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



BAMC HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE **PAGE 3**



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DELIVERING LIFESAVING CARE WORLDWIDE **PAGE 15**



‘BEST WARRIORS’ TOUGH IT OUT AT CAMP BULLIS

U.S. Army North’s Spc. Reginald Daniel focuses on the rungs during the obstacle course portion of the Fort Sam Houston consolidated Best Warrior Competition 2016 at Camp Bullis. For more photos, turn to pages 10-11.

Photo by Sgt. Maj. Matt Howard

Army North holds nationwide disaster response exercise

By Army Staff Sgt. Trish McMurphy
 28th Public Affairs Detachment

More than 2,000 service members plus hundreds of civilian emergency personnel across the nation are training this month for

a nightmare scenario that nobody wishes to happen, but could – the detonation of a nuclear device in a major U.S. city.

Exercise Vibrant Response 2016, hosted by U.S. Northern Command and its Army com-

ponent, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), began May 1. It is the military’s premier annual disaster response exercise and replicates a nuclear explosion in a highly-



Commentary: Command improves customer support with MICC Marketplace

By Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Gabbert
MICC commanding general

The Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Fort Sam Houston has evolved from a brand-new command in 2009 into the Army's premier contracting organization.

The MICC Marketplace truly supports the customer and makes the acquisition process easier. This initiative will enable us to bolster credibility, build trust, strengthen partnerships with our customers, provide visibility of contract actions and reinforce transparency in the acquisition process. Some added bonuses of the marketplace are that contracts will often become more standardized and touch labor will be reduced for both the customer and MICC workforce.

We have built a ready, transparent and accountable organization founded in trust and respect, but this did not occur overnight.

It has taken the tremendous skill and serious dedication from every member of our command to support Soldiers and warfighters with responsive contracting solutions that contribute to the success of our mission partners day after day.

We all must understand that contracting is a team sport. Our workforce is committed to supporting our customers by working with them on their mission priorities as well as all their acquisition needs.

Contracting is a

combined effort, and we need to ensure we have an end-to-end process for all of our teammates. Working with our customers takes time and many meetings. Sometimes there have been 32 different ways to support similar requirements.

But all of that will be changing with the introduction of the MICC Marketplace.

The MICC Marketplace crystalizes our teammates' needs and equities. We have a three-pronged attack focused on standardizing and gaining efficiencies across the MICC enterprise.

The first component of the marketplace is a new initiative that we plan to begin rolling out in May. It is a web page (<http://www.micc.army.mil/marketplace>) designed for our customers' activities.

Within this page are user templates, training and direction all of which will allow us to standardize how we interact with our customers across the command. All the documents that make up a requirements package will be just a click away with the MICC Marketplace.

The second component is the further development of the Contracting Tactical Operations Center contract management application. We create a common operating picture between us and our customers with the use of CTOC as we input data imperative to the success of all contracts.



Graphic by Daniel P. Elkins

Mission and Installation Contracting Command officials have developed the MICC Marketplace to support customers and simplify the acquisition process. Aimed at providing greater visibility of contract actions and reinforcing transparency in the acquisition process, the MICC Marketplace will also lead to greater standardization in contracts while reducing touch labor for both the customer and MICC workforce.

The third component of the MICC Marketplace is the strategic sourcing element that allows our acquisition professionals and data analysts to aggregate all of the output from CTOC, the Procurement Defense Desktop and other acquisition systems to find out how we can buy smarter. Using MICC Marketplace will show us how we can use strategic instruments to gain a better buying power for the Army.

This initiative will be done in phases. Phase One has already begun, and is the initial standardization as the MICC Marketplace website goes live. The second phase will permit users to automatically upload their documents for the procurement they want the MICC to execute. Developers also will constantly fine tune the site to make sure the marketplace is customer

friendly and site navigation is easy. Follow-on phases to the MICC Marketplace will focus on standardizing other functions such as the Government Purchase Card program and reverse auctioning, just to name two.

The MICC Marketplace is going to save a lot of time, standardize what we do and how we do it, cut down on the number of exchanges and connect all the different systems we use while reducing duplication.

In the process, this will make it easier for our users. We are coordinating with officials from the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Army Materiel Command, Army Training and Doctrine Command and other major customers to ensure the standardization of these products fit into their acquisition

management processes.

All of our users are going to go to the MICC Marketplace and this site is going to show them how to do business with the MICC. There is a link from each office's website to the MICC Marketplace.

If our customers need training on how to be a contracting officer's representative or how the acquisition system works, they will be able to find what they need on this website, because everything they need will be linked at this site.

Different documents required for different actions at different dollar thresholds will be delineated clearly within the marketplace. The documents our customers need will already be available in templates at the site. What is required and the format in

See MARKETPLACE, P7

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News Briefs

FEGLI Open Season

The Office of Personnel Management will hold a Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance, or FEGLI, open season. During this time, eligible employees can elect or increase their FEGLI life insurance coverage. The effective date for changes to FEGLI coverage under an open season election will be delayed one full year to the beginning of the first full pay period on or after Oct. 1, 2017. As a reminder, FEGLI coverage can be cancelled or reduced at any time. Enrollees satisfied with their current FEGLI coverage do not need to make any elections during the FEGLI Open Season. Department of the Army civilians will need to log into the Army Benefits Center-Civilian website at <https://www.abc.army.mil> and go into the Employee Benefits Information System. For assistance, call 877-276-9287 weekdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For additional information, visit <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/life-insurance/>.

Rambler Fitness Center Hosts JBSA Aerobathon

Fitness enthusiasts will get a chance to participate in free workout sessions, learn the best ways for staying active and fit and have a chance at winning prizes at the Joint Base San Antonio Aerobathon from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 21 at the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center. The Aerobathon is open to active-duty service members, dependents, retirees and Department of Defense cardholders. Participants can sign up for several 45-minute workout classes led by fitness instructors from all JBSA locations the day of Aerobathon, including kick boxing, Zumba, cycling, circuit training, yoga and other aerobic sessions. Tony Horton, a personal trainer and creator of the P90X exercise program, will also conduct two workout sessions of his new fitness program. The workout sessions will be geared towards beginner and experienced participants. In between workout sessions, participants can visit several vendors who will be displaying products and information that promote proper nutrition and living a healthier and stress-free lifestyle. There will be prize drawings and the first 1,000 event participants will receive a water bottle or towel with the logo of the

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Brooke Army Medical Center hosts Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony

By Elaine Sanchez
BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston hosted a Holocaust Remembrance Day observance May 2 to honor the 6 million Jews killed during the Holocaust.

