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MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE AT JBSA **PAGE 15**

Military-to-military relationships promote security on US-Mexico border



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

The border commanders' conference delegation, consisting of more than 25 U.S. and Mexican army representatives, met at El Paso, Texas, April 11-14 to discuss military-to-military relationships concerning the U.S. and Mexico border.

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

Geography made the United States and Mexico neighbors and the pursuit of an increased quality of life by the citizens of both countries has led to interconnected economies, policies, societies, cultures and military institutions. The shared border has been beneficial for the people of the United States and Mexico, but unfortunately, transnational criminal organizations use it for more nefarious activities such as illicit trafficking in drugs, weapons and persons. Pandemics and terrorism also potentially threaten both nations. While many people are familiar with the U.S Customs and Border Protection and the Department

of Homeland Security working on our borders, few are as familiar with the military to military cooperation between the United States and Mexico. U.S. Army North, the land component command of United States Northern Command, brought together leaders of the Mexican and U.S. military in an annual border commanders' conference April 11-14 at El Paso, Texas, to discuss issues related to the border security of both nations. "We have some great topics for this year's border commanders' conference," said Lt. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins, commanding general of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and conference host. "I look forward to tackling some challenges and issues as well as learning from each other as we go forward. I

think we will also focus on the long term relationship that is going to take two professional armies standing side-by-side to defeat today's growing threats." The border commanders' conference was established in 1987 and has served as a forum to improve mutual cooperation and understanding between the Mexican and American Armies. This annual event went from a relationship-building conference in the early 1990s to what is now a working conference to address specific border issues and the recommended way forward for both armies. This year's conference focused on several areas such as the use of current technology to counter

Understanding the continuing mission in Afghanistan

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By Maj. Gen. Daniel P. Hughes
 Program Executive Officer for
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Over the past 14-plus years, United States and coalition taxpayers have invested heavily in outfitting the Afghanistan national defense and security forces to defend Afghanistan against a persistent insurgent enemy.

This complex and demanding mission continues with the U.S.-led coalition in a train, advise and assist role with the Afghans leading the fight to secure their homeland. More than 10,000 Afghan policemen and soldiers gave their lives for this cause in 2015 and more than 20,000 were wounded. Supporting their security and defense efforts within our national interests is critical.

The Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, or CSTC-A, as part of the Operation Resolute Support mission,



Photo by Lt. Charity A. Edgar

Col. Stephen Lutsky, center right, guides Resolute Support personnel and Afghan government officials on a tour of Camp Arena in Herat during an event to strategize Afghan airfield economic development at Train Advise Assist Commands North, South and West.

is the center-of-gravity organization for the security assistance process for the Afghanistan national defense and security forces, or ANDSF, and ministries of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

CSTC-A, commanded currently by Army Maj. Gen. Gordon B. "Skip" Davis Jr., has the mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan security institutions to develop

capabilities for resource management, inspector general (transparency, accountability and oversight) and rule of law, and the command provides financial resources in accordance with Afghan requirements.

In July 2015, as we looked at the future of this mission as well as the declining budget authorities, we decided that we needed to change the way that we did business

in Afghanistan.

We needed to establish a very detailed and robust management of the myriad kinds of materiel procured, establish a repeatable and transparent programming process, radically change the processes that identify materiel and nonmateriel requirements, adapt and simplify the sustainment of those assets and help the Afghans invigorate the procurement and

contracting system that is key in making this critical support mission more affordable.

Between 2001 and 2015, a plethora of materiel solutions were fielded as fast as possible to meet the warfighting need, with little to no consideration given to life-cycle management.

The funding provided was robust enough to get the materiel to the fight quickly, with the thought that the sustainment and detailed materiel management would follow.

As the coalition draws down and the amount of coalition funding draws down accordingly, we are trying to bring a far more disciplined and modern approach to life-cycle management to make the ANDSF sustainable, effective and affordable.

To establish materiel management in everything we do in CSTC-A, we established two repeating forums:

See AFGHANISTAN, P12

Commentary: There's always a cost

By Lt. Col. Tim Purcell
 50th Operations Support
 Squadron commander
 Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.

My 5-year-old son recently lost his first tooth and was ecstatic to buy something with the money he received from the tooth fairy.

A couple of days later, he counted out a few dollars from his piggy bank and asked if we could go to the store to buy a toy. On the way to the base

exchange, he enthusiastically rattled off a half dozen toys he planned to buy with his money. I broke the news his \$5 would probably only buy one toy so, he had to figure out which toy he wanted most.

I smirked as he painstakingly considered whether to buy a Star Wars activity book or a new action figure – a serious dilemma. Little did he know, I was trying to teach him an important

lesson about prioritization. As Air Force members, we face similar decisions all the time. There are simply not enough people, time or money to do everything we want, so we must constantly decide where to spend our limited resources in order to most effectively accomplish our dynamic mission. Our budgets are limited, there are only so many hours in the day, end strength is congressionally mandated (and not chang-

ing anytime soon) and new facilities take years to construct.

With that said, how do we accomplish all we're asked to do? It starts with the commander's intent (at every level) and leadership's clear priorities, but it doesn't end there. As Airmen, we all have a responsibility to ensure our leadership makes informed decisions. But to do to that, we must arm them with information.

When we're charged

with a new priority and we tell the boss "no impact," we're failing to provide him/her with the full site picture. There is always an impact, but it takes some homework to uncover it.

If we're going to fund a new project, what other project(s) will be delayed or canceled? If you take on a new task, what other duties are you not able to accomplish (either

See COST, P9



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News Briefs

Fort Sam Houston Resident Survey Underway

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Residential Communities Initiative Office has announced the Headquarters Department of the Army Resident Survey is underway via email through May 15. Residents are encouraged to give their thoughts about their experiences and services in housing and provide comments on issues, as well as indicating areas needing improvement. Residents who have not received the email about the survey can call 270-7638. Residents who complete the survey are eligible for a cash award.

Refresh Relationships With Marriage Checkup

Behavioral health consultants at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center Primary Care Clinic are offering a "Marriage Checkup" as part of a research study sponsored by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. It is offered to military members and their spouses who would like to find out more about the health of their marriage. "Marriage Checkup" will give participants the tools and resources to strengthen their connection. Couples may receive compensation for participating in the study. Call 446-8857 or email marriagecheckupusaf@gmail.com for details.

