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



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**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT LAID TO REST** **PAGE 4**



**COWBOYS AND HEROES** **PAGE 11**

# Brooke Army Medical Center welcomes new commander

**By Elaine Sanchez**  
Brooke Army Medical Center  
Public Affairs

Col. Jeffrey J. Johnson assumed command of Brooke Army Medical Center from Col. Evan M. Renz during a ceremony at the San Antonio Military Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston Friday.



**Photos by Robert T. Shields**  
Col. Jeffrey J. Johnson addresses the audience during the BAMC change of command ceremony at San Antonio Military Medical Center Friday.

Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Tempel Jr., commanding general, Regional Health Command-Central (Provisional), who presided over the ceremony, had high praise for BAMC and Renz's legacy.

"I want you to know the caliber of the organization and command team we are honoring here today," he told the audience, packed with current and former leaders, family members and BAMC staff.

The general spotlighted just a few of the accolades and honors BAMC earned under Renz's watch, including a Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval and a first place ranking for overall surgical and medical inpatient satisfaction in the TRICARE inpatient survey. Additionally, the labor and delivery department is the highest-rated facility in the Defense Department for patient satisfaction, he noted.

Speaking directly to Renz, Tempel called his career contributions "immense."

"I hardly know where to begin to describe the 33 years of selfless, devoted service you have provided as a world-renowned physician, a leader and a surgeon," Tempel said. "You are responsible for countless lives saved whether serving as chief of the Army's Burn Flight team during our peak years of combat support operations or as senior trauma surgeon and intensivist at the most active combat hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan."



Col. Jeffrey J. Johnson receives the BAMC colors from Maj. Gen. Barbara R. Holcomb, deputy commanding general (operations) U.S. Army Medical Command, as he assumes command of Brooke Army Medical Center from Col. Evan M. Renz during a ceremony at San Antonio Military Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston Friday. BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Crews also took part in the ceremony.

"Col. Renz has touched the lives of so many, in so many ways while he has worn the cloth of our nation," he added. "He is the epitome of what it means to serve a cause greater than himself."

The general thanked Renz's wife, Diane, and his family for their support and contributions to BAMC.

# Army Surgeon General shares secrets to successful leadership

By Lisa Ferdinando  
DOD News, Defense Media Activity



Official photo  
Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen  
Nadja Y. West

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen Nadja Y. West, the highest-ranking female graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., says respect is a key to successful leadership.

Good leadership, West said, includes treating others with dignity and fairness, carrying oneself with respect, and demonstrating resilience, adaptability and empathy.

“As a leader, you’re really a servant, so you serve those who you lead,” she said. “I think the attributes of any leader start with integrity.”

West, who was among the first classes of women at West Point, is the Army’s first black surgeon general, and the Army’s first black female three-star general.

West earned an engineering degree from West Point and her medical degree from George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. She was sworn in as surgeon general in December, receiving her third star with that appointment.

just awesome, because you can serve, you can be involved in making someone well and healing,” she said. “What’s more rewarding than that – making sure someone is healthy?”

In an interview with DOD News, West recalled the trailblazers from her youth.

“Starting at home, my mom was an extremely strong role model,” the general said.

Her mother grew up in rural, segregated Arkansas and put herself through school and college. She served as a model of resilience and strength, West said, showing her 12 children – all adopted – what they could do when they set their minds to it.

“It was a great family environment,” the general added.

West, who was the youngest of the dozen, described a strong military tradition in her family. Her father had a career in the Army and her siblings served in the military – including three sisters who were in the Women’s Army Corps and one who was in the Women in the Air Force

program.

“I had the opportunity to see those ahead of me – not only my parents – really forging the way,” she said.

The general said her family proved what you can do when you set goals and ignore what others think or say. They showed her, she said, that “if you want to really accomplish something, to go for it.”

West said she welcomes the opening of all military occupations and specialties to women.

“A diverse group provides different perspectives and would give you a wider range of solutions,” she explained.

The result is a military more reflective of what the nation looks like, the general added. “Those who choose to serve should be given the opportunity to serve in those roles that they are qualified to serve in,” West said.

West graduated from West Point in 1982 as part of the third class to attend the military academy after it began accepting women.

“It was challenging for all the cadets, not just

the women – both physically challenging [and] emotionally challenging – and so it was quite an experience,” she said.

For the most part, West said, the women were embraced by their classmates. She noted that the academy’s leaders made the difference by setting the tone.

Female officers served as role models for her while she was at West Point and have continued to do so throughout her career, the general said.

In the Army medical department, she said, there were many women she admired. “There were quite a few who made me proud and gave me something to aspire to,” West said.

West’s previous assignments include service as commanding general of Europe Regional Medical Command; commander of Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, N.C.; and division surgeon for the 1st Armored Division, Army Europe and 7th Army in Germany.

Her most recent post was as the Joint Staff surgeon at the Pentagon.

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# AETC command chief shares vision, priorities

By Tech. Sgt. Beth Anschutz  
Air Education and Training  
Command Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command’s newest senior enlisted leader, Chief Master Sgt. David Staton, recently shared his vision of a successful tour as com-

mand chief.

Staton took the reins as command chief in January but is no stranger to the First Command. Service to AETC is woven throughout Staton’s career. In all, he has spent more than half of his 28 years of service within AETC,

to include assignments as a military training instructor, an instructor at the MTI schoolhouse, a basic military training squadron superintendent and two command chief positions, one at the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., and most recently for 2nd

Air Force at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

Staton said although he is familiar with the majority of what the command accomplishes day-to-day, he is looking forward to learning even more about certain mission areas, such as Air University

at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., where he immersed himself in the AU mission during a recent base visit.

“I have learned the AU machine is very complex and what they do day-to-day is critical to the

See AETC, P17



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## News Briefs

### JBSA Proud Week Cleanup

Joint Base San Antonio conducts a Spring Proud Week Cleanup Monday through April 15 in order to promote pride and maintain a high beautification standard throughout JBSA. Proud Week provides a specified time period where resources are allocated to conduct general area building maintenance (landscaping), clean up of work areas and enhance the appearance of JBSA and its facilities. Key tasks will be to remove trash, old furniture, fallen tree limbs, brush, grass from sidewalks and non-household trash. Personnel will sweep sidewalks and curbs and conduct a general inspection of fields, streets and parking lots in areas of responsibilities to include assigned work areas, storage and maintenance areas. Bag and bundle all trash as appropriate and transport to trash collection points or nearest dumpsters. This is a four-phased operation (phases may overlap if additional time is required) that include pre-inspection, cleanup operation, final inspection and after-action review.

### Claims Against Estate

Anyone having property of, or to whom the late U.S. Army Lt. Col. Brandon Darby is indebted to, should contact Capt. Timothy Souza at building 2000, room 2203, 2108 Wilson Way or call 295-8940.

