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**DON'T DRIVE WHILE DISTRACTED** PAGE 4



**COMBAT CASUALTY CARE COURSE** PAGE 6



**MICC AWARDS** PAGE 16

# Army North unit trains for the worst - with some of the best



A joint team of soldiers from the 59th Chemical Company's Reconnaissance Platoon and firemen from the hazardous materials section of the Fire Department of the City of New York enter Penn Station May 19 to conduct reconnaissance of the simulated hazard.

Photo by  
 Ted Lopez

By Karen Lloyd  
 U.S. Army North Public Affairs

The U.S. Army North Civil Support Training Activity coordinated and executed a one-of-a-kind training opportunity for the 59th Chemical Company's Reconnaissance Platoon in New York City from May 16-21.

Soldiers from the platoon spent the week with the Fire Department of the City of New York, learning about how they prepare for emergencies and participating in a joint training event with FDNY at Pennsylvania Station, also known as Penn Station.

The event kicked off with FDNY representatives escorting the Soldiers throughout New York City to high-profile locations the FDNY would be responsible for support-

ing in an emergency. They also participated in joint training sessions on casualty extraction and casualty treatment.

"The FDNY showed us how they do a man-down drill," said Ted Lopez, CSTA's Hotel Division chief. "It was eye-opening for the Soldiers because they haven't had the real-world experience that the FDNY has. It will stick in their heads forever."

Penn Station, the busiest passenger transportation facility in North America, shut down two of their 21 railroad tracks from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. May 19-20 to allow for the culminating joint training exercise. In the exercise scenario, a passenger had left a briefcase behind. A joint team of Soldiers and FDNY Hazardous Materials section entered Penn Station to

conduct site characterization and decontamination.

"You just can't replicate this training at any military training complex," Lopez said. "Both teams were full of energy. This has set a new bar for our training."

The Fort Drum-based 59th Chemical Company at New York is part of the Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Force, which ARNORTH is responsible for certifying annually.

This was the first time an active-duty Army unit had trained with the FDNY.

"The FDNY were as excited to work with us as we were to work with them," Lopez said. He added the unit is currently working with San Antonio emergency services to plan a similar event locally.



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# New mantra must be 'People first, mission always'

By Senior Master Sgt.

**Claus Peris**  
660th Aircraft Maintenance  
Squadron  
Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

If you've been around long enough, you've heard the phrase "Mission first, people always."

Today's Airmen are busy. Whether its high ops tempo, constant deployments or low manning, our Airmen are being asked to do more and more every day. Nothing is more important than accomplishing the mission – except for taking care of the people you supervise.

For me, the phrase should read, "People first, mission always." Unfortunately, over the years I've seen supervisors at every level becoming more and more disconnected from our Airmen. It's time for us to re-engage, reconnect and interact with our people.

Supervisory actions

speak volumes. How you interact, communicate and recognize your people sets the foundation for your relationships.

Do you recognize the Airmen's accomplishments with an email or do you leave your desk, seek them out, look them in the eye, shake their hands and thank them in front of their peers? Face-to-face interaction takes more time, but creates better relationships.

As supervisors, we need to train our Airmen to become independent thinkers.

Instead of the culture of conformity older leaders struggle to maintain, why not foster a climate that allows members to use their experience and knowledge to make decisions at appropriate levels? Who knows better how to improve a product or process, the technician with boots on the ground or the super-

visor that never leaves his desk?

Good ideas have no rank; the newest Airman may have the solution to your problems. It could also lead to mistakes, but allow your people to fail from time to time. Good Airmen make mistakes; great supervisors see them through the process of learning and growth that comes from making mistakes.

As moved up in the ranks, I realized the single biggest impact I can make to the mission and my unit is to take care of my Airmen.

This does not mean doing the job for them, but giving them what they need to get the job done. You don't have to be their best friend, turn a blind eye to unprofessionalism or hook up your Airmen at the expense of the mission.

It means providing the guidance, resources and, many times, the top cover

to allow them to succeed. It means mentoring folks when they make mistakes, rewarding them when they excel, celebrating accomplishments in public and addressing improvements in private. It means treating people with respect and dignity while keeping the bar high and supporting your Airmen as they accomplish something they never thought was within their reach.

It means, in the end, to ensure your Airmen are better when they leave the unit than when they came in. If you are able to deliberately develop your Airmen this way, the mission will be accomplished.

Leading the Airmen of today can be one of the most challenging yet rewarding tasks. Today's Airmen are noticeably different than the Airmen who stepped off the bus with me 22 years ago at

Lackland Air Force Base.

Today's Airmen are skilled multi-taskers, agile decision makers and social networkers, eagerly cooperative and extremely flexible to change. They are hungry to learn and apply their knowledge and want nothing more than to be a part of something bigger than themselves. As present day leaders, we must take every measure to ensure we develop their full potential.

Mission sets vary across a wide array of career fields, but the mission is and always will be there. The hard part is ensuring that our Airmen stick around and go the distance. Let's refocus on our supervisory relationships with our Airmen, get involved, mentor and groom future leaders. "People first, mission always" should be the new charge.

## Soldier for Life: beginning the transition process

By Bryan Tharpe

Fort Rucker (Ala.)  
Soldier for Life Center

So, you just looked at your countdown calendar and, in about a year, you're going to be parting company with the Army.

"Wow!" you think, "That time will pass fast." You're suddenly overcome with a gnawing feeling that you ought to be doing something to get ready for this major change in your life.

Then you remember

one of your friends talking about how valuable Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program, or SFL-TAP, services were when she completed her military service, so you grab the phone and call SFL-TAP.

The voice on the other end of the line is friendly and gives you the answer you want to hear. The SFL-TAP staff member explains that transitioning Soldiers must begin working with the SFL-TAP Center not later than

one year from separation or two years from retirement.

"Hey," you think, "that's still a long way out to get started." Your first impulse is to voice that fact in no uncertain terms to the person on the other end of the line. Fortunately, some of your human relations training kicks in and you simply say, "Well, I guess by starting earlier I can better prepare myself for the transition."

Additionally, The VOW

Act made attending all SFL-TAP classes mandatory, as well as doing your initial SFL-TAP pre-separation briefing not later than 12 months from your separation or retirement date.

If you see yourself in this scenario, read on – indeed, it may be too far out to start sending out resumes, but there are some things you can do while you're waiting for that separation or retirement date to draw closer.

Furthermore, the

earlier you start using SFL-TAP services, the more latitude you have to schedule appointments around your unit mission requirement.

**Start networking.**

You can get started networking (talking) with relatives, friends and acquaintances to let them know you'll be looking for a job in about a year. You'll probably be pleasantly surprised at just how helpful network

See SOLDIER, P15

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## News Briefs

### Refill Pharmacy Temporary Closure

The Refill Pharmacy near the Main PX is closed temporarily for repairs. The Refill Pharmacy is part of the Community Pharmacy at building 2401. New prescriptions can still be filled at this location, but not refills. Prescriptions normally requested and filled at the Refill Pharmacy can be filled at the Capt. Jennifer M. Moreno Clinic Pharmacy or the San Antonio Military Medical Center Main Outpatient Pharmacy. Hours of operations for the Moreno Clinic Pharmacy are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. The SAMMC Main Outpatient Pharmacy hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Jadwin Entry Control Point Temporary Closure

The existing Jadwin Entry Control Point is closed through Aug. 28. All traffic will be re-routed to the commercial and regular lanes at the Walters Entry Control Point. This closure is to allow installation of active vehicle barriers and supporting utilities at this gate. For safety reasons, this gate must be closed to all traffic during this time. The north New Braunfels gate is open for regular, non-commercial traffic to Department of Defense ID holders from 6-9 a.m. weekdays. For more information, call 221-5283.

### 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, to 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

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

# 92-year-old World War II veteran inspires peers during civilian training course

By Jennifer Walleman  
Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Fred Chapal is 92 and up until age 87 he was doing handstands and pirouettes on parallel bars.