Cole High School Senior Events To Be Streamed Live

The Robert G. Cole High School senior awards, graduation ceremony, and behind-the-scenes pre-graduation show will all be streamed live this year on the Internet for those people who cannot attend in person. Senior awards can be viewed from 9:30-11 a.m. May 27 at <http://thecube.com/e/638605>. The pre-graduation "red carpet" behind-the-scenes show is available from 5:15-5:50 p.m. May 31 at <http://thecube.com/e/638605>. The 2016 Cole High School graduation can be viewed from 6-8 p.m. May 31 at <http://thecube.com/e/638611>. All these events will be streamed using The Cube website (<http://www.thecube.com/>) which requires a free account. To sign up and follow the

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410th Contracting Support Brigade returns from deployment

Soldiers from the 410th Contracting Support Brigade at Fort Sam Houston uncased their colors in a ceremony at the Army Medical Department Museum April 25 following a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Approximately 20 members of the 410th CSB returned to San Antonio April 16 following the deployment, where they served as the command and control element of U.S. Army Expeditionary Contracting Command-Afghanistan. It was the unit's first deployment as a brigade headquarters since its activation in May 2007.

Following the uncasing of colors, Col. Daryl Harger, brigade commander, commended the contributions of the 410th CSB during the deployment.

"It was the collective contribution of every Soldier, civilian and contractor that made the 410th CSB headquar-



Photo by Ryan L. Mattox

Col. Daryl Harger (left), 410th Contracting Support Brigade commander, and 410th CSB Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Williams uncased the unit colors during a ceremony April 25 at the Army Medical Department Museum at Fort Sam Houston.

ters' deployment a success," Harger said. "We provided world-class contracting support and lived up to our motto 'done right, on time.'"

The commander said members of the brigade were initially

dispersed across Qatar and Afghanistan, providing operational contract support until the closure of the Qatar Regional Contracting Center, while a handful remained at Bagram Airfield throughout the length of

the deployment.

The brigade was responsible for the mission command of four regional contracting centers that directly supported U.S. Forces-Afghanistan and the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, or CSTC-A.

While deployed, the 410th CSB executed more than 800 contract actions valued at more than \$234 million in support of forces fulfilling the support mission. It also assumed contingency contract administration services from the Defense Contract Management Agency earlier this year adding the responsibility of an additional more than 135 contracts and 245 task orders including Logistics Civil Augmentation Program services valued at \$31 billion.

"Our successful deployment, however, was due to not just the efforts of our deployed forces, but also to those who remained here in San Antonio," Harger said.

"We owe a great deal of gratitude to our families who kept things in order and kept the home fires burning which allowed us to focus on our mission."

The colonel went on to also recognize members making up the rear detachment of the brigade who remained at Fort Sam Houston. The 410th CSB provides contracting support to Army South to sustain Army and joint operations in the U.S. Southern Command area of operations in order to counter transnational threats and strengthen regional security in defense of the homeland.

"Because you took care of our home station mission, you not only allowed us to focus on the environment and customers in Afghanistan, but you also validated the 410th CSB's mission of being prepared to deploy worldwide in support of any contingency."

(Source: Mission Installation Contracting Command Public Affairs)

SHARP personnel commemorate Denim Day

By Luis A. Deya
Army North Public Affairs

Personnel from the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program at Fort Sam Houston dressed casually April 27 to bring awareness to an issue that is anything but casual.

April was Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and the event also marked the 17th anniversary of what is known as "Denim Day."

In 1999, the Italian

High Court overturned a rape conviction because the victim was wearing tight jeans at the time of the assault. The justices ruled that the victim must have helped her attacker remove her jeans and therefore inferred consent.

People around the world were outraged, and the following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim.

"We are commemorating Denim Day to show support and awareness

on the true meaning of wearing jeans today" said Sgt. 1st Class David Gonzalez, Sexual Assault Response coordinator for the Fort Sam Houston Army Physical Disability Agency office.

Dressed in jeans, SHARP workers set up shop at the Post Exchange with a roulette wheel featuring questions and answers on how to recognize and prevent sexual assault. Hanging above the display was a denim canvas filled with signatures to show solidarity and commit-

ment towards stomping out sexual assault in the military.

"Denim Day is important to demonstrate we are 'one team, one fight' against violators of the Army's SHARP policy in an effort to maintain good order and discipline across the force" said Sgt. Maj George Hunter, Fort Sam Houston Physical Evaluation Board member.

Denim Day is commemorated by more than 20 states, numerous cities and military installations across the globe.



Photo by Luis Deya

Sgt. 1st Class Margarita Guerrero, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention representative, Personnel (S1), U.S. Army North, signs the "Denim Day" canvas as a show of support and solidarity with those affected.

War hero Lucca highlights importance of Military Working Dogs, Veterinary Corps

By Erin Perez
Regional Health Command-Central
Public Affairs

Lucca, a U.S. Marine Corps specialized search dog, made history April 15 when she received the United Kingdom's People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Dickin Medal, which considered the highest military honor for animals world-wide.

As part of the Military Working Dog program, over her six-year career, Lucca personally ensured the safe return of all the American troops she accompanied on more than 400 patrols completed during three deployments in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The care and treatment of these animals across the Department of Defense is one of the responsibilities of the U.S.



Military Working Dog Lucca sporting her Marine Corps colors after her surgery in Afghanistan.

Army Veterinary Corps.

Every dog in the program has come through the DOD Working Dog Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The DOD Military Working

Dog Veterinary Service is responsible for providing comprehensive veterinary care for as many as 900 dogs and puppies housed on JBSA-Lackland, including Transportation Security Administration working dogs undergoing training on site as well.

The Holland MWD Hospital, part of the DOD MWD Veterinary Service, is the only Level-4 veterinary hospital in the DOD and has unique joint responsibilities.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) James T. Giles III, DOD MWD Veterinary Service chief of surgery, is the veterinary surgeon that operated on Lucca when she was medically evacuated to Kandahar, Afghanistan. He worked with a team of veterinary and human surgical providers to ensure a smooth surgery and recovery after

the blast that took her left front paw.

"The military working dogs are incredibly vital to the safety of our troops," Giles explained. "Their entire existence, what they do, saves human lives, and our job is to keep them healthy and make sure they are fit to do their job, and then do everything we can to repair them when they are injured."

MWDs are a vital part of today's fighting force. They were used in World War II and Vietnam as sentries. As the use of working dogs became more common, they have been employed with greater frequency in military operations.

During the most recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, where im-

See LUCCA, P9



Photos used with permission from Lt. Col. James Giles III. Lt. Col. (Dr.) James Giles III (left), Department of Defense Military Working Dog Veterinary Service chief of surgery, is reunited with Lucca and her first trainer and handler, Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Willingham, outside the Holland Military Working Dog Hospital at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Giles is the Army veterinary surgeon who treated Lucca's extensive injuries in Afghanistan.

News Briefs

Continued from P3

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Cube channel at the same time, start at <http://thecube.com/cube/fshisd> and click the "follow" link.

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.

Check Military, CAC, Dependent ID Expiration Dates

All Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting system, Common 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 when their CACs and military IDs expire and schedule renewal appointments appropriately. Appointments can be made online at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>.

