

FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

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**JBSA
HOTLINES**

**DOD Safe Helpline
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**JBSA Sexual Assault Hotline
808-SARC (7272)**

**JBSA Domestic Abuse Hotline
367-1213**

**JBSA Duty Chaplain
221-9363**

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



DIVERSITY THROUGH DANCE

PAGE 3



SOLDIERS LEARN FROM VIDEO GAME

PAGE 6



'TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN'

PAGE 16



PRINGLE SUCCEEDS LABRUTTA AS 502ND ABW/JBSA COMMANDER

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson (left), commander of Air Education and Training Command, passes the guidon to Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle during the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio change of command ceremony Aug. 5 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Parade Field. See pages 10 and 11 for the story and more photos.

Photo by Airman 1st Class
Lauren Ely

METC welcomes new commandant

By Lisa Braun
METC Public Affairs

The Medical Education & Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston has a new leader.

Army Col. Jack Davis became the fourth commandant of the six-year-old, tri-service campus during an assumption of commandant ceremony Aug. 2 at the Academic Support Building auditorium at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Davis, who previously served as commander of the 32nd Medical Brigade – the Army's largest training brigade – is the first Army METC commandant. The position rotates among the Army, Navy and Air Force medical services and was most recently filled by Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert I. Miller.

The brief ceremony included a joint Color Guard made up of Army, Navy, and Air Force service members, as well as a choir comprised of Navy and Air Force students in METC's combined Air Force medical technician and Navy hospital corpsman training course, called the Basic

Medical Technician Corpsman Program.

Air Force Brig. Gen. James Dienst, Defense Health Agency's Education & Training directorate director, presided over the ceremony. He spoke about METC's history and accomplishments.

"Some would say, against many odds, METC staff and students rose to the challenge and set the bar for what's possible when our great Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen put their minds to it," Dienst said. "A huge success!"

Dienst also spoke about Davis' experience and praised his leadership, adding that Davis is the right person to continue METC's success.

"Trust me," Dienst said, "We found the best of the best – hands down."

The symbolic passing of the METC colors from Dienst to Davis toward the end of the ceremony signaled the responsibility and authority of leading METC had been bestowed upon the new commandant. Davis was entrusted to continue the series of achievements realized by the commandants before him.

See METC, P6



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Dignity, respect key to establishing trusted relationships

By Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Tempel Jr.
Commanding General
Regional Health Command-Central

Throughout my career, I've met many wonderful people whom I admire, not because they are like me or share the same belief system, but because we share a common ethos of dignity and respect for one another.

I am truly inspired that our Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Nadja West, has made dignity and respect an area of emphasis in our Army Medicine ethos and culture.

Dignity and respect are behaviors and beliefs that, when practiced and exhibited every day, inevitably create trusted relationships upon which to build the expeditionary, globally integrated medical force that is our Army Medicine vision.

When I arrived here as commanding general, I established relationship-building as a priority. Of course, dignity and respect are the pillars of building trusted relationships; to have such creates an environment of



Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Tempel Jr.

positive mutual regard.

Improving the workplace environment, improving staff relationships and team-building must start with these two vital concepts and it must be practiced on a consistent basis to become an emotional competency.

I've witnessed great relationship building in just the short time that I've been commanding general

here – within our region, with our higher headquarters and with the commands we support. But there is always room for improvement, and I am excited to be a part of the vision to develop stronger bonds with one another through dignity and respect.

Retired Maj. Gen. James Collins, former I Corps deputy commander and civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Washington, recently commented that, "The key to relationships is trust and the key to trust is communication. The thing that breaks trust is surprises."

As an Army and a nation, treating one another with dignity and respect should be instinctive.

However, we just have to listen to the news on any given day to know we are still a long way from achieving that state of mind and we are constantly "surprised" by the absence of dignity and respect among us.

When the expectation of dignity and respect is violated, it creates an environment of distrust, miscommunication and broken relationships.

There is a saying by an anonymous author that goes, "Live in the world as it should be, in hopes of what it can be."

Dignity and respect should not be an end state, but the very spirit of what makes us Americans.

I am honored to be a part of the team of amazing professionals working within Regional Health Command-Central. We are a large organization of individuals, each with a set of unique characteristics that makes up a team – a family – of great professionals.

Each person within RHC-C is a valuable member of the RHC-C family and critical to our mission of providing safe, high-quality, accessible, patient-centered health-care and services to improve readiness, promote resiliency and advance wellness with those entrusted to our care.

As we work together, side by side, please help me create an environment of positive mutual regard, interacting with dignity and respect – always!

One team ... one purpose ... conserving the fighting strength!

After 75 years, more opportunities for enlisted to become officers

By David Vergun
Army News Service

A recent change in eligibility now allows enlisted personnel up to age 33 to apply to become officers. Also, there's no longer a requirement to serve in the Army for six years before going to Officer Candidate School.

The current guidance, which was published in 2015, about 10 months prior to the 75th anniversary of OCS, is contained in Military Personnel Message 15-270 "FY16 U.S. Army Federal OCS Program Announcement."

"The resulting Army Readiness from OCS accessions is stronger today than it was even a decade ago," said Jon Banco, chief of Human Resource's Command's Officer Accession Branch. "With a few adjustments to screening criteria and the requirement to hold a baccalaureate degree, we ensure a competitive environment for the new officer and a more diverse and stronger officer corps for our Army."

Officers graduating this year will begin their commissioned careers on an equal academic footing as their U.S. Military Academy

and ROTC counterparts, without the burden of having to enter a degree completion program before they become captains, as was the case in previous years, Banco said. All second lieutenants graduating from OCS entered training having already completed their baccalaureate degree.

Three panels will meet next year in January, May and September, to select candidates for OCS, said Cliff Preetorius, OCS program manager, Human Resources Command, Officer Accession Branch. An upcoming MILPER will provide eligibility requirements.