Chapal has a pattern of doing the unexpected. He works a full-time job for the Department of the Army, swims four laps daily on his lunch break and manages a hay farm he owns in Texas.

Chapal, a logistics specialist for the U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center at Fort Sam Houston, was at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., attending the Civilian Education System Basic Course May 16-27 at the Army Management Staff College.

The 76-hour course is offered to Army civilians in grades up to GS-9 serving in direct level leadership roles or those with the goal to develop problem solving and critical thinking skills to learn to speak and write effectively, develop interpersonal skills, effectively lead small teams and embrace personal and professional development for self and subordinates.

Jeff Irvine, course instructor, said Chapal is the oldest Army leader to take any of the three level CES courses and has been an inspiration to his classmates.

"Mr. Chapal is value added to the class," Irvine said in an e-mail.

"He demonstrates to all members of the class a sense of duty, integrity and lifelong learning. Fred tells it like it is and demonstrates resilience."

Chapal moved to Texas from Mexico at age 5. After graduating from Arkansas Tech in Russellville, Ark., with an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering, Chapal went straight to the draft board and signed up for the Army in 1943.

He was assigned as a gunner with Company A, 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion, and served in five major campaigns during World War II, including Normandy, Northern France, Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland and Central Europe.

In the mortar battalion he backed up infantry troops with high explosive and phosphorous shells for smoke screens and fought between the big artillery and infantry.

During this time, Chapal lost part of his hearing. After the war, he left the Army.

"When the war was over, I couldn't wait to get out," Chapal said. "I didn't like it at all. There was nothing but walking over dead bodies. That's terrible, so I couldn't wait to get out. In fact, most everybody in the Army at that time couldn't wait to get out."

Following his service, Chapal used his GI Bill to go back to



Photo by Prudence Siebert

Army civilian Fred Chapal, who turns 93 years old next month, interacts with fellow students during the civilian training course May 20 at the Army Management Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Chapal is a logistics specialist for the U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center at Fort Sam Houston.

college and received a bachelor's degree in business and accounting, and a master's degree in counseling.

He also married his wife, Dorothy, in 1948. They have two children and nine grandchildren.

Chapal worked for an investment company for 17 years, did sales work for a few years and then owned an accounting and bookkeeping business.

Because the business platform was changing with the advancements of computers, Chapal said he sought something

different to do and became a DA civilian in 1983.

As a government employee, he's held positions in purchasing and supply and isn't ready to settle into his career quite yet.

Chapal said he is taking the CES course to promote himself into a job more suited for his education and work background in accounting.

"It's going to get me ahead," Chapal said. "I bet you."

The class has exceeded Chapal's expectations, he said, and taught him to better interact with people.

"I've had this problem where I can't hear too good because of my Army experience," Chapal said. "I (felt) like I was imposing on people, (asking) them, 'What did you say?' but I found out that this group just forgets that. People will help you."

Despite nudges from Dorothy to retire, Chapal said he has no interest.

"I don't want to retire," Chapal said. "I want to be active. ... What would I do? I just wouldn't like it. I'll put it that way. As long as I can stay healthy, I'm going to keep working."

# Distracted driving: big consequences, easy fix

By Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely  
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

It only takes a split second: one moment to change the radio station; one moment to check the GPS; one moment to send that text; one moment to crash.

According to a 2009 Virginia Tech Transportation Institute study, five seconds is the average amount of time a person's eyes are taken off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, five seconds is enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded.

"While working I have seen many people come through the gate with their cell phones on their laps, friends being very rowdy in the backseat distracting the driver, music blaring, even messing with their

music source to change a song," said Senior Airman Samantha Ponton-McAfee, 902nd Security Forces Squadron entry controller. "I have seen people fumbling for their ID cards and swerving because they are focused on looking for their ID card instead of paying attention to their driving."

Although texting and driving is the most alarming distraction because it requires visual, manual and cognitive attention, it is just one of many distractions the U.S. Department of Transportation lists as common.

Other distractions include talking on the phone, eating or drinking, talking to passengers, grooming, reading, using a navigation system, watching videos and adjusting a radio, CD player or MP3 player.

Ponton-McAfee said

the consequence for being pulled over for distracted driving incidents is being issued an Armed Forces traffic ticket.

This citation equals four points each. If enough points are accumulated, the violator can have their installation driving privileges suspended or revoked.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, the best way to end distracted driving is to educate all motorists about the danger it poses.

"Some tips to end distracted driving include waiting until later to talk or text, use an app to disable texting when driving or safely pull over to the side of the road if a phone call or text cannot wait," said Anthony Lightner, 502nd Air Base Wing safety and occupational health specialist.



Courtesy photo

According to a 2009 Virginia Tech Transportation Institute study, five seconds is the average amount of time a person's eyes are taken off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, five seconds is enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded.

In 2013, the National Safety Council estimated a minimum of 341,000 crashes resulted because of texting while driving.

Due to this alarming number, among other statistics, a distracted driving campaign began last fall and concluded in January,

said Col. Dean W. Lee, Air Education and Training director of safety.

The campaign released several videos and linked Airmen to resources and statistics to inform them on the consequences of distracted driving in hopes to deter them from these

dangerous habits.

The AETC Distracted Driving Campaign also encouraged people to go three weeks without using a phone while driving in order for it to become a habit. It also said to be a good passenger and speak out if the driver in a car is distracted and to encourage family and friends to drive phone-free.

"It's working, because we haven't had any known incidents of distracted driving – that's in AETC," Lee said. "Put your phone in your trunk, put it on silent or airplane mode while you drive, put it in the back seat, just put it down."

For more information visit <http://www.distraction.gov> or visit the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Safety Office webpage at <http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Safety.aspx>.

# San Antonio honors future service members

By Burrell Parmer  
Navy Recruiting District-San Antonio  
Public Affairs

More than 700 future service members, their families, educators, business leaders and military members gathered in the Rosenberg Sky Room at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio May 18 to participate in the 5th Annual "A Night in Your Honor" sponsored by Our Community Salutes-San Antonio.

After the invocation and dinner, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Dave Petersen, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce executive vice president introduced the guest speaker, retired Marine Maj. Gen. Angela Salinas.

"We're gathered to celebrate with these men and women who have chosen to wear the cloth of the nation," said Salinas, who also serves as Girls Scouts of Southwest



**Photo by Burrell Parmer**  
Retired Marine Maj. Gen. Angela Salinas, chief executive officer for Girls Scouts of Southwest Texas, speaks to more than 700 future service members, their families, educators, business leaders, and the military during Our Community Salutes-San Antonio's 5th annual "ANightinYourHonor" held at the University of the Incarnate Word May 18.

Texas chief executive officer. "I am not convinced that we are saying thank you enough to this generation, but I tell

you there are some incredible, small selective groups of wonderful people who continue to look for ways to say thank you."

According to Salinas, the event served as a first in her 39 years of military service.

The 2016 Colin Powell Award was presented to retired Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard L. Gonzales, Winston Churchill High School's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps senior Army instructor.

After the presentation, representatives from each military service presented OCS certificates to each of their respective honorees. Additionally, each future service member was presented with their first challenge coin.

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Karen Muntean, Navy Recruiting District San Antonio commanding officer, served as the senior active-duty Navy representative.

"The young men and women being honored joined the military to serve the American people, and I was glad to witness them getting to hear for the first time, 'Thank you for your service'," Muntean said. "I could see the pride on their faces and also on the faces of their parents and guardians who were also in attendance. As I was presenting the certificates to each future Sailor, I was reminded of how I felt at their age and what an exciting career they have ahead of them."

Our Community Salutes is a non-profit organization created in 2009 by Dr. Kenneth E. Hartman to recognize and honor local graduating high school seniors who plan to enlist in the military. OCS also provides future service members and their families with access to educational resources and connects them with military support groups.