Citizenship, Immigration assistance

Review American customs and cultures, or meet with a U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service officer for assistance with applications 9 a.m. to noon May 24 at the Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Eligible patrons will take the Oath of Allegiance at a Naturalization Ceremony beginning at 2 p.m. Registration is not required, for more information, call 221-2705.

Trails & Tales Guided Tour

A guided tour of Fort Sam Houston is scheduled from 8-11:30 a.m. May 27, starting at the Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. 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. To sign up, call 221-2705.

High school dental interns tour Army military dental clinic with Navy dentists

By Flisa Stevenson
NAMRU-SA Public Affairs

A group of 13 dental interns from Judson High School in San Antonio visited the U.S. Army's Budge Dental Clinic at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 23.

The tour was coordinated by Dr. John Simecek, head of Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio's Craniofacial Health and Restorative Medicine Directorate, and led by Cmdr. David Leal, one of two Navy dental officers at the clinic. Leal is also a former researcher in NAMRU-SA's craniofacial directorate.

During the tour, students learned that military dentists provide the same routine dental care as civilian dentists.

"One of the most

important concerns in military dentistry is to reduce traditional time delays," Leal said.

"Dental problems like a toothache or oral condition can keep a Sailor or Marine from being fit to fight, which is vital to mission readiness," Simecek added.

To provide functional, time saving and cost-effective dental services to warfighters, the Navy utilizes cutting edge dental technology like the intraoral camera, and the new computer-aided design and manufacturing, or CAD/CAM, crown restoration technology.

Leal demonstrated the intraoral camera, which is a small video camera that takes an X-ray of the outside of the gum or tooth. Time-savings that comes with the intraoral camera are especially noticeable when



Navy dentist Lt. Cmdr. Jason Hicks (right) demonstrates some of the digital dental technology Navy dentists are using to a group of Judson High School dental interns during a March 23 tour of the U.S. Army's Budge Dental Clinic at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

the dentist needs to take several X-rays at one time. Intraoral camera images are easy to re-take, print and duplicate.

The Judson High

School dental interns also got a chance to experience the time-saving benefit and esthetics of digital dentistry technology in action, as Navy dentist Lt. Cmdr. Jason Hicks created a same-day crown with the new computer-aided design and manufacturing CAD/CAM restoration technology. This technology is increasingly being used by Navy dentists in military clinics and operational settings to mill a crown by computer while the patient waits, thus eliminating the second appointment and the temporary crown.

The Budge Dental Clinic tour is the first of a two-part exposure to Navy dentistry for the interns.

"In part two, students will have the opportunity to meet Navy research dentists at NAMRU-SA in the coming months and learn more about

research dentistry as a career path," Simecek said.

The interns were accompanied by Monica Nichols, their teacher. She is the program coordinator and founder of the Judson Dental Internship Program. Nichols is also a registered and certified dental assistant with more than 10 years of experience.

The internship program is a rigorous two-year college level course Nichols established at Judson High School in 2010. Students take the course in their junior and senior years.

The course is designed to help student develop the skills necessary to become certified dental assistants.

Students learn the required skills to become dental assistants,



Photos by Flisa Stevenson

Navy Cmdr. David Leal (center), one of two Navy dental officers at the Budge Dental Clinic at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, demonstrates the use of the intraoral camera March 23 to 13 dental interns from Judson High School in San Antonio. The intraoral camera is a small video camera that takes an X-ray of the outside of the gum or tooth. The tour of the clinic is the first of a two-part exposure to Navy dentistry for the interns.

FORT SAM HOUSTON HONORS RETIRING SOLDIERS

At an April 28 ceremony at the U.S. Army North Quadrangle on Fort Sam Houston, the following Soldiers retired from service to the U.S. Army: Col. Lisa M. Brown, Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Command; Lt. Col. Scott E. Roth, Physical Evaluation Board; Lt. Col. Scott W. Koast, U.S. Army North; Maj. Kenneth R. Heebner, Warrior Transition Battalion; Maj. Gerardo Menal, 916th Contracting Battalion; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tonatiuh Lozano, 2nd Combat Aviation Battalion, Camp Humphreys, Korea; Sgt. Maj. Nicholas C. Dolese, WTB; Sgt. Maj. Tina Irvin, 1st Medical Brigade, Fort Hood; Sgt. Maj. Eric P. Holland, Medical Education and Training Campus; 1st Sgt. Scott A. Morton, 1st Space Brigade, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; 1st Sgt Toby P. Knight, U.S. Army Installation Management Command; Master Sgt. Eric E. Espino, 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, Illesheim, Germany; Master Sgt. David Mendoza Jr., 106th Signal Brigade; and Sgt. 1st Class John C. Johnson Jr., 5th Recruiting Brigade.



Photo by Johnny Saldivar

TWELVE SERVICE MEMBERS BECOME AMERICAN CITIZENS



Airmen, Soldiers and Sailors from 10 countries took the Oath of Allegiance April 26 to support the Constitution of the United States as new American citizens. The nations represented were American Samoa, Benin, Columbia, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nepal, Philippines and South Korea. In collaboration with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Relocation Readiness program at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center has contributed to the naturalization of 66 individuals to date for 2016. The M&FRC provides legal permanent residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as their dependents, assistance through the application process on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon.

Photo by Jai Bell

New Army Wellness Center opens for business on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

By Lori Newman
BAMC Public Affairs

The new Army Wellness Center officially opened on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston with a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 29.

“Army Wellness Centers empower participants to set their own health goals and achieve them,” said Kim Waller, director of the new facility.

“We address lifestyle change in areas that affect both short-term and long-term health. We reach outside of clinic walls and engage people in their “lifespace” – the places in which they live, work, relax and rest,” she said.

The Army Wellness Center approach is holistic, incorporating body and mind as well as multiple disciplines such as

fitness, nutrition, stress management, wellness and self-care.

Services include exercise testing and exercise prescription, weight management and metabolic testing, stress management education and biofeedback, body composition analysis, sleep education and tobacco education.

All services are free for service members, military retirees, family members and Department of Defense civilians. If these services were purchased from a private source, testing could cost about \$3,000.

“Army Wellness Centers are an U.S. Army Medical Command initiative, completely nested with the Army’s readiness strategy,” said Col. Jeffrey Johnson, Brooke Army Medical

Center commander.

“Army Wellness Centers perfectly align with the Army’s concept of readiness,” Johnson said. “As the U.S. Army Medical Department functions as a system of health, Army Wellness Centers provide the support for integrated wellness services as part of our medical provider’s tool kit to provide comprehensive wellness to patients.”

When a client visits the Army Wellness Center, their encounter is documented in their electronic health record. Their medical provider is integrated into their wellness plan, has the ability to give direction and oversight to the wellness center, and is able to follow their patients’ progress.

Army Wellness Centers also help improve personal and unit readiness. They

support physical fitness and overall performance of service members to better meet mission.

