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**JBSA  
 HOTLINES**

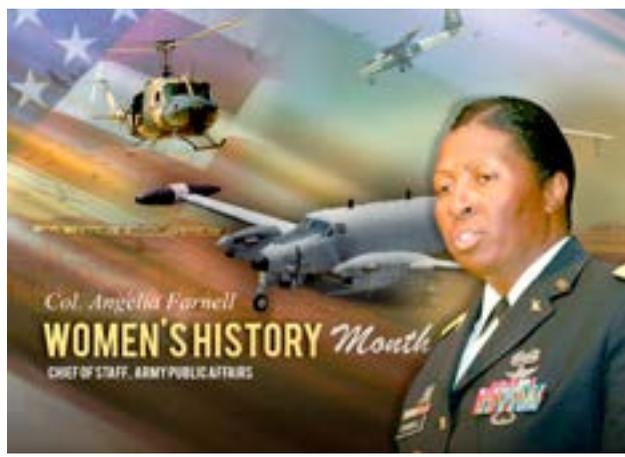


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A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING – JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON



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**GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND** **PAGE 14**

# BAMC community-based medical homes extend hours, services to meet patients' needs

By Lori Newman  
 BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center has implemented several changes to make it easier for TRICARE beneficiaries to access care during times and at locations more convenient to them.

These changes include extended appointment hours, outpatient physical therapy services and a new drive-through pharmacy.

"We are working hard to make primary care easier to access for our patients to include expanded hours, integration with physical therapy, and making pharmacy services more available," said Army Col. Kevin Moore, Department of Family and Community Medicine chief. "It's important that we move military medicine into the places where our patients live in a way that offers convenience."

The Schertz Medical Home, Capt. Jennifer M. Moreno Primary Care Clinic and Westover Medical Home are now offering extended appointment hours, Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday hours will remain 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Extended outpatient physical therapy hours within the Capt. Jennifer M. Moreno Clinic began Feb. 1. Two physical therapists and two physical therapy assistants are available by appointment from 4:30 p.m. to



Photo by Robert Shields

Pfc. Cole Blancett (right), physical therapy assistant, helps Douglas Biala stretch during a physical therapy appointment March 6 at the Capt. Jennifer M. Moreno Primary Care Clinic at Fort Sam Houston. Two physical therapists and two physical therapy assistants are available by appointment from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, mirroring the expanded primary care clinic hours. Outpatient physical therapy services also began at Schertz Medical Home Feb. 18.

The Westover Medical Home will gain a 5,000-square-foot physical therapy clinic with an estimated opening date in

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# New policies for breastfeeding as an active duty Soldier

By Sgt. Alexandria Adkins  
 Tripler Army Medical Center  
 Honolulu, Hawaii

Breastfeeding on active duty, or in any workplace, can be stressful.

The Army has implemented a policy to be incorporated into Army Regulation 600-20, the "Army Command Policy," supporting active duty Soldiers who are breastfeeding.

For active duty Soldiers, the mission always comes first, but this new policy means Soldiers do not have to sacrifice breastfeeding as part of their infant care.

Army Directive 2015-43, dated Nov. 10, 2015, Breastfeeding and Lactation Support, includes new guidance on workplace lactation support for postpartum Soldiers.

To develop the new policy, the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, or G-1, leveraged the clinical support and expertise of Army Medicine subject matter experts to conduct a comprehensive review of current Army guidance, services' policies and best practices, and current civilian healthcare postpartum literature to develop the Army Breastfeeding and Lactation Support policy for Commanders to implement.

The directive will be incorporated into the next revision of AR 600-20.

Breastfeeding is already law under the



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Alexandria Adkins is a 68W healthcare specialist stationed at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, and has worked in the OB/GYN clinic.

U.S. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which has specific provisions requiring businesses to implement basic lactation support. This support includes reasonable break time and a private place, other than a bathroom, for nursing mothers.

I exclusively used the pump method which means I didn't have to find a place to breast-feed my daughter.

Although it is time consuming and exhausting, the benefits for me and my daughter are apparent every day.

One of the main benefits that I observe is that my daughter is almost 10 months old and is rarely sick. She also has put on weight at an appropriate level.

Extensive medical research has shown

that breastfeeding has significant health, nutritional, immunologic, developmental, emotional, social and economic benefits for both mother and child.

It is important for Soldiers to understand their options when they become pregnant and make themselves familiar with Army Regulation 635-200, Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations.

Commanders also have responsibilities to breastfeeding Soldiers. They are responsible for notifying all Soldiers of the breastfeeding and lactation support policy within the regulation.

The commander will counsel all pregnant Soldiers as required by AR 635-200 to include information regarding the TRICARE policy that covers breast pumps. Commanders will also provide information to Soldiers about breastfeeding and lactation support via the work plan memorandum during the initial pregnancy counseling.

That counseling will address the command providing a private, designated space, with locking capabilities that includes an electrical outlet, access to a safe water source and a sink for breastfeeding Soldiers.

My command is as supportive as they can be when it comes to breastfeeding. The real issues I have faced are old military build-

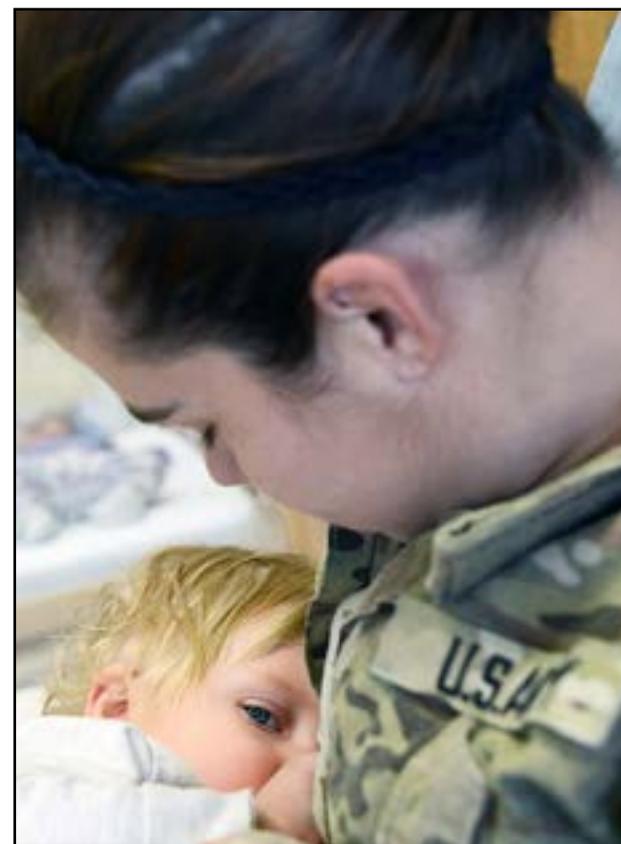


Photo by Meghan Portillo

Cpl. Brittany Sandoval of 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division breastfeeds her 14-month-old daughter, Piper, before taking her home from a Child Development Center at Fort Bliss, Texas. Like many breastfeeding Soldiers, Sandoval visits the CDC on her lunch break to breastfeed her daughter.

ings and operational taskings that do not account for breastfeeding Soldiers. When that happens, I keep the current mission in mind, do what I can, and drive on.

There are many mothers who have breastfed while on active duty and the Army is beginning to understand that breastfeeding Soldiers have improved postpartum weight loss and miss work less often.

One-day absences to care for sick children

occur more than twice as often for mothers of formula feeding infants. Therefore, Soldiers will be available for duty more often.

I encourage new mothers to seek support from their command, read the regulations and the law and make an informed decision if you choose to breastfeed your infant.