Porter said its important enlistees and parents know about the support systems available to provide help to both. And the community fair gives them a sometimes first look at our military family.

"The reason we started the event was to let young men and women, who made the decision to protect our freedom, feel the same pride that other students feel when walking the stage at graduation and hearing all about their scholarships and college choices," said Porter, who serves as Extended Academic Programs vice president at UIW. "These young men and women deserve even more praise for their love of country."

Seeing the glow of pride on the parents' faces and the nervous, excited looks on the faces of the enlistees makes it all worthwhile, Porter said.

## News Briefs

Continued from P3

information and more detailed instructions. To speak to a security assistant call 221-1902 or 221-1903.

### FEGLI Open Season

The Office of Personnel Management will hold a Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance, or FEGLI, open season from Sept. 1-30. 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 must 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/>.

### 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.

### 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.

# Stop the bleeding: Combat Casualty Care Course a different kind of medical course

By John Franklin  
BAMC Public  
Affairs Volunteer

"Ninety percent of casualties that die do so before they reach medical care" Sgt. 1st Class Clark Hitchcock announced to a group of students at Camp Bullis. "Ninety-four percent die from hemorrhaging."

Hitchcock emphasized the point that the first two steps in combat casualty care are to determine if the patient is breathing and then stop the bleeding. Hitchcock is the NCO-in-charge of the Combat Casualty Care Course, also called "C4", at the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute at Fort Sam Houston.

Camp Bullis is where military medical officers learn how to care for injured in a combat situation. The military course conducts academic instruction just

like any civilian medical school, but sometimes the delivery of medical care in the military is done under extraordinary circumstances, like while under fire in a combat environment.

The C4 Course bridges the gap between what civilian-trained medical students learn about caring for accident victims and what the military has learned about caring for combat casualties.

Capt. (Dr.) Nicholas Drayer, an orthopedic surgeon assigned to Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and a C4 Course student, felt the experience helped him better understand the connection between pre-hospital care and the follow-on care received in a medical facility.

"Coming from a civilian medical school we don't really learn about



Doctors in the casualty collection area provide medical aid to a simulated casualty as they prepare for evacuation to higher level care facilities with greater capabilities.

combat casualty care and a lot of the principles are different," Drayer said. "Understanding the principles of how soldiers are treated at the point of injury allows the us to better care for patients

down the road. It's likely my role will be downstream from the point of injury, but I need to understand what my medics are doing and why they are doing it so I can better fulfill my role in the team and better train my medics in a deployed setting."

Military medical officers from all the armed forces and some allied nations attend the C4 Course. For some services the course is a requirement to deploy overseas. In addition to surgeons, orthopedists, neurologists, internists, and similar medical specialties pharmacists, dentists, physician's assistants, nurses and an occasional medical service administrative officer also attend the course.

The two groups take different routes to the C4. The dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and

others in their group start by attending the Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support, or PHTLS, course or the Trauma Nursing Core Course, or TNCC. The physicians attend the Advanced Trauma Life Support, or ATLS, course. Students cannot attend C4 without attending one of these preparatory courses.

Following completion of the preparatory courses, students merge into a C4 class of approximately 75 students. They are then divided into three platoons. After students finish the academic phase in the classroom, they will practice military medicine in simulated combat situations. The students are issued a high-capacity, hard rubber M-4 rifle and a helmet.



Photos by John Franklin

Petty Officers 3rd Class Marcus Carter and Tyler Sack, Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute's Combat Casualty Care Course instructors, demonstrate to officers attending the course how the junctional tourniquet is applied when a conventional tourniquet cannot stop bleeding.

# Army South's Task Force Red Wolf takes part in humanitarian mission

As part of the humanitarian mission between the U.S. and the Guatemalan government, Task Force Red Wolf was tasked with constructing two schools and three clinics in the Catarina and La Blanca area of Guatemala in early May. This humanitarian mission was designed to increase peace, stability and positive relationships between the U.S. and Guatemalan governments.

U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala Todd Robinson paid a visit to the members of Task Force Red Wolf earlier this month during the Beyond The Horizon 2016 Guatemala exercise. The ambassador received a tour and briefing of the Tocache clinic work site and the medical readiness exercise area.



Courtesy photos

U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala Todd Robinson (right) listens as an officer from Army South's Task Force Red Wolf explains the importance of Tocache, a clinic in Guatemala.

Task Force Red Wolf Soldiers also participated in a volcanic eruption exercise at the Universidad De Vinci De Guatemala, and U.S. Army

first responders integrated seamlessly into the Guatemalan rescue efforts.

*(Source: U.S. Army South Public Affairs)*



U.S. and Guatemalan military first responders react to a simulated volcanic eruption during the Beyond the Horizons Exercise 2016 in Guatemala in early May.

## IMCOM CREATES WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

Maj. Gen. Lawarren Patterson (center), U.S. Army Installation Command deputy commanding general, dedicated the IMCOM Wall of Remembrance in a ceremony May 28 at the command's headquarters on Fort Sam Houston before an assembly of Soldiers, survivors and civilian employees. On this occasion, Sgt. Maj. Wardell B. Turner and Sgt. Zainah C. Creamer were honored. Both Soldiers were members of the IMCOM family who lost their lives serving in Afghanistan. Established by IMCOM commanding general Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl and IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Hartless, the electronic wall consists of video screens capable of displaying multiple images honoring the fallen. Patterson said IMCOM plans to come together at the wall each Memorial Day with family and friends as a reminder of the reality of war.



Photo by Michael Burkhalter

### Did you know?

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## BAMC WARRIOR TRANSITION BATTALION CHANGES COMMAND



Photo by Robert Shields

Lt. Col. Michael Harper (right) passes the colors to Brooke Army Medical Center Commander Col. Jeffrey Johnson (center), relinquishing his command of the BAMC Warrior Transition Battalion during a ceremony May 25 at the Freedom Park Amphitheater at the Warrior and Family Support Center. Maj. Cynthia Lambert (left) stands ready to accept the colors, signifying assumption of command of the WTB.

# U.S. Department of Transportation expands air bag inflator recall

By Bryan Thomas

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

The United States Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is expanding and accelerating the recall of Takata air bag inflators.

The decision follows the agency's confirmation of the root cause behind the inflators' propensity to rupture. Ruptures of the Takata inflators have been tied to 10 deaths and more than 100 injuries in the United States.

Under the Amended Consent Order issued to Takata, the company is required to make a series of safety defect decisions that will support vehicle manufacturer recall campaigns of an additional estimated 35 to 40 million inflators, adding to the already 28.8 million inflators previously recalled.

These expansions are planned to take place in phases through December 2019. The expansions mean that

all Takata ammonium nitrate-based propellant driver and passenger frontal air bag inflators without a chemical drying agent, also known as a desiccant, will be recalled.

"Today's action is a significant step in the U.S. Department of Transportation's aggressive oversight of Takata on behalf of drivers and passengers across America," said Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. "The acceleration of this recall is based on scientific evidence and will protect all Americans from air bag inflators that may become unsafe."

The five recall phases are based on prioritization of risk, determined by the age of the inflators and exposure to high humidity and fluctuating high temperatures that accelerate the degradation of the chemical propellant.

"NHTSA's aggressive actions in 2015 means this recall is already a year ahead of where it would have been if

the agency had waited for this research," said NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind. "As a result, all of the most dangerous inflators responsible for the deaths and injuries are already under recall."

NHTSA and its independent expert reviewed the findings of three independent investigations into the Takata air bag ruptures and confirmed the findings on the root cause of inflator ruptures.

A combination of time, environmental moisture and fluctuating high temperatures contribute to the degradation of the ammonium nitrate propellant in the inflators.

Such degradation can cause the propellant to burn too quickly, rupturing the inflator module and sending shrapnel through the air bag and into the vehicle occupants.

