoms of depression.

When dealing with post-holiday depression, active-duty service members, their families and other Joint Base San Antonio members have several coping mechanisms, professional services and resources they can utilize to address their circumstances.

Capt. Erik Ringdahl, 359th Medical Operations Squadron Mental Health Flight clinical psychologist at the JBSA-Randolph Mental

Health Clinic, said there are various circumstances that can trigger or exacerbate symptoms of depression in a person during the holiday season.

Those circumstances could include changes in routines, deviating from healthy habits, being away from family members, or dealing with financial burdens and other factors, Ringdahl said.

"We are led to believe that the holidays are only supposed to be cheery," Ringdahl said. "The holiday season does not alleviate the reasons for feeling down when in reality stressors exist all year round.

How people view themselves, whether



Photo courtesy Veterans Affairs

The period during and after the Christmas holiday season can sometimes be stressful and bring on symptoms of depression.

it's through negative or distorted thoughts, can affect how they behave and feel physically, Ringdahl said. To get back on track or to start to feel better, people

who are dealing with depression should start by reflecting on their accomplishments, setting attainable goals and starting a new activity.

"A new year is an

opportunity to challenge ourselves and to recognize the positives that we have done, what we can do and what we are capable of," Ringdahl said.

Ringdahl said it is also important to have structure in one's life, which includes exercising regularly, eating healthy, getting enough sleep and social support.

According to Families for Depression Awareness, a non-profit organization that helps families recognize and cope with depression, one in five Americans will experience symptoms of depression sometime in their lifetime.

Ringdahl said JBSA members who are experiencing depres-

sion should get help as soon as possible, including contacting the JBSA mental health clinics at Fort Sam Houston, Lackland or Randolph or chaplain services.

"There is a wealth of resources and people who are always willing to help," Ringdahl said.

Contact numbers for the JBSA mental health clinics include JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 539-9589, JBSA-Lackland, 292-7361, and JBSA-Randolph, 652-2448. The clinics are open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Also, service members can call the Military OneSource line for help at 800-342-9647.

TRADOC from P4

multiple partners give the America a competitive advantage over enemies and adversaries.

The final key area is developing the Future of the Force and the new Army Operating Concept is the starting point for that development.

In the foreword of TRADOC Pamphlet

525-3-1, then-U.S. Army Chief of Staff Raymond T. Odierno highlighted the new operating concept by saying "The Army Operating Concept describes how future Army forces will prevent conflict, shape security environments, and win wars while operating as part of our Joint Force and working

with multiple partners. The AOC guides future force development by identifying first order capabilities that the Army needs to support U.S. policy objectives. It provides the intellectual foundation and framework for learning and for applying what we learn to future force development under Force 2025 and beyond."

COLLABORATION from P4

separate TRADOC internal school programs under one university system while syncing instruction with a variety of other TRADOC institutions. Air University is similar in structure.

Last year, Army officials began a process to understand, visualize and describe ideas framed by the Army Operating

Concept. The ideas in the AOC are foundational for shaping the strategy for the future of the Army, which includes developing adaptive and innovative leaders and officers. Army University plays a huge role in that respect, Perkins said.

"What we need are adaptive leaders who are critical thinkers and can exploit the initiative," Perkins said. "We not only have to train them to do certain tasks, but

we have to educate them on how to learn, because the world is changing so quickly. Great organizations are learning organizations. When people graduate from Army University, we don't want them to leave Army University; we want them to take Army University with them to their unit."

Army University is located at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Army University was established July 7, 2015.

MICC leaders come together to discuss acquisition matters

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs

Leaders from throughout the command took part in the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Acquisition Leadership Conference at Fort Sam Houston Dec. 1-4, 2015, to discuss key issues impacting the workforce as well as contracting enterprise solutions.

The conference included commanders, directors and senior enlisted members representing the MICC's three contracting support brigades, field directorate office and 32 contracting offices taking part in a variety of briefings, interactive discussions and breakout sessions over three days.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Gabbert, George Cabaniss and Command Sgt. Maj. Tomeka O'Neal, who make up the command team, opened the conference with welcoming remarks and a briefing on the state of the command.

"The MICC has put in place innovative – data-driven solutions and management systems built around the MICC Marketplace that not only improves our customer support, but also manages our workforce and

acquisition efforts more efficiently and effectively," Gabbert said.

Following their brief, leaders from across the command heard from a guest speaker before dividing for breakout sessions to discuss enterprise issues.

Over the remaining two days, they discussed a number of topics to include stakeholder relationships, civilian labor law, NCO professional development, contracting officer proponency, data management, legal trends in contracting, small business program, inter-governmental service agreements, Government Purchase Card Program trends, and reverse auction best practices.

Additional subjects covered included the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program, trends discovered through command management reviews, and contract closeout.

Anthony Sligar, deputy to the commander for the 925th Contracting Battalion and MICC-Fort Drum, said the conference's theme – "It's a new day" – summed it up best for him.

"The challenges of the MICC today are



Photo by Ben Gonzales

Brig. Gen. Jeff Gabbert (right), listens to a question at the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Acquisition Leadership Conference Dec. 3, 2015, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Gabbert is the MICC commanding general.

different than the challenges of yesterday," he said. "This shows how great our organization is because throughout the ever-changing mission of the Army we continue to complete our mission."

Leaders also reviewed the MICC 2025 plan, which

includes the Purchase Agent Program, MICC Academy, and standardized office structure.

"The conference is an essential element in communicating and understanding command priorities and transformation initiatives," said Lt. Col.