### Voting Assistance

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

### Army Candidate School Structure Interview Panel Board

The 502nd Force Support Squadron's Military Personnel Branch conducts a U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Structure

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

# Army South Delegates observe, advise, assist Guatemalan tabletop exercise

By Maj. Janelle A. Garner  
U.S. Army South Public Affairs

Members of the Army South command and select delegates traveled to Guatemala March 16 for key leader engagements that included an operational brief of procedures by the Special Operation Brigade SELVA commander and a tabletop exercise with senior military, police and political leaders of Guatemala.

Guatemalan leaders descended upon the Minister of Defense Headquarters in Guatemala City, Guatemala, March 18 to discuss how to strike at the heart of narcotics traffickers in the Guatemalan region.

Narcotics trafficking is a regional problem and U.S. Army South, along with the Arkansas National Guard and other agencies, are united in providing for stability and security in Guatemala.

The tabletop exercise was facilitated by Army South senior intelligence analyst Jeff Mirabal and led by the Chief of Defense Brig. Gen. Juan Perez and the newly appointed 5th Vice Minister of Governance Oscar Davila.

"These meetings and workshops give us the opportunity to work in coordination to get a step ahead of the narcotics traffickers," said Davila as he welcomed the gathered delegates. "Each one of us represents our respective agencies, but above that we represent our country that

symbolizes peace and security against drug traffickers."

The exercise produced occasional moments of tension, as the varying parties passionately pleaded for better protocols in accomplishing their joint objectives of eradicating narcotics traffickers from the country.

The three main objectives of the exercise were to ascertain clarity in the decision-making process; determine command and control in narco-trafficking operations; and establish protocols and synchronization in their respective functions.

"Change is very difficult, when a different dynamic is infused," said Brig. Gen. James P. Wong, U.S. Army South deputy commander. "It takes a lot of effort and energy to redirect, I applaud you for assisting and promoting the processes for a new direction."

The Guatemalan task force military commanders, national police, intelligence experts and ministry government advisors attended.

Lt. Col. Jeff Lopez, deputy senior defense official along with Mirabal, facilitated the exercise, and ensured the engagement stayed on track. Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn, U.S. Army South commander and Col. Greg Bacon, Arkansas Army National Guard deputy adjutant to the general, provided an objective advisory role.

One of the current efforts in Guatemala is to disrupt the flow of illicit



Photo by Maj. Janelle A. Garner

(From left) U.S. Army South Commander Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn, Chief of Defense for the Guatemalan army Brig. Gen. Juan Perez and the 5th Vice Minister of Governance Oscar Davila participate in a table top exercise March 18.

drugs and build partner capacity of the Guatemalan counter-narcotics forces.

Col. Hugo Soto, current SELVA Jungle Brigade commander, (a position previously held by the current chief of defense), is responsible for the largest area of operations of any brigade in Guatemala and the majority of the 536 kilometers covered by his unit is close to the Mexico border.

"Working together is the only way we can counter the security threat," said Perez, chief of defense, during the after action review of the exercise.

"As a result of illegal immigration, drug trafficking, cattle trafficking and weapons trafficking we see a lot of crime

and assassinations," Soto said. "However, due to the presence of our jungle brigade, drug air traffic is going down, it's crucial for us to protect our borders."

The infantry soldiers of the SELVA jungle brigade stationed near the Mexico border continuously disrupt the operations of drug traffickers by destroying their rudimentary airstrips and conducting joint interagency operations.

Protecting the borders and the people of Guatemala was a reoccurring theme throughout the tabletop exercise.

Varying agency representatives attempted to sort out and clearly identify the legal and authoritative control of the varying task force

commanders and their abilities to act promptly without delay and interference. The delegates to the tabletop exercise diligently focused on the need to establish protocols in order to clearly denote their limitations.

"We want the task forces to be able to immediately respond, especially on cases that happen urgently when there is a written order giving legal support to the task force commanders on the ground," Davila said.

"This is an excellent dialogue and discussion. I think everything that we are talking about is really about trust and trusting each other and being professionals," Chinn said. "We need to continue doing these types of exercises so we build the trust, the unity of effort and the common purpose. We are all seeking a similar end state."

Chinn later emphasized the need for professional leaders to lead the change.

"It's important to have the cooperation between the military and the police. Without that, you won't be able to prosecute the criminals. There has to be a level of teamwork required to make this happen."

"All of the leaders have to support each other. Make the right decisions with the information you have at the time," Chinn added. "It takes a network to defeat a network. We have to make sure our network is flat, fast and transparent, so that we can get inside the narco-trafficking decision cycle."

# Medal of Honor recipient laid to rest at Fort Sam National Cemetery

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

Medal of Honor recipient and San Antonio native Santiago “Jessie” Erevia was laid to rest with full military honors Friday at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Erevia was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2014 by President Barack Obama following a review of the Distinguished Service Cross he received for actions while serving with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.

The review was part of a historic review of all significant valor awards received by minority Soldiers to determine if they were worthy of the Medal of Honor.

That resulted in the presentation of 24

Medals of Honor to what has become known as the “Valor 24.” Erevia was one of three Soldiers still living to receive the award.

Erevia enlisted in the Army out of San Antonio at the height of the Vietnam War and soon found himself in combat with the 101st Airborne Division.

He was highly respected by his fellow Soldiers as a courageous and highly proficient infantryman. After he completed his enlistment, Erevia settled in San Antonio and spent a 32-year career working for the United States Postal Service. Erevia also

served in the Texas National Guard for 17 years.

Erevia passed away March 22 at the age of 69. He is survived by his wife Leticia, sons Jesse, James and Roland, and daughter Rosie.

The citation for his Medal of Honor read as



The Fort Sam Houston Honors Platoon Caisson transports Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Santiago J. Erevia to his final resting place during his funeral at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Friday.

Photo By Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

follows: “Spec. 4 Santiago J. Erevia distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a radio telephone operator in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) during search and clear mission near Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam, on May 21, 1969.

After breaching an insurgent perimeter, Spec. 4 Erevia was designated by his platoon leader to render first aid to several casualties, and the rest of the platoon moved forward. As he was doing so, he came under intense hostile fire from four bunkers to his left front.

Although he could have taken cover with

the rest of the element, he chose a retaliatory course of action.

With heavy enemy fire directed at him, he moved in full view of the

hostile gunners as he proceeded to crawl from one wounded man to another, gathering ammunition.

Armed with two M-16

rifles and several hand grenades, he charged toward the enemy positions behind the suppressive fire of the two rifles. Under very



Photo By Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

The Fort Sam Houston Honors Platoon firing party renders full honors to Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Santiago J. Erevia. Erevia was laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Friday and was honored by family, friends, military members and veterans groups from around the San Antonio area.

intense fire, he continued to advance on the insurgents until he was near the first bunker.

Disregarding the enemy fire, he pulled the pin from a hand grenade and advanced on the bunker, leveling suppressive fire until he could drop the grenade into the bunker, mortally wounding the insurgent and destroying the fortification.