The MILPER is being reviewed at Army G-1 and should be published within the next few weeks.

Capt. Jefferson Davis, assistant operations officer for OCS at Fort Benning, Ga., said he believes many more Soldiers would apply to OCS if they learned more about the program and knew they were eligible.

Lt. Col. Mark Andres, OCS battalion commander at Fort Benning, added that some Soldiers might not be aware of the changes in the MILPER guidance.

Banco said it's important to review the MILPERs,

as guidance can change based on the accessions mission and needs of the Army.

"Regardless of the size of the military, it is important to proportionally access new officers every year to meet the needs for captains and majors three to five years in the future," said Denise Corley, chief, Officer Accessions Coordination Branch, Army G-1.

"The annual end state regarding volume to screen or select is influenced by Army end strength and budget requirements or constraints, Corley explained. The 150 regular Army OCS mission was the right number for this year. Every person counts, especially now in the Army's smaller footprint. There are, and there will be continuing opportunities to apply to be part of our future cohorts," she said.

Andres said Soldiers who are 33 years old or less at the time the OCS accessions board meets, are eligible to apply. Soldiers also need a General Technical score of 110 or higher and must have a baccalaureate degree.

Any enlisted member of any service, not just the Army, may apply, Davis added.

News Briefs

68C Practical Nurse Course Graduation

The graduation ceremony of the San Antonio Military Medical Center's Practical Nurse Course, 68C Class 15-010, will be held at 10 a.m. Monday in the Brooke Army Medical Center 4th floor auditorium. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call 295-4020/4050.

Annual Spotlight Deer Surveys

The Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis Natural Resource Office conducts the annual spotlight deer surveys from Monday through Aug. 19 and Aug. 22-26, with make-up days of Aug. 29-Sept. 2. Biologist and/or naturalist volunteers are needed to participate in the surveys. Four to six volunteers are needed per night and the surveys start at the JBSA-Camp Bullis Natural Resources office at 8:15 p.m. and usually conclude around midnight. There is limited space available. Participants must not be participating in the JBSA hunting program, must be 8 years or older or be accompanied by a parent, have good long-distance night vision and bring their own binoculars, bug spray and water. Call 295-7873.

JBSA Stage 1 Water Restrictions Looming

The 10-day average of the Bexar County index Bexar (J-17), Comal Springs and San Marcos Springs are dropping due to no rain. According to an analysis performed by the Edwards Aquifer Director of Aquifer Modeling, Stage 1 water restrictions may be scheduled soon. The 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron urges the Joint Base San Antonio community to stay diligent and be careful to follow upcoming water restrictions, according to JBSA Water Use Critical Period Management Plan, available at <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130809-013.pdf>.

BAMC Bariatric Clinic

Bariatric surgery can improve quality of life for individuals who are obese and have obesity-related conditions such as type II diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure), obstructive sleep apnea, asthma, hyperlipidemia (high

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

PANAMAX exercise participants receive special visitors

By Lt. Col. Carol McClelland
U.S. Army South Public Affairs

For the past week, service members from all branches of the U.S. and partner nation military have been working side-by-side inside a catacomb of tents on a dusty field on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, working on exercise scenarios like recovering a downed F-16 pilot, dealing with a mass casualty event, countering enemy propaganda, fixing a destroyed bridge or finding solutions to infrastructure problems.

Exercise participants coped with physical challenges as well. While those issues were solved notionally, others were reality. Communicating in multiple languages, long hours, fatigue, loud generators with intermittent air conditioning and using chemical

See PANAMAX, P17



Photo by Miguel Negron

Lt. Col. Christopher Synowiez (right), executive officer to the U.S. Army South commanding general, describes the PANAMAX base camp set up for family members who visited the exercise on Fort Sam Houston Aug. 3.

NMETC Diversity Council promotes health, cultural diversity through dance

By Petty Officer 1st Class Jacquelyn D. Childs
NMETC Public Affairs

The Navy Medicine Training Support Center, or NMTSC, Diversity Council at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston started a weekly Latin dance class Aug. 3 at the Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, promoting health and a culture of inclusion.

The lessons include salsa, bachata and merengue and are in preparation for a Hispanic Heritage Festival at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston planned for late September.

"We're trying to submerge the command into a little more of the Latin culture," said Petty Officer 1st Class Luis Deffit, lead dance instructor. "We've been growing as a diversity council at NMTSC, so we wanted to go a little bit bigger this year. We're not just having the heritage festival, but we're going ahead and getting started ahead of time to give people the opportunity to learn these dances."

The NMTSC staff are organizing new ways for Navy, Army, and Air Force students to get active and participate in healthy, uplifting events such as runs, talent competitions and dance lessons. The Latin dance class not only provides students the opportunity to socialize in a fun environment and stay active, but also to catch a glimpse into another culture.

"People who have only one single vision of who we are, their opportunities are very limited," said Deffit, who joined the diversity council to help educate and raise awareness. "It's a part of leadership to submerge yourself in different cultures so you can connect better with your troops around you, not just one ethnic background."

Everyone who attended the first dance class agreed they learned a lot while having fun and would love to return.

"I wanted to learn how to dance better. Deffit is a great instructor, so I figured he'd be the best person to learn all of the different dances from," said Army student Pvt. Charmaine Ibarra. "It was fun. I will definitely be here next week."

"Deffit asked us if we wanted to come out. I'd done salsa dance lessons before so I figured 'sure, I'd like to see if I remember some of the stuff,'" said Navy student Seaman Christopher Zurcher. "It was a lot of fun. It's fun to learn something new."

Deffit said he hopes to see more people come out in the weeks to come. The lessons will be held Wednesday nights at the METC Student Activity Center through mid-September. He encourages anyone and everyone to show up, regardless of previous experience.