*(Editor's note: Jim Guzior, Tripler Army Medical Center public affairs officer, contributed to this article.)*



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## News Briefs

### JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Women's History Month Observance

The Fort Sam Houston Women's History Month observance is at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Fort Sam Houston Theater. This year's theme is "Working To Form A More Perfect Union: Honoring Women In Public Service And Government. Guest speaker is Karen Perkins, U.S. Army Installation Management Command human resources director. Co-hosts are Rear Adm. Rebecca J. McCormick Boyle, commander of the U.S. Navy Medicine Education and Training Command, and Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Gabbert, commanding general of the U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

### 68C Practical Nurse Course Graduation

The graduation ceremony of the San Antonio Military Medical Center Practical Nurse Course, 68C Class 15-005, is at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Brooke Army Medical Center 4th floor auditorium. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call 295-4020/4050.

### Voting Assistance

The Joint Base San Antonio Voting Assistance Program office is located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 2380 Stanley Road, building 124, first floor. Assistance is available by appointment only between the hours of 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. Call 221-VOTE (8683) for more information. Visit <http://www.FVAP.gov> for more voting resources.

### Army Candidate School Structure Interview Panel Board

The 502nd Force Support Squadron's Military Personnel Branch conducts an U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Structure Interview Panel Board at 8 a.m. April 27 at building 2263, 1706 Stanley Road, room 117B. All Soldiers must have a bachelor's degree and can't be over the age of 33. Soldiers must also be U.S. citizens, have a general technical score of 110 or higher on the U.S. Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, a security clearance and cannot have more than

# SAMMC's trauma mission benefits San Antonio, medical readiness

By Lori Newman  
BAMC Public Affairs

"Trauma team to the trauma room" often rings through the halls of the San Antonio Military Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston throughout the day and the night. SAMMC is one of two Level I Trauma Centers in the city of San Antonio, which leads to many unique traumas coming through the emergency department each day.

"SAMMC's emergency department is one of the largest and busiest emergency departments in south Texas," said Army Col. Michael Hilliard, Department of Emergency Medicine chief.

"Our annual volume approaches 85,000 patients a year, of which about 4,000 of those patients are trauma patients," Hilliard said. "Our trauma volume has continued to grow over the past three years from 3,000 to now more than 4,000 patients per year."

SAMMC works closely with the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council and University Hospital, San Antonio's other Level I Trauma Center, to provide trauma care to citizens of the city and other rural areas of southwest Texas.

STRAC's mission is to develop, implement and maintain the regional trauma and emergency health care system for 22 counties encompassing more than 26,000 square miles in southwest Texas to the Mexico border.

Common trauma cases range from shootings, stabbings, car wrecks and severe burns.

"We have been involved with trauma in the community of San Antonio officially since 1975 and probably even before then," said Army Col. Kurt Edwards, SAMMC trauma and surgical critical care chief.

"As we provide excellent care to the people of southwest Texas, we understand that the experiences we have in deployed or combat situations allow us to provide even better care here," he said. "It allows us to also provide better care to military members who are injured."

"The types of cases we see here absolutely help prepare us for downrange," Hilliard added in agreement. "It may not be the same as an improvised explosive device, but gunshots, stabbings, multiple car accidents and those types of injuries and the way the body responds to them is very similar to how it is when we are downrange and in war.

"Our staff is completely devoted to the trauma mission," Hilliard said. "This is where we train our physicians, nurses and medics to be prepared to take care of all our service members downrange in conflict who are protecting our country."

Some trauma cases are more unusual; in 2012, Sherri Ellis was brought to SAMMC with severe injuries caused from being trampled by the cow on her rural farm.

The cow had recently given birth and was protecting her calf. When Ellis was trying to feed the cattle, the cow knocked her down and trampled her.

She was flown to SAMMC for treatment. Her injuries were severe and her recovery long, but she and her husband were grateful for the care she received at SAMMC.

"The ER nurses were phenomenal," said her husband, Larry Ellis. "They were as big a part of saving her life as the doctors."

"I owe my life to this hospital. If it weren't for them I wouldn't be here," Ellis

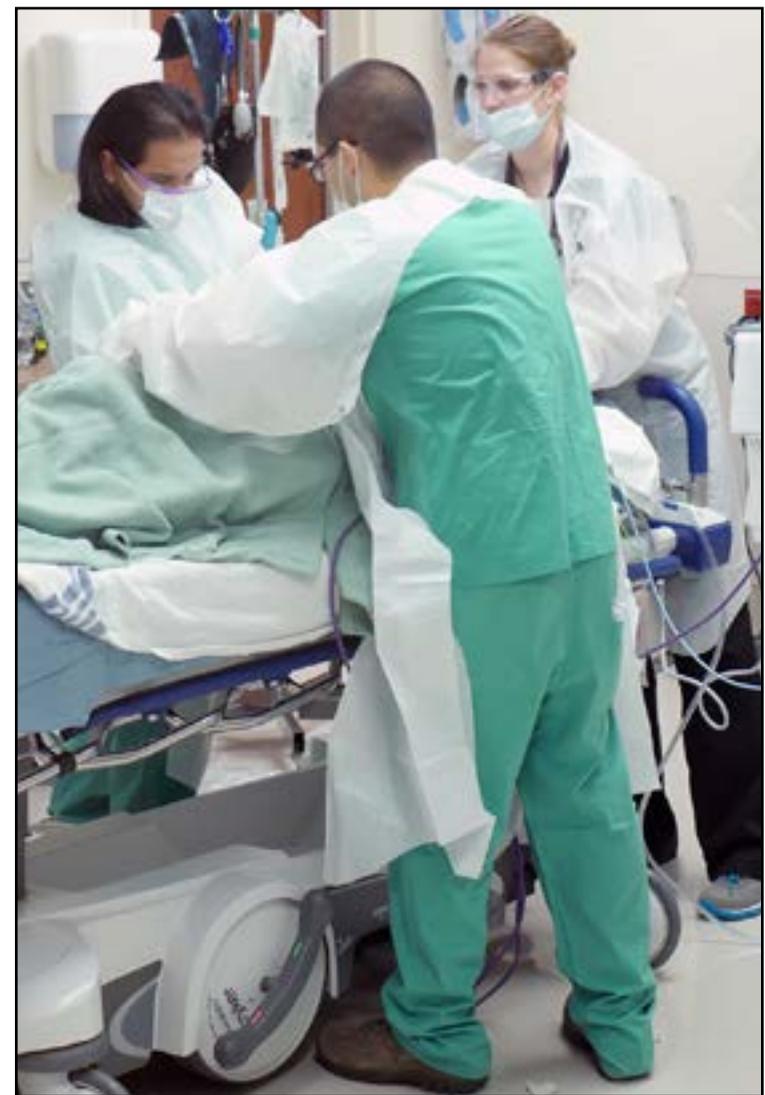


Photo by Robert Whetstone

San Antonio Military Medical Center personnel provide care to a trauma patient in the emergency department. SAMMC is one of two Level I trauma center in the city of San Antonio and the only Level I trauma center in the Department of Defense.

said. "I'm eternally grateful to the doctors and the staff at SAMMC."

Army Lt. Col. Debra Chappel, Department of Emergency Nursing chief nurse, said she loves working at SAMMC and contributing to the trauma mission for San Antonio.

"The magnitude of nurses that I have working here with me is outstanding," Chappel said.

City and state leaders have praised SAMMC's contributions to the health and well-being of the people of southwest Texas.

"I'm so incredibly proud of this facility, in typical Texas fashion, I think it's the very best in the entire nation and in the entire world," said Texas Governor Greg Abbott. "The role that it plays for both our military as well as our civilians is absolutely essential."

# 323rd Army Band 'Fort Sam's Own' woodwind quintet named best in Army

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

The 323rd Army Band's woodwind quintet was named the Army's top woodwind ensemble in this year's Musical Performance Team of the Year competition.

The quintet, consisting of Staff Sgt. Michael Becker on flute, Staff Sgt. Kayla Eskander on oboe, Spc. Martin Van Klompenberg on bassoon, Spc. Nathan Scott Owen on French horn and Sgt. Joe Samuel on clarinet, received the honor for their performance of a Beethoven piano sonata arranged for woodwind quintet.

The Musical Performance Team of the Year competition is an online competition



Staff Sgt. Michael Becker and Staff Sgt. Kayla Eskander rehearse with the woodwind quintet March 3. The quintet was recently named the Army's top musical performance team of the year in the woodwind ensemble category.

for all Army musicians worldwide. Ensembles in eight different categories submit videotaped performances to be judged by their peers.

