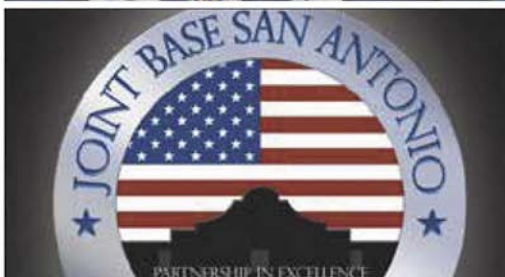


JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JANUARY 13, 2017



JBSA Year in Review

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Army Materiel Command: proud to serve hard workers at JBSA

By Lt. Gen. Larry Wyche
U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND

I recently completed a visit with the great Soldiers and organizations of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 7, 2016, and I could not be more impressed.

The professionalism, talent and hard work was apparent in every office, motor pool and center I visited.

Looking at your formations and speaking with your commanders, I know that the Soldiers, NCOs, warrant officers and officers of JBSA are masters at executing your missions flawlessly each and every day.

At the U.S. Army Materiel Command, we have the enormous responsibility of ensuring that you — our warfighters — have everything you need to achieve success. Army Materiel Command develops, delivers and sustains everything from



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Gen. Larry Wyche is U.S. Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general.

your bullets to your boots, your tanks to your tactical radios. We work hard to ensure our Army remains the best-equipped fighting force in the world.

Gen. Gus Perna, AMC commanding general, is laser focused on synchronizing, integrating and operationalizing the capabilities of our nine major subordinate commands, focused on a total team effort to achieve an end state that ac-

complishes the mission in the most effective and efficient way.

I made the trip to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to better understand how Army Materiel Command can synchronize our efforts and ultimately, support you. As you operate around the world, AMC is endlessly figuring out ways to ensure you are well equipped and ready to accomplish any and all missions you may be assigned.

After meeting with leaders at U.S. Army North, U.S. Army South, U.S. Army Medical Command and the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, I have a greater appreciation of your capabilities and better understanding of the scope and magnitude of your many missions.

From responding to any natural or man-made threat to the continental United States, to humanitarian efforts across 31 countries and 15.6 million square

miles in U.S. Southern Command, to safeguarding and caring for our Soldiers around the world, the organizations of JBSA are absolutely critical to our Army and our nation.

Rest assured that organizations on this installation have the full power of the AMC patch behind them, all concentrated on providing the best logistical services and support to you and your units. We are working hard, and closely with your commanders, to synchronize logistics support, ensure a rapid supply chain, and provide on-the-ground expertise — all to eliminate obstacles for our Soldiers and allow you to focus on your mission.

Being prepared to tackle any operation at any time is what our Soldiers are trained to do. As you tirelessly face the next mission, know that AMC is facing it with you and stands ready to support you.

My Story: Helping on New Year's Eve night

By Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis
59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

I've seen all 13 seasons of Grey's Anatomy and I work at a hospital, but besides my mandatory basic life support training, I'm not a medic. I've dressed up in scrubs during countless surgical procedures, but as a photojournalist my job has always been simply to take photos during the operation.

It was New Year's Eve, and as I was driving, I noticed what appeared to be a taillight in a ditch. I pulled over and walked toward the 20-foot drop to investigate. It was car. I couldn't tell if there was someone inside, so I jumped down to get a closer look. The



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STAFF SGT. JERILYN QUINTANILLA

Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis, photojournalist with the 59th Medical Wing, was the first to respond to a solo vehicle crash on Dec. 31 in San Antonio. His actions helped save an elderly woman who was trapped inside her vehicle.

airbags had deployed, making it hard to see inside the cabin.

I opened the door and saw an elderly woman trapped inside. I yelled uphill, asking Airman 1st Class Barbara Able to call 9-1-1. I reached over, put

one hand on the brake pedal, grabbed the gearshift to put the car in park, and then turned off the engine. The airbags had pinned her head to the side of the vehicle. I asked her a few questions and as-

sessed her injuries. She was struggling to breathe so I took a knife and tore the airbag. I stabilized her neck and kept her calm by reassuring her that everything would be all right.