"Every week, we're going to take about



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jacquelyn D. Childs
Navy Seaman Charlie Francisco (left) and Army Pvt. Samantha Skinner, both students at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, dance during a class hosted by the Navy Medicine Training Support Center's Diversity Council.

half an hour to warm up and catch everyone up and the second half hour will be for the people who've been consistently showing up so they can practice what they've already learned and learn some more," Deffit said.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHAPLAIN CORPS



Photo by Robert T. Shields

The Brooke Army Medical Center Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care team celebrated the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps' 241st birthday by handing out free ice cream to patients and staff July 31.

ARMY SOUTH JAG TEACHES INTERNATIONAL CLASS AT JBSA-LACKLAND



Photo by Andrew J. Quesada

Capt. Daniel Franco-Santiago, U.S. Army South Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Sam Houston, taught a military justice class at the International Squadron Officer School's Inter-American Air Forces Academy, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland July 22. The class included lawyers from Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Panama, Uruguay and the U.S. Air Force. Franco also participated as a judge during a debate the ISOS students had. This event provided an opportunity for attendees to learn more about the U.S. military justice system model and engage in discussions about military justice systems in South and Central America and the Caribbean.

ARMY NORTH HONE MARKSMANSHIP SKILLS AT CAMP BULLIS



Photo by Army Maj. Vic Esparza

Army Capt. Casey Igo (right), U.S. Army North Defense Coordinating Officer Synchronization Team operations officer, provides marksmanship coaching to 1st Lt. Hannah Shea (left) during an ARNORTH M9 pistol range at Camp Bullis July 22.

News Briefs

Continued from P3

cholesterol), gastroesophageal reflux disease, or GERD, or other obesity-related conditions. Bariatric surgery is the most successful long-term treatment of obesity. There are three kinds of laparoscopic bariatric surgeries performed at Brooke Army Medical Center: adjustable gastric band, gastric bypass and vertical sleeve gastrectomy. The BAMC Bariatric Clinic is a self-referral clinic and offers informational seminars on the second, third and fourth Wednesdays of each month. There is also a bariatric support group held on the first Wednesday of each month in the main dining room in the lower level of BAMC. The Bariatric Clinic will also accept referrals from your primary care manager. Call 916-9023 to set up an appointment.

Leadership Is Listening

The Armed Forces Action Plan is a tool to manage change and improve the well-being of the military community, giving service members, retirees, Reservists, Guardsmen, Department of Defense civilians, teens, survivors and family members the opportunity to identify critical issues and present them to senior leadership for action and resolution. Submit issues, ideas, suggestions and concerns to usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-fss-volunteer@mail.mil by Sept. 2. For more information, call 221-2705.

Winans Entry Control Point Operations

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

Army releases disaster response video game

By Vivienne Machi

Department of Defense Science Blog

A new Army video game is taking Soldiers into the heart of foreign disaster zones and delivering real-world training from their laptop or tablet.

A joint task force – including U.S. Army South at Fort Sam Houston, the Army Research Laboratory, the office of foreign disaster assistance and the Army games for training program – has put Disaster Sim into the hands of soldiers after two years of research and development.

Disaster Sim was created by the Army Research Laboratory and programmers from the Institute for Creative Technologies at the University of Southern California as a cost-effective training tool for company grade officers and mid to junior non-commissioned officers engaged in foreign disaster relief, said Maj. Timothy Migliore, chief of the Army's games for training program.

"The more ways you can involve actually doing the task or the job at hand, the faster you learn," he said.

Hour-long vignettes based on real-world events familiarize users with operational environments they could encounter on the ground and teach them how to work with the office of foreign disaster assistance, non-governmental agencies and the host country. The initial scenario challenges a soldier to respond to needs in Guatemala after an earthquake.

Although it was developed for Army South, the game's editor authoring tools allow it to be tweaked by developers to assist other organizations at a minimal development cost, said Col. Michael Panko, U.S. Army South chief of training and exercises.

"If you're Army Pacific, you can make it look like their area," he said.

Migliore noted the cost-saving benefits of the game.

"If I can develop my own scenario and not have to go outside [the services], we're saving the user money and saving the taxpayer money," he said.



Photo by Eric. R. Lucero

U.S. Army South Sgt. 1st Class Anttwain E. Dobbins trains on Disaster Sim at Fort Sam Houston. The video game teaches Soldiers how to be part of a foreign disaster relief task force.

Service members across the globe can download Disaster Sim and the authoring tools through an online portal at no charge. It cost approximately \$700,000 to create the training application and the authoring tools, according to the Army Combined Arms Center – Training.

There used to be "a cultural resistance" to using video games as a training tool among the services, Migliore said.

Within the last 10 years, the military has shifted away from that mindset and embraced the virtual training possibilities that offer a more realistic experience at a lower cost, he said.

"We've got a ton of what we've liked to call niche games that get to training requirements, and there's nothing remotely that relates to Disaster Sim."



Photo by Lisa Braun

The symbolic passing of the Medical Education and Training Campus flag from Brig. Gen. James Dienst (left), director of the Defense Health Agency's education and training directorate, to Col. Jack Davis (right) signals the responsibility and authority of leading METC has been bestowed upon the new commandant.

METC from P1

After accepting the official title, Davis described a past experience in which Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen worked together in a military hospital in Bagram, Afghanistan. Medical providers from all services teamed up to treat and comfort the wounded without regard for the uniform they wore or branch of service they belonged to.

"Their ability to work together for a common cause sets the example for others to follow, and we should be proud," Davis said. "I just wanted to take a second to remind everyone at METC of that and ask that in the future we remind each other."

Davis added, "What I will tell you is that I am completely dedicated to ensuring that the war story I described continues: a tradition of servicemen and women taking care of each other whether in the worst of conditions or in the best. I look forward to working with you all and continuing that legacy."

Dual ceremony at U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research marks new leadership

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs

In a dual ceremony held by the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, or USAISR, at Fort Sam Houston July 19, Col. (Dr.) Shawn S. Nessen assumed command of the USAISR and 1st Sgt. Natasha M. Santiago assumed her new role as the acting sergeant major.