"Army Music puts the

videos on their portal, and everybody in the career field gets to rank their favorite. We came out on top in our category," Eskander said.

The piece of music the quintet submitted

was arranged by Van Klompenberg and had its origins in a very somber event.

"I originally arranged the piece for the Jan. 5 memorial service of Lt. Col. Brandon Darby," said Van Klompenberg, referring to the Army North deputy intelligence officer who passed away suddenly in December.

"We don't get asked to do memorial services often and we don't have a lot of music for that," he added. "We got together and brainstormed what we could do to honor him and his tremendous service."

"Something else that was unique about that piece of music was we had just come off of block leave and our horn player (Owen) was



Photos by Sgt. Maj. Matt Howard

Spc. Martin "Doctor" Van Klompenberg plays bassoon during the 323rd Army Band's woodwind quintet rehearsal March 3. The quintet was recently named the Army's top musical performance team of the year in the woodwind ensemble category. The quintet's winning submission was a performance of Van Klompenberg's arrangement of a Beethoven piano sonata he originally created to honor the late Lt. Col. Brandon Darby at a recent memorial service.

brand new to the unit," Becker said. "We only had one or two rehearsals to get ready for the

memorial service, and then only one more

**See BAND, P15**

## ARNORTH CG MEETS WITH WOUNDED WARRIORS



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins (left), U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commander and Senior Commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, and ARNORTH Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Orosz had breakfast at Brooke Army Medical Center with a group of wounded warriors March 9 prior to the Warrior Transition Battalion town hall. Wiggins asked the wounded warriors about their experiences at Fort Sam Houston to identify any processes or issues that needed to be addressed for both wounded warriors and their family members. He emphasized that their primary mission was to get well, but also reminded them of their responsibilities as Soldiers throughout the process.

## Army Emergency Relief: Soldiers helping Soldiers



For the past 74 years, Army Emergency Relief has clearly made a difference in enhancing the readiness and relieving the distress of Soldiers and their families by providing \$1.7 billion in needed financial assistance.

Last year alone, more than \$70 million in interest free loans and grants were distributed to more than 48,000 Soldiers and dependents. Such an extraordinary accomplishment is not sustainable without the continued generosity of active duty and retired Soldiers and Army civilians.

Unfortunately, the number of Soldiers donating to AER over the past two years has declined 40 percent. This year, we are asking commands to re-emphasize annual fundraising efforts to maintain past levels of AER support.

Those efforts include ensuring every Soldier receives the opportunity to voluntarily donate through on the job solicitation; creating a greater

awareness of AER benefits through sustained publicity before and during the campaign; and conducting robust campaign kickoff events involving installation leaders at all levels.

The 2016 AER Annual Fundraising Campaign began March 1 and continues until May 15. The campaign theme, "Never Leave a Soldier Behind," carries the solemn and enduring promise of "Soldiers Helping Soldiers – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

**Daniel A. Dailey**  
Sergeant Major of the Army

**Mark A. Milley**  
General, U.S. Army  
Chief of Staff

**Patrick J. Murphy**  
Acting Secretary of the Army

## News Briefs

### Continued from P3

six years active federal service. Soldiers are also 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. For a complete listing and checklist of the OCS requirements and forms, visit <https://www.hrcapps.army.mil/site/protect/branches/officer/Operations/Accessions/OCS/index.htm>. All OCS applicants must see their S1/G1 prior to submitting their OCS packets. All OCS packets must be turned in by April 8. For more information, call 221-0885.

### Boy Scout Troop 23 Seeks New Members

The Boy Scout Troop 23 Alamo Chapter Association of the U.S. Army is looking for more participants and new members. Scouts meet weekly to have fun, prepare for monthly camping/hiking trips and community service projects. Boys are challenged to achieve their ideals physically, mentally, and socially. No experience necessary and boys don't need prior scouting experience to join. Boys must be at least 10 years old and having completed sixth grade, but they may join later on in high school (must be 18 or younger). Troop 23 meets at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Main Post Chapel on Wilson Road from 4-6 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call 571-309-2403.

### 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.

# Retirement recognition packages serve veterans in more ways than one

By Sgt. Brandon Hubbard  
204th Public Affairs Detachment

The flag is folded 12 times. Ray Rodriguez smooths the fabric, turning the material until it becomes a blue triangle with white stars on all sides – a tri-cornered reflection of the first colonial soldiers.

In the basement of 519 North Medina St. in San Antonio, a small team of workers is filling packages with carefully placed items – the U.S. flag, a pin and decal – to recognize separating and retiring service members.

Rodriguez has worked at the center for the past year, filling packages and folding flags. A nearby cart with dozens of flags sits ready to be loaded into the familiar Army-black boxes with the gold lettering.

"I take pride in what I do," said Rodriguez, whose wife is a veteran.

Rodriguez and his co-workers will assemble 28,000 Army Retiring Soldier Commendation Program Packages this year under an Army contract with Veteran's Enterprises of Texas, a nonprofit sub-corporation of the American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc. Each pin is embossed with the words "Soldier for Life" and adds the word "Retired" for those who have completed a full military career.

The packages are part of the Army's Soldier for Life campaign.

"It is a way of life," said Karen Perkins, U.S. Army Installation Management Command human resources director at Fort Sam Houston, who toured the assembly location recently for the first time. "It is about a Soldier life-cycle that starts when a person decides to join

the Army and goes all the way through beyond retirement. It is about being a 'Soldier for Life' from day one and ultimately preparing themselves for transition at the end of their first tour or the end of a 30-year career."

Contracting the VETS nonprofit additionally benefits the local San Antonio homeless veteran population.

The Medina St. facility is also an NVOP Residential Center for veterans. At any given time, as many as 140 disabled veterans can live at the center.

The package-making contract represents potential on-site jobs for disabled veterans at the center and surrounding area.

Perkins said the partnership is part of what makes San Antonio earn its moniker as "Military City U.S.A."

"Until you start to put the pieces together with the nonprofits, you don't have any idea what people are really doing," she said.

To some, Perkin says, the building might seem like another large structure, but it is really an innovative network driven by the "passion of a few people" to care for retiring veterans, as well as those vets who are homeless and disabled.

San Antonio has about 23,000 homeless residents and between 20-25 percent of them are veterans, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National



Ray Rodriguez folds the U.S. flag Feb. 24 for an Army Retiring Soldier Commendation Program Package at his job for the Veterans Enterprises of Texas sub-corporation of the American GI Forum in San Antonio. The flags will be given to Soldiers departing the Army as part of the Soldier for Life campaign.

Conference of Mayors.

Van L. Mitchell, American GI Forum NVOP senior director for business and housing operations, says the VETS contract to create the Soldier for Life packages represents way for disabled veterans to earn a "living wage" and a unique job opportunity.

"We don't pay them minimum wage like lots of programs do," said Mitchell, a retired sergeant major who served in the Army for 26 years, and joined the nonprofit in 2010. "We think they should have a life and be able to work just like everyone else, as well as providing them services and treating them with dignity and respect."

Up to eight employees can work on the program at a time. The VETS nonprofit employs 50 disabled veterans and non-veterans across all of its programs, putting to work people with

challenges like mental disorders and physical limitations.

Sgt. Maj. Lon Culbreath from IMCOM said sometimes Soldiers take things like retirement flags for granted when they have not watched what it takes for every Soldier to get one.

Touring the facility, Culbreath said seeing the operation personally puts faces and names to the large operation and homeless veteran community in San Antonio.

"It recharges your batteries to be involved and come out here," Culbreath said.

Culbreath said veterans are often too proud to accept help or admit they have fallen on hard times.

"But, we're a family," he said. "As we go forward with this Soldier for Life mantra, it has got to be more than words – it has to be something we stand by."