"Today we gather to mourn the loss of so many lives, honor those who survived and celebrate those who saved them," said BAMC Commander Col. Jeffrey Johnson during opening remarks.

A candle-lighting ceremony was held to honor the Jews killed in the genocide. The final candle was dedicated to the next generation, who are left to "carry the flames of remembrance."

Dr. Steven Rosenblatt, guest speaker and the son of a Holocaust survivor, talked of Adolf Hitler's rise to power and his mother's bravery during that time.

Rosenblatt explained that his mother, Mathilide, was 15 years old and living in Vienna when German troops invaded Austria in March 1938. The Austrian people did not resist and Hitler quickly folded Austria into the German Reich.

Nazism was thrust upon his mother and her family. In November of that year, a riot fostered by Nazis spread across the Reich. Jews were pulled into the streets and beaten, their businesses and stores looted, synagogues destroyed and holy books burned.

This riot was later known as Kristallnacht, or "Night of Broken Glass."

Mathilide and her family moved to Warsaw to stay with a family member, but were soon pushed into a Nazi ghetto to live in squalor.

The American Consulate in Vienna, spurred by her sister, sent a message that if Mathilide could make it back to Vienna she would be given papers to travel to the United States. Her father, a jeweler by trade, pounded gold into thin sheets and sewed it into the lining of her coat.

At 16 years old, she said goodbye to her family and began the more than 420-mile trek alone. She got past one guard after another and snuck across borders, watching fellow travelers get shot, before arriving in Vienna.

Mathilide's childhood home had been home-stayed by another family, so she snuck in the basement and reported to the SS for her papers. On Feb. 3, 1940, she was granted permission to travel to the U.S., and about a week later, she was on a boat departing from Rotterdam, Holland.

His mother died two years ago, and he said, "It was only after she died that I began to look really critically at what happened. I gained new respect for her courage and for what she was able to do."

Rosenblatt also

showed photos of concentration camps and the many Jews who died there. In Auschwitz, he explained, Jews were placed in two lines. Doctors decided who could handle slave labor – the young and frail went to the left and the others to the right. The ones on the left were killed in the gas chamber.

The prisoners worked in fields and workshops and died daily from malnutrition and disease, Rosenblatt noted. Others, including children, were used by doctors for human experimentation.

A total of 11 million people – 6 million Jews and 5 million others – systematically died at the hands of the Nazis before the camps were liberated by Allied soldiers in the mid-1940s. The victims included 1.5 million children and represented about two-thirds of the 9 million Jews who had lived in Europe.

"The Holocaust was a horrific blight on the history of humanity, but also showed the sheer strength, determination and resiliency of those who lived through this appalling time of our history and those who

helped liberate the concentration camps," Johnson said. "People risked their lives and the lives of their families to save their fellow human beings.

"Many people chose to forget, others even dare to say it never happened; but we remember, because it is an unthinkable scar on humanity which we can't repeat," the commander added. "We need to understand what human beings are capable of and continue to constantly be on the lookout to stop these atrocities from happening in the future."



Photo by Robert T. Shields

Dr. Steven Rosenblatt speaks at the Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance at San Antonio Military Medical Center, May 2. Rosenblatt's mother, Mathilide, was a Holocaust survivor who traveled across Europe on her own as a teenager to reach safe passage to the United States.

Army North trains, evaluates emergency response unit in Hawaii

By Karen Lloyd
U.S. Army North Public Affairs

U.S. Army North's Civil Support Training Activity, or CSTA, trained and evaluated a Hawaii emergency response unit during a training proficiency assessment at Kapolei, Hawaii, from April 27-30.

As part of a Joint Integrated Evaluation Team, CSTA and the Joint Inter-agency Training and Education Center, or JITEC, from Albans, W.Va.

developed scenarios to test the Hawaii Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, on their ability to respond to both chemical and radiological incidents.

The Hawaii CERFP, one of 17 in the United States, is made up of approximately 200 people



A Hawaii Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package member screens a simulated casualty as he arrives for decontamination during a training proficiency assessment in Kapolei, Hawaii, which took place from April 27-30. U.S. Army North's Civil Support Training Activity, or CSTA, trained and evaluated the team.

from the Hawaii National Guard. They are expected to respond in support of civil authorities with life-saving capabilities to a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear,

or CBRN, event within 12 hours and must be fully mission ready within 2 1/2 hours upon arrival at the incident site.

A CERFP is capable of conducting search and

rescue operations, mass casualty decontamination, emergency medical triage and treatment, and fatality search and recovery.

All CERFPs must be validated every 24 to 36 months. The integrated CSTA and JITEC teams conducted several days of lanes training followed by a training proficiency evaluation. Upon completion of the exercise outbrief, the team recommended validation to Maj. Gen. Arthur Logan, Adjutant General of Hawaii, and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency director.

Planning and coordinating an exercise to assess a CERFP is almost a year-long process, said Lt. Col. Andrew Heymann of JITEC, exercise director.

Heymann noted the challenges in coordinat-



Photos by Karen Lloyd

Simulated casualties are processed through a decontamination tent during the Hawaii Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package's training and evaluation exercise April 27-30. U.S. Army North disaster response experts travelled to Hawaii from Fort Sam Houston to supervise the training and evaluate the unit. The Hawaii CERFP is one of 17 military units positioned around the United States, and they must be prepared at all times to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear disaster within 12 hours of notification.

ing with multiple entities via considerable distance during the planning phase, but expressed

confidence in the scenario developers and

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6 x 4.75 AD

Military family team building campout allows families to focus on each other

By Tiffany Sertich
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center

In honor of the Month of the Military Child, the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center was joined by 46 JBSA Military Families at JBSA-Canyon Lake April 9-10 for a military family team building campout.

The campout provided families an opportunity to break from their normal routine and focus on each other in a relaxing atmosphere. During the campout, military families rotated from various stations, manned by military family life counselors, Exceptional Family Member Program coordinators, family life educators and mobilization and deployment work life specialists.

At each station, families participated in activities and challenge scenarios in an effort to teach valuable lessons in communication, cooperation, teamwork and resiliency.

At the end of each challenge, families gathered to discuss the activities and focus on ways to identify methods for coping with and preparing for the deployment phases, prioritizing responsibilities and time, improving trust and communication and other skills that could improve situations within the family at home.

“Our Family Readiness Group Leaders and Key Spouses were afforded an opportunity to brainstorm with their families and tackle problems that they face during deployments and separations,” said

Devon Paul mobilization and Deployment Work Life Specialist. “Many families that had never met before bonded and shared their personal experiences, offering support and resources.”