Without hesitation, he employed identical tactics as he proceeded to eliminate the next two enemy positions. With the destruction of the third bunker, Erevia had exhausted his supply of hand grenades.

Still under intense fire from the fourth position, he courageously charged forward behind the fire emitted by his M-16 rifles.

Arriving at the very edge of the bunker, he silenced the occupant within the fortification at point blank range.

Through his heroic actions the lives of the wounded were saved and the members of the Company Command Post were relieved from a very precarious situation.

His exemplary performance in the face of overwhelming danger was an inspiration to his entire company and contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Spec. 4 Erevia’s conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.”



## News Briefs

### Continued from P3

Interview Panel Board at 8 a.m. April 27 at building 2263, 1706 Stanley Road, room 117B. All Soldiers must have a bachelor's degree and can't be over the age of 33. Soldiers must also be U.S. citizens, have a general technical score of 110 or higher on the U.S. Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, a security clearance and cannot have more than six years active federal service. Soldiers are also required to have a Department of the Army photo or photo in Army Combat Uniform. Do not apply if on assignment or scheduled to deploy. For a complete listing and checklist of the OCS requirements and forms, visit <https://www.hrcapps.army.mil/site/protect/branches/officer/Operations/Ac-cessions/OCS/index.htm>. All OCS applicants must see their S1/G1 prior to submitting their OCS packets. All OCS packets must be turned in by April 8. For more information, call 221-0885.

### Check Military, CAC, Dependent ID Expiration Dates Now

All Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting system, Command Access Card and military ID card locations throughout Joint Base San Antonio are by 100 percent appointment only and wait time for an appointment can be up to 30 days. Civilian and military members need to remember then their CACs and military IDs expire and schedule renewal appointments appropriately. Appointments can be made online at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>.

### Weingarten rights: having union representation

The Labor Relations Statute entitles a bargaining unit employee to representation by the union during an examination, by an agency representative, in connection with a matter under official investigation if that employee reasonably believes disciplinary action will result. If the employee requests union representation, no further questioning will take place until a representative is present. For those stationed at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, call 808-0205; JBSA-Randolph, call 652-4658 and JBSA-Lackland, call 671-4528.

## LOCAL MILITARY LEADERS SIGN SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION



Lt. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins, commanding general of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and Senior Commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, talks to the assembled guests and military medicine students at the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month proclamation signing ceremony at the Academic Support Center on Fort Sam Houston April 1. Wiggins stressed that sexual assault was an attack on the moral fiber of the military and asked those in attendance to be ambassadors for change.



Photos by Steve Elliott

(From left) Air Force Col. Michael Gimbrone, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Support Group commander; Army Lt. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins, commanding general of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and Senior Commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis; Navy Rear Adm. Rebecca J. McCormick-Boyle, commander; Navy Medicine Education and Training Command; Marine Lt. Col. Eric C. Dill, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion commander; and Coast Guard Cdr. Benjamin M. Golightly, Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit Texas commander, pose with the signed Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month proclamation at the Academic Support Center on Fort Sam Houston April 1.

## Socks for Safety: Colorful footwear decreases patient fall risk at SAMMC

By Sgt. Jeff Shackelford  
343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Like other hospitals around the nation, the San Antonio Military Medical Center located on Fort Sam Houston is implementing new strategies to prevent patient injuries.

Members of the 6 West ward Unit Practice Council reviewed several events surrounding an increased number of patient falls and discovered there was a need to add a visual aid to enhance programs already in place.

Capt. Teresa A. Harroun, council member said during their review of the events surrounding each fall, it was discovered that in several cases

the staff were unaware of the patient's fall risk classification. They were not applying the appropriate interventions as suggested by the Johns Hopkins Fall Risk Assessment Tool, an evidence-based fall safety initiative that serves as a standard across the hospital.

According to the JHFRAT, if a patient is categorized as a moderate- or high-fall risk, they get a fall risk band, nonskid socks and a falling star sign outside their door. If they are a high-fall risk, they should also have their bed alarm on and should remain in line of site of hospital staff when out of bed.

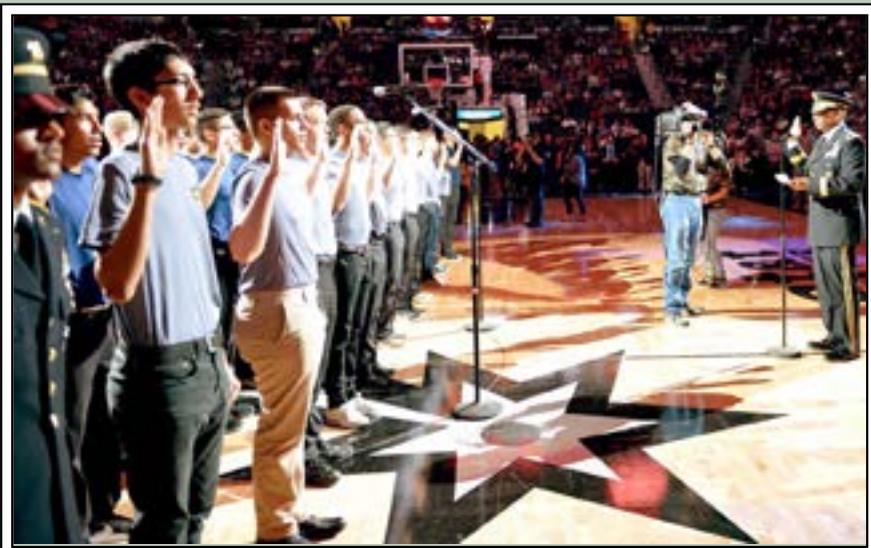
See SOCKS, P9



Shayvonna Taylor (left), certified nursing assistant, and Army Spc. Yanine Pedrazas Terrazas (right), licensed vocational nurse, place yellow socks on a patient who is at high risk for falling March 24 at San Antonio Military Medical Center.

Photo by  
Lori Newman

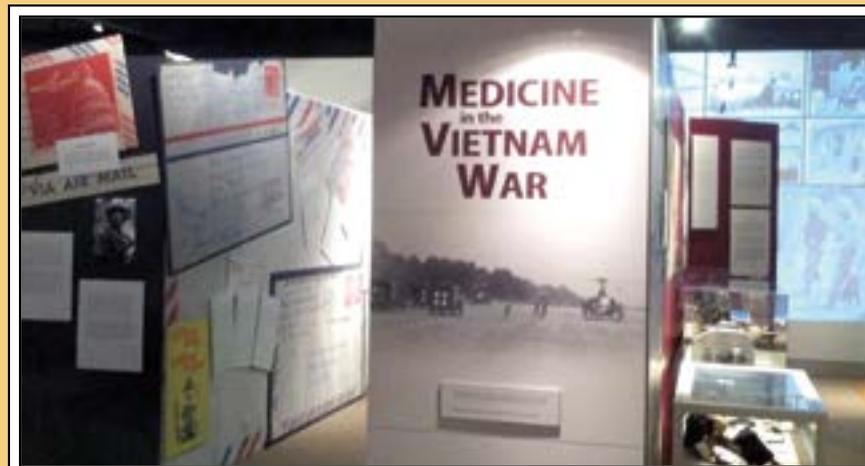
## IMCOM DEPUTY CG SWEARS IN ARMY RECRUITS AT SPURS GAME



**Photo by Tim Hips**

Maj. Gen. Lawarren Patterson (right), U.S. Army Installation Management Command deputy commanding general for operations and chief of staff, presents the Oath of Enlistment for about 40 men and women from South Texas on behalf of the San Antonio Military Entrance Processing Command at halftime of the Miami Heat-San Antonio Spurs game on Military Appreciation Night March 23 at the AT&T Center.