The change of command and change of responsibility ceremony also honored the services of the outgoing commander, Col. (Dr.) Michael D. Wirt, and Sgt. Maj. James L. Devine.

Maj. Gen. Brian C. Lein, commander of U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Md., hosted the ceremony. He praised Wirt and Devine and attributed the success of the institute “to their superb guidance and leadership.”

“The USAISR is continuously conducting innovative and necessary life-saving research, and it’s due to your sound and selfless leadership,” Lein said. “It has been a pleasure working with the both of you and I thank you both for what you have accomplished.



Photo by Steven Galvan

Col. (Dr.) Shawn Nessen (left) takes the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research flag from Maj. Gen. Brian Lein, commanding general of U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Md., July 19.

“Col. Nessen, congratulations on your new assignment and welcome to MRMC and USAISR team,” Lein added. “Your previous assignments have prepared you for this tour as you continue the critical

work in combat casualty care.”

Nessen takes command of the USAISR after a tour at the Martin Army Community Hospital at Fort Benning, Ga., where he served as the deputy com-

mander for clinical services. Nessen was also the deputy commander for clinical services of the 212th Combat Support Hospital at Miseau, Germany. Prior to that tour, he was a staff critical care surgeon and chief of the department of surgery at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center at Landstuhl, Germany.

During his remarks, Nessen thanked Lein for the opportunity to command the institute that has been at the forefront of optimizing combat casualty care and finding solutions for our wounded warriors who bravely put their lives in harm’s way to ensure our freedom.

“Col. Wirt, you have done a tremendous job as commander of the USAISR, and I know that I have my job cut out for me to continue your superb leadership and to keeping this institute operating impressively. I will strive to meet the challenge and I wish you much success at your next assignment in Korea.”

Wirt, who served as the USAISR commander since July 2014, is transferring to Yongsan Garrison, South Korea, where he will serve as the Eighth Army surgeon, while Devine is retiring from the Army after 30 years of service.

U.S. Army South hosts quarterly prayer luncheon

By Capt. Kimberly Farmer Mendez
U.S. Army South Public Affairs

U.S. Army South Soldiers, civilians and family members gathered for a prayer luncheon at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club July 20.

The command hosts a prayer luncheon each quarter, giving Army South family members of different faiths a chance to join together to gain strength from one another and experience the power of collective prayer.

Army South family members shared in laughs and conversation as Fort Sam Houston's 323rd Army Band played in the background prior to the start of the luncheon.

"It gives me inspiration and encouragement; it's an opportunity to talk with leaders you otherwise would not get to meet," said Tammi Ward, ARSOUTH G-8 budget analyst.

Luncheon attendees were welcomed by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Roy Walker and Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn, U.S. Army South commander, who encouraged attendees to take this opportunity to "focus on family, friends and fellowship."

After prayers for the nation and leaders and a scripture reading, Chaplain (Maj.) John Sedwick introduced guest speaker retired Army Maj. Gen. Floyd W. Baker. Baker, who retired from active duty in 1986, focused his message on deliverance and shared stories from his life, ranging from 1943 to 1990, in which he believed he was delivered from harm's way.

The accounts found Baker in a variety of precarious situations including narrowly avoiding a broken wrist after being kicked by a horse while working a farm in Kansas and being rescued after falling out of a canoe while negotiating a chilly Alaskan river.

"Am I saved because of my faith or do I have faith because I am saved? Maybe a little of both," Baker said.

Baker and his wife actively participate in activities at the Fort Sam Houston chapel and have been doing so for the past 35 years. Every week he has a cup of water and a marked up hymn book ready for the preacher at each service, in addition to fresh donuts for the parishioners. At the age of 89, Baker continues to be an example of selfless service even in his retirement years.



Photo by Capt. Kimberly Farmer Mendez

Guest speaker retired Army Maj. Gen. Floyd W. Baker (center) accepts a token of appreciation from Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn (left), U.S. Army South commanding general, and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Roy Walker (right), at the conclusion of the command's quarterly prayer luncheon.

Fort Sam Houston ISD offers free and reduced-price meals for qualified families

By Capt. Kimberly Farmer Mendez
U.S. Army South Public Affairs

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District has announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for students served under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced reduced price or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

The household size and income criteria identified in this article will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits. Students from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Foster children who are the legal responsibility of the state agency or court are eligible for free meal benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside.

Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children.

Applications also are available at the food service or administration office of each school. To apply for free and reduced-price meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school. Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year.

The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified by the school's officials at any time during the school year. A new application must be submitted each school year.

For school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-priced benefits, households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, only have to list their child's name and SNAP or TANF case number. An adult household member must sign the application.

Households that do not list a SNAP or TANF case number must list the names of

all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the last four digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application.

If the adult who signs the application does not have a Social Security number, the household member must indicate that a Social Security number is not available by writing the word "NONE", "No Number" or some indication that the person does not have a Social Security number. The application must be signed by an adult household member.

The housing allowance for military personnel living in privatized housing will be permanently excluded from income when determining household eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the food service director will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis.

Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either by calling the superintendent at 368-8700 or sending a letter to 4005 Winans Rd., San Antonio, TX 78234.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown below.

For additional information, district residents can write to the Child Nutrition Department at 4005 Winans Road, San Antonio, TX 78234 or call 368-8745.

Meals are served every school day. Students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade can prepay or purchase their meal at the cost of \$2.10 per lunch and 80 cents per breakfast. Students in grades six-12 can prepay or purchase their meal at the cost of \$2.35 per lunch and 90 cent for breakfast. An on line payment system is now available for both schools. Reduced-price school meals are 30 cents for breakfast and 40 cents for lunch.

Above is the chart of federal annual income qualifying guidelines for the free and reduced-price meal program.