"The science clearly shows that these inflators become unsafe over time, faster when exposed to humidity and

variations of temperature," Rosekind added. "This recall schedule ensures the inflators will be recalled and replaced before they become dangerous, giving vehicle owners sufficient time to have them replaced before they pose a danger to vehicle occupants. NHTSA will continue to evaluate all available research and will act quickly to protect safety."

NHTSA will also consult with affected vehicle manufacturers before revising the Coordinated Remedy Order that governs the accelerated program to obtain and install replacement inflators.

The Coordinated Remedy Program will continue to ensure that replacement inflators will be made available to highest-risk vehicles first. The revised Coordinated Remedy Program, to be announced this summer, will detail the updated vehicle prioritization schedule and the schedule by which manufacturers are required

to procure sufficient supply of replacement parts to conduct the required recall repairs.

This is the largest and most complex safety recall in U.S. history. Under the Coordinated Remedy Program, NHTSA and manufacturers have committed to seek a 100 percent recall completion rate.

"Everyone plays a role in making sure that this recall is completed quickly and safely, including manufacturers, suppliers and vehicle owners themselves," Rosekind said. "People who receive notification that there is a remedy available for their vehicle should act immediately to have their inflator fixed. All vehicle owners should regularly check (<http://www.SaferCar.gov>) for information about any open safety recall on their vehicle and what they can do to have it fixed free of charge."

The recall expansion does not include inflators that include a chemical desiccant that

absorbs moisture. There have been no reported ruptures of the desiccated inflators due to propellant degradation.

Under the Amended Consent Order, Takata is required to redirect its research toward the safety of the desiccated inflators. Absent proof that the desiccated inflators are safe, Takata will be required to recall them under the November 2015 Consent Order.

In 2015, NHTSA imposed the largest civil penalty in its history for Takata's violations of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, and for the first time used its authority to accelerate recall repairs to millions of affected vehicles. NHTSA also appointed an Independent Monitor to assess, track and report the company's compliance with the Consent Order and to oversee the Coordinated Remedy Program.

Consumers can find complete information about the Takata air bag inflator recall at <http://www.safercar.gov/rs/takata>.

**Did you know?** One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service. It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



# Allergist educates military community about asthma

By Jose T. Garza III  
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

Asthma is no disease to sneeze at.

According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, 24 million Americans are affected by asthma, a chronic disease that causes airways to become inflamed and make it hard to breathe, and 10 people die a day from it. In addition, 6.3 million of those affected are children under the age of 18.

May was National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month and people still need education about asthma and allergies, since it's a peak season for symptoms.

As part of that education, Lt. Col. Christopher Coop, an allergist at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center Allergy Clinic, explains asthma, its triggers and symp-

toms, and how to control them. Coop is with the 59th Medical Specialty Squadron.

"Asthma is a chronic and obstructive inflammatory disease of the airways," he explained. "We say it's chronic because you have to have symptoms for six months to a year. Patients tend to have airway issues where they cannot get air in because their bronchioles restricts or swells up and develops mucus."

Symptoms include coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest tightness. It can be triggered by allergies to dogs, cats, dust mites, trees, pollen, grass and weeds in addition to non-allergic triggers like perfume, odors and diesel exhaust.

"If you're driving and see a big truck spew black smoke then that could cause problems," Coop

said. "If you're playing outside and you're surrounded by a load of air traffic then the bad air quality can help trigger it."

The most common allergy symptoms can simply make people uncomfortable, like a runny nose, sneezing or an itchy rash. However, more serious reactions, like swelling in the mouth or throat, can be life-threatening.

The same substances that triggers allergy symptoms – such as pollen, dust mites and pet dander – may also trigger or worsen asthma signs and symptoms. In some people, skin or food allergies can cause asthma symptoms, according to TRICARE.

Sinus infections and acid reflux can also induce asthma, Coop added, because both can cause swelling of the airway and make breathing difficult.

For an asthma diagnosis, patients undergo a spirometry or methacholine challenge lung function test.

Coop generally prescribes patients with mild asthma a rescue inhaler and anti-cortisone steroids for severe asthma. In addition to medication, he will also suggest allergy shots for asthma to desensitize the immune system so they won't suffer allergies from mountain cedar and oak and ragweed pollen, he said.

A severe asthma attack can lead to death, Coop said, but it is not real common.

Both asthma and allergies are manageable conditions, so it is very important to learn about how to best manage and treat it, according to TRICARE.

"If they use their medication everyday then their asthma is kept under



Photo by Shannon Carabajal

Lt. Col. Christopher Coop is an allergist at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center's Allergy Clinic, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. He is with the 59th Medical Specialty Squadron.

control," he said.

To avoid asthma triggers, Coop recommends people whom are allergic to pets to exclude them from their bedroom or remove them from their homes and those allergic to dust mites should purchase dust mite covers

and wash their sheets in hot water.

In addition to avoiding triggers, those with asthma should also create an Asthma Action Plan. The plan is available online at <http://www.aafa.org/page/asthma-treatment-action-plan.aspx>.

## Army North partners with Mexican military academy for 2016 Sandhurst Competition

By Maj. Mike Loveall  
U.S. Army North Public Affairs

A U.S. Army North-sponsored team of cadets from the Mexican army's military academy competed on the "field of friendly strife" against fellow cadets from across the globe and earned a Gold Standard Patch during this spring's annual Sandhurst Competition at West Point, N.Y., April 8-9.

Eleven cadets from Heroico Colegio Militar, or HCM, competed against 48 U.S. teams and 11 other international teams on military skills including land navigation, weapons proficiency, obstacle courses, patrolling and physical fitness. The HCM is the major military

educational institution in Mexico and was founded in 1823.

Assisted by seven U.S. Army North Soldiers and the regionally-aligned 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division, the HCM team trained for months in advance of the competition.

Starting in March they began working on specific events that are conducted and tested differently during the Sandhurst competition than in the HCM cadets' normal military training back in Mexico City.

"It was an incredible experience to work side-by-side with these young cadets," said Maj. Israel Villarreal, lead ARNORTH trainer. "Their energy

and spirit really shows the strength and future promise of the Mexican-U.S. partnership. I learned as much from them as I could in my short time at the HCM."

After months of training, the HCM cadets arrived at West Point in April for the two-day competition, excited to compete and showcase their skills and determined to win for their university and their country.

The hard work and enthusiasm paid off as HCM finished in the top 20 percent of all competitors, earning the Gold Standard Patch, which signifies mastery in military skills and the ability to perform them under combat conditions. The

HCM team bested 33 West Point teams and six other international teams.

"Training the Mexican Heroic Military Academy cadets showed me how capable our allied military leaders and Soldiers are," said Sgt. Jordan Montpas, a team leader with 1-4 SBCT. "The Cadets' dedication to training and mastering their military craft was very impressive."

"This experience also allowed me to reflect as a leader and to see how I can become better for my own Army and Soldiers," he added.

"Working with the Heroic Military Academy cadets was an incredible experience," added Capt. Joshua Bowen, 1-4 IBCT company commander.

"After observing their cadets during the Sandhurst competition, I am confident in and willing to fight side-by-side with our Mexico military partners." Of the 11 events, the HCM team's best finishes were in casualty evacuation and land navigation, finishing sixth and eighth, respectively.

Their performance represented an improvement of more than 20 spots in the overall standings from the last time the HCM sent a team to the Sandhurst competition.

The U.S. teams were comprised of West Point company teams, one team from each of the other service academies and college ROTC teams from Texas A&M, Penn

State, Delaware, Gonzaga, UT-Austin, Marquette and Augusta College.

The international competition included teams from the United Kingdom, Canada, China, South Korea, Germany, Latvia, Australia, and Turkey. Canada's Royal Military College took first place overall.