Richard Pfeiffer, MICC-Fort Irwin commander. "Without the interactive dialogue and discussion, we would be significantly less well equipped at the tactical level in moving the organization forward."

The MICC Contracting Operations Directorate,

which stood up in August as part of the MICC 2025 transformation, conducted training for leaders on the Contracting Tactical Operations Center management system as well as discuss modernization efforts with the application.

Army medic earned Medal of Honor during Vietnam

On Jan. 10, 1968, U.S. Army Spec. 5 Clarence E. Sasser earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam as a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in Ding Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam.

Sasser's Medal of Honor citation describes his valorous deeds, when he sought out wounded Soldiers from his unit and provided medical care. After his legs were injured, he continued by crawling to provide aid.

"I'm particularly proud that my Medal of Honor was for being a medic and was for saving lives, rather than taking lives," he said. "It's a source of pleasure with me to have received it for that."

According to his Medal of Honor citation, Sasser's company was making an air assault



Army Spec. 5 Clarence E. Sasser

when it took heavy small arms, recoilless rifle, machinegun and rocket fire from fortified enemy positions on three sides of the landing zone.

During the first few minutes, more than 30 casualties were sustained. Without hesitation, Sasser ran across an open rice paddy through a hail of fire to assist the wounded. After helping one man to safety, he was wounded in

the left shoulder by fragments of an exploding rocket. Refusing medical attention, he ran through a barrage of rocket and automatic weapons fire to aid casualties of the initial attack and, after giving them urgently needed treatment, continued to search for other wounded.

Despite two additional wounds immobilizing his legs, Sasser dragged himself through the mud toward another soldier 100 meters away.

Although in pain and faint from loss of blood, Sasser reached the man, treated him and proceeded on to encourage another group of soldiers to crawl 200 meters to safety. He then attended to their wounds for five hours until they were evacuated.

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

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>.



Gulf War created need for better critical care

By Kevin M. Hymel
Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs

January 2016 marks the 25th anniversary of Desert Storm and also a turning point in Air Force Medical Service's Critical Care Transport Teams.

"We were not serving the Army as well as we could have in the Air Force," explained retired Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Paul K. Carlton, a former Air Force surgeon general who had been working on the concept of CCATT since the 1980s.

As the U.S. military and its allies assembled in the Middle East in the summer and fall of 1990 – Operation Desert Shield – In response to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, then-Col. Carlton set up the 1,200-bed Air Force 1702nd Contingency Hospital in combination with an Army Combat Support Hospital outside of Muscat, Oman.

Yet, as Desert Shield turned to Desert Storm on January 19, 1991, the hospital only took in 42 patients and those were only from surrounding bases.

"We did not get any war wounded," said Carlton, who offered beds to the U.S. Central Command surgeon in an effort to better utilize the facility.

To make the case for his hospital, Carlton traveled to the battlefield to offer assistance.

"I picked up a couple of air-evacuation missions just to let more people know we existed," he said. "I told Army commanders to send anyone to us." But

it soon became apparent the Air Force could not meet the Army's needs. "We could not take people with catheters or tubes, much less needing a ventilator."

Instead of relying on the Air Force, the Army built large hospitals closer to the front.

"The Army built up just like they did in Vietnam," Carlton said. "They had a very big footprint."

AFMS leadership wanted smaller hospitals connecting back to the U.S., but to do that, they needed a modern transportation system. Although Carlton and other colleagues had been working on improvements to patient transportation since

1983, air evacuations were still very restrictive. The equipment needed to keep a patient alive was new and untested.

"Modern ventilators blew out lungs all the time," Carlton explained. "We needed to work the kinks out and we needed the opportunity to work in the modern battlefield. We needed critical care in the air."

When the war ended in late February, Carlton and other AFMS officers returned home and brought their CCATT ideas to the Air Education and Training Command.

"The war was not an aberration," Carlton said. "We had to mod-

"We have developed a modern transportation system to go along with the modern battlefield for the Army, Navy and the Marines."

Retired Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Paul K. Carlton, former Air Force Surgeon General

ernize our theater plans to be able to transport patients."

Carlton and his colleagues trained three-person crews to work with new and improved ventilation equipment aboard airplanes.

"That was the long pole in the tent," he explained. "When you take

a critical care patient you say, 'we can ventilate that patient,' and you better be able to."

With the new program up and running, the AFMS made CCATT available to the other services.

CCATT gained momentum when, in 1993, Carlton and his colleagues traveled to Mogadishu, Somalia, for an after-action brief on the U.S. Army's "Black Hawk Down" engagement, and explained CCATT to the Joint Special Operations Command surgeon. He, in turn, handed Carlton a check and said, "I want that as soon as you can make it."

The turning point came in 1995 during the Bosnian War, when an American Soldier riding a train to Bosnia was electrocuted by an overhead wire and fell off the train. He was immediately transported to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, where doctors wanted him transferred to the burn unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

When Maj. (Dr.) Bill Beninati picked up the patient for the flight to the U.S., he was still very unstable. Somewhere over Greenland,

the patient went into septic shock and Beninati and his team resuscitated him. When they touched down in San Antonio, about 12 hours later, the patient was in better shape than when he left.

"That's when the Army took notice," Carlton said. "We had convinced them that we could do what we said."

Soon, the Air Force surgeon general at the time, Lt. Gen. Alexander Sloan, approved the CCATT concept. Later, with the strong endorsement of Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Charles Roadman II, CCATT became a formal program.

CCATT proved invaluable in the next conflict, Operation Iraqi Freedom, where casualty evacuation became a vital necessity, as well as in Afghanistan. Carlton is proud of CCATT.