Army Wellness Centers empower individuals to build, sustain and maintain their own good health. They offer programs and services that help their clients achieve lifestyle change and prevent or mitigate chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

“This building is our temporary home while renovations are made down the road for the Vogel Resiliency Center, but you will find that our current operation nothing short of impressive,” Waller said.

The Army Wellness Center is located in Building 147, 2407 North New Braunfels Ave. To schedule an appointment, call 539-1254.



Photo by Lori Newman

Capt. Camille Betito tests her back strength with the help of Angel Flores, health educator, April 29 at the new Army Wellness Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

COST from P2

at all or not as well as you'd like)?

Years ago, my commander wanted to redesign and update the squadron's front office with new furniture, carpet, paint, etc. He tasked the squadron to make it happen. A few days later, I found out other facility improvement projects, some mission critical, had come to a stand still while our team focused on the front office redesign. I informed him of these impacts and he immediately clarified the front office redesign did not "out-prioritize" our mission critical projects.

What I found interesting and alarming, was several members of our squadron understood the mission critical project delays but did not inform him. Likewise, his expectation was that the front office redesign would not

impact our mission-critical projects and assumed squadron members would inform him if it did.

We see this quite often; the boss asks us to do something and we do it without hesitation. After all, the boss sets the priorities. We're all wired this way, we just figure out how to get it done.

In our increasingly resource-constrained environment, that "get 'er done" mentality is not always sufficient. As leaders and supervisors, we have to clearly define our priorities. Likewise, as subordinates, we have to inform our leadership so they understand the true costs of the priorities they set.

Think about your own experience. Has your supervisor ever assigned you a hot task that impacted your ability to accomplish another key project or task? Did you explain these impacts to your

supervisor? Did you just assume the hot task was now your No. 1 priority and assume your supervisor accepted the impacts? Rarely do we take the time to ask these questions or engage in this dialogue with our leadership, but we should.

Perhaps your supervisor isn't aware that your key project will be delayed. Had he/she understood this impact, perhaps they would have assigned the hot task to someone else or decided the hot task wasn't so hot.

Alternatively, they may simply thank you for informing them but decide to proceed with the hot task anyway.

Either way, it's your responsibility to help your chain of command make fully informed decisions.

If we embrace this mindset, we'll more effectively accomplish our mission, vision and priorities.

LUCCA from P4

provided explosive devices have been the insurgents' weapon of choice, K9 teams that patrol to detect explosives are the best defense against IEDs.

During his time at Kandahar, Giles served with the veterinary detachment responsible for the treatment of more than 1,500 dogs stationed with their handlers in Afghanistan.

Apart from operating on the animals that were transported to his hospital, Giles often provided training to the doctors, nurses and medics in military working dog emergency treatment.

Many injured working dogs will not see a veterinarian or technician at the initial point of injury, or even during the evacuation, so those medical personnel on the medevac flights, along with the handlers

who receive MWD first aid training as a part of their schooling are the first to treat and stabilize any dogs injured on patrol.

Used across all services and for many different tasks, MWDs have saved the lives of hundreds of our men and women serving in harm's way.

The care and treatment of military working dogs is only one piece of a complex mission carried out by the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. It is a mission that is vital to the safety of warfighters serving in combat environments.

Col. Robert von Tersch, Public Health Command-Central (Provisional) commander, spoke at the London ceremony on behalf of Army Public Health and the Veterinary Corps, detailing the care for the health and well-being of the MWDs throughout their service.

"Lucca's loyalty and dedication are equal to any Warfighter's, two-legged or four-legged, and her service illustrates what an essential role these intelligent and beautiful animals play not only in our defense, but also in our civil society with first responders and their search and rescue mission," von Tersch said.

"Lucca's continued activities and appearances brings public awareness of the vital role MWD's play in the national security efforts of the U.S. and our allies. This, in turn, helps to foster a greater appreciation for the professionalism and expertise of the veterinarians and technicians who care for these animals."

The DOD MWD Veterinary Service is a subordinate unit of the Public Health Region-Central, under Regional Health Command-Central (Provisional).

470th Military Intelligence Brigade sponsors self-defense training seminar

By Monica Yoas

470th Military Intelligence Brigade Public Affairs

Imagine you get pulled into a car or dragged into a dark alley? Worse yet, you are being pinned down about to be sexually assaulted. What do you do?

The self-defense training seminar presented by the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade April 17 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston set out to teach participants the basic skills to defend themselves and get away from an attacker.

The brigade partnered with local Krav Maga instructors Jeremy Alf and Armando Mendivil, to provide the self-defense training.

Krav Maga a self-defense system developed for the Israel Defence Forces, consists



Instructor Armando Mendivil gives close instruction for a series of holds and how to release from them to the attendees at the self-defense training seminar at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center April 17.

of a wide combination of techniques sourced from aikido, judo, boxing and wrestling, along with re-

alistic fight training and is known for its focus on real-world situations.

The 470th MI Brigade

Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, or SHARP, Program hosted the seminar



Col. James C. Roysse (left), 470th Military Intelligence Brigade commander, serves as sparring partner for one of the attendees at the self-defense training seminar at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center April 17.

as part of the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month initiatives April 17.

The two-hour training held at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center was free and open to all Soldiers, civilians and their families.

The instructors started with a series of intense warm-up exercises, followed by instruction on how to

fight off an attacker.

The hammer punch and open hand strike were taught first. The group, which consisted of males and females, also learned groin kicks and elbow strikes.

Every demonstration was followed by ample hands on practice.

"The way you practice in here is how you will react out there," Mendivil said.



Photos by Monica Yoas

Soldiers from the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade pose after learning self-defense skills at a seminar presented by local Krav Maga instructors during a self-defense training seminar at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center April 17.

Sexual assault survivor shares her story to bring awareness

By Lori Newman
BAMC Public Affairs

The Brooke Army Medical Center staff invited sexual assault survivor Monika Korra to speak during a Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month event April 15 in the San Antonio Military Medical Center auditorium.

“As you hear what happened to Ms. Korra please think about family, friends, acquaintances and people you know who may have had this happen to them,” said Army Col. Jennifer Bedick, chief nursing officer. “What she went through was something that shouldn’t happen to anyone.”

The 5-foot-2-inch girl with blonde hair and blue eyes stood in front of the auditorium to share her story of horror and triumph.

“I always like to start off by saying I am a happy, healthy girl today,” she said.

Growing up in Norway, Korra’s life was centered around sports, she was an avid runner. She jumped at the chance to come to the United States when she was offered a track scholarship to Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

At first she said it was hard being away from home, but during her freshman year, she made friends with another student from Norway, she had a boyfriend and things were looking up.