Photos by Sgt. Brandon Hubbard

Jacob Vasquez, a Veterans Enterprises of Texas employee, smooths a U.S. flag Feb. 24 for an Army Retiring Soldier Commendation Program Package for the Soldier for Life campaign at the Residential Center for Veterans in San Antonio. The campaign focuses on building support and a sense of community for Soldiers from the beginning of their service to their post-military careers.

## FORT SAM HOUSTON BIRTHPLACE OF MILITARY AVIATION

The very first Army aircraft made its first flight March 2, 1910, at Fort Sam Houston with Lt. Benjamin Foulois at the controls. Foulois piloted the Army's first aircraft, Signal Corps Aircraft No. 1, with his first flight lasting only 7 1/2 minutes. He made three more flights that day and on his fourth attempt, the young pilot ended up crashing the airplane.

The original Signal

Corps Aircraft No. 1 was a Canard biplane with a four-cylinder Wright 30.6 horsepower engine driving two wooden propellers via a sprocket-and-chain transmission system. Foulois taught himself to fly via correspondence with Orville and Wilbur Wright. Foulois' experiences in aviation as a member of the Army Signal Corps led to today's U.S. Air Force. The Army Air Service was created in 1918. In 1926, the Army changed the name to the Army Air Corps, which became the Army Air Forces in 1941. Based on the AAF's wartime achievements during World War II and future potential, the U.S. Air Force won its independence as a full partner with the Army and the Navy Sept. 18, 1947.



**Illustration courtesy Fort Sam Houston Museum**

# MICC acquisition forecast event attracts area business leaders

By Ryan Mattox  
MICC Public Affairs

More than 150 business representatives from the San Antonio metropolitan area met with Army contracting officials March 2 to hear about upcoming contracting opportunities during the Mission and Installation Contracting Command fiscal 2016 acquisition forecasting open house at Fort Sam Houston.

MICC contracting officers from Fort Sam Houston and the small business specialist briefed their upcoming acquisition needs of Army units assigned to Fort Sam Houston for the fiscal year.

This open house is one of many events the command conducts each year

to support small businesses throughout the United States.

“By sharing the Army’s acquisition needs, we assist our customers in acquiring what they need while informing small businesses of every upcoming requirement we have available,” said Ray Harris, MICC-Fort Sam Houston director.

“While we have a business relationship, what we do together is much bigger than just a business relationship. There is a Soldier or Soldier’s family member at the end of each of our transactions. Everyone in this room knows a Soldier, was a Soldier or has a relative who is a Soldier,” Harris said. “By making small business owners aware of what our needs



Photo by Ryan Mattox

Ray Harris briefs business owners about working with the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at a forecasting event at Fort Sam Houston March 2. Harris is the director of the MICC-Fort Sam Houston contracting office. More than 150 business owners came to hear about upcoming requirements for contracts and processes for obtaining those contracts with the Army.

are and being completely transparent, we will continue to acquire the best possible equipment and services for our Soldiers.”

The MICC contract-

ing office at Fort Sam Houston purchases range from professional consulting, advertising, food, and communication services.

In fiscal 2015, the MICC-Fort Sam Houston obligated more than \$551 million on more than 1,300 contracting actions for the instal-

lation. Of that amount, \$211.9 million on more than 900 contracting actions went to small businesses.

Last year, the office awarded 69 percent of its contracting actions to small businesses. Of that percentage, 46.9 percent went to small disadvantaged businesses, 8.9 percent went to service disabled veteran owned small businesses, 16.7 percent to women owned small business and 10.1 percent went to HUBZone small businesses. The average award was \$397,000.

“Events like this open house allow small businesses to plan and strategize for requirements for which they would like

See OPEN HOUSE, P16

# MICC personnel participate in joint operational contract support exercise

By Ryan Mattox  
MICC Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command acquisition and support personnel from Fort Sam Houston will be participating in an annual operational contract support exercise Monday through April 8 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The MICC is providing more than 90 people for both exercise support and training. More than half of these individuals will be trainees and the remaining personnel will be part of a cadre providing exercise support.

“Operational Contract Support Joint Exercise-2016 is the Department of Defense’s premier operational contract support event,” said C.T. Fortune,

MICC plans officer. “The exercise develops integrated planning products, trains the workforce and increases senior leader awareness. Participants gain the tools and confidence necessary to succeed while deployed to support any contingency operation or natural disaster.”

In addition to MICC participants, the exercise involves service members and civilians from all branches in the DOD, coalition partners from three partner nations, and coordination with interagency and defense combat support agencies.

This year’s exercise features a new wrinkle. For the first time during an OCSJX, an Army service component command and a maneuver

division will train with DOD acquisition professionals on contract support integration and contractor management functions to further their OCS readiness.

“For the first time in an OCSJX, we have arranged for a significant warfighter presence to train with acquisition, financial management and judge advocate professionals,” said Col. Joshua Burris, OCSJX-16 executive director and Army lead.

U.S. Army South and 1st Armored Division staff will form an operational contract support integration cell. The OCSIC will interact with its primary staffs to develop OCS processes and critical staff thinking in contract support integration and

contractor management under a U.S. Southern Command PANAMAX scenario.

PANAMAX is an annual multi-national exercise that promotes interoperability and builds participating nation capability to function as part of a multi-national force focusing on the defense of the Panama Canal.

“Planning today provides options for tomorrow,” said Lt. Gen. Gustave Perna, Army deputy chief of staff, G-4. “The upcoming OCSJX will provide us a great opportunity to exercise and synchronize multiple staff elements. Additionally, our partner nations’ participation

**See MICC, P17**



**Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginald Alexander**

Soldiers from the 612th and 613th Contracting Teams conducted a mission readiness exercise in preparation for Operational Contract Support Joint Exercise-2016. The exercise’s purpose was to prepare and expose the contracting teams to a contingency environment. The MRX included situational training in contracting officer representatives, unauthorized commitments, ratifications and protests.

# Sky's the limit after breaking aviation ceilings

By Gary Sheftick  
Army News Service

Not many Army second lieutenants were flying fixed-wing aircraft in 1989, let alone serving as a pilot for the Army chief of engineers.

That year, 2nd Lt. Angelia Farnell was also the first woman to serve in the aviation support unit at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., after the U.S. Army Engineer School and Center moved there.

"That was interesting ... to show up at a unit that didn't have female pilots," Farnell said, adding that all of the pilots were seasoned chief warrant officers, except for the commander who was a lieutenant colonel.

"The warrant officers gave me so much grief, because in their minds a second lieutenant should not have been flying airplanes."

She stood her ground, however, and proved her mettle flying UH-1H Hueys and the U-21 "Queen Air" fixed-wing aircraft. Soon she was asked to pilot the commanding general.

"I've never been one to back down from a challenge," Farnell said. "It's just not in my nature."

Now Farnell is the senior female African-American aviator in the active Army, even though she's not flying in her current assignment. She still mentors other female aviators, and gives advice to those who may someday take her place at the pinnacle of their career field.

"As a leader, as a mentor-coach, I'm always trying to develop my replacement," she said.

Currently, female officers make up about 10 percent of the active Army Aviation Branch. There are about 3,314 male Army aviators and 329 female pilots in the Army, but only a handful of African-American female aviators, Farnell said.

Maj. Gen. Gregg Potter, commanding general of the Intelligence School and Center, noted during his remarks when Farnell relinquished brigade command there. "Always the mentor, Angie has sought every opportunity to give back to our future generations," he said.

Farnell commanded the 111th MI Brigade at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., from July 2010 to July 2012. She was the first female African-American aviator to command a Military Intelligence brigade.



Illustration by Peggy Frierson

"I've always been one to finish whatever I start; I see it through the end and do my very best," she said. "And so far whatever I've set out to do, I've been very successful in achieving it."

After her first assignment at Fort Leonard Wood, Farnell attended the Military Intelligence Advanced Course at Fort Huachuca and there learned to fly RC-12 Guardrail aircraft.

She went on to fly aerial reconnaissance missions over the demilitarized zone in Korea during three tours there as well as imminent danger area missions in Bosnia/Kosovo.

"I strive to be the best at whatever I do," she said, "and also in doing that, I try to open doors or keep doors open for those coming behind me."