"We have developed a modern transportation system to go along with the modern battlefield for the Army, Navy and the Marines," he said.

Today, CCATT is considered a vital component of AFMS, but it took a war to liberate Kuwait some 25 years ago for the military to realize how badly it was needed.



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Theresa Hillis, 68th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Norton Air Force Base, Calif.; Senior Master Sgt. James Cundall (right), 118th AES, Tennessee Air National Guard, Nashville, Tenn.; and Tech. Sgt. Dennis Mulline (left), 137th AES, receive a mission briefing during Operation Desert Storm.

U.S. Army North civilian recognized for volunteerism

By Karen Lloyd
Army North Public Affairs

A U.S. Army North budget analyst was recently recognized with one of the command's most prestigious honors for his volunteer work.

Mike Snell received the Sue Cotton Award for volunteering more than 1,200 hours during the past year with the Boy Scouts of America and other non-profit organizations.

The Sue Cotton Award is one of the command's most prestigious awards and recognizes civilian employees that most embody characteristics displayed by Sue Cotton, former ARNORTH Public Affairs Officer who lost her battle with cancer in 2006. Cotton was known throughout the community for her volunteerism, work ethic and compassionate spirit.

"I was overwhelmed by receiving the Army North Sue Cotton Award," Snell said. "Sue was the epitome of service to the community and Soldiers in all she said and did in San Antonio. I hope this award just serves as a reminder to ARNORTH members that their time is valuable and just using a little can have huge impacts on the lives of others."

"So many of our civilian workforce not only perform a great service to the nation through their profession, but also give so much back to the community through their volunteerism," said Robert Naething, U.S. Army North deputy to the commanding general. "That embodies the essence of the Sue Cotton Award. We are grateful to each and every one of



Courtesy photo

Mike Snell (right), U.S. Army North resource management office program analyst, receives an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service Jan. 14 from Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, commanding general of Army North (Fifth Army) and Senior Commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, for his efforts during the Vibrant Response and Ardent Sentry exercises. Snell is also the 2015 recipient of Army North's Sue Cotton Award for his contributions to the San Antonio community through volunteerism.

our Department of the Army civilians and we are especially proud of this year's recipient, Mike Snell."

Snell, a former Eagle Scout, has been active in the Boy Scouts for 22 years and has served as scoutmaster for a local Boy Scout troop since he arrived in San Antonio in 1999.

He is also on the staff of the National Scout Jamboree and serves as one of the most senior trainers on the Alamo Area Council for Scout Leaders.

In that position, Snell guides and coaches prospective Eagle Scouts throughout San Antonio, as well as sitting on many formal Boards of Review.

"I get so much enjoyment from watching the Scouts grow and develop their skills," he said. "It's worth the effort knowing we're training future

leaders for our country."

In addition to his support of the Boy Scouts, Snell is also a volunteer leader with his professional organization, the American Society of Military Comptrollers.

In this capacity, he continues to impact the community through involvement with the San Antonio Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"Service to others is a way for all of us to help others in need or help better our communities," he said. "There are so many opportunities where people are needed to help, where your time is more help than your money and you get the chance to see the direct impact you are having on the recipients, whether they be people, animals or the environment."

Despite the number of

"Service to others is a way for all of us to help others in need or help better our communities. There are so many opportunities."

Mike Snell, U.S. Army North recipient of Sue Cotton Award for volunteering



Courtesy photo

Mike Snell (left), 2015 Army North Sue Cotton Award recipient, at a scouting event with his fiancée and assistant scoutmaster retired Lt. Col. Renee Greer. Snell received the award for volunteering more than 1,200 hours of his time with the Boy Scouts of America and other organizations.

hours he has devoted to pursuits outside of the office, Snell's supervisors say he continues to excel at his position within the G8 staff and helps others excel as well.

Snell helped five coworkers receive their

financial management certification while completing his own required education to Certified Defense Financial Manager credentials.

"His humility, selfless attitude and positive approach to life makes him

an absolute professional," said Pat Reynolds, Snell's supervisor in the G8. "He is a servant-leader in all aspects of his life. He provides the framework for all the people he meets to become more than they think possible.

Pentagon announces changes to awards, decorations program

By Lisa Ferdinando
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

The Pentagon has made a number of changes to the military decorations and awards program to ensure service members receive appropriate recognition of their actions, according to a statement released Jan. 7.

The changes come after a long and deliberate review, a defense official told reporters in a Jan. 6 background briefing. Then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel initiated the review in 2014 to improve the military awards program by harnessing lessons learned from conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the official said.

The Pentagon statement points out key changes to the decorations and awards program:

- Implementation of new goals and processes to improve timeliness of the Medal of Honor and other valor awards.
- Standardization of the meaning and use of the Combat Distinguishing Device, or “V” device, as a valor-only device to ensure unambiguous and distinctive recognition for preeminent acts of combat valor.
- Creation of a new combat device, to be represented by a “C” worn on the relevant decoration, to distinctly recognize those service members performing meritoriously under the most arduous combat conditions.
- Introduction of a “remote impacts” device, signified by an “R” to be worn on the relevant decoration, to recognize

service members who use remote technology to directly impact combat operations .

- Adoption of a common definition of Meritorious Service Under Combat Conditions to determine eligibility for personal combat awards.

To “ensure that those service members who performed valorously were recognized at the appropriate level,” the defense official said that Defense Secretary Ash Carter has directed the military departments to review Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross and Silver Star Medal recommendations since Sept. 11, 2001, for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are approximately 1,000 Silver Star and 100 service cross recommendations under review, the official said. While there is a possibility a medal could get upgraded, no service member will have the award downgraded, he said.