“My family had a wonderful time at the campout. Everything was very organized and entertaining,” said Marie Henricks, U.S. Army North Family Readiness Group leader. “My kids never even had the chance to think about getting their hands on anything electronic. We’ll definitely be attending again next year.”

“I really enjoyed the Four Lenses personality assessment. This activity allowed myself and my children an opportunity to determine what personality trait we display the most,” said Charlie Silva, who participated



Photo by Tiffany Sertich

Families use teamwork, problem-solving and communication skills on the bull ring game, facilitated by the Family Life Program.

along with his teenage daughters. “My girls learned why it’s important for us as a family to

understand each other’s values and realize that it’s our differences that help balance our

dynamic family.” For more information, call 221-2705 or 221-2418.

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News Briefs

Continued from P3

502nd Force Support Squadron. For more information, call 652-5763. JBSA members who want to participate in the Tony Horton workout sessions must register in advance at 502fss.fsk.jbsacommunityevent@us.af.mil.

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 Sunday. 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.

Winans Entry Control Point Operations

Beginning June 18, entry into Watkins Terrace Housing, Youth Services, Fort Sam Houston Independent School District, Dodd Field Chapel and the Army Reserve Center through the Winans Entry Control Point, will require an approved Department of Defense-issued access credential. All visitors, contractors, and vendors with non-DOD issued credentials such as a driver's license, passport, etc., will stop at a visitor center located on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, be identity proofed, background vetted and issued a credential prior to entering the Winans Entry Control Point. Visit the JBSA webpage at <http://www.jbsa.mil/Home/VisitorInformation.aspx> for visitor center hours, locations, contact information and more detailed instructions. To speak to a security assistant call (210)221-1902/1903.

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.

Government Purchase Card tool streamlines program management

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs

Officials at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston are fielding a new online application tool to offer leaders throughout the Mission and Installation Contracting Command greater insight into the Government Purchase Card Program in an effort to achieve increased rebates and reduced delinquencies.

"The GPC tool will assist agency organizational program coordinators, or AOPCs, with tracking GPC-related training activities, provide them a portal to complete their required annual audits, and enable the storage of supporting documentation," said Maj. Lee Bruner, a program integrator at MICC-Fort Belvoir Va., who serves as the project manager for this initiative.

The MICC GPC Program represents \$747 million in annual charge volume for goods and services by more than 13,500 cardholder and billing official accounts across 31 contracting offices.

MICC officials said the tool will provide leaders with a snapshot of delinquencies, rebates, audits and transactional data for any given period. They added that this functionality will provide leadership at the contracting brigade, contracting battalion and office levels with unprecedented insight into the GPC Program that is normally re-

served for AOPCs.

This tool is a result of the initiative by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Gabbert MICC commanding general to increase rebates from the GPC Program while minimizing delinquencies from cardholders and billing officials.

Gabbert said it builds upon a culture that reinforces the command's line of effort in providing support to its customers through a data-driven approach. A group of Army acquisition professionals met in May 2015 at Fort Belvoir to discuss ways to increase efficiencies into the oversight and management of the GPC Program for the MICC.

The group focused on sharing best practices and lessons learned, identifying problem sets across various GPC program stakeholders, identifying potential information technology solutions and business processes for increasing efficiencies, and developing a roadmap for continued improvements.

"We were seeking a single repository of the various data sources we have in the program, and the ability to deal with programmatic elements to be able to increase efficiencies in our overall program management," said Leroy Griffith, MICC GPC Program officer. "The application provides visibility into oversight, promotes accountability and manages program outcomes."



Photo by Ben Gonzales

Lori Dobratz (right) makes a purchase of office supplies using the Government Purchase Card Program at Fort Belvoir, Va. Changes coming to the GPC Program as part of an online application tool will soon allow leaders throughout the U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command greater insight. Dobratz is an office management assistant at the Fort Belvoir contracting office.

Griffith explained the intent was to develop a MICC GPC web-based application, which will provide an end-to-end solution with an emphasis focused on helping an AOPC, contracting office director, the MICC GPC Program manager and deputy assistant secretary of the Army for procurement personnel with their oversight needs.

The application boasts several areas designed to improve oversight and program management. Account management provides the ability to track pending GPC applicants, recurring training, deployed cardholders and billing officials, store and upload program documents, and link billing officials to resource managers for more effective management of delinquent accounts. Audit management provides the

ability to directly assign internal audit reviews, store and attach audit documentation, and accessibility for viewing of comments.

Also, automatic email notifications allow system-generated email notifications to remind billing officials of outstanding account certifications as well as notifications of past due accounts and reminders of recurring training requirements to program participants.

"I commend the group of acquisition professionals, project managers, business management and installation AOPCs for their support of this command initiative, which will not only provide additional GPC program efficiencies but also will aid in the reduction of delinquencies and increasing of rebates," said Ray Estrada, the MICC GPC

Program manager.

The GPC Program is the only program in the Army that returns funds back to requiring activities via rebates based on the timeliness of payment. In fiscal year 2015, the MICC GPC program generated \$8.9 million in rebates. To date, more than \$4.6 million in rebates have been generated in fiscal 2016.

It was imperative to create a system that improves the information managers and customers receive daily in order to improve their individual account performances by properly managing their expenditures and keeping payments up to date with the ultimate goal of maximizing rebates each quarter MICC officials said.

The GPC application implementation is in the final stages with several MICC offices scheduled to complete the onboarding process this month.

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

MARKETPLACE from P2

which it is required will be standardized across the enterprise, which will further enhance the MICC's ability to accomplish the mission more efficiently and effectively.

Gone will be the days where every MICC office developed its own way to make a small purchase. There will be only one way – the MICC way. The MICC Marketplace will unify the command.

As our customers use this application, their data inputs go directly into CTOC. Then our contracting specialists execute the action. If the request is under the simplified threshold, we already have the simplified acquisition form developed by members of the MICC Contracting Operations Directorate that is being used across the command and in Afghanistan.

Throughout the MICC Marketplace process, contracts will be standardized, time to accomplish contracting will be faster and touch labor will be reduced for both the customer and MICC professionals.

Some elements of our business model such as advanced acquisition planning will remain critical and still require a little old-fashioned contracting that calls for sitting down with customers. But with the MICC Marketplace, everything our customers need will be right at their fingertips.

Maj. Andra Moore, MICC-Fort Belvoir executive officer, is the project lead for the MICC Marketplace. She has teamed with MICC and Army Contracting Command officials and Department of Defense partners on this forward-thinking,

joint venture.