Farnell was the first Army officer at the Stimson Center in Washington, D.C., during her last assignment as part of the Army Chief of Staff Senior Fellows program. She participated in the East Asia studies program as well as the Budgeting for Foreign Affairs and Defense program and conducted research on the connection between K-12 education standards and the military.

She also has served tours on the Army

Staff and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, working personnel and readiness policy.

"I make the best of every assignment," she said. Now she is serving as the chief of staff for Army Public Affairs in the Pentagon.

"I've learned a lot," she said about her first assignment in Public Affairs. She has gained an appreciation for the role of journalists, she said and added with a smile that she's mastering the Associated Press style. "There's never a dull moment or a dull day," she said about the fast pace of the news business.



In her time off, Farnell volunteers with her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., working with New Hope Housing to help the homeless as well as the sorority's "Stop Hunger Now" initiative to provide healthy snacks for school-age children in Fairfax County. She especially likes to help underprivileged children and young adults.

She keeps in contact with her roots and tries to go back to her hometown in Louisiana at least twice a year. She grew up in Pleasant Hill, La., and graduated from Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, La.

Her mother is still in Louisiana and although she's proud of her daughter, Farnell said mom never wanted her to become a pilot. She thought it was too dangerous.

But her parents always told her "whatever you choose to be in life, you be the best that you can be, and never let anyone tell you that you can't do something."

Farnell said she took that to heart.

"I've been referred to as a duck sometimes," she said, explaining she's been told by others "You just let stuff roll off your back and never stress out!"

Farnell said no one should worry too much about the opinions of others. "Believe in yourself," she said. "Don't let anyone define who you are. You define yourself."

Farnell credits her success to the senior noncommissioned officers that molded her over the years and taught her about leadership. She still keeps in touch with many of them. She says there's no greater feeling of accomplishment as a leader than to have your previous Soldiers still stay in touch with you seeking mentorship after they are no longer under your command and tell you the positive impact you made on their life and their success.

"To me, that is the true test that you were a good leader," she said.

"Set your goals high and remember the three C's in life: Challenges, choices and consequences. With every challenge comes a choice. With every choice comes a consequence. And the circle continues," she said.

"The sky is the limit."

*(Editor's note: Women's History Month runs March 1-31. Women in today's Army serve as commanders, doctors, lawyers, engineers, mechanics, aviators, special operators, technologists and combat troops. In fact, all combat military occupational specialties are in the process of opening to women. More than 69,000 women currently serve as Soldiers – exceeding 14 percent of the active force.)*

# Women's History Month 2016 Presidential Proclamation

Throughout history, women have driven humanity forward on the path to a more equal and just society, contributing in innumerable ways to our character and progress as a people.

In the face of discrimination and undue hardship, they have never given up on the promise of America: that with hard work and determination, nothing is out of reach.

During Women's History Month, we remember the trailblazers of the past, including the women who are not recorded in our history books, and we honor their legacies by carrying forward the valuable lessons learned from the powerful examples they set.

For too long, women were formally excluded from full participation in our society and our democracy. Because of the courage of so many bold women who dared to transcend preconceived expectations and prove they were capable of doing all that a man could do and more, advances were made, discoveries were revealed, barriers were broken, and progress triumphed.

Whether serving in elected positions across America, leading groundbreaking civil rights movements, venturing into unknown frontiers, or programming revolutionary technologies, generations of women that knew their gender was no obstacle to what they could accomplish have long stirred new ideas and opened new doors, having a profound and positive impact on our nation.

Through hardship and strife and in every realm of life, women have spurred change in communities around the world, steadfastly joining together to overcome adversity and lead the charge for a fairer, more inclusive, and more progressive society.

During Women's History Month, we honor the countless women who sacrificed and strived to ensure all people have an equal shot at pursuing the American dream.

As President, the first bill I signed into law was the Lilly

Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, making it easier for working American women to effectively challenge illegal, unequal pay disparities. Additionally, my Administration proposed collecting pay data from businesses to shine a light on pay discrimination, and I signed an Executive Order to ensure the Federal Government only works with and awards contracts to businesses that follow laws that uphold fair and equal labor practices.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies can no longer charge women more for health insurance simply because of their gender. And last year, we officially opened for women the last jobs left unavailable to them in our military, because one of the best ways to ensure our Armed Forces remains the strongest in the world is to draw on the talents and skills of all Americans.

Though we have made great progress toward achieving gender equality, work remains to be done. Women still earn, on average, less for every dollar made by men, which is why I continue to call on the Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act – a sensible step to provide women with basic tools to fight pay discrimination.

Meanwhile, my administration has taken steps to support working families by fighting for paid leave for all Americans, providing women with more small business loans and opportunities, and addressing the challenges still faced by women and girls of color, who consistently face wider opportunity gaps and structural barriers – including greater discrepancies in pay.

And although the majority of our nation's college and graduate students are women, they are still underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, which is why we are encouraging more women and girls to pursue careers in these fields.



**Barack Obama**  
President of the  
United States of America

This May, the White House will host a summit on "The United State of Women," to highlight the advances we have made in the United States and across the globe and to expand our efforts on helping women confront the challenges they face and reach for their highest aspirations.

We must strive to build the future we want our children to inherit – one in which their dreams are not deferred or denied, but where they are uplifted and praised.

We have come far, but there is still far to go in shattering the glass ceiling that holds women back. This month, as we reflect on the marks made by women throughout history, let us uphold the responsibility that falls on all of us – regardless of gender – and fight for equal opportunity for our daughters as well as our sons.

Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2016 as Women's History Month.

I call upon all Americans to observe this month and to celebrate International Women's Day March 8, 2016, with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

I also invite all Americans to visit <http://www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov> to learn more about the generations of women who have left enduring imprints on our history.

# Corps of Engineers launches safety campaign, 'Life Jackets Worn... Nobody Mourn'

By Sara Goodeyon  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Every year thousands of people in the United States mourn the loss of loved ones who could have survived if they had been wearing a life jacket while spending time on or near our nation's waters.

To heighten awareness for the use of life jackets, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently launched a new water safety campaign titled "Life Jackets Worn ... Nobody Mourns."

USACE, in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources and Education Foundation, a non-profit foundation established to support USACE natural resources and recreation programs, developed the campaign that targets adult males.

In the last 10 years, 88 percent of all USACE public water-related fatalities were men and 68 percent were between the ages of 20 and 60, according to data compiled by the USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety.

The center also reports that 84 percent of all public water-related fatalities involved people not wearing life jackets and found that the greatest number of water-related fatalities involved people swimming in areas that are not designated for swimming. Also, 27 percent of boating fatalities involved people falling overboard.

The USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety offer these safety reminders when on or near the water:

- A person's swimming ability generally decreases with age and regardless of how well you swim you could have to fight for your life due to conditions such as waves, current, or exhaustion. Swimming in a lake or river is not like swimming in a pool so wearing a properly-fitted life jacket is critical. Many people drown when they attempt to retrieve an inflatable toy or their boat that has drifted away because they cannot swim as far as they think they can. Also, most people do not have the strength or skill to get back into a small boat from the water without wearing a life jacket.

- Even if you think you are a strong swimmer you could drown if you fall into cold water because it causes an involuntary gasp (or torso) reflex, so a life jacket is the only thing that can help save your life and give you time to be rescued. Some researchers believe cold water is anything less than "normal" body temperature (98.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

- While boating a person can develop "boater's hypnosis," which is a condition where sun, wind, noise, vibration and motion causes fatigue and slows a person's reaction

See LIFE JACKETS, P17

# Civilian expeditionary workforce: the opportunity of a lifetime

By Francis "Frank" Hoeflinger  
U.S. Central Command Civilian  
Expeditionary Workforce Office

The U.S. Central Command is seeking current, permanent Department of Defense employees with strong technical skills, competencies, and abilities and the desire to deploy to become part of the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce.