The Sandhurst Competition began in 1967 after the United Kingdom's Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst presented West Point with a British Officer's Sword to be used as a prize for a competition that would promote military excellence among the Corps of Cadets. It is considered one of the most prestigious military skills competitions in the world.

# Live to ride: military members encouraged to get smart on motorcycle culture

On the first anniversary of a biker shoot-out that made national headlines and killed nine at a restaurant in Waco, Texas, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, or CID, encourages military and family members to fully educate themselves on motorcycle culture and clubs – especially if they are contemplating becoming a member.

According to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center's "Motorcycle Safety Guide," more than 33,000 motorcycles are currently registered on Army installations.

The popularity of the low-cost mode of transportation heightens the need for motorcycle owners and their families to be aware, both on and off the road, of the motorcycle culture that brings riders together.

Riders often come together in a "club-type atmosphere" where they want to socialize, support each other and ride together.

These clubs have their own patches, rules and protocol and can become an extension of one's family. It is said that 99 percent of those who ride and belong to motorcycle clubs are law-abiding enthusiasts.

The other one percent of riders, however, make up the lawless subculture made popular by television shows such as the "Sons of Anarchy." That one percent – called Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs or OMGs – may be using motorcycle events or functions as a criminal enterprise and as an opportunity to recruit law-abiding members of the military.

Soldiers and their families, especially those who ride, need to be aware of the OMGs in their area.

"Many service members, civilian employees and family members attend functions that are designed for motorcycle riders and the brotherhood of

the biker subculture," said Joe Ethridge, CID's Criminal Intelligence Division chief.

"Outlaw Motorcycle Gang members will attend these functions as well. It is well documented that OMGs and support clubs recruit military members into their ranks," Ethridge added.

To understand if motorcycle enthusiasts are OMG members, Soldiers, civilian employees and family members should do their research and be aware of the patches and logos they wear.

"An OMG member, while wearing his garb, can be easily identified to the trained eye," Ethridge said.

The most recognizable symbol of OMGs are a "1%" diamond patch, or ring, that is worn. Often, OMG members have this tattoo as well. OMG members also identify by wearing vests or "cuts," other OMG-related tattoos, white supremacist or Nazi symbols, and other symbols that are specific to their gang.

Additionally, Ethridge said, OMG members will sell supporter T-shirts and other paraphernalia to help support criminal legal defense funds when a member is in need.

"The best thing service members and their families can do is watch and read the news and be aware of OMG actions in their area," Ethridge said.

He stressed that military members should not consider membership or acquaint themselves with OMG members.

In fact, as stated in Department of Defense Instruction 1325.06, "military personnel must reject active participation in criminal gangs and other organizations that advocate supremacist, extremist, or criminal gang doctrine, ideology, or causes."

Army Regulation 600-20 also states that commanders may prohibit military personnel

**Key Indicators to Recognize a Member of an OMG or Supporter**



The 1% diamond is common which represents the outlaw biker ideology and can come in many forms.









OMGs sell supporter shirts and other paraphernalia to help support criminal legal defense funds when a member is in need.

Sample layout of colors and patch meanings:

- 1) Top rocker – Club name
- 2) Club logo – MC (Motorcycle club) patches
- 3) Bottom rocker – Club location or territory
- 4) "1%" patch identifying outlaw clubs
- 5) Club name
- 6) Rank
- 7) Side rocker – Name of regional chapter







**Below are examples of vests worn by OMGs**

Courtesy Photo

To understand if motorcycle enthusiasts are Outlaw Motorcycle Gang, or OMG, members, military members, civilian employees and family members should do their research and be aware of the patches and logos they wear.

from engaging in or participating in any activities that the commander determines will adversely affect good order and discipline or morale within the command. Commanders have the authority to use UCMJ action, involuntary separation, reclassification actions, bar reenlistment actions and other administrative or disciplinary actions, if necessary.

In any case of apparent Soldier involvement with or in gangs or extremist organizations or activities, whether or not they violate the prohibitions in AR 600-20, commanders must take positive actions to educate Soldiers, putting them on notice of the potential adverse effects.

"To avoid potential adverse effects, Soldiers looking for a club to join should consider one of the Army's Motorcycle Mentorship clubs, which brings

together Soldiers across the country," Ethridge said.

The Army's Motorcycle Mentorship Program was established in 2005 to create installation-level motorcycle clubs for less-experienced and seasoned riders. For more information, or to find a club, visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center's at <https://safety.army.mil>.

Service members can find OMG and other gang-related information from the National Gang Center website, <https://www.nationalgangcenter.gov>. The Gang-Related News Articles section, <https://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Gang-Related-News>, allows users to search by state.

Soldiers, civilian employees and family member should also consider the following recommendations:

- Do not associate with the

OMG clubs or support clubs

- It is against DOD and Army Regulations to associate with a known criminal gang or club
- Do not become an unwitting supporter by purchasing shirts or other gear
- Do not frequent establishments that support OMG clubs or members
- Do not participate in OMG sanctioned functions such as poker runs, rallies or cook offs and related activities
- Educate yourself, your troops, friends and family
- Briefings on OMGs, street gangs and extremist can be provided upon request.

To find the CID office nearest you, visit <http://www.cid.army.mil>. At Fort Sam Houston, call 221-1050/0050/1514.

(Source: U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command Public Affairs)

# JBSA pools offer summer swimming lessons

By David DeKunder  
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Throughout the summer, active-duty members, dependents and Department of Defense cardholders can take a dip, cool off or take swimming lessons at Joint Base San Antonio aquatic centers and pools.

JBSA members can purchase summer passes for pool usage and sign up for swimming lessons at the following locations: the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center, Building 3302, noon to 8 p.m. Sunday-Saturday; the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center, building 6482, noon to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday; JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Pool, building 2502, 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and the JBSA-Randolph Community Services Mall, building 895, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Season passes are \$45 for individuals, \$35 for military training students, \$85 for a family of three and \$50 for a family of three E-1 through E-4 and \$10 each for additional family members. Family season passes are limited to immediate family members, including sponsors and dependents. A one-day pool pass is \$3, \$2 for children 10 years of age and under.

The passes are good at all JBSA pool and aquatic center locations.

Swimming lessons are being offered at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic

Center and the JBSA-Randolph South Pool, next to the Rambler Fitness Center, through August.

Costs for each lesson, which lasts two weeks, is \$65 per person and \$35 for active-duty family members E-1 through E-4. For registration information and a schedule of lessons, contact the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center, 221-4887; JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center, 671-3780; or JBSA-Randolph Community Services Mall, 652-5142, option 2.

JBSA aquatic centers and pools will be open for the summer until Sept. 7, except for the JBSA-Randolph South Pool, which will be open from June 13 to Aug. 12, the JBSA-Randolph Center Pool, which will be open until Sept. 5, and the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center, open year-round.

Summer pool hours for the following JBSA locations: JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center, noon to 8 p.m. Sunday-Saturday; JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Pool, building 2502, 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center, noon to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-5 p.m. Saturday; JBSA-Randolph South Pool, building 980, next to the Rambler Fitness Center, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, June 13 to Aug. 12; and JBSA-Randolph Center Pool, building 502, next to the Parr Club, 1 to 8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-

See **SWIMMING, P17**

# AETC vice commander Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick reflects on 35 years of service on eve of retirement

By Tech. Sgt. Beth Anschutz  
AETC Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, vice commander of Air Education and Training Command, retires at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Friday after 35 years of service.

The general has served 12 years within AETC and will have the chance to celebrate his achievements and memories in Military City USA, where he held his first command role.

Patrick entered the Air Force in 1981, but he was no stranger to Air Force life. The son of an Air Force senior master sergeant and civil servant, the general has always lived a life deeply-rooted in the Air Force, including a year in Junior ROTC and four at the U.S. Air Force Academy, he has worn the uniform for 40 years.

Patrick has served in various base-level and headquarters assignments and has commanded at the squadron, group, wing and numbered Air Force levels, and has been a major command director twice.