“Life was just good,” she said. “No worries, no concerns. I remember one evening my boyfriend tried to talk to me about the sexual assault of a fellow student and athlete on campus,” she said.

“I didn’t want to think

about it or talk about it,” Korra said. “I didn’t want to realize that could happen there in that perfect little world we lived in – in that college bubble.”

Instead, she joked about the fact that she was a runner.

“I told him you don’t have to worry about me – I would just run. You know that I’m a runner, right?”

Her boyfriend followed her that night to make sure she got home safely. Two weeks later, after leaving a party with her friend, she was kidnapped at gunpoint and repeatedly raped by three men.

“I wish when I share my story I could say I was the only rape victim in the United States that night, but if that night was like any other average night, I was only one of 1,871 rape victims in the United States alone,” she said. “And we know this happens in every city, in every country in the world.”

The men were caught quickly, but the event still haunted her thoughts and dreams.

“Even though I felt safe again, I knew I would have to go through a healing process,” she said.

“At first I didn’t want help. I wanted to be strong; I’m an athlete,” Korra said. “It didn’t take me many days to realize that it’s OK to ask for help.”

The college provided counseling for her, but the hardest thing she had to do was tell her parents what happened to her. She called her parents and they were very supportive.

Her mother told her, “Monika, I can hear strength in your voice. No matter how long it



Army Col. Jennifer Bedick (left), Brooke Army Medical Center chief nursing officer, and BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Crews (right) present Monika Korra (center) a token of appreciation for speaking at the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month event April 15 in the BAMC auditorium.

Photo by Lori Newman

will take, no matter how much effort it will take, we are in this together.”

That was the first time she realized she could do it and she wasn’t alone. She needed her teammates and friends more than ever.

“No matter what we experience it’s OK to lean on each other. We all need that at times,” she said.

Korra said there were five elements that helped her get through – openness, hope, closure, passion and forgiveness.

People asked her why she wanted to testify at the trials.

“I knew that I had to do it, I had to do it for myself and for everyone else,” Korra said. “I was there and I heard the

words that I needed to hear and I saw what I needed to see. That did so much for me in my healing process.”

Two of the three men were convicted of aggravated sexual assault and sentenced to life in prison. The third took a plea agreement and was sentenced to a 25-year prison term.

She then turned to her passion for running.

“After this happened, it became even more important to me,” she said. “It was about reminding myself of who I really am. I believe we all are defined by our passion.”

She said she felt anger and hate, but she realized that wasn’t who she was.

“I had so many ques-

tions and I just didn’t understand how they could do this to me,” Korra said. “I realized I had to understand to be able to let go.”

She signed up for victim/offender mediation and met with one of the men who had raped her.

“At first he just looked down, he couldn’t look at me. He was crying and crying, not able to look at me,” she said.

He began by reading her an apology letter then she asked him questions about his past and what he had been through.

“I learned so much that day,” she said. “I knew walking out of the room that day I could let it go. This belonged to my past.”

Korra finished by saying, “It is possible to heal, it is possible to take back what is yours. So I want to stand here today as a symbol that it is possible to heal. I am happy and I am a healthy girl again.”

Bedick and BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Crews thanked Korra for sharing her story.

“We all need to know our part and do our part to stop sexual assault and harassment,” Bedick said.

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, call the Joint Base San Antonio Sexual Assault Hotline at 808-SARC (7272) or the DOD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247.

AFGHANISTAN from P2

a materiel management review and a commodity review. The materiel management review ensures that we review every piece of equipment that is in country now or might be in the future.

Every aspect of the life cycle is considered before we acquire any new equipment or sustain the old. The commodity review focuses on the current status of each class of supply, the current stockage, the pending orders and the future need. All of the information from the materiel management review and the commodity review is passed on to the budget process for consideration in the next budget.

The CSTC-A CJ-8 director, who is the comptroller, controls the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund and oversees the execution of the NATO Trust Fund that donor nations provide in support of the ANSDF.

The Afghanistan Security Forces Fund can only be used for the support and sustainment of the ANSDF, specifically in the Ministries of Defense and the Interior. It is a flexible funding capability that allows CSTC-A to ensure that the MOD and MOI can succeed in the fight. The NATO Trust Fund meets critical needs in many areas, including medical, aviation support and human capital development.

The very complex mission in Afghanistan continues. We have made great strides in the past months, establishing repeatable, documented and modern processes to ensure that every taxpayer dollar is used to create capability for a stronger and affordable ANSDF. The lifeblood of this work and this organization is the people who volunteer to continue this mission. We need a continued flow of dedicated military and civilian professionals who will deploy to carry on this critical work.

NAMRU from P6

including first aid and CPR, clinical chairside assisting, dental tool/materials, infection control and laboratory procedures.

In their junior year, interns start a clinical rotation that delivers practical, hands-on dental skills.

They study head/neck/oral anatomy, tooth morphology, oral microbiology, oral pathology, embryology, histology, psychology, patient care, pharmacology, pain control, therapeutics, preventive dentistry and nutrition, basic radiology, human relations and job-seeking skills.

The Judson Dental Internship Program is deeply rooted in its com-

munity and each year opens up their own dental lab to serve and educate the community. The program partners with area dentists to provide free preventive dental care and education to the Judson Independent School District and the surrounding communities.

“It was a pleasure to give the Judson H.S. dental interns a tour of our military dental clinic. Many of the interns want to become dentists and a few may even pursue dental research in the future,” Leal said. “We were impressed by the program, the knowledge of the students, and the positive impact this program is having on the students’ career path and our local dental community.”

Goldfein nominated as 21st Chief of Staff of the Air Force

By Staff Sgt. Alyssa C. Gibson
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced April 26 that the president has nominated Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein to be the 21st chief of staff of the Air Force, succeeding Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, who has served in the position since 2012.

"I'm extremely humbled by the nomination to serve as the Air Force's 21st chief of staff. If confirmed, I pledge to serve our Airmen and their families unwaveringly and honor our remarkable heritage and legacy of integrity,

service and excellence," Goldfein said. "I also look forward to joining my fellow service chiefs as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Mark and Betty Welsh continue to be exceptional stewards of our service and Dawn and I are honored to follow in their footsteps."

Goldfein entered the Air Force in June 1983 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has been assigned to numerous operational, command and staff positions. He currently serves as the vice chief of staff, where he presides over the Air Staff and serves as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Require-



Official photo

Gen. David L. Goldfein will become the 21st Chief of Staff of the Air Force, succeeding Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, who has served in the position since 2012.

ments Oversight Council and Deputy Advisory Working Group.

"I am pleased to sup-

port the nomination of Gen. David Goldfein as our next chief of staff," said Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James. "Gen. Goldfein possesses the experience and vision needed to address dynamic global challenges and increasing military demand. He knows how to build and sustain key partnerships, has important warfighting experience, and will exercise the critical judgement required to balance our manpower and resources as we shape tomorrow's Air Force. There is not a better person to lead our Airmen into the next century of airpower dominance."