She believes the website, at its fullest operational capability, will have a profound and immediate impact on how we do business across the enterprise. The functionality will arm leaders across the stakeholder spectrum with precise data relevant to enabling sound business decisions paramount to fiscally responsible procurements and make every dollar count.

Now is the time for the MICC to lead the way in acquisition reform, and the MICC Marketplace is powerfully designed in the best interest of both our workforce and customers. I am confident that when our team and customers begin to quickly adopt this approach they will wonder why we haven't done business like this before.

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VIETNAM MEDICAL PLATOON VETERANS VISIT FORT SAM HOUSTON



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Medical Department Museum

The U.S. Army Medical Department Museum on Fort Sam Houston welcomed veterans (left) of the 503rd Medical Platoon, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) April 28. The majority of the group served in Vietnam (right). The members chose to celebrate their final group reunion at Fort Sam Houston, the home of Army Medicine and the location where they first received their military medical training more than 50 years ago. As a partner in the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, the AMEDD Center of History and Heritage presented the group with lapel pins for their service during the Vietnam War and recognized their families for the sacrifices they made at home. The unit was among the first to provide medical support to ground forces in Vietnam, where its medics earned numerous awards and decorations for valor, including two Medals of Honor.

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JBSA-Lackland's Kelly Field Annex reopens after two-month closure

By 1st. Lt. Reeves I. Kanakaole
502nd Operational Support
Squadron Airfield Operations

At approximately 11:15 a.m. May 5, the first jet touched down on the newly refurbished and recently reopened 11,550-foot runway at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Kelly Field, following a two-month airfield closure.

Coordination surrounding the closure of Air Education and Training Command's only around-the-clock joint use airfield has been ongoing for about two years, culminating with the return of the Texas Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing.

The temporary closure allowed three separate construction projects uninterrupted time to

work on the runway. This is no easy feat as six Air Force wings across three major commands, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, were involved in this undertaking.

Additionally, coordination with the City of San Antonio and the Federal Aviation Administration was abundant leading up to and during the closure. Coordination even went so far as to include a foreign government.

The two-month closure allowed for significant progress on a \$3.5 million project to replace various areas of pavement throughout the airfield. The 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron and 502nd Contracting Squadron teams were able to re-engage this contract numerous times in order to get the most

out of the U.S. taxpayers' money.

For the runway to reopen, their teams were able to replace a total of 45 concrete slabs on the runway, which is an increase of 55 percent over the original amount to be completed at no cost.

The closure also allowed contractors for an \$8.4 million lighting replacement contract ample time to complete three out of the proposed five phases of that project.

The work being done on this project will bring Kelly Field into both Air Force and FAA standards in terms of runway width and lighting, which has been a long time coming. Additional light replacements around the airfield will increase the longevity of the equipment and



Courtesy photo

An F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft from the Texas Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing lands at the newly refurbished and recently reopened 11,550-foot runway at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Kelly Field, following a two-month airfield closure. The wing's aircraft relocated to Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., during the closure.

decrease the airfields' energy footprint thanks to the installation of the new LED light fixtures.

To round out the construction, a \$4.4 million airfield maintenance contract was wrapped up after new runway markings

were applied to the entire 11,550-foot runway. These markings, along with the new runway lighting, create a standardized "view-from-the-top" for the many aircrews that utilize Kelly Field. The runway will now appear

no different from any other runway.

The teamwork that went into these projects positions the 502nd Air Base Wing to facilitate any mission related to the defense of the nation for many years to come.

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'BEST WARRIORS' TOUGH IT

From taking the Army physical fitness test to completing 24 warrior tasks, 32 Soldiers and non-commissioned officers competed to earn the titles of Soldier and NCO of the Year for their respective units during the 2016 consolidated Fort Sam Houston Best Warrior Competition at Camp Bullis May 2-5.

In this event described as the "Super Bowl" of Army competitions, competitors attempt to conquer a variety of tasks relevant to today's operating environment.

Soldiers and NCOs from U.S. Army North, U.S. Army South, U.S. Army Installation Management Command and U.S. Army Medical Command competed in the MEDCOM-hosted competition.

Tasks to complete included a written test, weapons qualification, the Army physical fitness test, day and night land navigation, urban warfare simulations, an obstacle course, a situational training exercise, 12-mile road march and a selection board, officiated by command sergeants major and sergeants major.

The selection board tests the competitor's knowledge on the Army, its programs and other topics of interest to Soldiers via a series of questions.

Soldiers in the ranks of private through specialist are eligible for Soldier of the Year and NCOs in the rank of corporal through sergeant first class are eligible to compete for NCO of the Year.

(Source: U.S. Army Public Affairs offices)

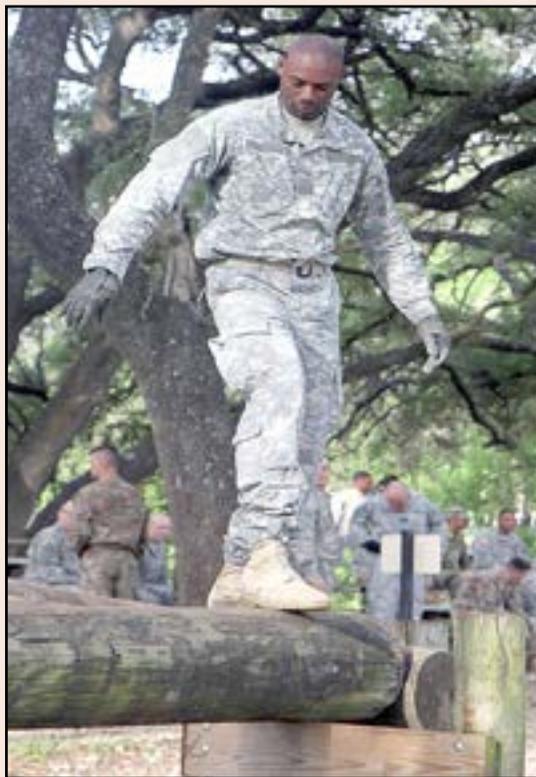


Photo by Sgt. Maj. Matt Howard

U.S. Army North's Spc. Reginald Daniel traverses the balance beam to start off the obstacle course during the 2016 consolidated Fort Sam Houston Best Warrior Competition.



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Matt Howard

Covered in sand, U.S. Army North's Spc. Jon Agee lifts his head and pushes his body out of the sand pit to complete the obstacle course event at Camp Bullis during the 2016 consolidated Fort Sam Houston Best Warrior Competition May 2-5. The obstacle course is one of many events the competitors faced during the four-day competition.



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Matt Howard

U.S. Army North's Spc. Jon Agee approaches the top of the rope climb during the obstacle course event at the 2016 consolidated Fort Sam Houston Best Warrior Competition.