Thankfully, an EMS crew arrived only a matter of minutes after I'd pulled over. The woman thanked me for stopping to help. During the whole ordeal, I never stopped to think about me not being a medic or how it wasn't my job to help her. I'm just glad I happened to glance and notice a tiny light coming from the ditch. Now, someone's grandmother, mother and friend can continue to create more memories with her family in 2017.

JBSA LEGACY

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Joint Base San Antonio names 2017 military ambassadors



502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ten service members from across Joint Base San Antonio were chosen to represent their respective military services as part of the 2017 Military Ambassadors program.

Throughout the year, they will represent their service and JBSA at events throughout South Texas, including nearly 50 activities associated with Fiesta San Antonio April 10-27, according to Kathy Salazar, JBSA public affairs specialist. Fiesta, which began in 1891, is one of the nation's premier festivals, with an economic impact of more than \$284 million for the Alamo City.

Taking part in the event not only allows the military ambassadors to play integral roles for JBSA's community relations program, but it permits the continuation of a tradition that goes back to 1891 when the granddaddy of Fiesta events, the Battle of Flowers, began, Salazar said.

"During the event, the Army provided its band to lead the first parade in horse-drawn carriages and supplied a number of carriages for others participating in the parade," Salazar said. "In the 1960s, both the Fiesta San Antonio

Commission and local military commanders decided there should be a single point of contact — a military coordinator."

2017 U.S. Army Military Ambassadors

Sgt. 1st Class Lee M. Wright is a native of Beaumont, and is the platoon sergeant for the 717th Military Intelligence Battalion at JBSA-Lackland. A graduate of the Primary Leadership and Development Courses, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course and Senior Leader Course, his overseas service includes two deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and three deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Spc. Catherine L. Trisch, a native of Gainesville, Fla., is a geospatial engineer for the 543rd Engineer Detachment Geospatial Planning Cell at U.S. Army North at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. She is continuing education in geography and geographical information systems at Park University.

2017 U.S. Marines Military Ambassadors

Gunnery Sgt. Tajanna Draher is assigned to the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion at JBSA-

Fort Sam Houston, where she provides supply, logistical, inventory and accounting service support. The Albuquerque, N.M., native procures materials, supplies, equipment and services necessary to support the 4th Reconnaissance Reserve Marines mission.

Sgt. Keven D. Beasley is assigned to the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, where he is the assistant supply administration and logistics chief. The Warren, Michigan, native's responsibilities include ensuring all supply related tasks such as procurement of maintenance repair parts, management of property records and maintaining the supply warehouse, are being conducted accurately.

2017 U.S. Navy Military Ambassadors

Petty Officer 1st Class Cindy Gallego is assigned to the Navy Medicine Training Support Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Hailing from Elizabeth, N.J., she serves as a Navy Medical Laboratory Instructor for 33-68K10/8506 Joint Service Medical Laboratory Technician chemistry course by providing instruction for more than 130 Sailor and Soldiers.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ado-

nis M. Lowery is assigned to the Naval Technical Training Center Lackland, 341 Training Squadron Military Working Dog School at JBSA-Lackland. Originally from Alexandria, Va., Lowery ensures working dog assets for the Department of Defense are proficient in all aspects of explosive/drug detection and patrol bite work prior to their assignment to installations worldwide.