If you believe you have been treated unfairly, the U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its cus-

Family Eligibility Income Chart

Household Size	Annual Free	Annual Reduced
1	\$15,444.00	\$21,978.00
2	\$20,826.00	\$29,637.00
3	\$26,208.00	\$37,296.00
4	\$31,590.00	\$44,955.00
5	\$36,972.00	\$52,614.00
6	\$42,354.00	\$60,773.00
7	\$47,749.00	\$67,951.00
8	\$53,157.00	\$75,647.00
9	\$58,565.00	\$83,343.00
10	\$62,673.00	\$91,039.00
11	\$69,381.00	\$98,735.00
12	\$74,789.00	\$106,431.00

For each add'l family member add:

+ \$5,408 + \$7,696

tomers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.

To file a civil rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. People can also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send the completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339; or 800-845-6136 for Spanish.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)

Pringle succeeds LaBrutta as 502nd ABW-JBSA commander

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle assumed command of the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio during a change of command ceremony Aug. 5 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Parade Field.

Pringle, who most recently served as the executive officer to former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, succeeds Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, who led the 502nd ABW and JBSA for more than three years.

"I am honored to take the flag and excited to become part of this incredible team," Pringle said. "The (wing) has a great reputation in this city and in the entire Department of Defense. This did not happen by chance. It happened because of your hard work, your dedication that each and every one of you has shown and, I believe, will continue to show."

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, commander of Air Education and Training Command and presiding official for the ceremony, said Pringle comes well-qualified to command the 502nd and JBSA.

"She has the experience, the proven performance and leadership qualities to take the wing to even newer heights," he said. "When you take a peek at her record, it is clear that she has earned her reputation for strong character, commitment to the mission and Airmen, and the readiness to make the tough calls when needed."

Roberson said he knows Pringle will lead the team to continued excellence.

"I am confident you are up to this task, and the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, under your leadership, will continue to provide unrivalled installation support and service to enable mission partner success," he said. "As you take command today, I trust you to lead them; we need you to inspire them and we expect you to take care of them."

Roberson also commended LaBrutta, who is headed to Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., to take command of 2nd Air Force, for leading the 502nd ABW and JBSA "through some significantly difficult events while achieving great accomplishments," and presented him with the Legion of Merit – an award given to members of the armed forces for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service.

"You led the 502nd to inspire, engage and support the Department of Defense's largest joint base, demonstrating to the rest of our armed forces what innovative leadership can do to foster synergy between the Army and Air Force to deliver air and ground power for America," he said.

"I am honored to take the flag and excited to become part of this incredible team. The (wing) has a great reputation in this city and in the entire Department of Defense. This did not happen by chance. It happened because of your hard work, your dedication that each and every one of you has shown and, I believe, will continue to show."



Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle
502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander



Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely
Master Sgt. Steven Erickson, Air Force Band drum major, stands at attention while the Band of the West plays before the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio change of command ceremony Aug. 5 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Parade Field.



Photo by Olivia Mendoza
Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, has her new rank pinned on by family during a frocking ceremony Aug. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.



Photo by Melissa Peterson
Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle gives her first salute to members of the 502nd Air Base Wing during the 502nd ABW and Joint Base San Antonio change of command ceremony Aug. 5 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Parade Field.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Ely
Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle speaks to attendees during the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio change of command ceremony Aug. 5 at

Army releases tool to educate Soldiers on selection board process

By Daniela Vestal

Army Human Resources Command

An online training tool for Soldiers interested in understanding how the enlisted selection board process works is now available.

The tool consists of an online video with printable training aids. The video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EF7cACxuUdg>) is 49 minutes long and covers what a Department of the Army selection board is; how board members are chosen; how boards work; and how to prepare for your next board.

The video also details the different types of selection boards, including the Qualitative Management Program and the Qualitative Service Program. The last eight minutes of the video is a mock board that is designed to place Soldiers themselves in the position of board members and simulate the experience of grading and rating four different candidates.

The tool was developed over the course of seven months by the Department of the Army Secretariat at Army Human Resources Command.

“We waited to start the video until the release of the new Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report so we could incorporate it and the Select Train Educate Promote program into the presentation,” said Master Sgt. Tamika DeVeaux-Wallace, DA Secretariat NCO in charge.

“Additionally, this tool goes into great detail. We reference several different regulations and explain concepts that can help Soldiers grow more successfully in their careers. For example, how something like a broadening assignment can assist a Soldier’s career and change how a board member views their file.”

Soldiers have always had training on how to prepare for a selection board, but they were not always educated on why they had to prepare the way they do, according to Capt. Michael Hebert, a board recorder for DA Secretariat Selection Boards.

While the information has always been available, culling the knowledge from the different sources could be a daunting task for an NCO, especially for one who does not work in human resources and is unfamiliar with the relevant regulations.

The video also works to dispel misconceptions Soldiers may have about what actually happens during a board.

“Some Soldiers still believe that board members confer with one another and can have influence on the way other members rate a specific Soldier,” DeVeaux-Wallace said. “That just isn’t the case. Board members cannot speak to one another while reviewing files.”

In 2012 several policies were changed that tightened the rules and regulations governing selection boards, said Hebert. Many Soldiers still have misconceptions about the process despite the years that have passed since the changes were made.

ARMY NORTH TEACHES COURSE AT WASHINGTON NAVY YARD



Photo by Davis Presley

Members of Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region, along with interagency representatives, listen to U.S. Army North instructors during the Defense Support of Civil Authorities course at the Washington Navy Yard July 20. ARNORTH is the executive agent for the DSCA course, which trains service members from all branches of military service and interagency representatives on the unique roles and responsibilities of Department of Defense support to a disaster in the homeland.

USAISR researchers win Army's innovation award

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs

Researchers at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston were among the team named winners of the 2015 Maj. Gen. Harold "Harry" J. Greene Award for Innovation.