The CENTCOM CEW provides employees the unique opportunity to serve in a dynamic environment alongside the military, allies and coalition partners to provide a stabilizing presence, build security and conduct humanitarian assistance operations across the USCENTCOM area of responsibility.

"The civilian capabilities provided through the CEW program provide an essential set of skills that will enable the success of this critical mission," said Robert O. Work, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense.

As part of the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce, volunteers can use their experience and expertise to support DOD contingency operations. The civilian deployment experience allows civilians to use their capabilities, ex-



Yatradeo Coomar, a budget analyst with Naval Entitlements, adjusts his Kevlar helmet prior to departing in a convoy from Combat Outpost Panther at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind. Oct. 18, 2010. Coomar was at Muscatatuck with the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce and is embarking on his first deployment to Djibouti, Africa.

perience and knowledge as a crucial component of helping the DOD accomplish its mission abroad.

Working in a deployed environment, while both mentally challenging and stimulating, may also be arduous at times. Flexibility is the key asset of all deploying individuals to succeed in this very fluid environment.

"It's the best thing I've done in my life, but you've got to prepare yourself for it," said program participant André Douglas in 2015. "You go there not just to do a job; it's about learning your profession, doing whatever it takes to support the service members and fill the gaps. Nowhere else do

civilian employees truly understand their value."

The USCENTCOM CEW Program offers an unparalleled career enrichment opportunity that allows a person to build on their professional and interpersonal skills and set themselves apart from their peers. If qualified, civilian volunteers will be selected for a tour of duty – usually for 12 months – and normally work alongside deployed U.S. military members.

Civilian deployments also provide long-term advantages to an organization by increasing the strategic and operational experience within their work force.

Developing a pipeline

of talent with operational experience in working side by side with the military cultivates leaders to meet the future needs of the DOD.

"Prior to the deployment, I had never worked so closely with the other services. I now have a grasp on the customs and courtesies of the other services," said Pam Green, who served in Qatar from 2014-2015. "If the need ever arises, I would be willing to volunteer my service again."

The opportunity to augment the military in this unique capacity brings a sense of camaraderie and satisfaction of achievement that few civilians will ever experience. CEW volunteers are rebuilding nations and providing regional stability.

"Being a part of the CEW gave me a whole new experience as an Army civilian," said program participant Mary Proffitt, who volunteered in Afghanistan in 2012 and 2015. "I had worked for the military for years, but never actually felt like I was a part of the military until I deployed as a CEW civilian and was able to support the forward operating mission on the ground."

Beyond the individual



Photo by Sgt. David Bruce

Cpl. Kevin Cravens, with the Range Training Team at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind., explains how to aim an M4 carbine to Anne Williams (right) of the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce at Camp Atterbury Dec. 16, 2010. Part of the CEW's training included weapons familiarization with the M4 carbine and M9 9mm pistol.

personal and professional growth opportunities associated with deployment, volunteers may be eligible for multiple financial incentives. A civilian deploying may be eligible for up to 35 percent post differential pay, hazardous duty pay, as well as overtime compensation. Entitlements vary by location and length of tour. It is recommended applicants research the specific entitlements when considering a deployment opportunity.

Deployable civilians are needed to fill critical vacancies across a multitude of occupational

series, grades, locations and tours lengths. Duty locations vary in size and environment and each position provides for a slightly unique experience for which you will be thoroughly trained and equipped to succeed.

For additional resources on the USCENTCOM deployment opportunities and entitlements, the USCENTCOM AOR and the application processes visit <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/expeditionary/cew/home.html> or send inquiries to [centcom.macdill.centcom-hq.mbx.ccj3-f-cew@mail.mil](mailto:centcom.macdill.centcom-hq.mbx.ccj3-f-cew@mail.mil).

# Security Forces airmen go 'above and beyond' to 'serve and protect'

By Kathleen Salazar  
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston  
Public Affairs

Security Forces personnel "serve and protect" those who live and work throughout Joint Base San Antonio, but some Airmen have recently taken the meaning of those words beyond the gates of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Grace E. Cunningham had been coming to the Interstate 35 Visitor Control Center for several weeks to pick up her grandson after work, according to Airman 1st Class Sean M. Jenkins.

"Cunningham is one of those people that you just want to talk to," Jenkins said, "so every day, she would come and I would say hello to her." "I was worried because I didn't have a sponsor and didn't know how I would get my grandson to Brooke Army Medical Center," Cunningham said. "My grandson doesn't drive because he has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and he has autism. I couldn't let him walk, he doesn't know where to go and he might get lost."

"Senior Airman Adrienne Barriere and I worked the same shift and one night it just happened that I was the one to assist Cunningham in obtaining a pass," Jenkins said.

"Jenkins greeted me when I walked up to the counter and he was very nice," Cunningham said. "I showed him my identification and my daughters and my two grandchildren's IDs as well."

"I asked Cunningham if she was the driver," Jenkins said.

"Jenkins told me he could only give me the pass to get through the gate," Cunningham said. "I needed to see if I could get everyone in with me."

Jenkins then asked, "Why do you need to take everyone in with you?"

"No disrespect, but can I talk to you in private?" Cunningham asked.

Jenkins walked from behind the counter. "I'm having a problem," Cunningham said. "I'm homeless."

Jenkins said, "What do you mean, homeless?"

"Well, we're all living in my car," Cunningham said.

"When Barriere heard me, she started crying." "I couldn't help getting emotional when I heard Cunningham tell us she was homeless, I felt my heart was being torn out of me," Barriere said.

"Everything is going to be all right, but we go together as a group," Cunningham said. "No one gets left behind; they all depend on me."

Jenkins said, "You always have a smile and you're going through all of this? Don't worry, we're going to help you."

"Jenkins put everyone in the vehicle on a two-day pass so I can take my grandson to and from work," Cunningham said.

"Every other day, I would go back to the visitors center to get a new pass. We would talk each time.

"Eventually, I told Jenkins, Barriere and Officer Christopher L. Barker Jr., a security assistant with the 502d Security Forces Squad-



Photo by Kathleen Salazar

(From left) Airman 1st Class Quytin Lewis, Grace E. Cunningham, Airman 1st Class Sean M. Jenkins and Senior Airman Adrienne Barriere have dinner at a local restaurant Feb. 1 during one of their weekly family outings. Cunningham considers the airmen her extended family.

ron, how my daughter got evicted from her apartment and then how I got evicted from my apartment.

"Jenkins seemed to get very upset about that news, but I told him not to worry, everything should be OK," Cunningham said.

"I gave her my number just in case she needed anything else," Jenkins said.

"I'm OK, my family will be alright," Cunningham said. "I could feel a tightness in my chest, but I knew I was not in this by myself. These young Airmen were here to help me. They were a great support to me.

"Jenkins, Barriere and Barker would ask me if I needed food," Cunningham said. They asked me 'Where are you sleeping?' They were worried about me because it was getting cold outside.

"Barker offered to watch my car when I was in the area," Cunningham said.

"It just happened that I had been looking for an apartment

for myself," Jenkins said. "I started looking for an apartment for Cunningham as well."

"I helped Jenkins look online for apartments suited for senior citizens with reduced income," Barriere said. "We would schedule appointments to see which apartment would fit Mrs. Cunningham and her family's needs."

"After some research, I was able to help Cunningham where to look and what kind of assistance she may be able to qualify for," Jenkins said.

"Jenkins told me about Section 8 and other housing programs," Cunningham said. "He even told me of other venues like SAMministries where I can apply for assistance. Sure enough, I called SAMministries and they were able to help me get into housing."

"I offered to help with the move and I asked around for help," Jenkins said. "I found out Airman 1st Class Quytin Lewis was off and had a truck which

might come in handy."

"Jenkins sent me a text, asking if I could help him move a lady," Lewis said.

"I drove Jenkins to the storage area where Cunningham was keeping her personal belongings," Lewis said. "Jenkins told me about her situation and why he needed my help while we waited for her."

Jenkins, and Lewis met at the storage facility at 9:30 a.m. to get all of Cunningham's things.

"It took about two hours to move everything from storage and into her apartment," Lewis said.