OUT AT CAMP BULLIS



Soldiers had to react to simulated enemy contact over the rough terrain at Camp Bullis during the four-day 2016 consolidated Fort Sam Houston Best Warrior Competition.

Photo by Jade Fulce



Photo by Jade Fulce

Spc. Tyler Nelson from U.S. Army Garrison West Point climbed high during the obstacle course event at the 2016 consolidated Fort Sam Houston Best Warrior Competition. at Camp Bullis.

Spc. Reginald Daniel U.S. Army North (center) approaches the finish line during the 12-mile ruck march event at Camp Bullis.

The timed march was the final field event of the 2016 consolidated Fort Sam Houston Best Warrior Competition before the competitors returned to Fort Sam Houston for the board portion.

Photo by Jade Fulce



Photo by Jade Fulce

Spc. Tyler Nelson from U.S. Army Garrison West Point completes the obstacles course during the 2016 consolidated Fort Sam Houston Best Warrior Competition at Camp Bullis.



Photo by Jade Fulce

Soldiers and NCOs from U.S. Army North, U.S. Army South, U.S. Army Installation Management Command and the U.S. Army Medical Command met a board made up of command sergeants majors and sergeants major as part of the 2016 consolidated Fort Sam Houston Best Warrior Competition. The boards held at Fort Sam Houston tested the competitor's knowledge of the Army, its programs and other topics of interest to Soldiers via a series of questions.

470th MIB holds Days of Remembrance observance

By Monica Yoas
470th Military Intelligence
Brigade Public Affairs

Soldiers assigned to the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade participated in a Holocaust Days of Remembrance ceremony at the Fort Sam Theatre on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston May 5.

The U.S. Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Days of Remembrance are observed by state and local governments, military bases, workplaces, schools, churches, synagogues and civic centers.

This year, the Army designated "Learning from the Holocaust: Acts of Courage" as the theme for the observances held nationwide. This theme resonated during the

solemn observance presented by the 470th MI Brigade Equal Opportunity office.

"We usually meet to celebrate some aspect of our diversity, but today we gather to observe the worst about our common humanity and the depths to which cultures can sink" said Col. James C. Royse, 470th MI Brigade commander, during his remarks.

A three-minute moment of silence preceded the closing memorial prayer presented by Dr. Norton Scheckman. All attendees received a stone as they entered the theatre and were asked to place it on a memorial table on their way out.

"Consider this your silent tribute to never again allow the world to stand by in the face of genocide as you place it in remembrance of those we did not, and could not, rescue," Royse said.

4 x 9.75 AD



Photo by Monica Yoas

Col. James C. Royse and his wife, Toni, and daughter, place stones on a memorial table during a Holocaust Days of Remembrance ceremony at the Fort Sam Theatre on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston May 5 in memory of the lives lost during the Holocaust. Royse is the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade commander.

VIBRANT from P1

populated area using computer simulations.

Although the exercise is led by the military, civilian agencies are also playing a large role, reflecting the civilian-led nature of disaster re-

sponse in the homeland.

"We have the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the state emergency department of management, National Guard and the Reserves all participating this week," said Lt Col. Michael Bugaj, Vibrant Response

exercise chief, U.S. Army North G7.

"We are running a confirmation exercise for the command and control elements and running through scenarios for them to support federal, state and local agencies if a disaster were to happen," he said.

While the majority of United States military fighting forces focus much of their time and energy preparing for deployment overseas to fight and win the nation's wars, the support of U.S. civil authorities is also a priority mission for the Department of Defense. Vibrant Response validates the units that have been tapped by DOD to support civil authorities.

That includes military units from 28 states participating this year. Camp Atterbury, Ind., serves as the hub for the exercise, but the computer-driven nature of the exercise allows many of those units to take part without leaving their home station. 4th Infantry Division's

4th Sustainment Brigade from Fort Carson, Colo., however, is sending many of its soldiers to the Hoosier state.

"We will be serving as a support installation for the active duty military," said Maj. Jason Cannon, 4th Sustainment Brigade. "We will be receiving all the personnel and processing them as they arrive. We will also receive equipment and get it marshaled into the area so the units can be matched to their equipment, and exercise mission assignments."

Army North's Defense Coordinating Element for FEMA Region III (Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia) also participated from Harrisburg, Pa., working with FEMA and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

More than 800 Army Soldiers participated during the first week of Vibrant Response, alongside numerous Air Force, Navy and Marine personnel, under the command



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Trish McMurphy

1st Lt. Shelby Philips, a human resource officer assigned to 4th Sustainment Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) Fort Carson, Colo., prepares for orders to respond to a nuclear explosion scenario during the annual Vibrant Response exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., May 1. The training scenario provides a realistic operational environment using constructive simulations and response cells including military and civilian response units.

of Joint Task Force-Civil Support, an active duty command based at Joint Base Langley-Fort Eustis, Va.

After JTF-CS finished training, exercise directors reset the scenario

and the Indiana National Guard's Task Force 38 (38th Infantry Division) and Army Reserve's Task Force 76 (76th Operational Response Command), with more than 1,200 combined soldiers, were trained.



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Trish McMurphy

Soldiers assigned to Vibrant Response Task Force Operations await orders to deploy to a nuclear attack response scenario as part of the annual Vibrant Response training exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., May 1. The event replicates a dynamic environment before, during and after the bomb to include effects of the blast and populace reaction. The response cells receive missions and input tasks into the simulation and monitor reports of their effects.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

Service members work on mission assignment approvals May 3 as part of the U.S. Army North Defense Coordinating Element Region III participating in exercise Vibrant Response 16 in Harrisburg, Pa. The multi-state exercise ensures the readiness and responsiveness of state, federal, and Department of Defense forces to a significant manmade disaster within the United States.

2 x 4.75 AD

Volunteer honor guard fills need at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

By Robert Goetz
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Some 30 years ago, a combination of factors forced the Department of Defense to reserve full military honors at burials only for those who died on active duty, Medal of Honor recipients and retirees.

Fortunately, in the San Antonio area, the veterans who did not meet those criteria were soon accorded the final tributes they deserved.

A group of former service members banded together to pay respect to those veterans by volunteering to perform full military honors for them at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Chartered in 1990, the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment Honor Guard started with just enough volunteers to perform at services one day a week starting in December 1991, but the organization grew quickly and now includes more than 100 members who provide three volleys of rifle fire and the playing of "Taps" each weekday at the historic cemetery. The number of their presentations has passed the 32,000 mark.