Dr. John F. Kragh, an orthopedic surgeon and researcher, and Michael Dubick, Ph.D., damage control resuscitation task area manager at the USAISR, were among the team receiving the award which included members from the medical community, academia and industry. The team developed, tested and fielded the SAM Junctional Tourniquet that was selected as the winner in the group category of the innovation award.

The SAM Junctional Tourniquet is designed to stop bleeding in junctional areas of the torso where limb tourniquets cannot be used like in the pelvic area or armpits. The tourniquet – cleared by the Food and Drug Administration – is an adjustable belt with two configurable and inflatable bulbs that can be applied directly to a hemorrhage area to control bleeding. It weighs less than a pound and designed to be applied in less than a minute.

"This is just another example as to how team efforts can work to deliver potentially lifesaving interventions to the battlefield," Dubick said. "As task area manager, it's my job to facilitate the research

we do and to help primary investigators set up needed collaborative efforts with academia and industry."

"For me, this is professionally a real joy to have worked so well with such a comprehensive team of committed experts representing several stakeholders," Kragh said. "Even more moving for me is that those we knew and lost, like Cpl. Jaimie Smith at Black Hawk Down in Somalia, are now able to be saved, like the Afghan policeman who had a virtually identical wound as Jaimie."

Other members of the innovation award winning team include Col. (Dr.) Lorne Blackbourne, former USAISR commander and San Antonio Military Medical Center trauma surgeon; Col. (Dr.) Lance Cordoni, chief of medical consultants division, Capability Development and Integration Directorate at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School; James Johnson, Ph.D., director, Center for Applied Learning, Wake Forest University School of Medicine; and Lance Hopman, head of research and development at SAM Medical.

"It's very satisfying to know that the Army saw the innovation to fill a capability gap to help prevent service members from dying from junctional wounds where standard limb tourniquets could not be applied and so recognized us and the SAM Junctional Tourniquet for this innovation award," Dubick added. "As this is the fourth Army Greatest Invention or Innovation Award for our group,



Photo by Steven Galvan

(From left) Michael Dubick, Ph.D., Col. (Dr.) Lance Cordoni and Dr. John Kragh hold a SAM Junctional Tourniquet that was selected as the 2015 Maj. Gen. Harold "Harry" J. Greene Award for Innovation (Group Category) by the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

all being team efforts, it further reflects how relevant USAISR is to the Army and warfighter with respect to optimizing combat casualty care."

"I'm happy to be a member of the award-winning team as it will shine more light on this lifesaving device," Cordoni said. "Hopefully, we will get the SAM Junctional tourniquet into all Army training programs and medical kits so that our medics will have these when they need them."

The award, presented by the U.S. Army Materiel Command, is a combination of the Army's Greatest Invention Award and the Soldier's Greatest Invention Award. The Greene award was named after Maj. Gen. Greene, an innovator at USAMC. Greene was killed by gunfire while conducting an inspection of an Afghan military academy in 2014. The gunman was wearing an Afghan army uniform and the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

USAISR Company changes command

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs

Soldiers and staff members at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, or USAISR, bid farewell to one commander and welcomed a new one during a change of command ceremony June 15 at Fort Sam Houston.

Capt. Jose A. Juarez Jr. relinquished command of the USAISR Company to Capt. Cleveland S. Bryant, Jr., in a ceremony hosted by Col. (Dr.) Michael D. Wirt, USAISR commander.

"Capt. Juarez, your accomplishments as the company commander are impressive," Wirt said. "This command is a success because of your leadership, motivational skills, inspirational integrity and your ability to plan and

successfully execute all missions."

Juarez thanked the institute's leadership for their support and allowing him to fulfill his longtime dream.

"As a young enlisted Soldier, I was impressed by a company commander and I told myself that someday I would be in that position," Juarez said. "I didn't know when or where, but I knew that it's what I wanted to do. To do that at this command was more than I imagined. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as your company commander."

Bryant's most recent assignment was a medical logistics officer at the 2nd Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade in Waegwan, Korea.

"It is a great honor and privilege to be part of an organization of which

spearheads innovation, creativity and ingenuity of Army medicine to new levels of excellence," Bryant said.

Bryant enlisted in the Army in 2000, earning the military occupational specialty of medical laboratory technician, or 68K. In 2007, he attended the Officer Candidate School and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps in 2008.

"Capt. Bryant, welcome to the USAISR," Wirt said. "I have heard nothing but great things about you, and I'm confident that you will pick up where Capt. Juarez left off. You have outstanding NCOs and Soldiers under your command who will give you their best every day to ensure that you will also have a successful tour as well."



Photo by Steven Galvan

Capt. Cleveland Bryant (left) takes the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research flag from Col. (Dr.) Michael Wirt, USAISR commander, during a change of command ceremony at Fort Sam Houston July 15.

Safety tips for protecting your head this summer

By Toni McCall

Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center Regional Education Coordinator

During the summer, people look forward to leaving the house and enjoying more recreational sports and activities. The military community is familiar with being on the go and living active lives.

The thrill of exploring a new bike path or the excitement of hitting the basketball court can distract people from recognizing unseen risks. Understanding the risks that cause traumatic brain injury, or TBI, can help people avoid summer mishaps.

There are simple things to do to protect your head, like wearing a helmet when you venture the roads on your bike, motorcycle or all-terrain vehicle. Consider key safety measures when choosing a helmet. Select the right helmet or headgear for each activity and ensure they fit properly.

While traveling to a summer vacation destination, practice safe driving. Essential precautions to take include wearing a seatbelt and removing driving distractions such as texting or dialing on mobile phones. These actions help to keep all drivers and passengers safe.

On the basketball court or the playing field, you should assess the risks around you such as objects you can trip over or collide into. Footwear with good traction prevents slips and falls.

In the military, most brain injuries are diagnosed in

noncombat settings. Common causes of noncombat brain injuries are motor vehicle collisions, falls, sports-related incidents and training accidents. According to Department of Defense data, more than 344,000 service members have been diagnosed with TBI since 2000.