The defense official noted “unusual Medal of Honor awards trends,” as a one reason for the review. The first seven Medal of Honor awards for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan were posthumous, he said. There may have been a perception that only a fallen service member could receive the nation’s highest military award for valor, he said.

After the Department of Defense clarified the “risk of life” portion for the Medal of Honor’s criteria in 2010, all 10 recipients have been living, he noted.

Legal office: courts-martial, crime and punishment at Joint Base San Antonio

The Joint Base San Antonio Judge Advocate General completed four Air Force courts-martial during the month of December 2015. The results of a court-martial are not final until the clemency and/or appeals process is completed.

Senior Airman Benjamin C. Todd from 93rd Intelligence Squadron at JBSA-Lackland was tried by general court-martial Dec. 2, 2015. Todd pled guilty to three specifications of possessing child pornography in violation of Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The military judge sentenced Todd to reduction to airman basic, five months confinement and a bad conduct discharge.

Staff Sgt. Leonardo E. Aguirre-Obregon from the Air Force Medical Operations Agency at JBSA-Lackland was tried by a general court-martial consisting of a military judge Dec. 8, 2015. Aguirre-Obregon pled guilty to three specifications of assault of a child under the age of 16 years in violation of Article 128 of the UCMJ. The military judge sentenced Aguirre-Obregon to reduction to the grade of airman basic, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, 24 months confinement and a dishonorable discharge.

Staff Sgt. Raymond L. Oliver III of the 341st Recruiting Squadron at JBSA-Lackland was tried by special court martial consisting of a military judge Dec. 29, 2015. Oliver pled guilty to one specification of wrongful use of methamphetamine in violation of

Article 112 of the UCMJ. The military judge sentenced Oliver to reduction to airman basic, two months confinement and a bad conduct discharge.

Airman 1st Class Tyler S. Gibson of the 624th Operations Center at JBSA-Lackland was tried by summary court martial Dec. 18, 2015. A1C Gibson pled guilty to one specification of wrongful use of marijuana and one specification of wrongful use of Xanax in violation of Article 112 of the UCMJ. The summary court officer sentenced Gibson to reduction to airman basic and 30 days confinement.

After sentencing, members can request clemency. In some cases, this can change the outcome of their case and/or sentence. All courts-martial are open to the public. Visit the U.S. Air Force Public Docket website at <http://www.afjag.af.mil/docket/index.asp>.

During December 2015, JBSA commanders administered 16 nonjudicial punishment actions under Article 15 of the UCMJ.

The punishments imposed reflect the commander's determination of an appropriate punishment after considering the circumstances of the offense and the offender's record. A "suspended" punishment does not take effect unless the offender engages in additional misconduct or fails to satisfy the conditions of the suspension. The suspension period usually lasts for six months unless a lesser amount

is specified.

Aggravated sexual contact – An airman in technical training touched through the clothing the buttocks, inner thigh and groin of another technical training student. The member received a reduction to the grade of airman basic, 45 days restriction, 45 days extra duty and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty: willful – A technical sergeant failed to properly submit the beginning and ending of his leave on several occasions. The member received suspended forfeiture of \$713 pay and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty: willful – A staff sergeant failed to adhere to a no-contact order given by the squadron commander. The member received a suspended reduction to the grade of senior airman, forfeiture of \$1,225 pay and a reprimand.

Damage to government property – An airman first class in technical training unlawfully caused damage to a window by striking it with his fist. The member received forfeiture of \$911 pay, 10 days restriction, 10 days extra duty and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty: willful – An airman first class was accused of providing alcohol to a minor. For this misconduct, the member received a reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$867 for two months (suspended), and a reprimand. The member's suspension of forfeiture of \$867 for two months was later vacated after

the member was found smoking while in technical training.

Absent without leave – An airman first class in technical training failed to stay at his appointed place of duty. The member received a suspended reduction to the grade of airman, 14 days restriction, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty: willful – An airman was accused of cheating during a test in technical training. For this misconduct, the member received a reduction to airman basic, forfeiture of \$773 for two months, with one month suspended and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty: willful – An airman basic in technical training entered into the dormitory of the opposite sex without the proper authority. The member received forfeiture of \$773 pay per month for two months, 45 days restriction, 45 days extra duty and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty: willful – An airman first class in technical training failed to stay inside the dormitory during the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. The member received 14 days restriction, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty: willful – An airman first class in technical training possessed and consumed alcohol while under the age of 21. The member received 14 days restriction, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

(Source: 502nd Air Base Wing Legal Office)



NASA photo

The deadline to apply to be an Army astronaut is Feb. 18.

Astronaut application deadline approaching

By Carrie E. David
U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Are you a Soldier who wants to reach for the stars? It is possible and the deadline for applications is approaching.

Soldiers who want to be considered for the Army Astronaut Candidate Screening Board must complete the two-part application process by Feb. 18.

According to Military Personnel Message No. 15-364, the application consists of an electronic submission directly to NASA through the <http://www.usajobs.gov> website and a paper application mailed to the Army Astronaut Candidate Screening Board.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen between 62 inches and 75 inches tall. He or she must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in engineering, biological science, physical science, computer science or mathematics.

Degrees must be followed by at least three

years of related, progressively responsible professional experience or at least 1,000 hours of pilot-in-command time in jet aircraft. An advanced degree is desirable and may be substituted for part of the experience requirement.

The following degrees are not considered qualifying: degrees in technology, degrees in psychology except for clinical, physiological or experimental, degrees in nursing, degrees in exercise physiology or similar field, degrees in social science, and degrees in aviation, aviation management or similar fields.