"The military branches normally provide full honors only for retirees and active-duty deaths, but manpower cutbacks sometimes mean that the services can't provide those services," said retired Air Force Lt. Col. Mike Hoffman, the Fort Sam Houston MSD's finance officer and a past commander.

"In those few cases, the MSD is there to fill the void," Hoffman said. "This is important to the families of the deceased,

because it means that their loved ones receive full military honors when they're buried at Fort Sam – a fitting, final tribute to people who devoted a portion of their lives to the defense of the country."

A member of the MSD for nearly 14 years, Hoffman said the organization steps up when the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard cannot provide full honors, which, currently, is for a majority of the burials at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

"The branches do send out two flag holders, but not rifles and live bullets, which the MSD can furnish most of the time," he said.

Hoffman, a career Air Force personnel officer who now volunteers one afternoon each week at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Retiree Activities Office, said the Fort Sam Houston MSD was patterned after a similar organization that serves the Fort Snelling, Minn., National Cemetery.

"The services were cutting out a number of the honor guard people who could do funerals," he said. "They stopped sending full crews to the burials of veterans who did not retire from the military."

Hoffman said the MSD started with one squad providing honors on Dec. 17, 1991.

"By the end of 1992, enough volunteers had been recruited that all five days were covered," he said.

The MSD comprises five squads – one for each day of the week. Members include veterans from all four services



Photo by Esther Garcia

Members of the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment pose for a group photo at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. With more than 100 volunteers, the group performs full military honors for veterans interred at the cemetery.

and the Coast Guard, including two women, one of whom has been in the MSD for more than 10 years.

"Well over half of our members are retirees," Hoffman said. "We're open to any former member of the armed forces with an honorable discharge. We're also looking for physically capable people who can carry and fire an M-1 Garand rifle."

The city of San Antonio and suburban communities are well-represented in the MSD, but members also come from outlying cities and towns, including Bulverde, Canyon Lake, LaCoste, La Vernia, New Braunfels, Pleasanton and Spring Branch.

The MSD has its own military-style organization with a commander, vice commander and other positions. The national cemetery provides space for a squad room, storage area and armory. The MSD supplies most of the uniform items,

including black ascots, which are worn during the winter in lieu of ties. Military decorations and medals are furnished and bought by the individuals, not the MSD.

MSD members range in age from 35 to 83, but the average age is about 70, Hoffman said.

A tax-exempt organization that receives its funding from fundraisers and the donations of individuals and civic and military organization, the MSD performs all of its services free of charge to veterans' families.

Gene Kuwik, the MSD's Friday squad leader, said families appreciate the service provided by the honor guard.

"It gives true meaning to the military experience we bestow on them," Kuwik said. "In many instances, family members and others attending the burial come to tears.

"The main thing is that we're there," he said. "If we weren't there, it is possible they wouldn't have those full honors."

Kuwik has commanded the MSD's color guard since its inception in 2003. The color guard promotes community awareness of the detachment by performing at parades and special events, including the meetings and conventions of various organizations, and visiting assisted-living centers and nursing homes to honor the veterans who live at those facilities.

Belonging to the MSD gives members a sense of purpose and provides them with camaraderie, said Kuwik, who is also approaching 14 years with the honor guard.

"Belonging to an organization like this at our age gives us something to look forward to and gives us a purpose in life," he said.

Kuwik, a longtime first sergeant at Randolph Air Force Base, said one deceased MSD member's daughter credited the organization for extending her father's life.

Kuwik said the man's

daughter approached the MSD's table at the 2003 Fort Sam Houston Retiree Appreciation Day and said he would be interested in joining the organization.

"Although reluctant at first to recruit an 85-year-old, that feeling changed once I met her father," he said. "He continued to serve this great nation as a member of the detachment up to about a year before his death on Christmas Day, 2011, just short of his 94th birthday.

"He served as a rifleman and color guard member, and he volunteered for every special event and ceremony held at the cemetery," Kuwik said. "He was loved and highly respected."

After the member's death, Kuwik said he received a letter from his daughter.

"She said our detachment gave her father a reason to serve and a reason to live," he said. "We will never forget this fine gentleman."

59th Medical Wing ECMO team delivers life-saving medical care across the globe

By Tech. Sgt. Christopher Carwile
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

The nature of military operations dictates the need for immediate, professional health care, available globally at a moment's notice. Sometimes that needed care is more extreme, and the 59th Medical Wing's Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation team is ready.

A mission exclusive to the 59th MDW headquartered at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, the ECMO team is bedded down at the San Antonio Military Medical Center on nearby Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Together, the integrated team of Air Force and Army medical professionals delivers unique life-saving procedures both on the ground and in the skies.

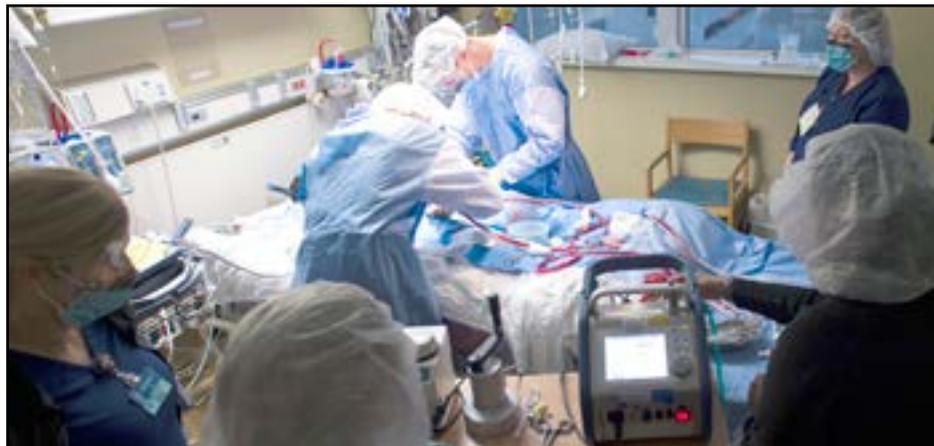
The ECMO process circulates blood through a machine that removes carbon dioxide and adds oxygen back – thus bypassing and reducing stress on a patient's dam-

aged lungs. This technique allows diseased or injured lungs to heal. It's this capability that gives an ECMO team the ability to transport critically-ill patients around the world.

"We work to keep the patients alive, keep their other organs going," said Lt. Col. Phillip Mason, ECMO team lead. "Typically, we can reduce a patient's chance of dying from 80 to 90 percent down to 30 to 40 percent. When you're talking about people this sick, the difference is actually a major victory."