Prior to his current

position, Goldfein was the director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., where he assisted the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in fulfilling his responsibilities as the principal military adviser to the president and secretary of defense.

"Dave Goldfein is an Airman who epitomizes warrior leadership, and that's exactly what our Air Force deserves," Welsh said. "He connects deeply with Airmen, he supports their families relentlessly, and he absolutely recognizes the criticality of our service's mission. Most importantly, he and Dawn understand the remarkable privilege

they've been afforded in serving the nation."

Goldfein is a command pilot with more than 4,200 flying hours in the T-37 Tweet, T-38 Talon, F-16C/D Fighting Falcon, F-117A Nighthawk, MQ-9 Reaper, and MC-12W. He has flown combat missions in operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Allied Force, and Enduring Freedom. Goldfein has received numerous awards for his military service including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor device and oak leaf cluster.

Air Force staff sergeant making his mark in security forces career field

By Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Matthew Cummings came to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph less than six months ago. He followed his father – an intelligence specialist – into the Air Force, but he’s leaving his own footprint in a career field that protects the service’s people, property and resources.

“Basically, I’m just here to keep the peace,” said Cummings, a 902nd Security Forces Squadron patrolman. “I love everything about my job. I love interacting with people. I love all the training I need to do.”

Cummings, who enlisted in the Air Force in January 2009 and was first assigned to Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., said his duties include patrolling JBSA-Randolph and responding to medical incidents and flightline or aircraft emergencies as they occur.

“My duties change depending on what post I am pulling, and they could range from checking on the Airmen at the gate to writing citations,” he said.

RAMs, or random anti-terrorism measures, are also a part of Cummings’ day. Vigilance is a hallmark of his profession.

“I have to be ready to respond to any incident that may occur,” he said. “Keeping an eye on traffic and writing citations is just an extra duty.”

Like other SFS members, Cummings faces many challenges each day, including some of his interactions with the people he is



there to protect.

“You get some people that realize you’re only here trying to do your job, trying to keep them safe,” he said. “And then you get the other people that think they know more than you, or think they know better than you.”

In those instances, he said, law enforcement officers must remain courteous.

Cummings said officers must also treat everyone the same – regardless of rank or position.

“It doesn’t matter what rank you are,” he said. “If you’re breaking the law, you’re breaking the law.”

Cummings said people often have misconceptions about security forces members – that their only duties are checking IDs at the gates and traffic stops.

“We’re out here sometimes 14 hours a day – maybe we didn’t get lunch or haven’t gotten a break in eight hours – and we still have to put that smile on and greet you every day,” he said. “It’s not easy doing our job; it’s not a cakewalk.”

Cummings, who has also been assigned to Büchel Air Base, Germany, said it’s important for law enforcement officers to have a clear mind when they come to work.

“I’ve got to wake up every morning and get in the right mindset, especially when you have your own personal issues going on at home,” he said. “You’ve got to set those aside so you can come to work and get the job done.”

Cummings has been recognized for his law enforcement efforts. He was awarded the Top 3 Airmanship Award for the month of June, according to his supervisor, Tech. Sgt. Mark Fox, 902nd SFS NCO in charge of police services.

“Cummings was nominated because of his everyday performance and his efforts to not only make himself better, but to make the Airmen around him better as well,” Fox said.

Fox said one of Cummings’ most noteworthy qualities is “his attention to detail in every aspect of the job.”

“From entry control to patrolling the base, his approach to the job does not change,” he said.

Confidence and willingness to learn are the patrolman’s biggest strengths, Fox said.

“Cummings is always looking for ways to improve and better himself,” he said. “I always find him reading up on regulations and reports to increase his knowledge when it comes to law enforcement.”

Fox said Cummings is headed for leadership roles in the security



Photo by Robert Goetz

Staff Sgt. Matthew Cummings, 902nd Security Forces Squadron patrolman, checks the information of an individual who failed to signal before turning at a stop sign at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. As a 902nd SFS defender, Cummings’ duties include checking identification at the gates, writing citations and always staying ready to respond to an incident. Cummings was awarded the Top 3 Airmanship Award for the month of June.

forces career field, and he’s already taken some initial steps.

“Within the squadron, I would have to say my role is to guide the new Airmen and make sure they are getting the right information to do their job’s correctly and efficiently,” Cummings said.

Cummings takes his protector role seriously. It started when he

was the oldest of three brothers, and it continued with his roles as father and law enforcement officer.

“I was always trying to protect my brothers as much as I could,” he said. “And I have four children, so that definitely plays a big part. I always try to make them proud, so I show up every day and try to do

the best I can.”

Cummings said he’s glad he chose the security forces career field.

“My job is important because I maintain the safety and security of all the individuals on base so that all of our deployed members can go overseas and do what they need to do knowing that their family members are safe at home,” he said.

Mosquito surveillance underway at JBSA locations

By Robert Goetz
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

With the mosquito season in its infancy, public health flights at all Joint Base San Antonio locations have begun to monitor the presence of the pesky creature.

Concern about the Zika virus, stemming from its outbreak in Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean in 2015, is affecting the way public health officials are approaching the monitoring process this year.

Senior Airman Timothy Legge, 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Public Health Flight technician, said public health is taking active measures to educate the public on mosquitoes and the diseases they can carry.

Although they educate everyone, they especially focus on those who are at higher risk for exposure such as deployers and members who travel outside the U.S. to infected areas, Legge said.

Recent concerns with Zika in the U.S. have led to collaborative efforts between public health at the 359th Medical Group, the other JBSA locations and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. Together, the organizations educate the general public and actively survey and report the number and types of mosquitoes in the area.

"Because Zika is carried by the Aedes mosquito, which primarily feeds in the day, we have changed our approach to trapping," he said. "We now trap both day and night."

The 359th AMDS Public Health Flight is

also awaiting the arrival of traps that are better suited to the capture of the Aedes mosquito, Legge said. The Aedes albopictus and the Aedes aegypti, which are both present in the San Antonio area, are insects that can transmit Zika, dengue and chikungunya viruses. A large dengue outbreak occurred in South Texas 11 years ago.

Tech. Sgt. Carrie Fierro, 359th AMDS Public Health Flight Community Health Element chief, explained the monitoring procedure.

"The Culex mosquito, a vector for West Nile virus, is active at dusk and dawn, so we place traps out at about 4:30 p.m. and check them in the morning," she said. "The Aedes mosquitoes are more active during the day, so those traps are placed in the morning and picked up late in the day."

Although traps are placed at various locations throughout JBSA-Randolph, "we also trap based on customer complaints due to increased mosquito activity," Fierro said.