2017 U.S. Air Force Military Ambassadors

Tech. Sgt. Marie Sarabia, from Las Cruces, N.M., is assigned to the 149th Force Support Squadron at JBSA-Lackland and organizes and executes programs to enlist and appoint quality personnel to satisfy strength requirements of the 149th Fighter Wing and Texas. She also coordinates and disseminates recruiting information and establishes effective relations with the local community.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas J. Gooden-Bustamante is a military facilitator at the 326th Training Squadron, 737th Training Group, 37th Training Wing, JBSA-Lackland. The Pembroke Pines, Fla., native supervises and leads the training for more than 3,640 newly enlisted Airmen annually through the Air

Force's "Airmen's Week," which equips Airmen to transition from a solid Basic Military Training foundation to the personalization of the Air Force core values in order to strengthen their professionalism and resiliency.

2017 U.S. Coast Guard Military Ambassadors

Petty Officer 1st Class Ernest Campos is assigned to the Coast Guard Recruiting Office San Antonio, where he is a recruiter for the state of Texas and covers a vast area covering San Angelo, Austin, Killeen, San Antonio and Laredo. His responsibility is to support the recruiting mission by enlisting qualified applicants to be the next generation of Coast Guard members. The El Paso native also provides career guidance and support for college students and graduates interested in the Coast Guard.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Christine Mesta is assigned to the Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit-Texas. A native of Saipan, Northern Marianna Islands, Mesta provides support to Coast Guard assets by providing products that can assist to conduct drug interdictions, migrant interdictions and provide search and rescue and coastal security.

Taking right approach can help people achieve New Year's resolutions

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An estimated 8 percent of Americans achieve their New Year's resolutions. Many more people fail than succeed in attaining those goals.

However, there are ways people can position themselves for a more successful outcome when they strive to lose weight, get organized, quit smoking, save more money or reach some other goal.

The SMART Goal Planning concept provides one template for success, said Gina Ramirez, 359th Medical Operations Squadron Mental Health Flight outreach/resiliency coordinator.

"SMART means the goal should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and trackable," she said.

Losing 10 pounds in three months is an example of a goal that meets SMART criteria, Ramirez said.

"It's specific; measurable; attainable through an eating, exercise and stress plan; realistic if the individual is willing to put in the hours of exercise and relaxation to make it hap-

pen; and trackable through an app like MyFitnessPal," she said.

Examples of unrealistic goals are someone else's goal that is placed upon an individual, a goal an individual is not motivated to complete and a goal that has no completion date and is not specific enough, Ramirez said.

Motivation plays an important role in achieving goals.

"We are motivated by three factors: fear, duty and doing something you love," Ramirez said. "Finding a personal reason to complete a goal is a good way to ensure success."

Individuals also must devote enough time to their effort.

"It takes six to eight weeks to form a habit," she said. "It takes consistency and commitment to preparation and planning."

Norma Leal, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Family Advocacy Program outreach manager, also stressed the importance of making realistic New Year's resolutions.

"Some steps to take would be to have a plan and resources available," she said. "For example, family advocacy offers classes to help with anger man-



agement. If an individual would like to make a resolution to be more patient or not get so angry, they could make plans to attend one of our anger management classes."

Planning plays a major role in attaining goals, Leal said.

"We can't just say I'm losing 50 pounds this year, but not plan to change our diet or exercise regimen," she said.

Bumps in the road can be expected, Leal said.

"Change is an ongoing thing," she said. "If someone is trying to change a part of their lifestyle, they should be prepared

for possible setbacks.

"If you deviate from the plan, you don't have to toss the plan," Leal said. "Reset and start trying again."

Writing down their goals is another way individuals can stick to their resolutions, said James Price, 59th Medical Wing FAP outreach manager.

"Individuals seem to make a more committed effort to achieve their goals if they put their wishes on paper versus just in their head," he said. "You should also put them in a place where you can see them every day."

Price also suggested breaking goals into short, measurable results; sharing goals with another person; and being flexible.

"You can have the best laid-out plan and everything is running like clockwork, then an unexpected emergency arises that can throw everything off," he said. "Don't get discouraged; try to think positively and optimistically. Instead of thinking I failed at my new year's resolution or goal, think of tomorrow as a new day and strive to continue where you got temporarily delayed."