## 'MEDICINE IN THE VIETNAM WAR' EXHIBIT AT AMEDD MUSEUM



**Courtesy photo**

The new AMEDD Museum exhibit, "Medicine in the Vietnam War" displays interesting items from the war as well as photographs and other imagery that interpret medical support. One portion of the exhibit features letters home from Spec. 4 Donald Evans a combat medic and posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor and for whom the Evans Theater at Fort Sam Houston is named. Another section has rolling imagery of almost 300 photographs. Hospitalization and helicopter ambulances are described in the exhibit, as are less well-known subjects such as dental care and Special Forces medical researchers. From point of injury care and evacuation to surgery, nearly all facets of medicine were explored and utilized during the conflict.

# JBSA Proud Week: 'Keep calm and clean on'

By Airman 1st Class  
Stormy Archer  
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Members of the Joint Base San Antonio community will join forces Monday through April 15 for an installation-wide spring cleanup effort.

The 502nd Air Base Wing, in coordination with the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron, is conducting Proud Week Spring Cleanup, an event that will unite mission partners, tenant units, organizations and agencies throughout JBSA.

"The purpose of Proud Week is to really focus on cleaning up our areas around us," said Chief Master Sgt. Katie McCool, 502 Security Forces and Logistics Support Group superintendent. "This is our opportunity to come together and focus on

enhancing the appearance and beautification of JBSA and its facilities, conduct environmental maintenance and promote a clean work environment."

Key tasks will be to remove trash, old furniture, fallen tree limbs, brush, grass from sidewalks and non-household trash. Personnel will sweep sidewalks and curbs, and conduct a general inspection of fields, streets and parking lots in areas of responsibilities to include assigned work areas, storage and warehouse areas. Bag and bundle all trash as appropriate and transport to trash collection points or nearest dumpsters.

Senior enlisted members will lead cleanup efforts for each organization.

"Whatever organiza-

tion you belong to, if you find your senior enlisted leader, they should be able to point you in the direction of what you can do to help," McCool said.

Supplies for cleanup efforts can be acquired at the self-help store at each JBSA operating location: building 4197 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, building 5495 at JBSA-Lackland and building 891 at JBSA-Randolph.

In addition, lawn and garden supplies and equipment such as rakes, wheelbarrows, brooms and other items will be available in limited quantities for sign-out.

Bulk trash sites will be designated at all JBSA locations, and participants may use dumpsters near their work areas for items that aren't bulk trash.

Examples of bulk trash

items are tree limbs, broken-down picnic tables, old fence materials, bricks and old landscaping timbers.

Items that are not accepted for bulk removal are hazardous materials, furniture and other items appropriate for defense reutilization and marketing office disposal, equipment and food waste.

"Keeping JBSA clean is part of excellence in all we do," McCool said. "You should be proud of where you live and where you work, and you should want to take the effort to make it a good place."

For more information on what supplies are available or how to check out equipment call 652-2242 for JBSA-Randolph, 652-2055 for JBSA-Lackland and 808-6079 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

# Secretary of Defense announces Operation Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal

By Jim Garamone  
DOD News Defense Media Activity

Service members who serve or have served in Iraq or Syria as part of Operation Inherent Resolve will receive the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced in Tampa, Fla., March 30.

Carter announced the new award during the U.S. Central Command change-of-command ceremony. Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III transferred the command's flag to Army Gen. Joe Votel.

"It is fitting then, that as we mark the change of command between

**See MEDAL, P9**



**DOD Illustration**  
Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced the creation of the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal March 30.

## SOCKS from P6

Based on this information, incident reviews and the review of relevant literature, the UPC decided to employ the Yellow Sock Program to increase situational awareness and enhance the fall prevention policies already in place by adding visual cues in the form of yellow socks for high-risk patients.

"We had an increased number of falls and wanted to take action. Patients that are high risk require different interventions than those that are moderate or low risk," said Harroun, a clinical nurse at SAMMC.

"When staff or family walked into a patient's room, it wasn't immediately obvious what category the patient fell under and therefore the

proper interventions were not always being applied.

"The addition of yellow socks to high fall patients tells the nurse or medic the interventions that need to be in place for that particular patient," Harroun continued.

With a solution in hand, the UPC moved out for approval.

"We began looking into the initiative in March 2014 and completed a 30-day pilot on our ward from September to October 2014," Harroun said.

"After pre- and post-surveys showed improvement in fall risk awareness and falls decreased for the remainder of the year, it was presented to leadership and implemented hospital wide. We began roll out in March 2015 and just completed it in December."

Harroun says she is very excited about the improved awareness of patient safety.

"We have seen an increase in staff, patient, and family awareness of fall risk and a decrease in the number of falls on our unit,"

Harroun said. "Additionally, we presented the project at the tri-service nursing research conference and have been in contact with folks from other hospitals that are interested in bringing the initiative to their facilities."

Harroun said she hopes with increased patient safety and staff awareness regarding falls, the hospital will continue to see a decrease in the number of injuries from falls and other hospitals will adopt similar success stories in regards to fall prevention.

## MEDAL from P8

these two leaders, that we introduce the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal," Carter said. "I am pleased to announce today, by the president's order and upon the chairman's and my recommendation, that our sailors, soldiers, airmen, and Marines serving in Iraq and Syria as part of Operation Inherent Resolve are now eligible for this medal and distinction."

The award is retroactive to June 15, 2014, and is for service members based in Iraq or Syria, those who flew missions over those countries, and those who served in contigu-

ous waters for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days, officials said.

The award distinctly recognizes service members battling terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria. Service members who were killed or were medically evacuated from those countries due to wounds or injuries immediately qualify for the award, as do members who engaged in combat.

Previously, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal recognized service in Iraq and Syria, and service members in neighboring countries such as Turkey will continue to receive that award.

The president establishes campaign medals for large-scale and long-duration combat actions or operations. Inherent Resolve meets the criteria, officials said. The entire operational area has been subject to lethal combat operations. U.S. forces are executing an extensive air campaign in the region. A U.S. division-plus force is providing command and control, intelligence, and other advisory services.

The award is separate from the Iraq Campaign Medal awarded for service during operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, officials said.