"Today's ECMO program for the Department of Defense was born out of the 59th MDW, originally with neonatal care and expanding to adult care in 2011," said Bernadette Elliot, the 59th MDW Extracorporeal Life Support transport program manager.

Kathryn Naagard, ECLS program manager and senior team member, was a nurse for seven years at the 59th MDW's neonatal intensive care unit. Initially, the adult



Members of the 59th Medical Wing Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation transport team connect a patient to an ECMO system for transport from Lafayette General Medical Center to San Antonio Military Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston April 20. ECMO is a heart-lung bypass system that circulates blood through an external artificial lung and sends it back into the patient's bloodstream.

ECMO program started as an extension of the neonatal program that was still operating at WHASC, she explained.

In 2011, the 59th MDW took the adult ECMO program to SAMMC. Today, the team is capable of providing 24-hour care to two patients simultaneously, both at their facility and aboard military transport planes.

At a minimum, the 59th ECLS has 10 medics always on standby to respond when the call comes. Within 12 hours, the team can be airborne with all of the equipment necessary for aeromedical patient care.

In 2005, a group of Air Force Critical Care Transport specialists operating out of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, first explored a technique to transfer patients in pulmonary failure using a Novalung membrane device.

The Novalung membrane ventilator was successful early on.

Enhancements in medical technology led to using ECMO in 2010. With a decreased patient stream from Operation Enduring Freedom, there was no longer a significant need for this process. Eventually, the mission capability was phased out at Landstuhl. The Air Force's 59th MDW revived the technique soon after.

"The 59th Medical Wing took over the remnants of that program,"

said Col. Mark Ervin, 59th MDW chief of operational medicine. "Since then, we have been rebuilding and improving on those concepts so that we can project this enhanced capability."

"The team's diverse background is a force multiplier in getting the mission done, as the more experienced members act as mentors and provide guidance for a new generation of doctors," said Maj. James

Lantry, ECMO transport team vice director.

"We were able to attract a lot of the ex-members of the alert lung team out of Landstuhl in Germany," Lantry said. "We don't do the mission exactly the same way as they did back in the early to mid-2000s. But, we combined all of our knowledge, experience and vantage points into a solid mission that supports the entire DOD community."

"The good news about ECMO is that there is no one way of doing it. Depending on the situation and patient needs, optional equipment and setups can be incorporated into the system," Lantry said.

The ECMO program has expanded rapidly since the late 1990s when the 59th MDW only provided this air transport capability with the neonatal unit.

"We're the only full-fledged medical team in the DOD that can go all over the world," Naagard said. "There are a few other ECMO transport teams out there but they have limited capabilities. Some can only travel 60 miles from their home base, or can only transport patients by ground."

The 59th MDW continues to secure its place as the DOD's only ECMO hub by expanding training opportunities for those who deliver military health care across the globe.

"We train 10 new specialists every year," Naagard said. "The ECMO program will only continue to grow and save lives around the world."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kevin Iinuma

Capt. Jeffrey Dellavolpe, 959th Medical Operations Squadron critical care physician, regulates the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation system during a flight to San Antonio Military Medical Center, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston April 20.



Maj. James Lantry (right), Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Transport Team vice director, watches for stabilization on the ECMO system prior to transporting the patient to San Antonio Military Medical Center, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston April 20. Prior to a patient being transferred to a new location, a patient's vital signs must be stable for four hours.

How to find help for mental health challenges, big or small

By Carol Roos
Defense Centers of Excellence
Public Affairs

Life would be easier with super powers – lightning speed to bypass long commutes; super strength to keep from needing help; bullet-proof suits to keep us safe. But sadly, we are mere humans.

Some of us are masters of resilience, and the rest of us are still learning and need the extra help – and that's OK. To help tackle what life throws at us, we need good mental health.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the perfect time to learn about the tools that may help you improve your overall mental health. Mental health concerns are common, treatment works and help is available.

The list of Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury resources below, arranged by audience, will direct you to information about mental health

concerns, how to improve your mental health and Military Health System treatment options. With access to helpful resources and information, you don't need to be a superhero to combat mental health challenges.

Providers:

- DCoE website: offers psychological health resources, myths and facts, treatments and resources, and suicide prevention tools (<http://www.dcoe.mil/PsychologicalHealth.aspx>)

- DCoE webinars: monthly webinars help providers learn the latest mental health information from experts and earn continuing education credit (http://www.dcoe.mil/Training/Monthly_Webinars.aspx)

- Sexual Assault Health Care Support for Patients: this new resource helps those who experience a sexual assault understand military health options. Providers may order copies in bulk (http://www.dcoe.mil/MediaCenter/News/details/16-04-25/New_Resource_Helps_

Sexual_Assault_Patients_Understand_Options.aspx)

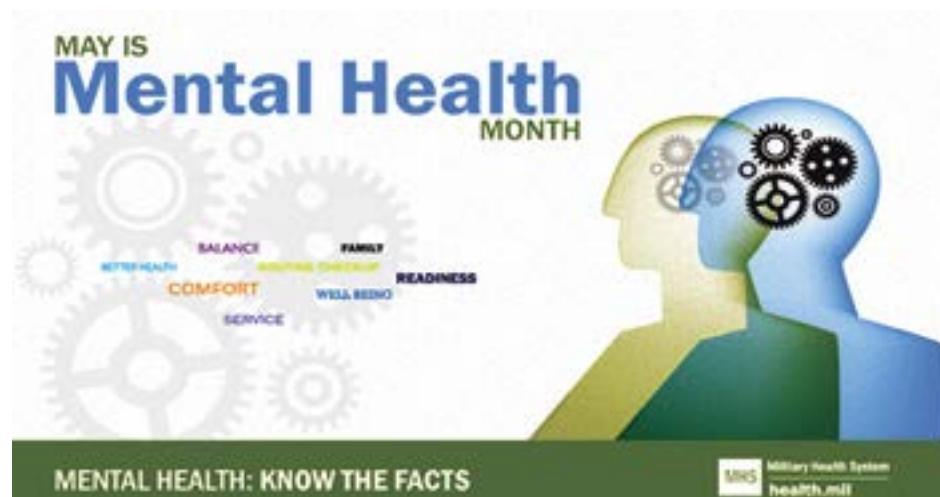
Service members/veterans:

- DCoE Outreach Center: provides 24/7 support to service members, families and providers who have questions and concerns related to psychological health or traumatic brain injury. Call 866-966-1020 to connect with a health resource consultant (<http://www.dcoe.mil/24-7help.aspx>)

- AfterDeployment: offers a variety of wellness resources for service members, veterans and families to include online assessments and workshops for post-deployment challenges (<http://afterdeployment.dcoe.mil/>)