The application process is complex, and full application details are included in the MILPER message No. 15-364, which can be found at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/>.

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command provides support to NASA with an Army astronaut detachment assigned to the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

State primaries are coming up; register for absentee ballots now

By Katie Lange
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

It's finally 2016, and it's going to be a big year. In just 10 short months, Americans are going to vote for a new president. The first primaries to pick party candidates begin next month, so if you haven't gotten your absentee ballot yet and want one, you'd need to start the process now.

A lot of service members are either overseas or stationed away from their home states when elections roll around, so it's important to register to vote and request your absentee ballot as early as you can. It's pretty easy to do all at once – all you have to do is fill out a Federal Post Card Application at <https://www.fvap.gov/military-voter/> overview.

Officials at the Federal Voting Assistance Program (<https://www.fvap.gov/>) suggest military members send in a FPCA every year.

"Once the election office receives the FPCA, they will send the voter a ballot for every election they're eligible to vote in," said FVAP spokeswoman Mandi Richmond.

Each absentee ballot is sent out 45 days prior to your state's election, so if it doesn't come to you shortly after you've applied for it, it's likely because your primary isn't until later in the year. Here's a list of all the presidential primaries coming up in the next few months:

9: New Hampshire
20: South Carolina (Republican only)
27: South Carolina (Democrat only)

March:

1: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia
5: Louisiana
8: Idaho (Republican only), Michigan, Mississippi
13: Puerto Rico
15: Florida, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio
22: Arizona

April:

5: Wisconsin
19: New York
26: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island

Many primaries fall later in the year. To find when your state's is, visit <https://www.fvap.gov/> and pull up your state in the dropdown box on the top



Photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

Absentee ballots allow service members, civilian employees and their families to vote while stationed overseas.

left of the page.

Once you've sent in your FPCA and get your absentee ballot from the state, officials urge you to send it back immediately since mail-in times can vary. States have differing deadlines on when the ballots have to be in their hands, too, so it's best to not hesitate.

If you're a military spouse, you are also covered under the same law that protects military members' absentee voting rights. Learn more about that at <https://www.fvap.gov/military-voter/military-spouses>. More information about voting registration questions go to <https://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag/appendix/faq>.



Photo by Spc. Michael Gault

Army Spc. Kyle Wagner, a resident of Fort Wayne, Ind., fills out an absentee ballot for the 2012 presidential election.

Learn the facts about smoke detectors and fire extinguishers

By Ricardo S. Campos
Joint Base San Antonio Public Fire and Life Safety Educator

An early warning of fire smoke alarms can provide additional time to escape.

The National Fire Incident Reporting System and the National Fire Protection Association's fire department survey from 2009-2013 showed that there was an average of 940 deaths per year, which translates to 38 percent of home fire deaths.

Fires in which smoke alarms were present, but failed to operate, caused an additional 510 people per year (21 percent of home fire deaths) to be fatally injured. The leading cause of smoke alarm failures were power source problems.

Virtually all households specify having smoke alarms, however less than three-quarters of reported home fires and roughly half of smoke alarms were present. When fires were large enough to actuate them, they initiated a response 87 percent of the time. Hard-wired smoke alarms were more probable to operate than those powered solely by batteries.

The death rate in homes with no or non-functional smoke alarms was more than twice as high (1.18 deaths per 100 fires) as it was in fires with working smoke alarms (0.53 deaths per 100 fires).

Homes with hard-wired smoke alarms and sprinklers had the lowest fire death rates. Victims in homes with working smoke alarms

were more likely to have been in the area of origin. They were also more likely to be 65 or older, have a physical disability or tried to fight the fire themselves.

Residents should install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home, and the alarms should be tested every month. The smoke alarms in your home should be replaced every 10 years. And when a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.

Here are some safety tips for using a fire extinguisher:

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing larger; when everyone has exited the building; when the fire department has been called or is being called; and when the room is not filled with smoke.

- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the acronym PASS:

Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.

Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever

slowly and evenly.

Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher that can be used on all types of home fires. Make sure it's large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.

- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.

- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.

- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

To learn more about smoke detector and fire extinguisher safety tips, visit the National Fire Protection Association's website at <http://www.nfpa.org/education> or contact the Joint Base San Antonio fire prevention offices by calling 221-2727 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 671-2921 at JBSA-Lackland or 652-6915 at JBSA-Randolph.

IRS: tips to protect your personal information while online

The Internal Revenue Service, the states and the tax industry urge you to be safe online and remind you to take important steps to help protect your tax and financial information and guard against identity theft. Treat your personal information like cash – don't hand it out to just anyone.

Your Social Security number, credit card numbers, and bank and utility account numbers can be used to steal your money or open new accounts in your name. Every time you are asked for your personal information think about whether you can really trust the request. In an effort to steal your information, scammers will do everything they can to appear trustworthy.

The IRS has teamed up with state revenue departments and the tax industry to make sure you understand the dangers to your personal and financial data. Working in partnership with you, we can make a difference.

Here are some best practices you can follow to protect your tax and financial information:

Give personal infor-

mation over encrypted websites only.

If you're shopping or banking online, stick to sites that use encryption to protect your information as it travels from your computer to their server.

To determine if a website is encrypted, look for "https" at the beginning of the web address (the "s" is for secure). Some websites use encryption only on the sign-in page, but if any part of your session isn't encrypted, the entire account and your financial information could be vulnerable. Look for "https" on every page of the site you're on, not just where you sign in.