"Without Jenkins' suggestions, I would not have been able to find a place to live," Cunningham said. "I was out on the street for 9 1/2 weeks.

"A few days later, Jenkins had asked me to go to lunch," Cunningham said. "I couldn't, because this time of the year, I wrap presents for foster children at the Bair Foundation.

"Jenkins suggested I check with Barriere to

see if they wanted to go with me to wrap gifts," Cunningham said.

"I texted Barriere to see if she wanted to help and she agreed to assist with the gift wrapping and she brought along Senior Airman S. Elizabeth Aguilar," Jenkins said.

"I immediately jumped on board, telling Barriere that I sincerely love to volunteer with anything to do with children," Aguilar said. "Collectively, we wrapped more than 200 presents that day."

"Even after the Airmen found out that I had been homeless, they still gave me the respect they had since the beginning," Cunningham said. "The Airmen never looked down on me. On the contrary, they took me in and offered me their help. Now, I'm their Texas mom."

"Essentially, everyone says that we helped her but it is the other way around ... she helped us," Aguilar said. "I believe she has made all of us better individuals by coming into our lives."

# DOD gives final go-ahead to open all military jobs to women

By Karen Parrish  
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

After “exceptional work,” the U.S. military is authorized to begin integrating women across all occupations and specialties “right away,” according to a Defense Department statement released March 10.

Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook briefed reporters on Defense Secretary Ash Carter’s decision and the accompanying statement.

Carter “formally approved the final implementation plans prepared by the military services and U.S. Special Operations Command to integrate women into all combat roles,” Cook said.

In the statement, Carter said the department must handle the change “the right way, because the combat effectiveness of the world’s finest fighting force is paramount.”

Cook noted that Deputy Defense Secretary Bob

Work and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Paul J. Selva co-chaired an implementation group tasked with a detailed review of the plans.

The review was the culmination of years of studies and reports going back to 2011, when then-Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta ordered an examination of all laws and policies governing the assignment of women in the armed forces.

Carter’s seven “guiding principles” for integration shaped the implementation group’s review of the services and SOCOM’s final plans: transparent standards, population size, physical demands and physiological differences, conduct and culture, talent management, operating abroad, and assessment and adjustment.

Carter wrote a Medium post published today detailing his views on the implementation plans. It



Photo by Lance Cpl. Koby I. Saunders

Female Marines and a male sailor, all assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepare to enter a building during an urban operations training exercise with a female engagement team at Fort Pickett, Va., Feb. 21, 2016. Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced March 10 that the services are authorized to begin integrating women into all military occupations and specialties.

can be read here.

In the post, the secretary gave some behind-the-scenes details on what the studies and reviews turned up.

“We found over the last few years that in some cases we were doing things because that’s the way we’ve always done them,” Carter

wrote. For example, he said, the 35-pound weight carried by marchers in their rucksacks during the Army’s Expert Infantry Badge qualification was based on a World War II-era airborne study.

“It was the minimum weight required to prevent the rucksack

from getting tangled in a jumper’s static line, and had nothing to do with the equipment required for paratroopers to fight with once they landed – let alone the modern equipment that infantry soldiers need to carry today,” Carter noted.

The study and work that has gone into opening all military jobs to women “drove us to take a closer look at our training, too,” the secretary wrote.

Carter wrote that the department’s performance standards are now informed by real-world operational requirements and the experiences gained in Iraq and Afghanistan. “As a result, our military will be even better at finding and training not only the most-qualified women,

but also the most-qualified men, for all military specialties,” he wrote.

Carter has said throughout his tenure that the integration process will mean equal opportunity for, not equal participation by, women service members.

“Integration provides equal opportunity for men and women who can perform the tasks required; it does not guarantee women will be promoted at any specific number or at any set rate, as adherence to a merit-based system must continue to be paramount,” the secretary wrote.

Carter noted, “We have to remember that it takes decades to grow a general or flag officer, so it will take time to see these results.”

## BAND from P4

rehearsal before we recorded it. It came together really beautifully.”

Since the entries were music videos judged online, the quintet pulled out all of the stops in the recording of their performance.

“We went down to the First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio because they have such a beautiful venue,” said Samuel, who oversaw the audio and visual recording and production of the video. “It wasn’t just a straight performance. We added some creative elements to the video.”

“Our audio quality

and visual presentation was probably the best quality and I think that was probably the key feature to us being top-voted ensemble,” said Becker.

The 323rd Army Band has won the competition in the past with its brass band, but this was a first for “Fort Sam’s Own” in the woodwind category. The victory is particularly notable because of the numbers of instrumentalists and audio-visual recording specialists possessed by their competitors in the large bands such as the U.S. Army Band (“Pershing’s Own”) and the U.S. Army Field Band.

The win, however,

should come as no surprise given the collective pedigree of the quintet’s performers. Van Klompenberg, known as “the Doctor,” holds a doctorate in music arts. Eskander and Owen completed master’s degrees before enlisting and Samuel holds a bachelors in music plus audio engineering training. Only Becker had no formal civilian music schooling after high school.

“I’m kind of a phenomenon in this career field. I originally joined the Army as a linguist... but I have always continued playing regularly. Even when I was in Iraq, I brought my instrument with me

and was playing in the containerized housing units,” Becker said.

The quintet’s members all have one thing in common: every member had at least one family member who served in the military, infusing them with a commitment to serve combined with their love of music.

Despite winning Army music’s equivalent of a “Grammy,” the quintet has no intention of resting on its laurels. All of its members are excited about their future together.

“We’re very pleased with our new ensemble and how well we can gel and work together,” Becker said.



### EFMP Equestrian Special Olympics

Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Equestrian Center. Exceptional Family Member Program youths compete in the Special Olympics. The winning athletes will be eligible to compete at the regional competition in April. Call 221-2705.

### Newcomer's Orientation

Friday, 8 a.m. to Noon, Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Mandatory in-processing briefing for all military and civilian personnel newly assigned to JBSA. Service members must coordinate with their unit personnel coordinator or commander support element. Spouses are welcome to attend; all patrons must be seated by 7:50 a.m. Call 221-2705.

### Employment Readiness Orientation Briefing

Mondays, 9-10 a.m. Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Learn about employment resources and review services offered. Call 221-2418.

### Accessing Higher Education

Monday-Wednesday, 7:30

### OPEN HOUSE from P8

to compete," said Deanna Ochoa, MICC-Fort Sam Houston small business specialist. "Small businesses can market themselves as prime contractors, subcontractors or look for teaming arrangements depending on the complexity of requirements. It is an opportunity for us to meet face to face. They hear firsthand from us about those requirements we plan for procurement."

The MICC-Fort Sam Houston contracting office is subordinate to the

a.m. to 5 p.m., Education Center, building 2408. A three-day track for those pursuing higher education; service members will review education requirements that support their personal goals. Register at 221-1213.

### Key Spouse Initial Training

Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Mandatory for all newly appointed Key Spouses and highly recommended for Key Spouse mentors. Patrons interested in learning more about the program or volunteering are also encouraged to attend. Review the nine core modules in the standard Air Force Key Spouse training curriculum. Upon completion, volunteers will receive a certificate. Call 221-2418.

### TAP-Goals, Plans, Success

Monday-March 25, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Soldier for Life, building 2263. A mandatory five-day workshop for all service members separating from the military; the GPS workshop is facilitated by the Department of Labor, Veterans Administration and M&FRC. Prerequisite: Pre-Separation Counseling. Call 221-1213.

### FRG Leadership Academy Training

Tuesday-Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This training provides commands

412th Contracting Support Brigade, that along with two other brigades and a field directorate office, form the MICC.

In fiscal 2015, MICC, headquartered on Fort Sam Houston, executed more than 36,000 contract actions valued at \$5.2 billion in support of Soldiers and their families with approximately \$2.25 billion of that being awarded to American small business in one of five socioeconomic categories. Fiscal year 2015 marked the first time the command exceeded its small business socioeconomic goals.

with a better understanding of their family readiness groups, how to utilize their volunteers, in addition to their roles and responsibilities to the families. Call 221-2418.