# Heart procedure offers new hope to high-risk patients

By Elaine Sanchez

Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center doctors at Fort Sam Houston are pumped up about a new procedure for high-risk patients needing heart valve repair.

Transcatheter aortic valve replacement, or TAVR, is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that involves inserting a replacement valve into the aortic valve's place, similar to a stent placed in an artery.

Once the new valve is expanded, it takes over blood flow regulation. The procedure is primarily done for patients with severe aortic valve stenosis, or narrowing.

Typically, valve replacement requires an open heart procedure, which is a viable option for most patients, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Daniel Bellin, San Antonio Military Medical Center interventional cardiologist. An open heart procedure, however, is off the table for certain high-risk patients, such as older patients or those with other medical conditions.

TAVR is proving a game-changer for these high-risk patients. "TAVR is providing these patients with new hope," Bellin said. "We are very excited to offer this option to our patients. There's a growing population for this

type of procedure and has been for a while."

"This procedure can improve symptoms significantly," added Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Petros Leinonen, SAMMC chief of cardiothoracic surgery.

Surgeons performed SAMMC's first TAVR procedures last month with a highly successful outcome. "The surgeries went very well," Bellin said. "We were very pleased with the procedures and near-term recovery, and look forward to seeing the long-term results."

Bellin praised TAVR's interdisciplinary approach to care, noting the collaboration between interventional cardiology, cardiothoracic surgeons, anesthesiologists, and technicians and nursing from the surgical and catheter lab side. "The teamwork is an exciting feature," he said.

"The collaboration between multiple services is an example of what we can accomplish by working together," Leinonen added.

First introduced in Europe, the Food and Drug Administration-approved procedure is relatively new in the U.S., Bellin said, but is catching on across the country.

"This is one more excellent example of our commitment to advancing care on all fronts for the ultimate benefit of our patients," he said.

# Joint Base San Antonio Exceptional Family Member Program holds Special Olympics, equestrian camp

By Tiffani Sertich

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center

The Joint Base San Antonio Exceptional Family Member Program, Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center and the Special Olympics Texas-San Antonio Area hosted an equestrian camp and Special Olympics competition March 14-18.

Throughout the week, Cindy Tripoli and Annie Blakely, Equestrian Center, special Olympics coaches and certified by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, taught the campers horsemanship and riding skills in preparation for the fourth annual local Equestrian Special Olympics competition.

Participants learn to ride, gain self-confidence



Photo by Kathleen Salazar

Joshua Dixon directs his horse, Mason, around a barrel during the barrel race competition during the equestrian camp and Special Olympics competition at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center March 14-18.

to direct and control a horse.

"Tyler was excited every day to be with the

horses. It was great to hear him talking to the horse, Cody, telling him, "You can do it! Good job."

It was nice to see him develop the confidence to encourage Cody," said his mother, Kimberly Craig.

Therapeutic riding rhythmically moves the rider's body in a manner similar to a human gait, improving flexibility, balance and muscle strength and requires the rider to think about how and where they will guide the horse.

On March 18, 11 athletes were judged on their riding skills in Western equitation, Western riding, pole bending, barrel racing, trail and team relay. Four of JBSA's Olympians will compete in the regional competition April 16 at the Bexar County Sheriff Posse Arena with a possibility of advancing to the state level.

"Events like this help children gain self-



Photo by Tiffani Sertich

Rider Trinity Phippin giggles as recreation aide Jennifer Eldeen guides her through the pole bending course during the equestrian camp and Special Olympics competition at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center March 14-18.

confidence and provide opportunities for them to demonstrate courage and builds cognitive and physical skills" said Heejung Sackett, Fort Sam Houston EFMP consultant.

EFMP assists military families with special medical or educational needs. EFMP also assists with navigating the medical and educational system, and helps families identify and access programs and services available to them. For more information about the EFMP program, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 221-2705; JBSA-Lackland at 671-3722; or JBSA-Randolph at 652-5321.

The Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers English, Western, and therapeutic riding lessons and is open to all JBSA Department of Defense ID cardholders. For information, call 224-7207.



Photo by Tiffani Sertich

Tyler Craig practices the clover shape routine for barrel racing during the equestrian camp and Special Olympics competition at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center March 14-18.



Photo by Kathleen Salazar

Athletes were judged on their riding skills and walked away with gold, silver and bronze medals during the equestrian camp and Special Olympics competition at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center March 14-18.

# COWBOYS AND HEROES COOKS UP GOOD FOOD, GOOD TIMES



A real hayride was one of the attraction for visitors to the 2016 Cowboys For Heroes event at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center Saturday.



Meat was definitely on the menu when Steve Hall with Wagons for Warriors put an array of kebabs on the grill during the 2016 Cowboys For Heroes event at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center Saturday.



Jerry and Freda Knight boast an impressive collection of Fiesta and other medals while visiting the 2016 Cowboys For Heroes event at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center Saturday.



Diane McSearran with Wagons for Warriors stirs up some beef tips during 2016 Cowboys For Heroes event at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center Saturday.



Guitarist Michael Liberto from the Jay Abraham Band member belts out a country tune during the 2016 Cowboys For Heroes event at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center Saturday.

Kelly Waggoner (left) and Jack Thomsen (right) offer up picadillo and Texas red chili, respectively, during the 2016 Cowboys For Heroes event at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center Saturday. More than 1,500 people attended the 11th annual event, which featured a variety of foods cooked from scratch over campfires. Chuck wagons lined the field serving a variety of beef stews, kabobs, chicken, beans, peach cobbler and homemade ice cream.



A young rider holds on for dear life during the mutton busting event at the 2016 Cowboys For Heroes event at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center Saturday.



Photos by Steve Elliott.

# Military youth can use tech to improve mental health literacy, coping skills

**By Carol Roos**  
Defense Centers of Excellence  
Public Affairs

Frequent transitions, parental separations and the cumulative effects of multiple deployments can negatively affect military youth, research shows. Military youth are generally resilient, but many are coping with increased levels of anxiety, stress, depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation and behavioral problems.

“We all have to learn how to teach military youth coping skills, how to recognize signs of psychological distress and how to get help,” psychologist Kelly Blasko of the National Center for Telehealth and Technology said in a webinar sponsored by the Defense Health Agency.

Blasko led focus groups whose feedback helped the center create a website for military kids called Military Kids Connect (<http://militarykidsconnect.dcoe.mil/> or <http://www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org>).

The MKC website has received more than a quarter-million hits since its launch in January 2012. The website addresses challenges of transitions, deployment and reintegration with home and family.

Since children use interactive technology in their daily lives, it makes sense to reach them through this means of communication, Blasko said.

Teen and tween avatars in camouflage gear share tips on coping with deployments, siblings or moving. Teen-created videos offer introductions to new military bases.

Among the specific offerings are “Crossroads,” instructional vignettes that help kids deal with dilemmas and make better choices, and “What’s On Your Mind,” a message board where teens can talk with each other about issues they may face.

The site isn’t just for kids, though, Blasko said.