During his career, his assignments have been varied, to include a tour with the Education with Industry program at the Illinois State Water Survey at Champaign, Ill., two years with the Royal Saudi Air Force performing construction management and supporting Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, as well as assignments to Korea and Germany.

As a civil engineer, Patrick has supported recovery efforts after Hurricane Iwa, during his first active duty assignment at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and later in his career as the AETC command engineer after Hurricane Katrina.

All of his combined experi-

ences have led him to describe his time in service as “diverse.”

“I really thought as a young engineer, I would be in the engineer community forever. I thought that would be the world I would live in – construction management, planning, programming and construction projects,” Patrick said. “Then I was given the opportunity to command a unit and I gained experience in setting a vision for an organization, giving them the direction and the resources they need to get the job done, then getting out of their way and letting them do it.”

The general said it’s not possible to single out one accomplishment from his career. Instead, he says it is the recollection of teams he has served with, mentors who have shown him the way, and varied missions he had the opportunity to execute that he will take with him into the future.

“It’s like a football game. You have assigned positions, but in the end, the object is to move the ball forward and score a touchdown as a team,” Patrick said.

He said he’s been blessed to have served for eight consecutive AETC commanders in one capacity or another, dating back to 1999 and Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton, culminating in his current position as the vice commander first to Gen. Robin Rand and now Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson.

Most of the general’s command assignments have been within AETC. He said that although he served in prior assignments in the command, it wasn’t until he became 37th Training Wing commander at JBSA-Lackland that he understood the breadth of the AETC mission.

“It’s easy to observe re-



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, then the outgoing 2nd Air Force commander, renders a salute as troops march during a pass and review following the 2nd Air Force change of command July 3, 2014, at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

cruciating, basic training, flying training and education, but you don’t always see our technical training, or coalition building with our partners at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy or the English instruction we provide our coalition partners so they can work and train beside us,” Patrick said.

Patrick went on to serve as the first 502nd Air Base Wing commander for Joint Base San Antonio and the 2nd Air Force commander at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. He said as his assignments continued in AETC, he realized that the mission of the “First Command” was the people, not the processes or production.

“I realized that we are the human capital pipeline for our nation’s Air Force. We are involved in the acquisition of systems and equipment, but it’s the people that make the Air Force work,” Patrick said. “We work very hard to attract the talent, develop them, mentor them and let them grow so that they can make the mission happen. We still need weapon systems and infrastructure that supports the mission and the quality of life that our Airmen deserve, but it’s the Airmen that make the mission happen each day.”

The general said as a core civil engineer, he has been

given unique opportunities outside of his career field since 2008, and he is thankful to those who trusted him, and paved the way for his opportunities.

“There have been many before me who blazed the trail for Air Force leaders to see civil engineers not just as installation experts, but as officers who have skills beyond installation management,” he said.

The general plans to stay in San Antonio with his wife, Lynne, after his retirement. Maj. Gen. Mark Brown, currently 2nd Air Force commander, is projected to be the next AETC vice commander.

# Patients rate BAMC in top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide

By Dewey Mitchell  
BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center on Fort Sam Houston scored in the top 10 percent in the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems, or HCAHPS, a national survey for Overall hospital rating and recommend the hospital in the survey of military and civilian hospitals.

The survey reflects about 20,000 patient surveys completed between October and December 2015. Two other military hospitals, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia and the Keesler Medical

Center in Biloxi, Miss., also made the top 10 percent.

The HCAHPS survey is the first national, standardized, publicly reported survey of patients' perspectives of hospital care.

It is a survey instrument and data collection methodology for measuring patients' perceptions of their hospital experience.

While many hospitals have collected information on patient satisfaction for their own internal use, until HCAHPS there was no national standard for collecting and publicly reporting information about patient experience of care that allowed

valid comparisons to be made across hospitals locally, regionally and nationally.

The HCAHPS survey asks discharged patients 27 questions about their recent hospital stay. The survey contains 18 core questions about critical aspects of patients' hospital experiences, such as communication with nurses and doctors, the responsiveness of hospital staff, cleanliness and quietness of the hospital environment, pain management, communication about medicines, discharge information, overall rating of hospital and would they recommend the hospital.



Photo by Robert Shields

Capt. Kelly Elmlinger (center), an Army nurse, checks on patient Papa Ndiaye while Army Spc. Jeremy Allred looks on in the 4 West inpatient ward at San Antonio Military Medical Center, Oct. 23, 2015.

## Army Medicine works to increase unit readiness

By Jeff L. Troth  
Army Medicine

As the active-duty Army cuts 40,000 troops from its ranks over the next couple of years, Army Medicine is working to increase the number of Soldiers that are medically available to deploy.

The active-duty Army currently has 490,000 Soldiers, but military records show that 16 percent of that force is nondeployable – which means only 347,900 Soldiers are ready to accomplish their war-time mission.

“As we decrease our total troop strength to 450,000 we also have to be able to cut that non-deployable percentage,” said Lt. Col. Dave Hamilton, Fort Carson (Colo.) Medical

Department Activity deputy commander for health and readiness. “Just by cutting it in half to 8 percent we can actually increase the number of available Soldiers (355,500) to our force, to our commanders.”

To help decrease the number of nondeployables, Army Medicine's Medical Readiness Transformation launched the Commander Portal Wednesday. This new system will allow teams to view their units' overall readiness on one system.

“The Commander Portal is going to give commanders and first sergeants a quick overview of their company's medical status,” Hamilton said. “We are trying to give them the tools they need to easily manage their units' medical readi-

ness. This will give them a level of predictability for medical readiness that they will be able to work into their training schedule.”

The portal not only gives a snapshot of a unit's current readiness, but also what their medical readiness will be in 7, 30, 60 and 90 days.

Hamilton said that commanders will be able to use the site's “action items” to get a by name list of Soldiers who are delinquent or will soon be delinquent in certain areas.

The portal will show what Soldiers are in need of items such as their Periodic Health Assessment, immunizations or annual dental exam.

The company command team will also be

able to see at a glance which of their Soldiers have medical profiles.

“Through the Medical Readiness Transformation we are redesigning the process of medical profiles, which document a Soldier's temporary and permanent medical condition as well as any functional limitations,” said Lt. Gen. Nadja West, U.S. Army surgeon general and U.S. Army Medical Department commanding general. “Soldiers will no longer have overlapping temporary profiles and will instead have a single active profile for all conditions.”

Instead of having separate profiles for a knee injury, a back problem and dental surgery, the new e-profile gives a Soldier one profile with all the information and

limitations on one document.

The e-profile will not only show a Soldier's current profiles, but also shows the number of profiles and how many days that Soldier has been on profile over the past 24 months.

“When I was a company commander, Soldiers would have to bring paper copies of their profiles to the company training room,” Hamilton said. “The first sergeant would then have to review them and if he had any questions he would have to talk to the unit's medical officer to see what the Soldiers' limitations were.”

“This new system will let them look at all of their unit's medical readiness on one portal and then scroll down the list

of their Soldiers and click on a Soldiers profile,” Hamilton added. “From the profile the commander or first sergeant will be able to communicate directly with the provider through a secure system.”

“A Soldier's health is an essential component of his or her readiness. And everything we are doing in Medical Readiness Transformation is designed to enhance Soldier medical readiness,” West said. “Subsequently this transformation will enable commanders and my medical staff to more easily manage the readiness of our Soldiers, reducing the number of medically non-deployable Soldiers and retaining combat power.”

# Air Force Medical Service seeks hero's name for tech school dorm

The Air Force Medical Service is on a quest and it needs help from warrior medics across the Air Force. It wants a hero's name on the Air Force dormitory at the Medical Education and Training Campus on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Since establishing the dormitory in August 2010 for Air Force students coming from basic training, it has been known only as the "Air Force dorm," said Chief Master Sgt. David Little, 59th Training Group superintendent.