JBSA tax-assistance centers will soon open

By Steve Elliott
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

This year, four tax-assistance centers will be available at Joint Base San Antonio locations to provide free tax preparation and e-filing of federal and state income tax returns for eligible military taxpayers and family members. Services will be available for military retirees on a limited basis.

In 2016, JBSA on-base tax-assistance programs helped over 1,500 military retirees as part of the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, or VITA. This year, on-base VITA centers will not be able to help all military retirees.

“As the number of people available to volunteer to prepare taxes has declined, we have had to refocus our assistance on our junior active-duty members, their family mem-



COURTESY PHOTO

bers and the family members of our service members who are deployed. We must focus on those with military-specific tax issues and questions,” said

Capt. Vincent Sayegh, chief of civil law at the 502nd Air Base Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

“Appointments not filled by

our active-duty members and their family members will be made available to military retirees,” said Sayegh, noting that there are many off-base

VITA tax centers in the community that are available for military retirees earning \$60,000 or less per year.

JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph tax centers will open Jan. 30, while the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and San Antonio Military Medical Center, or SAMMC, tax centers will open Jan. 31. All tax centers will be open through April 18.

The tax centers provide free tax preparation, electronic filing and tax-form distribution for federal and state tax returns. One-on-one assistance is available to those who make appointments, but walk-ins might still have access to workstations and volunteers to help in answering questions they may have.

At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, there will be two tax center locations, both of which will open on Jan. 31, but start tak-

TAX HELP continues on 13

Fitness centers help people be their healthiest

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio members who want to get into shape or lose a few pounds for the upcoming new year can utilize several fitness facilities, classes and programs at JBSA locations to help them stay fit and healthy.

There are 11 fitness centers throughout JBSA providing strength and conditioning equipment from weights to cardio and classes from aerobics to Taekwondo. The fitness centers are free to Department of Defense cardholders, including active-duty, Reserve and National Guard members, military family members, military retirees and government civilians.

Doug Price, 502nd Force Support Squadron chief of fitness and sports at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said there are four fitness centers at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston that offer a variety of amenities, exercise classes and expertise to post members wanting to live a healthier life.

"We have all the tools in place to facilitate a healthy lifestyle change," Price said.

All four fitness centers within JBSA-Fort Sam Houston have a full line of cardiovascular, cy-

cling and weight equipment. Two racquetball courts, an indoor pool, a three-court gymnasium, saunas and a juice bar are located at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The METC fitness center includes an indoor track, saunas, a gymnasium and two basketball courts. The Central Post Gym is a "hard core" workout facility with no central air or TVs and includes cardiovascular equipment, a half-court basketball facility and free weight room.

Price said several types of aerobic classes, including yoga, Zumba and circuit training, are offered at both the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and the METC fitness center, including water aerobics at the indoor pool at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston has two personal trainers, who are available for a fee, and three fitness instructors who instruct post members on the proper ways to exercise and do weight training while providing motivation to help them meet their fitness goals, said Price.

Members at JBSA-Lackland can choose six fitness facilities to work out at, including the Chaparral, Gateway, Gillum, Kelly, Medina and Warhawk



Tech. Sgt. Damien Mount (standing), 502nd Communications Squadron client service supervisor, and Senior Airman Matthew Whitton, 502nd CS client systems technician, work out on the bench presses in 2015 at the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center.

PHOTO BY HAROLD CHINA

fitness centers. All six fitness centers include cardiovascular, weight and cycling equipment. Outdoor fitness facilities are located at the Gillum Fitness Center, including two covered basketball/volleyball courts, soccer/football field, softball field and tennis court.

The JBSA-Lackland fitness centers have a variety of aerobics classes and other types of group classes, including Taekwondo and karate which are available for a fee, for installation members to take, said Mike Richardson, 502nd fitness manager at JBSA-Lackland.