Protect your passwords. The longer the password, the tougher it is to crack. Use at least 10 characters; 12 is ideal for most home users. Mix letters, numbers and special characters. Try to be unpredictable – don't use your name, birthdate or common words. Don't use the same password for many accounts. If it's stolen from you – or from one of the companies with which you do business



– it can be used to take over all your accounts. Don't share passwords on the phone, in texts or by email. Legitimate companies will not send you messages asking for your password. If you get such a message, it's probably a scam. Keep your passwords in a secure place, out of plain sight.

Don't assume ads or emails are from reputable companies. Check out companies to find out if they are legitimate. When you're online, a little research can save you a lot of money and

reduce your security risk. If you see an ad or an offer that looks too good, take a moment to check out the company behind it. Type the company or product name into your favorite search engine with terms like "review," "complaint" or "scam."

If you find bad reviews, you'll have to decide if the offer is worth the risk. If you can't find contact information for the company, take your business and your financial information elsewhere. The fact that a site features an ad

for another site doesn't mean that it endorses the advertised site, or is even familiar with it.

Don't overshare on social media. Do a web search of your name and review the results. Most likely, the results will turn up your past addresses, the names of people living in the household as well social media accounts and your photographs. All of these items are valuable to identity thieves. Even a social media post boasting of a new car can help thieves bypass security verification questions that depend on financial data that only you should know. Think before you post!

Back up your files. No system is completely secure. Copy important files and your federal and state tax returns onto a removable disc or a back-up drive, and store it in a safe place. If your computer is compromised, you'll still have access to your files.

Save your tax returns and records. Your federal and state tax forms are important financial documents you may need for many reasons, ranging from home mortgages to

college financial. Print out a copy and keep in a safe place. Make an electronic copy in a safe spot as well. These steps also can help you more easily prepare next year's tax return. If you store sensitive tax and financial records on your computer, use a file encryption program to add an additional layer of security should your computer be compromised.

To learn additional steps you can take to protect your personal and financial data, visit Taxes. Security. Together at <https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Taxes-Security-Together>. You also can read Publication 4524 (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4524.pdf>), Security Awareness for Taxpayers.

Each and every taxpayer has a set of fundamental rights they should be aware of when dealing with the IRS. These are your Taxpayer Bill of Rights (<https://www.irs.gov/Taxpayer-Bill-of-Rights>). Explore your rights and our obligations to protect them on <http://www.IRS.gov>.

(Source: Internal Revenue Service)

IRS Form 1095 to be made available on myPay

All active-duty, Guard, Reserve, retiree and civilian military members will need proof of health care coverage when filing their federal tax returns for 2015.

"This is the first year that Affordable Care Act requires health care validation for filing their

taxes and Airmen need this information," said Robert W. Burke, the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office director, finance division.

Under the ACA, U.S. citizens and legal residents are required to obtain and maintain a minimum standard of

health care insurance, called minimum essential coverage. The proof of minimum essential coverage will be provided by the Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service Form 1095. TRICARE is one of many health providers qualifying for this coverage.

By the end of January 2016, Defense Finance and Accounting Service is required to provide each employee with the IRS Form 1095 for employment during 2015. A hard copy form is scheduled to be mailed to each employee and the form will also be available

electronically through myPay under the taxes section.

"The Air Force would like to stress the importance for Airmen to elect to receive the form electronic only," Burke continued. "This action will save the Air Force \$200,000 and cause no

environmental impact."

Additional information about the impact of the ACA can be found at <http://www.dfas.mil/taxes/aca.html>.

(Source: Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information)



Caregivers New Year Social

Friday, 6-10 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Caregivers and their warriors from all branches of service are invited for an evening in honor of the caregiver. Join us for a dinner buffet, live music, DJ, dancing, a photographer and door prizes. To reserve a seat, call 501-606-1990. The attire is business casual.

Trails & Tales Guided Tour

Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. A guided tour of Joint Base San Antonio- Fort Sam Houston; learn about old and new structures that share a rich history dating back more than 150 years. Patrons must be ready for departure at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center by 8 a.m. Due to limited seating, registration is required. Call 221-2705.

Accessing Higher Education

Monday-Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Education Center, building 2408. A three-day track for those pursuing higher education. Review education requirements and resources that may support personal goals. Call 221-1213.

Employment Readiness Orientation

Mondays, 9-10 a.m. Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Learn about employment resources and review services offered. Call 221-2380.

Army FAP Unit Training

Tuesday, 9-11 a.m. /1-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Mandated Unit Family Advocacy Training in accordance with Army Regulation 608-18 regarding domestic and child abuse identification, reporting, and prevention. Other topics covered include the Lautenberg amendment, restricted/unrestricted reporting and transitional compensation program. Seating is limited; call to reserve seats for your unit. Reservations will be accepted up to a week in advance. Call 221-2418.

Citizenship, Immigration Assistance, Ceremony

Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon, ceremony 2 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Review American customs and cultures, or meet with a U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service officer for assistance with applications. Eligible patrons will take the oath of allegiance at a naturalization ceremony at 2 p.m. Registration not required. Call 221-2705.

Boots To Business Entrepreneurial Track

Tuesday-Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Soldier for Life, building 2263. A two-day entrepreneurial education workshop hosted by the Small Business Administration. Discuss the opportunities and challenges of business ownership, review steps for evaluating business concepts, foundational knowledge required to develop a business plan, and information on SBA resources available to help access start-up capital and additional technical assistance. Call 221-1213.

Helping Us Grow Securely (HUGS) playgroup

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, Middle School Teen Center, building 2515. An interactive playgroup for infants and toddlers; open to parents and their children, ages 5 and under. Registration not required. Call 221-2418.