“As parents, providers and educators, we need to attend to these youth early on, so that we can prevent further psychological distress,” she said. “There are different tracks that offer teens, children, educators and parents tools and lesson plans.”

The site is important because mental disorders often begin in adolescence.

“We have the opportunity to intervene so that they get the help that they need,” Blasko said.

## 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>.





# Murphy: Sexual assault, harassment detrimental to combat readiness

By Stephen P. Kretsinger Sr.  
U.S. Army Combined Arms Center  
Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Acting Secretary of the Army Patrick J. Murphy visited the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Academy at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., March 24, and was briefed by senior leaders and spoke with a class of future victim advocates and sexual assault response coordinators.

While speaking to the students at the SHARP Academy, Murphy reemphasized Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley's number one priority and explained how the SHARP mission related to it.

"Our focus is readiness," Murphy said. "But

how can we be ready to face challenges the world presents if there is not trust within our ranks. We remain personally committed to eliminating sexual assault and harassment from our Army. Such behavior has no place in a disciplined military force. Every Soldier, Army civilian, and family member deserves to be – and will be – treated with dignity and respect."

In the early part of the new millennium, Murphy was a prosecutor who prosecuted sex crimes and understands how tough sexual assault and harassment cases are.

He showed his appreciation to the VA and SARC students, who will continue on to deal with

those cases firsthand.

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart," Murphy said. "Because as you know, sexual assault and harassment is not just a cancer for the Army, but also with our society. We've had positive results – reports are going up and incidents are going down – but still one is too many. The fact that you guys are on the front lines in the Army means a lot to me and it means a lot to our nation, because you guys are really where the rubber meets the road."

Murphy also met with senior leaders to receive a briefing about the current state of SHARP Academy and its near-term plans. The briefing



Photo by John Martinez

Acting Secretary of the Army Patrick J. Murphy visited the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Academy at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., March 24 to speak with a class of future victim advocates and sexual assault response coordinators.

was presented by Col. Geoff Catlett, SHARP Academy director and also attended by Lt. Gen. Robert Brown, U.S.

Army Combined Arms Center commanding general, as well as other top leaders.

"When the SHARP

program first started, the training was a lot of 'death by PowerPoint,'" Brown said. "Geoff and his team have done an outstanding job of improving the training Soldiers and civilians receive on this tough subject."

"We didn't want to present what people say is the typical SHARP training, where we show some slides, and go over definitions and rules of conduct," Catlett said. "We wanted to bring the humanity of the SHARP program – and the faces of those who were victims – to these students. We wanted them to hear firsthand what sexual harassment and assault does to our formations."



Photo courtesy Daniel Hevron Studios

San Antonio is in the middle of the Monarch migration route each spring and fall. Healthy milkweeds and other wildflowers throughout this region are critical for the health and survival of Monarch butterflies and other important pollinators. JBSA is doing its part by providing butterfly gardens at each JBSA location and thousands of acres of healthy, award-winning lands at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

## The Edwards Aquifer: where our water comes from

By Brian Hummel  
502nd Civil Engineer Squadron  
Pollution Prevention Manager and  
Aquifer Recharge Specialist

In celebration of Earth Day April 22 and National Environmental Education Week April 17-23, this week features an exploration about where our water comes from, as well as how Joint Base San Antonio is working to enhance pollinator habitat while reducing its Edwards Aquifer water demand.

JBSA and the vast majority of San Antonio pumps its water from the Edwards Aquifer. The aquifer springs are the reason many Central Texas cities were located where they are and why the Spanish chose to es-

tablish San Antonio in the early 1700s.

Some notable Edwards Aquifer Springs are (from west to east): Las Moras Springs at Fort Clark in Bracketville; San Pedro Springs north of downtown San Antonio; San Antonio Springs located on University of the Incarnate Word campus, near Broadway and Hildebrand Streets; Comal Springs in New Braunfels, which are the largest springs in Texas; San Marcos Springs which has a nice park and excellent interactive and interpretive exhibits; Barton Springs in Austin, which feeds the natural pool in Zilker Park; and Salado Springs near Salado, Texas.

Millions of people use

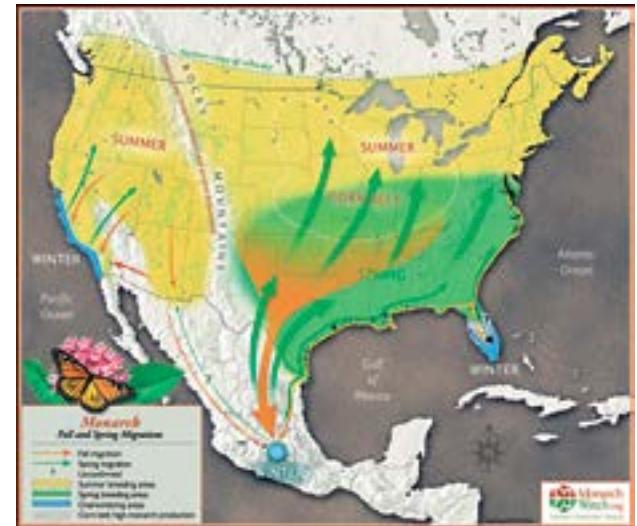


Photo courtesy Monarch Watch

San Antonio is in the middle of the Monarch migration route each spring and fall.

the water from these springs each year for drinking, irrigation, swimming and recreation.

The raised pollinator gardens laid out

See **AQUIFER**, P15

# X-ray tech makes sure doctors aren't operating blind



By Jeremy Gerlach  
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

Senior Airman Meagan Tavares, 59th Medical Wing radiology technician, has a gift for seeing through people.

Her X-ray machine helps, but Tavares relies just as much on her people skills.

"I get excited when I have a challenging patient that other techs (think) is too difficult," said Tavares, who works at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center. "If I can help that person – if I can get that image that other people think is impossible – if I can do that exam that other people think is too hard, that really gets me fired up."

Starting at 7 a.m., Tavares takes X-rays of patients ranging from

active-duty Airmen and their families to retirees. Beyond these basic procedures, she also administers steroid injections for patients with joint pain and fluoroscopy exams for those with digestive tract problems.

"When I can help a patient walk to out of our clinic feeling better than they did when they came in, and they walk out in a better mood, there's nothing that's more satisfying," said Tavares, who also loves working with pediatric patients. "You think kids and X-rays don't mix – you have to get them to hold still and some of them are afraid of the doctor – but they're actually the most fun patients to work with."

These services, Tavares noted, are vital to the 59th Medical Wing's mission.

"Without X-ray imaging in general, most doctors would be operating blind," Tavares said. "If doctors are unable to see the body part or issue they're looking for, it's really hard for them to get an accurate diagnosis."

Caring for the families of enlisted servicemen and women can



Photo by Jeremy Gerlach

Senior Airman Meagan Tavares, 59th Medical Wing radiologic technologist, adjusts her X-ray machine at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center before seeing a patient. Tavares is training to become a physician's assistant after leaving the Air Force.

be just as important, Tavares added.