And throughout the year, the Gillum Fitness Center hosts 5K runs.

Personal trainers and mas-

sage therapists are available for a fee at all JBSA-Lackland fitness center locations.

Richardson said active-duty members, military retirees and DoD civilians should take advantage of the amenities and equipment at the JBSA fitness centers because they can do so free of charge.

At JBSA-Randolph, the Rambler Fitness Center has a cardio station, which includes treadmills, StairMasters, stationary bikes and ellipticals, a weight room that includes a circuit training station, two exercise rooms with aerobics equipment, a synergy room with a wide variety of exercise equipment including a jungle gym, two racquetball courts, a basketball

court and a one-eighth of a mile indoor track.

The Rambler Fitness Center has certified personal trainers and massage therapists, who are available on a fee basis to JBSA-Randolph members.

JBSA members can also sign up for 24-hour access to the fitness centers. Inquire at the fitness centers for details

Information on hours for JBSA fitness centers, group exercise classes, programs and services is at myjbsa-fss-mwr.com.

Fitness program contact numbers are: JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 221-2020; JBSA-Lackland Chaparral Fitness Center, 671-2401; and JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center, 652-7263.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Army Surgeon General praises staff during BAMC visit

By **Lori Newman**
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Gen. Nadja West, Army Surgeon General, visited Brooke Army Medical Center Dec. 14 for the first time since she became the Surgeon General to learn about the BAMC mission and visit patients and staff members.

West toured several areas within the hospital including the simulation center, burn center, emergency department, rooftop helipad and the Center for the Intrepid.

Army Maj. Heather Delaney, chief of the BAMC Simulation Center, and her staff provided demonstrations on life-like simulation mannequins and equipment they use daily to train doctors, residents, nurses and other staff.

Delaney also talked about the role the simulation center played in training the military Ebola team in October 2014.

“We created a 65-page curriculum that talked about the different varying degrees of the Ebola virus,” Delaney explained, showing the TSG a poster that was created highlighting the Ebola training.

“I can tell you that at the highest levels ... we really appreciate how rapidly you [helped] put the team together,” West said. “To do that so quickly is a testament to the fantastic

professionalism here.”

West tried some of the surgical simulators such as the Bronchoscope simulator, to get hands-on experience.

She then toured the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center to learn about their mission. The burn center staff explained the rehabilitation process for patients who receive burn care. They also highlighted the patient transport mission and use of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation or ECMO on patients during transport.

West said she realized how daunting it must be for staff members who work with patients recovering from severe injuries, so she encouraged the staff to remain resilient and support each other.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, BAMC commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Crews then showed West the only rooftop helipad in the Department of Defense where she met several Army and Air Force doctors who explained the importance of maintaining an active Level I Trauma Center and its role in sustaining a ready medical force.

“If [leaders] hear it from the folks who are actually doing it and making recommendations, that’s very powerful,” she said. “That’s critical to make sure we preserve our capabilities.”



Lt. Gen. Nadja West, Army Surgeon General, talks with Staff Sgt. Peter Dubey during her visit to the Center for the Intrepid Dec. 14. West got a first-hand look at all the state-of-the-art rehabilitation equipment in the center and presented coins to some deserving BAMC staff members.

PHOTO BY ROBERT SHIELDS

West visited an operating room area and the emergency department before moving on to the Center for the Intrepid where she toured the facility. She concluded her visit by pre-

sending coins to some deserving BAMC staff members.

“Thank you so much for all the work that you do to support this organization,” she said.

“If you ever need to see a ‘Can

Do’ attitude in person visit the Center for the Intrepid,” West tweeted after her visit. “I can’t say enough about the wonderful professionals we have in the Army Medical Department.”

BAMC leaders deliver holiday presents, serve meals

BY BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Thomas Tempel, Regional Health Command-Central commanding general; Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general; RHC-C Command Sgt. Maj. Tabitha Gavia and BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Crews, along with their families and BAMC deputy commanders and their families, delivered gift baskets to patients at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 25, 2016.