Bringing baby home

Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This two-part series must be attended in order. Knowing what to expect will help ease the overwhelming feeling of preparing for your newborn baby's homecoming. Both parents are encouraged to attend. Call 221-2418.

Salary Negotiation, Social Media

Wednesday, 9-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Learn the skill of salary negotiation and tap into the power of social media to find jobs and market yourself. Call 221-2380.

Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Volunteers newly assigned

to the M&FRC will in-process and receive training on their responsibilities. Call 221-2380.

Volunteer Management Information System

Wednesday, 9-10 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Volunteers will receive hands-on training with the Volunteer Management Information System. Call 221-2380.

FRG Key Caller

Wednesday, 1-4 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This training defines the family readiness group key caller's role and responsibilities, address issues key callers may face and identifies resources. Call 221-2418.

Post-Deployment

Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Service members scheduled to deploy, go on temporary duty for longer than 30 days or go on a remote assignment are required to attend this briefing. Call 221-2418.

Children in the Middle

Thursday, noon to 4 p.m.,

Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. A two-part series, must be attended in order. This free workshop meets the Texas court-ordered requirements for divorcing parents. Call 221-2418.

M&FRC Closed For Training

The Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797, is closed every first and third Thursday from 1-4:15 p.m. for in-service training. Call 221-2418 or 221-2705.

Special Education Support

Jan. 30, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Parents interested in attending this workshop must register by Jan. 25. This class requires a minimum of 12 participants. Review and navigate the educational system, parents receive information on special education laws, ARD/IEP process, individualized support, and how to understand and access the available resources to help support their child's education. Participants will receive a meal, childcare, and a certificate with 3 credit hours. Call 221-2705.

News Briefs

Continued from P6

Antonio Food Bank. Registration continues through Feb. 5 and all participants must bring their own basketball. Call 977-3921 for more information.

Weingarten Rights: Having Union Representation During Investigatory Interviews

The Labor Relations Statute entitles a bargaining unit employee to representation by the union during an examination, by an agency representative, in connection with a matter under official investigation if that employee reasonably believes disciplinary action will result. If the employee requests union representation, no further questioning will take place until a representative is present. For those stationed at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, call 808-0205; at JBSA-Randolph, call 652-4658; and at JBSA-Lackland, call 671-4528.

Check Your Military, CAC, Dependent ID Expiration Dates Now

All Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting system, Command Access Card and military ID card locations throughout Joint Base San Antonio are by 100 percent appointment only and wait time for an appointment can be up to 30 days. Civilian and military members need to remember their CACs and military IDs expire and schedule renewal appointments appropriately. Plan ahead for your family members for when their ID cards or and DEERS updates need to be made. Appointments can be made online at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.od.mil>.

IMCOM Voluntary Placement Program

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command's Voluntary Placement Program is a career-broadening opportunity for permanent, appropriated fund (GS-9 and above and wage grade equivalent) employees. The program gives first

consideration to internal employees wishing to move overseas or return to the continental United States from an overseas position. Available job opportunities are posted on the Army Knowledge Online Portal every Tuesday. Interested employees are required to submit one resume per week. If selected for a position, the employees will receive and official offer through the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. CONUS employees can check out OCONUS vacancies at <http://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/697591>. For more information, contact the IVPP team at usarmy.jbsa.imcom-hq.mbx.voluntary-placement-program@mail.mil.

VIA Metropolitan Transit Bus Schedule Now Includes Sundays

VIA Metropolitan Transit recently expanded their weekend express service from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to the downtown USO from only Saturdays to Saturdays and Sundays. Express Route 65 serves JBSA-Lackland and operates

Saturday, every 30 minutes from 8:15 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. then hourly until 10:30 p.m.; Sunday, hourly from 9:15 a.m. until 7 p.m. Express Route 16 serves JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and operates Saturday, every 30 minutes from 8:45 a.m. until 7:30 p.m., then hourly until 10:30 p.m.; Sunday, hourly from 9:45 a.m. until 7 p.m. It costs \$2.50 each way or a \$4.00 day pass can be purchased with exact change at the bus. The VIA bus service to other routes are available with stops just outside the gates. For more information, go to <http://www.viainfo.net>.

Fort Sam Houston Museum Open

Take a step into history at the Fort Sam Houston Museum in the Quadrangle, building 16, the oldest structure on the installation. The museum chronicles the history of the Army in San Antonio from its arrival in 1845 to the present. Learn about the vital role Fort Sam Houston played in the development of the Army and

connect with the Soldiers who served on this historic post. The museum offers numerous services for military members and their families to include professional development, neighborhood histories and special history searches for the kids. Admission to the museum is free to all active duty service members, retirees, civilians and family members. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and closed Sunday, Monday and federal holidays. For more information, call 221-1886.

North New Braunfels, Harry Wurzbach West Access Control Points Open In Mornings

The North New Braunfels Access Control Point, located by the Quadrangle, and the Harry Wurzbach West ACP, also known as the Pershing Gate, are open for incoming and outgoing traffic from 6-9 a.m. Mondays through Fridays, except on federal holidays, according to the 502nd Security Forces Squadron.

Stray Animals Notice For JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Residents

Many stray or roaming animal sightings are near residences. The stray or roaming animals are seeking food, water and shelter. Although this is not necessarily a housing problem, housing officials ask that residents refrain from feeding any animal that does not belong to them or that is running wild on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. If stray or roaming dogs in housing areas or entering the installation are seen, please call the 502nd Civil Engineering Squadron service call desk at 671-5555 to establish a work order and report the stray as soon as possible. Civil engineers will set traps for the strays and remove once the strays have been caught. If a wild animal is seen, keep away and make sure that no one is leaving food or water near housing areas. In addition, call Lincoln Military Housing at 221-0948 to have pest control service place a trap around the residence.