The majority of brain injuries in the military are concussions, also known as mild traumatic brain injuries, or TBIs. A TBI occurs when a blow or jolt to the head disrupts normal brain function. After a concussion, you may feel woozy or confused, see spots or lose consciousness. The signs and symptoms are often subtle and difficult to recognize. Seek medical attention if you suspect you experienced a concussion.

Both in combat and noncombat settings, DOD policy requires a concussion evaluation and appropriate rest time for service members involved in potentially concussive events – a motor vehicle collision, a direct blow to the head, loss of consciousness or repeated experience with concussive events. All of these incidents require mandatory concussion evaluation by a medical provider.

Education is critical in raising concussion aware-



ness, promoting prevention and supporting recovery. The San Antonio Military Medical Center regional education coordinator for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center provides concussion awareness trainings for service members and medical personnel. For more information about education and outreach efforts at Joint Base San Antonio, contact the regional education coordinator at 916-7013.

A Head for the Future (<http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/aheadforthefuture>) is a U.S. Department of Defense TBI awareness initiative that highlights service members and veterans who recovered from brain injury with medical treatment and support. The video series TBI Champions is featured on <http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/aheadforthefuture> and the YouTube channel of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury.

For additional safety tips and TBI prevention, educational resources can be found at <http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/aheadforthefuture/materials> and ordered from the DVBIC Resources section for free.

Visit "A Head for the Future" on Twitter (https://twitter.com/AHFTF_Page) and on DVBIC's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DVBICpage>.

'Turn Around – Don't Drown': don't become a flood water statistic

By Janis El Shabazz

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

"Turn Around – Don't Drown."

We've all heard this flood precaution. As with many oft repeated mottos – after a time people tend to let it go in one ear and out the other. However, San Antonio residents who ignore this warning do so at their peril.

According to the San Antonio River Authority, or SARA, San Antonio is in one of the most flash flood-prone regions in North America. Furthermore, data from the Flood Safety Education Project reveals that Texas leads the nation most every year in flood related deaths and damage.

Each year, more deaths occur in the United States due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm-related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report more than half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into or near flood waters.

People often underestimate the force and power of water.

Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn the road is flooded.

It only takes 6 inches of fast-moving flood water to knock over an adult. Most cars will float (and be swept away) in 18-24 inches of moving water. Trucks and sport utility vehicles are not much better with only 6-12 more inches of clearance. It is never safe to drive or walk into flood waters.

We all have seen the flooding that occurs in San Antonio, sometimes with only moderate rainfall. SARA officials point out it is San Antonio's particular topography that causes this dangerous recurrence, because a large percentage of San Antonio contains what is known as impervious cover. Impervious cover prevents rain



Photo courtesy National Weather Service

"No matter how many times we say, 'Turn around – Don't 'drown,' every time it rains a group of people ignore this warning, drive around barriers, walk through standing water causing city officials to expended thousands of dollars on high water rescues, or worse, have to tell a family that their loved one died in a flood."

Travis Kilpack

502nd Air Base Wing occupational safety manager

from soaking in the ground, which is a major contributor of water run-off leading to flooding during medium to heavy rainfall.

American Red Cross officials said floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters. Conditions that cause floods include heavy or steady rain for several hours or days that saturates the ground. Flash floods occur suddenly due to rapidly rising water along a stream or low-lying area.

Flash floods can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges and scour out new channels, according to the National Weather Service, Southern Region Headquarters. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more. Furthermore, flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mud slides.

The terms most used by weather forecasters when floods are predicted in the community are:

- Flood/Flash Flood Watch – flooding or flash flooding is possible.
- Flood/Flash Flood Warning – Flooding or flash flooding is already occurring or will occur soon.

"No matter how many times we say, 'Turn around – Don't 'drown,' every time it rains a group of people ignore this warning, drive around barriers, walk through standing water causing city officials to expend thousands of dollars on high water rescues, or worse, have to tell a family that their loved one died in a flood," said Travis Kilpack, 502nd Air Base Wing occupational safety manager. "Sometimes folks wind up in these situations because they believe their 3,000-pound or more vehicle will remain in contact with the road surface ... that it is too heavy to float."

To that flawed logic Kilpack offers this sobering fact; "Aircraft carriers weighing 97,000 tons float. Vehicles and ships float because of buoyancy. He said in moving water all that needs to happen is for the vehicle to become buoyant enough for the force of the moving water to push it sideways.

Furthermore, Kilpack said automobile commercials advertising the ability to drive through water leads to a false sense of security at best and tragic consequences at worst. Once swept downstream, the vehicle will often roll to one side or perhaps flip over entirely. The driver then only has a few seconds to escape the vehicle.

Heeding the "Turn Around – Don't Drown" warning



and following the old adage often used to bracket a precautionary tale, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," can prevent people from becoming a flood water statistic.

The American Red Cross offers the following flood water safety recommendations:

- Listen to area radio and television stations and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio for possible flood warnings and reports of flooding in progress or other critical information from the National Weather Service.
- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- When a flood or flash flood warning is issued for your area, head for higher ground and stay there.
- Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go another way. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off of your feet.
- If you come upon a flooded road while driving, turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water.
- Keep children out of the water. They are curious and often lack judgment about running water or contaminated water.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood danger.

For additional information, visit the National Weather Service, Southern Region Headquarters Turn Around, Don't Drown page at <http://www.srh.weather.gov/srh/tadd/>.

OFFICERS from P2

A complete list of requirements and instructions for applying can be found by reading MILPER 15-270. Banco reiterated, however, to keep in mind that the new MILPER that replaces it will soon be published.

The new MILPER will serve as guidance for in-service active-duty and Reserve Soldiers only, Banco said. Civilians with college degrees interested in becoming active or Reserve officers may use the forthcoming MILPER as a "guide." Civilians interested in Army National Guard service can see a Guard recruiter.