When samples are collected, female mosquitoes are separated from the males and sent to the U.S. Army Regional Health Command-Central at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to see if they are carrying disease-causing viruses, she said. Females are collected because they are the only mosquitoes that bite.

At JBSA-Lackland, Jorge Rodriguez-Catalan, 559th AMDS community health manager, said vector surveillance is



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stormy Archer

Senior Airmen Timothy Legge (left) and Ernesto Arguelles Jr., 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron public health technicians, set a mosquito trap April 7 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. When samples are collected, female mosquitoes are separated from the males and sent to the U.S. Army Regional Health Command-Central at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to see if they are carrying disease-causing viruses.

based on factors such as climatic patterns, emerging diseases and resources and San Antonio has the perfect climate for many different species of mosquitoes.

"For the past couple of years, our surveillance has been very active and our findings have been well within what we've expected in the area," Rodriguez-Catalan said.

"I don't foresee anything unusual this year. We are doing all we can when it comes to vector surveillance and expect to have a good program this year in regard to trapping, identifying and testing for diseases," he added.

Surveillance programs at JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph have yielded few results at

this point, Rodriguez-Catalan and Fierro said.

"There is nothing significant so far, but it is very early in the season," Rodriguez-Catalan said.

In regard to the Zika virus, Rodriguez-Catalan said it is important to know about the signs and symptoms and for providers to conduct thorough travel histories on their patients, especially pregnant women and those who've traveled to areas identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The CDC has put out guidance for providers to follow at www.cdc.gov/zika," Rodriguez-Catalan said.

JBSA public health officials said preven-

tion is the best measure against mosquitoes.

Legge said wearing the right clothing outdoors – such as long sleeves and long pants – and using mosquito repellents containing diethyl toluamide, commonly known as DEET, or permethrin are strong countermeasures against mosquito bites.

Fierro said an effective dose of DEET is important, so people should read the label on the bottle.

"Regardless of the type of mosquito, the way to prevent disease transmission is the same," Rodriguez-Catalan said. "Avoid mosquitoes when they are most active. Treating your clothing with DEET and permethrin

and eliminating breeding sites are your best protections. You should also mosquito-proof your home by keeping screens on windows and doors closed and use air conditioning when available."

Breeding sites include jars, bottles, tires, flower pots, bird baths and pet dishes.

"Mosquitoes can even lay their eggs on a leaf that has collected water," Fierro said. "Anything that collects water and is stagnant for five to seven days can be a breeding site for mosquitoes."

For more information on diseases, prevention and proper use of insect repellents, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/stopmosquitoes/index.html>.



Lt. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins (right), commanding general of U.S. Army North, and Mexican Lt. Gen. Miguel Patino (left), commander of IV Military Region, Secretaria de la Defensa Nacional, or SEDENA, head the delegation during the annual border commanders' conference held at El Paso, Texas, April 11-14. This annual event went from a relationship building conference in the early 1990s, to what is now a working conference to address specific border issues and the recommended way forward for both Armies.

BORDERS from P1

organized crime, arms trafficking, counter threat finance, money laundering, improved communications, as well as briefs from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the staff of the Mexican Secretary of National Defense, known as the SEDENA-Secretaria de la Defensa Nacional. "This delegation is really important to us," said Mexican Lt. Gen. Miguel Patino, commander of IV Military Region, SEDENA. "These annual meetings have allowed us to exchange valuable information towards the objectives and interests from both nations."

The military-to-military relationship is important in improving both countries' defenses. This relationship enhances the overall ability for the United States and Mexican governments to secure their common border, while continuing to strengthen relations with myriad regular exchanges, engagements and training events.

This cooperation also extends past border security into cross-border disaster response and lessons learned. These endeavors are part of

a whole of government effort to secure our nation that includes the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice and other agencies.

"I have seen the military-to-military relationship grow and I look forward to seeing the relationship continue to grow," Wiggins said. "As we not only stand for our individual countries, but we stand for democracy, we stand for freedom and we stand for both of our citizenry in defense of a threat that we don't yet see."



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

Lt. Gen. Miguel Patino, commander of IV Military Region, Secretaria de la Defensa Nacional, or SEDENA, receives a brief by Border Patrol Officer Guerrero on the mobile video surveillance system – a radar, day-time and infrared cameras and a laser range finder – during this year's annual border commanders' conference at El Paso, Texas, April 11-14. The conference focused on several areas such as the use of current technology to counter organized crime, arms trafficking, counter threat finance, money laundering and improved communications.

The military-to-military engagements on border security, as well as the cooperation with other federal agencies, highlights the continued military-to-military relationship between the United States and Mexico to ensure both countries can win the fight against criminals using the Mexican-American border.

"It is really important for us to get all the data," Patino said. "We hope all the information we share here will help us make better decisions for both our nations in the future."

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command opens app store to host official Army mobile applications

By Meghan Portillo
NCO Journal

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command has created its own app store to bring official Army apps to Soldiers on the go.

"Everybody has a mobile device these days," said Lt. Col. Joseph A. Harris Jr., TRADOC capability manager for mobile learning, or TCM Mobile. "They are using these devices to go and search for whatever apps that they may need at the time. So we are trying to quench that thirst and provide them with something that is official – from TRADOC and from the Army."

TCM Mobile provides centralized management and governance for the Army's mobile learning initiatives and has created the TRADOC Application Gateway, or TAG, to host unclassified, non-"for official use only" apps and interactive digital publications.

One of the missions of TCM Mobile and the motivation behind creating the TAG is to provide Soldiers with Army-approved information.

Anybody can create an app and put it in a commercial app store such as Google Play, the Apple Store or the Windows Store. And though many of those apps are informative and helpful, a Soldier has no way of knowing if that information is doctrinally sound.

"Pick any subject

matter having to do with soldiering, and have five different people teach that exact same concept. You are going to have the thoughts and processes of each of those five people vary. You don't want to have five different apps on the same thing with different spins on each one," said Matthew MacLaughlin Jr., TCM Mobile's senior mobile instructional design specialist.

"We try to cut out all the bias and give the Army community a mobile application that is – at its core – functional and true to the proponent information. We want to cut down to the honest-to-goodness information put forth by the proponent that we want everybody to have, and then let the NCO and the Soldier who is utilizing the information in the field put their spin on it to make it pertinent to their needs."

TCM Mobile's branding on apps in the TAG allows Soldiers to easily identify them as official Army apps. The gold border and Army emblem in the lower right corner makes them easily recognizable but still allows each app to maintain its own look.

"When a Soldier goes to the TAG, that Soldier knows that app is approved by the proponent – the school or entity within the Army that is in charge of that information," said Ken Crim, TCM Mobile deputy.

"You can go to the

Apple Store right now and get 11 apps on the Army physical fitness program. None of them have been approved by the Army.