The command team and their families, joined by Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, U.S. Army North commanding general, also served Christmas dinner to patients and staff in the dining room. The buffet featured traditional favorites such as tamales, turkey with dressing, prime rib and an abundance of vegetables, salads and desserts.



ROBERT SHIELDS



ROBERT SHIELDS

(From left) Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general; Command Sgt. Maj. Tabitha Gavia, Regional Health Command-Central command sergeant major; Maj. Gen. Thomas Tempel, RHC-C commanding general; and BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Crews deliver a gift basket to a Brooke Army Medical Center patient and his wife at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 25, 2016.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson (right), Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general, helps serve Christmas dinner to patients and staff in the BAMC dining room at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 25, 2016.

Lt. Cmdr. Jeffery Hoyle, a research dentist with the Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, demonstrates the casting of a dental mold with silicone pressure material during his presentation at the Joel C. Harris Academy Middle School Career Day in San Antonio on Nov. 16, 2016.



AMY PLAZEK

NAMRU San Antonio research dentist inspires interest during career day

By Flisa Stevenson
NAMRU-SAN ANTONIO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Cmdr. Jeffery Hoyle, a research dentist with the Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, inspired students and raised awareness about career paths in Navy medicine during his talks to five classes of middle school students at the Joel C. Harris Academy in San Antonio Nov. 16, 2016.

“It was an amazing experience and opportunity to bring a view of Navy Medicine to such a richly diverse group of youth. The students were enthusiastic and engaged, and the teachers and school administration were welcoming,”

Hoyle said. “I spoke with about 150 students spread out across the five classes. Each session continued to grow in the number of students, with my last talk having 50 students in attendance. It seems that word of mouth spread and more students wanted to meet the Navy dentist.”

Part of Hoyle’s demonstration included casting of a dental mold with silicone pressure material.

“The students had a great time with the molds,” Hoyle said. “They could directly relate that to an experience at the dentist, but now had a better understanding of the material science.”

The research dentist also showed slides from a recent deployment, which included

photos of life on a Navy ship and a few videos, including a video about the recovery story of the youngest living Medal of Honor recipient, Marine Cpl. Kyle Carpenter, who had been wounded by an exploding grenade while protecting a fellow Marine in Afghanistan.

“I shared my personal connection to the story because I was part of the maxillofacial medical team at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center that helped rebuild his teeth after facial trauma,” Hoyle said. “The students were so moved by his story and wanted to know more about how they could make a difference in military service, healthcare and research careers and humanitarian service.”

BRIEFS

Winter Fest

Date/Time: Friday, Jan. 13, 6-9 p.m.

Location: MacArthur Parade Field
Families can enjoy a snow play area, snow slide, hay rides, children’s crafts, an outdoor family movie, music and refreshments. For more information, call 652-5763.

4 Lenses Discovery Workshop

Date/Time: Jan. 17, 8 a.m. to noon

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797.

Interactive workshop exposes attitudes and probable motivation behind behavior. To register, call 221-2418.

BAMC Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Observance

Date/Time: Jan. 18, 11 a.m.

Location: Brooke Army Medical Center Medical Mall

Observance recognizes the contributions the civil rights activist made to American society.

Volunteer of the Year (VOYA) Nomination

Date/Time: Jan. 18, 1-3 p.m.

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797.

Learn how to submit a nomination package for the 2017 Volunteer Awards ceremony. Nominations must be submitted no later than Feb 24. Visit www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness_email_usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-fss-volunteer@mail.mil or call 221-2705 for more information.

Thinking Money for Couples

Date/Time: Jan. 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797.

Couples explore ways behavioral biases affect financial decisions. To register, call 221-2705.

Newcomer’s Orientation &

Spouse Information Fair

Date/Time: Jan. 20, 8 a.m. to noon

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797.