"We make sure our forces get to fight, but they're not worrying about their families," she explained. "If they know their families are in good hands, that takes a huge weight off the

shoulders of people who are deployed or who are working on training for long hours. That way they're focused on their mission."

Tavares knows a thing or two about working long hours. Technical school for

most jobs is under three months, but lasts about 13 months for radiologic technicians. That's the longest-running medical tech school in the Air Force, and one of the longest in the entire armed services, according to the Air Force website.

"This is not just button pushing," noted Tavares, who spent hours learning the complete human anatomy. "We also learn about physics so we can ... minimize the radiation exposure to our patients. This is so much more than standing behind a wall and pushing a button."

Tavares is aiming to become a physician's assistant after leaving the Air Force. She's taking pre-requisite classes at the Alamo Colleges, and said she plans on applying to the Inter-Service Physician's Assistant program at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston later this year.

"I never thought the military was going to be an option for me, but the Air Force has just opened so many doors," said Tavares, who noted that she's not just making money at a job she loves, but is also going to school for free thanks

to the Air Force's tuition assistance. "I'm just very fortunate to have been given these opportunities."

Even after several years of training, Tavares's endless fascination with the human body keeps her fresh and engaged at work.

"To be able to watch even something as simple as somebody swallowing – to watch that process and see how the esophagus has this motion called 'peristalsis' – to watch that in motion is the coolest thing to me," said Tavares. "The human body is so much more complicated than we give it credit for. It blows my mind every time I see it – it never gets old."

Keeping that enthusiasm is important, because the patients at Wilford Hall keep Tavares and the rest of the radiology department on their toes, Tavares said.

"Every morning when I get to work, I'm so excited," she explained. "No two days are exactly the same. "Every patient is different – you never know what you're going to get. Even after two years, I'm learning new things every day."

## AQUIFER from P14

on contour near the Cunningham gate on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston are designed to deeply irrigate the landscape with storm water runoff.

These native wildflower seeds quickly vegetated the exposed soil during our cooler, wetter winter months and do not require any artificial irrigation to thrive in our

Texas climate. There are several similar projects installed at JBSA-Camp Bullis as well.

The wildflowers do more than just add some color to the landscape.

The Department of Defense is part of the "Pollinator Health Task Force" and projects such as these help the DOD meet their pollinator health objectives.

Projects like these

also help the City of San Antonio meet their pledge to be the First Monarch Champion City in the nation. We are in the middle of the Monarch butterfly migration route and our pollinator habitat enhancements help sustain the Monarchs and countless native pollinators.



### Employment Readiness Orientation

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

### Helping Us Grow Securely Playgroup

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, Middle School Teen Center, building 2515. An interactive playgroup for infants and toddlers; open to parents and their children, ages 5 and under. Registration not required. Call 221-2418.

### Post-Deployment Resiliency

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

### 4 Lenses Discovery Workshop

Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. The interactive workshop

exposes attitudes and probable motivation behind behavior. Learn how to map out the strengths of an entire team, work more effectively with natural talents, and embrace diversity by appreciating and tolerating the differences in others. Call 221-2418.

### TAP-Goals, Plans, Success

Monday-April 15 and April 18-22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Soldier for Life, building 2263. A mandatory five-day session workshop for all service members separating from the military; the TAP-Goals, Plans, Success workshop is facilitated by the Department of Labor, Veterans Administration and Military & Family Readiness Center. Prerequisite is Pre-Separation Counseling. Call 221-1213.

### Air Force Pre-Separation

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

### Citizenship & Immigration Assistance

Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon, Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Review American customs and cultures or meet with a Citizenship & Immigration Service officer for assistance with applica-

tions. Eligible patrons will take the Oath of Allegiance at a naturalization ceremony beginning at 2 p.m. April 26. Registration is not required. Call 221-2705.

### Accessing Higher Education

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

### Microsoft 2013 Excel Foundational

Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon, Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This two-part class is designed to give the beginner basic knowledge and skills within Excel. Participants will learn how to select cells, rows and columns; manipulate content; how to delete and insert worksheets; number formatting; freezing rows and columns; and more. Classes are free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. Registration required by calling 221-2705.

### Peer-To-Peer Support Group

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Soldier & Family Assistance Center, building 3639. Caregivers have the opportunity to build a peer support network, share experiences and information with a safe place to talk.

Lunch is provided after the morning session. Call 557-2018.

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

### VOYA, VEA Ceremony

Wednesday, 1 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. The annual JBSA Volunteer of the Year Award and Volunteer Excellence Award ceremonies will be held at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. The annual award ceremony pays tribute to the thousands of volunteers who contribute countless hours of service each year to help JBSA and local communities and honors those individuals who exemplify the role of the volunteer,

as well as those who make a significant positive impact on the lives of others. With the exception of the VEA, volunteer services must have been performed during 2015, Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. For more information, call 221-2705.

### Spouse Information Fair

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

### Couponing 101

Thursday, 10-11 a.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. An introduction to the concept of couponing; receive information and resources to help you save more. Call 221-2705.

### Pre-Deployment Resiliency

Thursday, 1-3 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This training draws heavily on the experiences of service members in order to prepare for the

realities and challenges commonly encountered prior to and during a deployment. Call 221-2418.

### Basic Budget Management

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

### Newcomer's Orientation

April 15, 8 a.m. to Noon, Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Mandatory in-processing briefing for all military and civilian personnel newly assigned to Joint Base San Antonio. Service members must coordinate with their unit personnel coordinator or commander support element. Spouses are welcome to attend; all patrons must be seated by 7:50 a.m. Call 221-2705.

### Army FAP Unit Training

April 18, 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. Call 221-2418.

# Alcohol Awareness Month: what is the story behind the wrecked truck?

## By Petty Officer 1st Class Jacquelyn D. Childs

Naval Medical Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Coordinators from the Joint Base San Antonio Substance Abuse Program at Fort Sam Houston have teamed up with the San Antonio Police Department to bring an impactful visual onto the post for Alcohol Awareness Month.

The SAPD will be delivering a wrecked vehicle from a previous alcohol incident which they now use to demonstrate the impact of

drinking and driving. The truck will be parked by the Walters Street entry control point Friday through Tuesday.

"April is National Alcohol Awareness Month and the Joint Base Substance Abuse Program wanted to have an effective display to make people think about the choices they make concerning alcohol and the risky behaviors that may result," said Kate Blankenship, JBSA Substance Abuse Program prevention coordinator.

A brief history of the truck, provided by the SAPD, brings even more meaning than the visual alone.

According to officials, the truck belonged to a family traveling through San Antonio from Mexico back to their home in Illinois. At around 1:30 a.m. April 4, 2010, they were driving on the lower level of Interstate 35 North with a 50-year-old man driving, his 45-year-old wife in the front passenger seat, along with their 20-year-old daughter and her 7-month-old baby in the back seat.