Andres provided an overview of the course:

- Weeks 1 and 2: introduction, leadership, ethics
 - Weeks 3 and 4: military history, competence in warrior task and battle drills confirmed by cadre
 - Week 5: land navigation
 - Weeks 6 and 7: squad-level tactical instruction
 - Weeks 8 and half of week 9: squad-level evaluations on ability to lead squad through a tactical mission
 - Half of week 9 and week 10: platoon level operations
 - Weeks 11 and 12: mentorship aspect of what it means to become a junior officer, how officers interact with Soldiers and noncommissioned officers, Army civilians
 - After week 12, there's a commissioning ceremony
- Andres said the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command oversees the training and ensures that the syllabus is appropriate for commissioning second lieutenants.

"G-1 provides policy oversight for all paths for appointment to the three Army components," Corley said.

He added that OCS follows Army Regulation 350-36, which contains military instruction requirements and OCS also ensures that the U.S. Army Center for Initial

Military Training task list is followed. That task list is the same as it is for the Reserve Officer Training Corps and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., the Army's other commissioning programs.

Candidate Jonathan Winter recently completed OCS and is awaiting his secret clearance – which is still being processed by the Office of Personnel Management – before getting his second lieutenant bars. He has a four-year degree and a post-graduate Juris Doctor degree. He will become an infantry officer.

Winter gave his perspective of OCS and compared it to Basic Combat Training, which he attended immediately prior to OCS. Both basic training and OCS are at Fort Benning.

OCS is more physically and mentally demanding than basic training, he said. However, a candidate in reasonably good physical fitness shouldn't have any problems completing the course.

With basic training, the emphasis is on following orders and demonstrating basic Soldier competencies. In OCS, the emphasis is on leadership and critical thinking.

OCS is divided into two types of training, Winter said. There's garrison training and leadership evaluation and then there's field leadership training and evaluation.

In garrison evaluation, each candidate takes a different leadership role each week, from squad leader, platoon sergeant and first sergeant to platoon leader, company executive officer and company commanding officer.

For example, "when I took on the role of company commander, I was given a schedule for the week and had to ensure 90 people went from here to there. You have to be well organized and also be able to delegate responsibility," he said.

In the field leadership exercises, "you lead your platoon and they do platoon and squad missions, patrolling and reacting to simulated attacks, getting to your objective," he said, adding that training models are built and pre-mission briefs are conducted as well.

All of this training is under the watchful eyes of the cadre, who assist and evaluate, he said.

Andres said that the graduation rate for candidates in fiscal year 2015 was about 84 percent. Thus far for fiscal year 2016, that rate is around 90 percent.

Some candidates have to recycle, he said, particularly those without any time in the Army except for basic training.

Those who are recycled often have not yet mastered basic skills like land navigation and leadership, he said. "Those Soldiers coming from the force come much better prepared and typically succeed throughout the course."

In FY16, there will have been 11 classes, each class containing 80 to 120 candidates. Total projected graduates for FY16, FY17 and FY18 are 850 students per year, Andres said.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of OCS, Davis said. A lot has changed over that time, he added, such as gender integration in the combat arms branches as well as gender integrated OCS classes.

In the past when the nation was at war and the need to turn out officers for rapid build-up was required, OCS was the go-to place for getting that done in large numbers, he added.

"Many enlisted Soldiers are doing great things for the Army every day. OCS is their chance to take on even more responsibility and continue to do great things by becoming commissioned officers. Every Soldier deserves a great leader; every NCO deserves a great commanding officer," Davis said.

PANAMAX from P3

toilets for bathroom breaks are just a few of the things participants dealt with during the multi-national exercise.

However, on several occasions, exercise participants received some respite from the hectic pace and arduous conditions.

Nearly 80 family members visited the simulation exercise Aug. 2, while more than 30 members of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee called on PANAMAX participants Aug. 3 to receive an insider's look into what goes on during an exercise of this magnitude.

For teenagers Wyatt Yingst, 18, and Javier Santiago, 16, it was a chance to see what their dads do. They were impressed.

"I was surprised at how they were

able to have all those electronics in those tents," said Santiago, whose dad, Maj. Eric Lightfoot, works in G7-Information Operations.

Yingst agreed and said, "It was cool seeing all the soldiers from other countries and having them all working together."

His father, Sgt. Maj. Paul Yingst, is Army South's senior enlisted Army Reserve advisor.

Both groups received a presentation in the headquarters building which explained the command's capabilities, the concept of the operation and an exercise update before they "deployed" to the base camp. There, they were greeted by Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn, Army South's commanding general and met his Chilean deputy commanding general.

For the Fort Sam Houston portion of the exercise, 12 countries participated

in addition to the United States, with 19 countries participating over all. Other exercise locations included Miami and Jacksonville, Fla.; Norfolk, Va.; Tucson, Ariz., and for the first time, Chile.

Chamber member Chuck Bunch, who works as a San Antonio USO site manager, said he appreciated the trust Army South has in the community to show them the exercise.

"I enjoyed Army South opening its doors to us and letting us get a snapshot of what it is doing," Bunch said. "The critical mission Army South provides internationally and locally, allows us to enjoy the freedoms we have."

Fellow chamber member Mike Rowland, the vice president market manager and military liaison at Broadway Bank, like some of the other military affairs committee visitors, has prior mili-

tary service and already had knowledge of these types of exercises, but said not everyone in the community does.

"There is so much going on in San Antonio," Rowland remarked. "No one has a clue about exercises such as these. We've been able to witness first-hand how long it takes to deploy, to set up communications and so forth."

For family member Patricia Lamberson, wife of the G2-Intelligence Deputy, Eric Lamberson, she was also impressed with all the planning necessary for such a large event and how many people were involved.

After visiting the tents during the family day, her understanding of the exercise was of a different kind.

"My husband comes home musty smelling and I thought I'd check it out to find out why. Now I know," she said.

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