### Citizenship, Immigration assistance

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 Citizenship & Immigration Service officer for assistance with applications. Eligible patrons will take the oath of allegiance at a naturalization ceremony. Registration is not required. Call 221-2705.

### Helping Us Grow Securely 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.

### Post-Deployment Resiliency Briefing

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

### Microsoft 2013 Excel Intermediate

Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon, Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Intermediate classes build off the skills learned from Foundational classes. Participants will learn how to set up nest functions and mix reference formulas; time and date functions; mathematical, logical, and statistical database; manipulate

worksheets and more. Classes are free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. Registration required, call 221-2705.

### 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.

### Ombudsman Training

Thursday-March 25, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Registration deadline is Monday. Ombudsman is a unit family readiness program for Navy service members and their families. This is a mandatory training for all Command Ombudsman and open to Commanding Officers, Executive Officers, Senior Enlisted Leaders and Spouses. Call 221-2418.

### Pre-Deployment Resiliency Class

Thursday, 1-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This training draws heavily on the experiences of service members in order to prepare for the realities and challenges commonly encountered prior to and during a deployment. Call 221-2418.

### Trails & Tales Guided Tour

March 25, 8-11:30 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797, departure at 8 a.m. A guided tour of 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 by 8 a.m. Due to limited seating, registration is required. Call 221-2705.

### Air Force Pre-Separation

March 29, 9 a.m. to noon, Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Airmen planning to separate from the federal service must attend a mandatory counseling. Begin the process 18 months prior to your separation date. Call 221-2380.

### OPM Federal Application Process

March 29, 1-4 p.m., Soldier for Life, building 2264. Review



### 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

the Federal employment process and careers offered within the Federal government. Learn about resources that support the Veterans Employment Program, skill translators, resume builders and more. Call 221-1213.

### Tying The Financial Knot

March 30, 9-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Whether you've been married for a few months or several years, financials can wreak havoc on any marriage. Communicating effectively will help keep your marriage in good financial health - discuss goal setting, budgeting, credit and long-term financial planning. Call 221-2705.

### Volunteer Management Information System

March 30, 9-10 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Volunteers will receive hands-on training with the Volunteer Management Information System, or VMIS. Open to all registered volunteers. Call 221-2705.

### Volunteer Orientation

March 30, 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 221-2705.

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>.

### Army FAP Unit Training

March 30, 9-11 a.m. /1-3, 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 two weeks in advance. Call 221-2418.

### Basic Budget Management

March 31, 9-10 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This course is required before attending any financial classes and budget counseling, unless referred by your command. A copy of your current leave and earnings statement is needed. Call 221-2418.

### Pre-Deployment Resiliency

March 31, 1-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This training draws heavily on the experiences of service members in order to prepare for the realities and challenges commonly encountered prior to and during a deployment. Call 221-2418.

**MICC from P9**

in the exercise will set the foundation for enhanced cooperation, interoperability, and security throughout our area of responsibility.”

Exercise personnel will focus on a scenario to incorporate contracted support across the services and to its Central and South American partners to further interoperability. OCSJX will train service component commands and other major force headquarters that may be designated as a joint task force to better integrate contracted support into operational access missions to preserve national interests or provide humanitarian or disaster relief.

Under the contracting support bucket of OCS, the 418th Contracting Support Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, will operate as a deployed senior contracting official organization, providing mission command and control over contracting units.

The brigade will consist of three regional contracting centers, each of which has three regional contracting offices conducting pre- and post-award execution and contract and contractor management.

The 418th CSB will also perform as the lead service for contracting, coordinating theater-wide contracting support for the joint force commander. The brigade, contracting battalions and contracting teams will use the automated web-based system Joint Training Information Management System to train under a variety of situations and with a large number of requirements and deployed operational issues.

This system will train units on mission essential tasks and enhanced readiness objectives through observer/trainer observations and feedback.

“We believe and hope our trainees and participants will better understand that operational contract support is not contracting, but that OCS is a team sport of complementary non-acquisition and acquisition professionals, planning and integrating contracted support into the joint force commander’s mission, to ensure effects support strategic and operational needs,” Burris said.

“OCSJX is our Super Bowl,” said Col. Nancy Spencer, Army South G-4. “The exercise integrates planning and key processes for contract support integration, contracting support, and contractor management. I am confident that all those involved, especially our planners, will make this a great training event for the entire DOD.”

Headquartered on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, the MICC is an organization 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.

**CLINICS from P1**

summer of 2016.

“We are opening a Westover Medical Home physical therapy clinic to bring physical therapy services closer to our beneficiaries and make access easier,” said Army Col. David Duplessis, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine chief. “Our goal is to make accessing physical therapy as convenient as possible for all of our patients.”

For added convenience, the Westover Medical Home drive-through pharmacy is now open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to

4 p.m. Friday, allowing TRICARE beneficiaries to pick up their prescriptions without leaving their vehicle.

“We understand that demanding schedules of service members, their families and retirees sometimes prevent them from seeing their primary care provider during standard clinic hours,” said Army Capt. Camille Betito, Department of Family and Community Medicine operations officer.

“Extended clinic hours provide our patients the opportunity to have better access and convenience to the health care they need and deserve.”



**LIFE JACKETS from P12**

time much like the effects of alcohol. Combining this condition with the use of alcohol or drugs reduces a person’s coordination, judgment and reaction time even more. Additionally, if a person swims or falls underwater while under the influence of alcohol or drugs they can suffer from an inner ear condition that causes them to become disoriented and unaware of which direction is up or down.

Misjudging your swimming ability, gasp reflex, boater’s hypnosis, alcohol and drug usage and thinking nothing will happen to you are just a few of the reasons why even if you think you are a strong swimmer, you should always wear a life jacket.

The best way to lower your risk of drowning is to wear a life jacket, so wear it for those who love you. Visit <http://www.PleaseWearIt.com> for more information on water safety and to download free campaign materials.

**LENT AND EASTER CHAPEL SCHEDULES**

**March 24**

**Holy Thursday  
Main Post Chapel**

5:30 p.m. – Mass of the Lord’s Supper

**BAMC Chapel**

11:05 a.m. – Mass of the Lord’s Supper

**AMEDD Chapel**

7 p.m. – Mass of the Lord’s Supper

**March 25**

**Good Friday  
Main Post Chapel**

11:30 a.m. – Good Friday services (Catholic)

**BAMC Chapel**

11:05 a.m. – Good Friday services  
12:15 p.m. Protestant service

**AMEDD Chapel**

7 p.m. Good Friday services

**March 26**

**Easter Vigil**

**Main Post Chapel**

8 p.m. – Catholic Mass

**March 27**

**Easter Sunday**

**Main Post Chapel**

7:30-8:30 a.m. – Easter Sunrise

service, “Empty Tomb, Full Spirit”

9:30 a.m. – Catholic Mass

11 a.m. – Protestant service

(traditional)

**AMEDD Chapel**

Regular Sunday schedule

**CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**PROTESTANT SERVICES**

**Sundays**

**Main Post (Gift) Chapel**  
Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way  
8 and 11 a.m. - Traditional

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

**Army Medical Department  
Regimental Chapel**  
Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.  
9:20 a.m. - Contemporary Service  
11 a.m. - Contemporary Crossroads

**Brooke Army Medical  
Center Chapel**  
Building 3600,  
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.  
10 a.m. - Traditional

**CATHOLIC SERVICES**

**Daily Mass**  
Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel  
Building 3600,  
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.  
11:05 a.m., Monday through Friday

**Main Post (Gift) Chapel**  
Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way  
11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday

**Saturday**

**Main Post (Gift) Chapel**  
4:45 p.m. – Reconciliation  
5:30 p.m. – Evening Mass

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

**JEWISH SERVICES**

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

**ISLAMIC SERVICE**

2:00 p.m. – Islamic Services  
(Monday through Thursday) BAMC  
1:15 p.m. – Jummah, Friday,  
AMEDD

**LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES**

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

**BUDDHIST SERVICES**

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

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

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