- Breathe2Relax: a mobile application that teaches breathing exercises to help decrease your body's fight-or-flight (stress) response (<http://t2health.dcoe.mil/apps/breathe2relax>)

- inTransition: provides behavioral health care support to service



Courtesy graphics

members and veterans as they move between health care systems or providers (<http://intransition.dcoe.mil/>)

- Real Warriors Campaign: features stories of service members who sought help for psychological health concerns and continue to maintain successful military or civilian careers – as well as information on a variety of military and mental health topics for veterans and families

(<http://www.dcoe.mil/include/exitwarning.aspx?link=http://www.realwarriors.net/>)

Family members:

- Moving Forward: a free, online educational and life coaching program that teaches problem-solving skills to help you handle life's challenges. It's designed to help service members, veterans and their families (<http://startmovingforward.dcoe.mil/>)

- Military Kids Connect:

an online community for military children ages 6 to 17 that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children with the unique challenges of military life (<http://militarykidsconnect.dcoe.mil/>)

- Military Parenting: a free online course that provides military and veteran parents with information and strategies to improve parenting skills (<http://militaryparenting.dcoe.mil/>)

'NEW BAMC' CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN STYLE

Celebrity chef Robert Irvine chats with Capt. Noel M. Espino and his wife Rosalie during a visit to the Warrior & Family Support Center on Fort Sam Houston Friday. Brooke Army Medical Center hosted its fourth annual "Invincible Spirit Festival" with actor Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan band and Irvine to honor patients, service members, their families and staff. The concert and barbeque also coincided with the "New BAMC" 20th anniversary celebration.



Actor Gary Sinise plays a game of wheelchair basketball with wounded warriors during a visit to the Center for the Intrepid May 6. Brooke Army Medical Center hosted its fourth annual "Invincible Spirit Festival" with Sinise's Lt. Dan band and celebrity chef Robert Irvine to honor patients, service members, their families and staff.

Photos by
Robert Shields

INSIDE THE GATE

TAP-Goals, Plans, Success

Monday-May 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 M&FRC. Prerequisite class is "Pre-Separation Counseling." Call 221-1213.

ScreamFree Parenting

Monday and May 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.

Employment Readiness Orientation

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

Instructor Trainer Course

Tuesday-Wednesday, 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.

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.

Interview, Dress For Success

Wednesday, 9-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Take pride in your appearance and follow expected guidelines of what to wear and be prepared for your interview. Discover ways to make a connection. Call 221-2418.

Coffee Talk EFMP Support Group

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This support group meets monthly for a casual dialogue to share helpful resources. Join us to review Social Security disability benefits and review disability laws. Call 221-2705.

Sponsorship Application Training

Wednesday, 2-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Mandatory training for

OUTSIDE THE GATE

Free Zoo Admission For Military, Others During May

The San Antonio Zoo and Aquarium is honoring active duty military members, as well as retired military and veterans with free admission throughout May. Immediate military family members – with a limit of four – are invited to enter the zoo at half price. Military members must show military identification at

the front gate in order to receive the discount. Immediate family members must be accompanied by the military member. This is only throughout month of May and is not valid with any other offers, senior discounts, special events or train ride. The zoo is located at 3903 N. St. Mary's St. Visit <http://www.sazoo-aq.org> for more information.

Warrant Officer Association meeting

The next meeting of the Lone Star Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association is at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Longhorn Cafe, 1003 Rittiman Road, at

the corner of Rittiman and Harry Wurzbach. All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard warrant officers and family members of current or retired warrant officers are invited. For more information, call 571-4967.

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.

Family Readiness Group Treasure Training

Wednesday, 9-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Mandatory for current and incoming Family Readiness Group treasurers; review regulations for managing covers, FRG informal funds, and fundraising. Commanders, FRG leaders and FRG funds custodians are encouraged to attend. Call 221-2418.

Pre-Deployment Resiliency Training Available

Thursday and May 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.

DECON from P4

observer controllers.

"They know what they are doing and are all key to making this unit successful," Heymann said.

Maj. Jesse Smith, team chief for CSTA's Delta Division and deputy exercise director, also spoke well of the collaboration with JITEC and other augmentees in making the exercise realistic and effective. "It's about as frictionless a partnership as it can get," Smith said.

Smith also praised the performance of the Hawaii CERFP saying, "They performed very well during the exercise evaluation. This is a very strong unit with great leadership."

Smith and seven members of his team served as observer trainers for the first three days of the

training event, pulling individuals and teams aside to provide on-the-spot recommendations and coaching.

They also conducted informal after action reviews at the end of each day, broken down by function: search and extraction, decontamination, medical, fatality search recovery, and mission command. On exercise evaluation day, they exchanged their coaching role for an assessment role.

The feedback provided by CSTA is invaluable to the CERFP, said Maj. William Flynn, Hawaii CERFP acting commander.

"Since they have evaluated teams across the country, they've seen what works best for most teams," said Flynn, who has been with the unit for four years. "They are

a wealth of knowledge."

Flynn and his CERFP also have a multitude of experience in both exercises and real-world events. In January, the Hawaii CERFP was among the first to respond to search and rescue efforts after a midair collision of two U.S. Marine Corps helicopters took the lives of 12 Marines.

While the exercise situations varied slightly for each day of training, all scenarios required the CERFP to exercise each of their core functions.

To enhance the realism of the training, the scenarios included detailed information from first responders who had been at the incident scene for the past 12 hours. The CERFP was given updates from role-players representing the local fire department,

military sponsors; review the roles and responsibilities or a sponsor as well as helpful resources. The Electronic Sponsorship Application & Training, or eSAT (<http://apps.militaryonesource.mil/ESAT>), provides registration, training certificates, sponsorship duty checklist, new comer needs assessment, welcome packet and links to important DOD and service relocation websites. Call 221-2705.

emergency medical services, hazardous material team, law enforcement, and civil support team.

A role-playing incident commander met the CERFP commander when he arrived at the incident site, providing updates to the situation and directing CERFP set up and location operations.

As the CERFP began set-up of their operations, CSTA and JITEC observers covered down on their respective functions and watched closely to ensure that everything was done to standard.

Logan, who was present for the exercise out-brief, was very satisfied with the exercise and the evaluation, Smith said.

"He said that he's comfortable that the CERFP is prepared to respond to any disaster."



Photo by Karen Lloyd

A non-ambulatory simulated casualty has his status checked by a Hawaii Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package member as he goes through decontamination during a training proficiency assessment in Kapolei, Hawaii, which took place from April 27-30.

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