"We can do better," he said. "We are on a mission to find a name that will resonate with those who start their Air Force medical careers right here at JBASA-Fort Sam Houston."

The wing hopes to rededicate the building in honor of an Air Force enlisted medic who has made lasting and significant contributions to the enlisted medical corps, or who has made the ultimate sacrifice while performing the mission, said Senior Master Sgt. Scott Lowell, senior enlisted advisor for the department of diagnostic services and lead for the rededication project.

"They say you need to know where you came from to know where you're going," Lowell said.

The 59th TRG is responsible for educating 12,500 Airmen medics annually. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission directed the relocation of all medical technical training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, to JBASA-Fort Sam Houston.

The move ensured the world's finest medics, corpsmen and

technicians would train under one roof, but nearly 60 years of Air Force Heritage was also lost, Lowell explained.

"We want our new warrior medics to learn about the medics who came before them and the challenges they had to overcome," he said. "That's why we need help finding the best candidates to name the dormitory building after."

The 59th TRG has worked with Air Force historians to find suitable candidates worthy of a building memorialization, but seeking input from Airmen around the world will help the wing make the best choice.

"We want to ensure we are considering all possible candidates," Lowell said.

To submit a nomination, forward the candidate's name and contributions to [usaf.jbsa.59-trg.mbx.inbox@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.jbsa.59-trg.mbx.inbox@mail.mil). The group would like all nominations by July 1. For more information, call 808-5308.

*(Source: 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs)*



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis

The 59th Medical Wing is seeking input on a project to rededicate the Air Force dormitory at the Medical Education and Training Campus on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. The wing hopes to rededicate the building in honor of an Air Force enlisted medic who has made lasting and significant contributions to the enlisted medical corps, or who has made the ultimate sacrifice while performing the mission.

## SOLDIER from P2

contacts can be. Most people you talk to will be more than willing to help.

Of course, the more specific you can be in terms of what you want to do and where you want to live, the more valuable your network contacts can be. The value of networking in job search is illustrated by the fact that almost 80% of job seekers find their jobs through some form of networking.

### Attend an SFL-TAP job assistance workshop.

Knowing how and where to look for a job is half the battle. You can never begin too soon to start learning all you can about the job search process, how to produce great resumes and cover letters, and acquiring excellent interviewing skills that make you look and sound polished while you are trying to market your abilities.

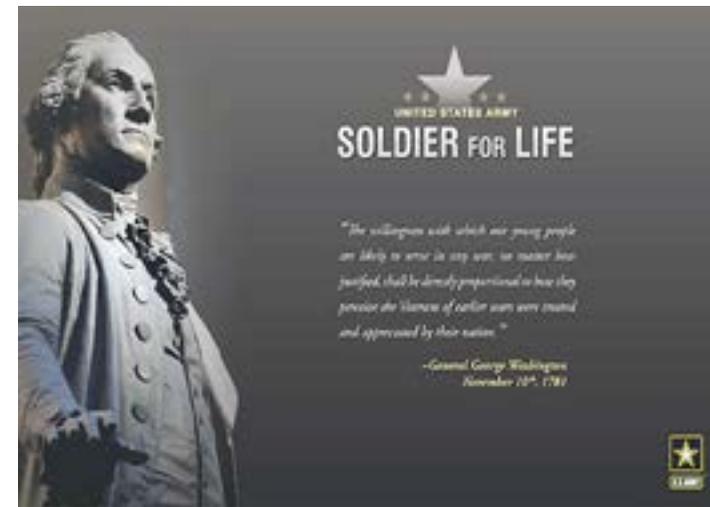
Take advantage of all the services the education center offers, as well. Of course, the obvious thing here is to further your education and training to make you more marketable. You may wish to work on a degree or brush up on your computer skills – computer classes and skills are especially good for your resume.

Either way, the education center can help you. Additional training and education will usually increase your options for employment.

And, if you aren't sure what you want to do when you finish your military service, the education center can help you complete an interest inventory that will indicate what types of occupations you are best suited for.

**Gather information.** Once you start your job search, you'll need a great deal of information to accurately complete job applications and to develop an effective resume. You can start gathering that information now.

This will include such things as the names, ad-



U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center graphic

resses and telephone numbers of previous supervisors, and also where you worked and the inclusive dates you worked there for at least the last 10 years.

Additionally, gathering other documents, such as personnel records, training certificates, diplomas, etc., will make it much easier to write an effective resume and to answer interview questions. If you wait until you're out of the military to start gathering this information, the task will be much more difficult.

**Research.** You can start researching companies, salaries and cost of living in particular areas of the country. Researching companies can help you decide if you really want to send a resume to a particular company and can help you shine when you go for an interview with the company.

Additionally, you can get started researching the salaries for the kinds of jobs you're interested in as well as the cost of living in areas where you might relocate. This research can pay big dividends for you. One major benefit is that it will help you decide if salaries in the industry and area you're considering are adequate.

Of course, to make a good decision on salary, you'll need to know how the cost of living in one area compares with other areas.

The information regarding salaries and cost of living will also be very valuable if you have the opportunity to negotiate salary.

**Develop a "positive, I won't procrastinate" attitude.** Perhaps the best thing you can do between now and the time you start working with SFL-TAP is to develop a positive attitude that includes a determination not to procrastinate. Get started on all the things mentioned above.

Allow yourself to be positive about your worth in the marketplace -- it's a fact that employers are looking for people like you who have a good work ethic, who are motivated and who know how to work as a team member. Resolve that the first day you're eligible to work with SFL-TAP, you'll stop by the Center and sign up for SFL-TAP services.

Additionally, resolve that you'll take advantage of all the services SFL-TAP offers with the knowledge that individuals who work with SFL-TAP generally get jobs sooner and get higher starting salaries than Soldiers who do not use the full range of services.

As you can see, there are a number of things you can do to be more proactive in your transition process while waiting for your separation or retirement date.

# Army Contracting Command recognizes MICC members for professionalism, excellence

By Ryan Mattox  
MICC Public Affairs

A panel of military and civilian leaders from across the U.S. Army Contracting Command recognized two Soldiers, four civilians and two teams from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command for their professionalism, performance and contributions to the contracting community as this year's ACC annual award winners.

The panel selected the MICC members who exemplify the highest level of performance and service for excellence in non-acquisition, acquisition, contracting and small business career fields throughout the ACC community. Those selected were recognized for their outstanding achievements between Oct. 1, 2014, and Sept. 30, 2015.

The ACC Outstanding Price Analyst, for other than major weapons system, is Raul Guerra. Guerra is a senior price and cost analyst at the MICC headquarters at Fort Sam Houston.

As the price and cost subject matter expert for all complex, highly visible and large contract actions at the MICC, Guerra's role spans developing price and cost acquisition strategies and evaluation criteria to serving as lead analyst for developing and/or conducting peer reviews of pre-negotiation objective and price negotiation memoranda for all actions exceeding \$100 million.

"Raul directly supported seven major pre-award actions representing \$1.78 billion of Army requirements," said Lorraine Massie, MICC supervisory contract specialist and procurement analyst.

As the command began its transformation toward its MICC 2025 Plan, it was difficult to track or show progress. This is when Dean Michalec, a

supervisory human resource specialist for MICC headquarters personnel section, stepped in and quickly identified the problem, developed solutions and implemented tools allowing the MICC to set priorities for resource allocation, workload distribution and projection of workforce imbalances and skills gaps.

One of Michalec's solutions was a visual reference for the commanding general to quickly see staffing levels for each MICC office. He developed a product that is known as the chicklet chart, a graphic chart depicting losses and gains against the MICC 2025 Plan. This chart shows the progress of hiring toward the new MICC 2025 Plan.