So you are rolling the dice. 'Am I getting good information or not?' And that is just a physical fitness program. Do I really want a Soldier getting a non-proponent-approved application on fire control? Heck no. So that is why TCM Mobile was established. "If I am a staff sergeant or a platoon sergeant in a training situation, I need to know that I'm sending my Soldiers to a source of Army-approved information. If you use unofficial information for training, that could come back to bite you. Do you really want to take that risk?"

To access the TAG, Soldiers may visit <https://tag.army.mil> and log in with their Army Knowledge Online username and password.

A common access card may also be used to access the site, but it is not required. The TAG App, which allows you to download other Army apps, can be downloaded upon your first visit to the TAG with your mobile device.

There are about 90 apps on the TAG as of March 2016. Some of the most viewed include a Performance Triad app, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention apps,

See TRADOC, P17

INSIDE THE GATE

Employment Readiness Orientation Class

Mondays, 9-11 a.m. Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Learn about employment resources and review services offered. Call 221-2418.

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.

Post-Deployment Resiliency

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. Registration required by calling 221-2418.

TAP-Goals, Plans, Success

Monday through May 13, May 16-20 and May 23-27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Soldier for Life, building 2264. A mandatory five-day session workshop for all service members separating from the military; the GPS workshop is facilitated by the Department of Labor, Veterans Administration and Military & Family Readiness Center. Prerequisite class is "Pre-Separation Counseling." Call 221-1213.

Step Families 101

Monday and May 23, noon to 4 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This two-part series must be attended in order. The step family can be complex when it comes to family relationships. Discuss changes in the family dynamics, evolving roles, and the joys that come from being a stepparent. Call 221-2418.

ScreamFree Parenting

Monday, May 16 and 23, 9-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This four-

part series must be attended in order. A principle-based approach to parenting that focuses on the parents instead of kids; review strategies to stay focused and calm during those frustrating moments. Call 221-2418.

Air Force Pre-Separation

Tuesday and May 24, 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 221-2418.

Citizenship, Immigration Assistance

Tuesday, 9 a.m. to Noon, 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 beginning at 2 p.m. May 24. Registration is not required. Call 221-2705.

Accessing Higher Education

Tuesday-Wednesday and May 23-25, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Education Center, building 2408. A two-day track for service members that have already obtained a Bachelor's degree and are interested in pursuing higher education. Call 221-1213.

Peer-To-Peer Support Group

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Soldier & Family Assistance Center, building 3639. Caregivers have the opportunity to build a peer support network, share experiences and information with a safe place to talk. Lunch is provided after the morning session. Call 557-2018.

Army FAP Unit Training

Wednesday and May 25, 9-11 a.m. and 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; reservations will

be accepted up to two weeks in advance. Call 221-2418.

General Resume Writing

Wednesday, 9-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Learn about the different resume formats and which one to use when writing a non-federal resume. Get tips on how to effectively write summary statements, employment history and more. Call 221-2418.

Family Readiness Group Forum

Wednesday, 11 a.m. to noon, Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. The Family Readiness Group Forum is an open forum that offers networking and an opportunity to discuss issues, share lessons learned, facilitates questions and discussions. Call 221-2418.

Pre-Deployment Resiliency

Thursday, May 19 and 26, 9-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. 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.

Microsoft 2013 PowerPoint Intermediate

Thursday and May 19, 8 a.m. to noon, Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Intermediate level 2 classes build on the skills learned from Foundational classes. Participants will learn how to customize and adjust compatibly issues, insert and edit master slides, utilize sections, apply and modify themes, and manipulate pictures and graphs. Classes are free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. Call 221-2705.

Volunteer Advisory Counsel

Thursday, 9-10 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. A monthly meeting for agencies with volunteers to discuss current issues, share program plans, success and proposed events. Call 221-2418.

EFMP: What Does It Mean To Me?

Thursday, 1-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, build-

ing 2797. This workshop is designed to explore how the three pillars of the program (Medical system, human resource, and family support) work and what each pillar offers an exceptional family member, their families, and sponsors. Call 221-2705.

Relocation, Overseas Orientation

Thursday, 10-11 a.m. or 2-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Mandatory for personnel E-5 and below; topics cover include entitlement, shipment of household goods, emotional stressors of relocation, employment, and education. Only one session is needed. Call 221-2705.

Spouse Information Fair

Thursday, 9-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Spouses, service members and civilians new to JBASA looking to connect with local military agencies are welcomed to attend the Spouse Information Fair. Meet with more than 20 local military agencies and learn about services offered. Agencies included: Air Force and Army civilian personnel, legal assistance, exchange and commissary, Spouses Club, Medical/TRICARE, FSS/MWR, School Liaison, Youth Programs, M&FRC and others. Registration not required. Call 221-2705.

Car Seat 101

May 16, 1-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Review the basics of car seat installation and make sure your child is seated properly within their car seat. This class is required before attending the Safety Seat Clinic. Call 221-2418.

Instructor Trainer Course

May 17-18, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. A two-day professional development course designed to improve instructional skills. ITC modules include Platform Skills, The Adult Learner, Characteristics of Effective Instructors, Managing the Learning Environment and the Preparation Process. To register, call 221-2418.

TRADOC from P16

resiliency resource apps and Army Comprehensive Doctrine guides.

Many more apps that have been created at the Army's centers and schools are being vetted and will soon add to the TAG's numbers. Though most of them may also be found in other app stores, Harris said TCM Mobile hopes the TAG will soon become Soldiers' one-stop-shop for Army mobile applications.

"We think over the next couple months it will continue to mature at a fast rate, and will be a great resource for Soldiers to find useful content," said Brian Robertson, program manager.

If someone has a great idea for an app that would meet the needs of an Army organization, they can work with TCM Mobile to create it and get it on the TAG. They have the option of creating the app themselves, or TCM Mobile's team of developers may take on the job.

Information on the TCM Mobile website (<https://www.atsc.army.mil/tadlp/mobile/faq/index.asp>) explains the process of submitting apps. Before making it

to the TAG, they must both be verified by the proponent and tested to determine they contain no malicious code that could damage a user's mobile device.

"If Soldiers have great ideas, they can visit our website to learn how they can get their idea or their mobile app on the TAG – and get credit for it. If you created it, we want to give you the credit for creating that app through the proponent," Harris said.

There are so many Soldiers out there with great ideas, MacLaughlin said. They may want to solve an issue within their unit by creating a mobile application, but they are not sure where to start or how to go about it. TCM Mobile hopes to work with those individuals to realize their ideas and get them on the TAG, where the entire Army can benefit.

"This has been a very big, collaborative effort across the board to not only be able to provide Soldiers with what they need and want, but to be able to do it in such a way that we are safeguarding the Soldier, safeguarding the information and safeguarding the mobile devices," Crim said.



Photo illustration by Spc. James Seals from photo by C. Todd Lopez

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