At the same time, a 35-year-old man was driving on the upper level of I-35 North and where the two levels merge and he made a U-turn to drive south on the northbound lanes. He struck the wrecked truck with the family inside.

The man driving was seriously injured. His wife passed away an hour after the crash. The daughter and her baby in the back seat were both critically injured, but survived.

The man who made an illegal U-turn had a

blood-alcohol content of 0.24, three times the legal limit. He had three previous driving-while-intoxicated incidents on record.

"The story behind the wrecked truck will connect with people," Blankenship said. "They will remember it and it will hopefully impact future decisions about drinking and driving. That's our goal."

If the feeling of destroying that family's lives wasn't enough to have a lasting impact on the impaired driver, he was convicted of intoxi-

cation manslaughter and three counts of intoxication assault and received a sentence of 50 years in prison. He was ordered to pay \$45,000 in fines and \$90,000 in restitution to the family.

National Alcohol Awareness Month has been held by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in April since 1987 to increase awareness and understanding of alcohol and alcohol-related issues. For more information, contact the Joint Base Substance Abuse Program at 221-9654.

# OUTSIDE THE GATE

## Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets at 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited. Call 539-1178.

## Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Reunion

The Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association

has announced a 75th U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Diamond Anniversary celebration and reunion April 24-28 at the Double Tree Hotel, 5321 Sidney Simmons Blvd., in Columbus, Ga. The association represents all Army officers commissioned through the Officer Candidate School, regardless of previous school locations and branches. Demonstrations and briefings related to OCS, tours, a grand opening of the remodeled Wigle Hall, Memorial/Monument Walk, OCS Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, and Patterson Award dinner at the National Infantry Museum. For reservations, call 706-327-6868 and use "OCS Alumni Association Reunion 2016." For more information, call 813-917-4309 or visit <http://www.ocsalumni.com>.

## BAMC from P1

the region, the Army and the San Antonio community.

Tempel also extended a warm welcome to Johnson and his family, calling the new commander "the right leader at the right time."

"You have my complete confidence in your skills as a leader ... as you assume command of a hospital that is so absolutely vital to this community, the readiness of our military, and the health and resiliency of all entrusted to our care," he said. "Under your leadership, I'm confident the BAMC healthcare

team will continue to excel in its role as a key partner in San Antonio and surrounding communities, the enhanced multi-service market and the entire Military Health System."

Renz thanked current and former leaders, mission partners, the entire San Antonio community, and the BAMC staff, who he called "fiercely dedicated and compassionate."

"Thank you, especially to the patients here today, for allowing us to be a small part of your family," he said.

Renz also expressed his confidence in Johnson to lead BAMC to the "next

level of excellence. "His reputation as a skilled and caring leader precedes him," he said.

Johnson, a board-certified fellow in family medicine, is a former commander of Irwin Army Community Hospital, Fort Riley, Kan., and, most recently, the command surgeon for Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea.

Johnson expressed his excitement to serve at BAMC for the first time among a staff that exemplifies "professionalism, collaboration, innovation and an unwavering sense of duty."

"I am very excited about what lies ahead,"

he said. "BAMC leads the way in patient care, innovation, medical education, readiness and safety. I'm in awe of your many successes – balancing each of these responsibilities while supporting the installation, South Texas and the region."

Johnson also had a message for the service members, family members and retirees cared for at BAMC. "Know that we will continue to provide you with the quality, compassionate, patient-centered care each one of you deserve," he said. "We are truly fortunate to serve those who currently are giving and have given so much."

## AETC from P2

success of the professional development and education of our Airmen across the Air Force," Staton said. "I am very excited to learn more and support the first-class, intellectual and leadership center of the Air Force."

Staton said he is also eager to learn more about the recruiting mission, where the command's mantra of "Airpower starts here" couldn't be more true.

"I look forward to learning more about how the recruiters operate and attract our country's finest, and how I can best help them accomplish their mission," he said. "Recruiters are the face of the Air Force where there is little to no Air Force presence. It's important for me to know how I can best support them."

AETC is on a great path and his goal is to keep moving forward with the command vision to forge innovative Airmen to power the world's greatest Air Force, Staton said.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brandon May

Chief Master Sgt. David Staton (left), command chief of Air Education and Training Command, and Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson (center), AETC commander, speak to Senior Airman Samuel Hahn (right), 47th Medical Group Public Health technician during a March 16 base tour at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. Roberson and Staton toured the medical facility and were briefed on programs operated by members of the 47th Medical Group.

"I plan to pick up the ball and move it forward, as best I can, by working very closely with our phenomenal commanders, chiefs and leaders in AETC," Staton said. "As the Air Force's First Command, we must continually help our Airmen to be more creative and find innovative means to effectively and efficiently prepare our newest Airmen to fly,

fight and win."

The chief said his main priorities are in line with and support the strategic goals of Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander. Roberson released the command's 2016 Strategic Plan in January listing his vector areas as motivational mission accomplishment, taking care of Airmen and families, innovation,

and leadership.

Staton believes the key to leadership is support and communication.

"I have a very basic leadership mentality; lead your Airmen, support them in their professional and personal life and help them grow," he said. "The most important and meaningful way to do this is simply good old fashioned, day-to-day, face-to-face contact with our Airmen, at all levels. I want supervisors to see their subordinates face-to-face every day, to the largest degree possible."

He is also focused on the Developmental Special Duty Program for which AETC plays a huge role. In 2013, 10 positions were designated as DSD because of the unique leadership roles and responsibilities they hold, which involve mentoring and molding future Air Force leaders, Staton said.

"Being that AETC has more than 90 percent of DSD positions I am extremely invested in continual improvement of the program. We are right

in the middle of taking a hard look at the number of military training leaders in the command, as well our professional development of these outstanding non-commissioned officers," he said. "It doesn't stop with MTLs though. We need to make sure we have the right manning and opportunities for our ROTC cadre and staff, as well as our recruiters. Trust me, there is plenty to do, and we have the right leaders in place to get after these opportunities."

The chief said he believes the basics of Airmanship are what sets us up for success; following and trusting in the chain of command, pride in appearance, taking care of each other and properly supervising are the tasks Airmen should be striving to do right every day.

If the Airmen of AETC should know anything about him, it's that he is a product of what he learned from his MTLs in basic training, Staton said.

"I still stand up when a second lieutenant,

who is as young as my son, walks into a room because that is what we are supposed to do. I take pride in my uniform because it represents the United States of America and our great Air Force. I walk on the left side of someone senior to me. I am a loyal servant to those I follow and those I lead and I take out my own trash," Staton said. "In other words, I don't ever want to forget where I came from and I make an effort to conduct my business with that in mind."

The chief concluded by expressing his thanks for the opportunity to lead the enlisted men and women of AETC.

"I couldn't be more proud of the Airmen and families that make up this command. From our men and women in uniform, to our civilians and contractors, every single person and job counts and has a direct influence of keeping our Air Force the greatest in the world," he said. "My family and I will do our best to make our Airmen proud."

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