As a result, his chart has now become the cornerstone of the MICC commanding general's briefings to outside personnel on transformation and garnered Michalec the Outstanding Mission Support Business Operation (Non-Acquisition) Award for ACC.

"The MICC 2025 Plan will result in the most efficient and effective contracting organization the Army can afford," said Maria Allen, MICC G1 deputy chief of staff. "The benefits are significant, short-term savings of \$11.1 million per year with future savings of \$17.9 million per year (fiscal 2015 baseline for savings)."

This MICC 2025 Plan gives subordinate commanders greater flexibility in managing workload and increase efficiencies in executing the contracting mission.

As a procurement analyst for the MICC, Wiley Cox provided outstanding services to the command and ACC this year as he was named the Innovation Award winner. He embraced his role and was determined to utilize commercial technology to create tools that would have



Photo by Ryan Mattox

(From left) Raul Guerra, Lucy Lopez and Wiley Cox review the Simplified Acquisition Price Analysis and Award Memorandum developed for acquisitions valued at or below the \$150,000 simplified acquisition threshold Feb. 9 at the Mission and Installation Contracting Command headquarter at Fort Sam Houston. Guerra is a cost price analyst, and Lopez and Cox are procurement analysts with the MICC Directorate of Contracting Operations field support team. Guerra is this year's outstanding price analyst for other than major weapons system. Cox is ACC's Innovation Award winner for fiscal 2015.

impact on contracting efficiency and improving document quality. Cox taught himself Adobe Life Cycle Designer and JavaScript coding capabilities to create, make edits and update forms as needed.

"He surpassed a MICC goal of simplifying the documentation of acquisition strategies and simplified acquisition records beyond leadership expectations to create the Simplified Acquisition Price Analysis and Award Memorandum," said Terry Lazenby, MICC headquarters Directorate of Contracting Operations supervisory procurement analyst.

The memorandum is a PDF-based tool for acquisitions valued at or less than the simplified acquisition threshold. The benefits of the tool is multifaceted. The tool improves compliance in documentation. The ancillary advantages are the time savings achieved by avoiding recreation of documents; the forms double as training tools, making them ideal for junior procurement professionals; and they are standardized, allowing documents to be reviewed more efficiently.

The popularity of the forms has expanded outside the MICC. ACC's Policy Division promoted Cox's Abbreviated

Acquisition Strategy template for use across the entire ACC enterprise. Going even further, the Army Corps of Engineers in Pittsburgh discovered the template and requested an unlocked copy to implement within their organization.

"It was a great surprise to see my name among all of the award winners," Cox said. "As far as what it means to me being named an innovation award winner, being acknowledged with an ACC annual award is a tremendous honor. I'm humbled to know that my immediate leadership championed a nomination on my behalf."

## METC from P6

Over the next few days, the students come to appreciate the challenges faced by medical personnel providing care under battlefield conditions. The students conduct a simulated patrol, treat casualties while under fire, and experience the urgency of getting the wounded to higher-level areas of care. They learn the difference between Medical Evacuation, or MEDEVAC, and Casualty Evacuation, or CASEVAC. The challenges of providing aid in the dark during a battle are learned in the Military Operations in Urban Terrain, or MOUT, simulation center.

There is a sense of urgency as the medical providers see how combat casualties arrive from the field, are triaged, and prepared for evacuation to higher medical facilities with greater capabilities.

Capt (Dr.) William Lassiter, a San Antonio Military Medical Center anesthesiologist who attended the course, believes the course is an excellent introduction to care in a resource-limited environment.

"I was impressed with the skills and abilities of the combat medics and corpsmen that I worked with, and I was amazed at the strides that we have taken to streamline the work and empower those individuals to get casualties to a higher level of care with the least morbidity and mortality possible," Lassiter said.

Capt (Dr.) Zachary Skurski, an Army ophthalmologist assigned to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, reflected back on his experience as a student in the course.

"I was very impressed with the C4 course and



Photo by John Franklin

Petty Officer 3rd Class Amber Arens prepares the casualty mannequin for its part in the mass casualty exercise later that day. Arens prepares the wounds to match a go-by sheet containing information on the wounds and the casualty's vital signs.

its instructors. The scenarios we trained in drove home the principles of trauma care and combat medicine. The scale and accuracy of the training to reflect the reality of combat and mass casualty situations was key. I left feeling prepared to respond to these situations thanks to the excellent instruction of the cadre."

Lt. (Dr.) Jessie Osborne Paull, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Navy general surgeon in Bethesda, Md., spoke about the stages of moving a casualty from active combat to established medical facilities outside the theater of operations. Then she described the impact of her training.

"While we know of their (the casualty's) course through their medical history, that knowledge is acquired solely through paper; we have no visceral experience with what they have gone through, from point of injury to

landing on our soil, C4 changed that," Paull said.

"Going through the lanes and getting a taste, however brief, of what our sailors, soldiers and medics go through from the point of injury onwards gave me a new appreciation of just how much is done in such a short amount of time for our wounded, and the unique challenges our health care providers navigate to deliver that care," she added.

"Now when I go to the bedside of our wounded warriors, I feel a much greater understanding of their course; they are no longer patients who have simply been flown in from another hospital," Paull said. "They are military members who started in a battlefield somewhere with just a medic and medical bag. Making connections with patients is crucial to successful healthcare delivery and patient and provider satisfaction. This course provides that."

## INSIDE THE GATE

### 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.

### Helping Us Grow Securely Playgroup

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, Middle School Teen Center, building 2515. A playgroup for infants and toddlers; open to parents and their children. During the summer months of June-August, HUGS will open to youths up to age 11 to accommodate school age families. Registration is not required. Call 221-2418.

### Army Pre-Separation

Tuesday-Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Soldier for Life, building 2264. A mandatory counseling for all Soldiers separating from the Army. Begin the process 18 months prior to separation date. Call 221-1213.

### Post-Deployment Resiliency

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

## SWIMMING from P12

Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center is open for lap swimming from 5-8:30 a.m. Monday-Friday and 7 to 11 a.m. on Saturday. Lap swimming is allowed at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatic Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

When the school year starts in August, the

### EFMP Family Movie Day

Monday, 1-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. The Exceptional Family Members Program and the Family Life Program invite Joint Base San Antonio families to a sensory-friendly showing of "Inside Out."

### Accessing Higher Education

Monday-Wednesday, June 14-15 and June 20-22, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Education Center, building 2408. A three-day track for those pursuing higher education; service members will review education requirements that support their personal goals. Registration is required, call 221-1213.

### TAP-Goals, Plans, Success

Monday through June 10, June 20-24 and June 27 to July 1, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and June 13-17, 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.

### Pre-Separation Counseling

Tuesday and June 21, 9 a.m. to noon, Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Airmen, Sailors, and Marines planning to separate from the military must attend a mandatory counseling. Begin the process 18 months prior to your separation date. Call 221-2418.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center will open at 4 p.m. on school days. School day hours for the JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Pool will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

The JBSA-Randolph South Pool can be reserved for private parties on Saturdays from 12 to 2 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m.

Reservations must include a \$150 rental fee and a \$25 per hour, per life guard fee. Both fees must be paid at the time

### Anger Management

Wednesday, June 15, 22, and 29, 9-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This four-part series must be attended in order. Learn to identify triggers, signals, expressions of anger and techniques to effectively control anger. Call 221-2418.

### Army Family Advocacy Program Unit Training

Wednesday, 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. 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.

### Relocation, Overseas Orientation

Wednesday, 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Mandatory for personnel E-5 and below; include entitlements, household goods shipment, relocation stressors, employment and education. Call 221-2705.

of the reservation. Two lifeguards are required for 50 people at each party with an additional lifeguard needed for every 25 people added. Alcohol is prohibited at parties. For information on South Pool reservations, call 651-5142, option 2.

For information on JBSA aquatic centers and pools, including summer hours, season passes and swimming lessons, go to <http://www.myjbsa-fss-mwr.com>.

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