TAPIA from P6

to manage dormitories, or how the assignment system works” he said. “But for me, that was all second nature. My background helped to propel me in the right direction.”

Tapia joined the AETC team in January 2013 after tours as command chief for the 49th Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., and then at 12th Air Force at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

He said he did not take his new responsibilities at AETC lightly; he was coming on board at a critical juncture for the command.

“I knew, coming into this position, my number one priority would be to restore the nation’s trust and confidence in our institution and especially in our Basic Military Training,” Tapia said. “At the end of the day, I needed to give parents confidence that we would take care of their sons and daughters.”

Tapia was instrumental in two significant changes to BMT during his time at AETC – the shift of military training instructor duty from a volunteer force to a vetted Developmental Special Duty and the institution of Airmen’s Week.

As a member of the



Photo by Airman 1st Class John D. Partlow

Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, command chief of Air Education and Training Command, speaks with firefighters from the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, May 16, 2013.

Enlisted Board of Directors, a round table of MAJCOM command chiefs and selected chiefs from the Air Staff who support the chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Tapia was able to participate in key working groups instrumental to the transformation of BMT. One of those groups focused on the Developmental Special Duty process.

“We recognized there are some special duty assignments, like military training instructors, recruiters and military

training leaders, that require a little more service and sacrifice from Airmen,” Tapia said. “We worked to change how we manned those positions, so we can find the individuals who have the right attributes and disposition for those jobs.”

Tapia said that finding the right people for these jobs meant a lot to him, as AETC owns the majority of these influential positions.

“AETC owns almost 4,000 technical school instructors, 547 MTI

positions, 1,200 recruiter positions and 650 MTL positions,” Tapia said. “It is our responsibility to vet, assign and train the leaders of tomorrow.”

Tapia also was a critical force behind the creation of Airmen’s Week, which is the first training Airmen receive after graduating the previous Friday from BMT. Tapia said a review of BMT identified “white space” during the eight weeks of training that equated to a week of time they could re-invest in our newest

Airmen. The Airmen’s Week is spent reinforcing the Air Force core values and what “integrity, service and excellence” mean in the daily life of every Airman.

“We are going to see the payoff to Airmen’s Week for years and years to come,” Tapia said. “This is not the last week of basic training; it’s the first week of the rest of these Airmen’s Air Force careers.”

Tapia’s hope for Airmen’s Week is that it fosters the moment when Airmen buy-in to what it truly means to be an Airman. This sentiment hits home for Tapia. He often tells the story of how he actually “joined” the Air Force in 1989, four years after he first signed on the dotted line. Near the end of his first enlistment, he found himself on the verge of not being able to re-enlist, but one leader gave him a second chance.

“If I told you that 18-year-old Airman Basic Tapia would have seen himself sitting here after a 30-year career, I would be lying. I was literally a signature away from being back on my mom’s couch,” Tapia said. “My best advice for Airmen, if they really want to go far in this Air Force, is

don’t let four years go by where they’re not in. You’ve got to be in from day one.”

Tapia said he has many fond recollections from his career, but it is the simple moments spent with fellow Airmen that hold a special place in his heart.

“Because of where I’ve worked, I’ve had some incredible experiences. I’ve been able to ring the bell to open a day of trading at the New York Stock Exchange. I’ve been on Air Force One. Some people never get the chance to do these things,” Tapia said. “But those experiences pale in comparison to the time I’ve spent with Airmen. Those are my most cherished memories and those are the things I will miss the most.”

Always Airman Tapia, the chief signed off with his promise to all Airmen, not just those in AETC.

“I will continue to serve however I can,” he said. “From this point, I have to stop coming into work, but I will never ever stop being an advocate for you. I’m going to move from the field to the stands and I will be your biggest cheerleader, your biggest advocate and the person who will be thinking and praying for you every single day.”

BLACKBURN from P1

This is Blackburn’s first assignment in San Antonio. Prior to assuming his duties at Army North Jan. 4, he was the deputy commanding general for operations with the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga.

During his 30-year-career, he has commanded armored and cavalry units at every level from platoon to brigade, including two stints with the 11th

Armored Cavalry Regiment and as the 75th commander of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, Army North commanding general and Senior Commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, welcomed Blackburn and told the audience he was excited to have a deputy commanding general again following the retirement of the previous deputy, Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, almost six

months ago.

“All of those things I used to pass off to Sim (Trombitas) to handle, I had to start doing them myself. Now I have somebody to give them to again,” he joked.

As the deputy commanding general, Blackburn will help lead the command in homeland disaster response, homeland defense, and partnership efforts with the Mexican, Canadian, and Royal Bahamania militaries.



Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

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

Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Reunion

The Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association has announced a 75th U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Diamond Anniversary celebration and reunion April 24-28 at the Double Tree Hotel, 5321 Sidney Simmons Blvd., in Columbus, Ga. The association represents all Army officers commissioned through the Officer Candidate School, regardless of previous school locations and branches. Demonstrations and briefings related to OCS, tours, a grand opening of the remodeled Wigle

Hall, Memorial/Monument Walk, OCS Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, and Patterson Award dinner at the National Infantry Museum. For reservations, call 706-327-6868 and use “OCS Alumni Association Reunion 2016.” For more information, call 813-917-4309 or visit <http://www.ocsalumni.com>.

Enlisted Association

Chapter 80 of the Enlisted Association meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club. Call 658-2344.

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