Mandatory for all military, civilian personnel newly assigned to Joint Base San Antonio. Be seated by 7:50 a.m. Service members should coordinate with their Unit Personnel Coordinator or Commander Support Element prior to attending. In conjunction with orientation; vendors and supporting agencies will be on site at 10:30 a.m. for the Spouse Information Fair. For more information, call 221-2705.

Family Readiness Group Leadership Academy

Date/Time: Jan.24-25, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797.

Training provides commands with a better understanding of their FRGs, how to utilize their volunteers, in addition to their roles and responsibilities to the families. Call 221-2418.

Voting Assistance

The Joint Base San Antonio Voting Assistance Program office is at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 2380 Stanley Road, building 124, first floor. Assistance is available by appointment only between 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.

Check 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. Make appointments online at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>.

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

BY 502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

At Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in 2016, it was another year of notable accomplishments and new faces in a number of the installation's leadership roles.

Brooke Army Medical Center began 2016 by once again distinguishing itself as the flagship in military medicine, receiving the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval. This means the Department of Defense's only Level 1 trauma center was recognized for its compliance with the commission's standards for health care quality and safety.

U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) saw new leaders in its top positions, first with Brig. Gen. James Blackburn taking over as deputy commanding general in January and later with Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan as commanding general and senior commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis in August. Buchanan replaced Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, who retired from the Army.

At the U.S. Army Medical Command, Lt. Gen. Nadja West received her third star and became MEDCOM commander and the Army's surgeon general in February.

Also in February, VIA Met-



Navy Chief Petty Officer selectees wait to be "pinned" with their Chief Petty Officer anchors and presented their combination cover at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Friday. With the Navy chiefs is Army Sgt. 1st Class Dan Hitchcock, NCO in charge of the Combat Casualty Care Force at the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and the son of retired Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Clark Hitchcock.

ropolitan Transit celebrated its continued support to Joint Base San Antonio's Public/Private Community Partnership Initiative at VIA headquarters Feb. 8 with a new Active Duty, Active Of Thanks initiative.

A musical interlude came in March, when the 323rd Army Band's woodwind quintet was named the Army's top woodwind ensemble in the Musical Performance Team of the Year competition. The quintet re-

ceived the honor for its performance of a Beethoven piano sonata arranged for woodwind quintet.

BAMC also saw a new leader come in, with Col. Jeffrey J. Johnson assuming command from Col. Evan M. Renz during a ceremony at the San Antonio Military Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston on April 1. Johnson would receive his first star in July.

The "new BAMC," as its



U.S. ARMY NORTH

Brig. Gen. James Blackburn took over as deputy commanding general of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) in January.

March 16, 1996, the new facility was officially dedicated.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston was also the location for new leadership for the 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA Aug. 5, when Brig. Gen. Heather L. Pringle succeeded Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, who had served for more than three years. LaBrutta, now a major general, went on to become the commander of 2nd Air Force at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

On the medical training side of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the Medical Education and Training Campus saw a new leader in August when Army Col. Jack Davis took over as the fourth commandant of the multi-service military medical school, replacing Air Force Col. Robert I. Miller. At the U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, Maj. Gen. Brian C. Lein took over for Maj. Gen. Steve Jones.

U.S. Army South wrapped up its annual U.S. Southern Command-sponsored exercise, Fuerzas Aliadas PANAMA 2016 in August, which focused on ensuring the security of the Panama Canal and the surrounding region Aug. 4 at Fort Sam Houston. This year's exercise began July 29 and, in addition to the Multi-National Forces-South, or MNFS, component located in San Antonio, was conducted simultaneously in Miami, Fla.; Suffolk, Va.; Davis-Monthan Air

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS JACQUILINE CHILDS

Force Base in Tucson, Ariz.; and in Santiago, Chile.

Commonly known as PANAMAX, the exercise brings together sea, air and land forces in a joint and combined operation focused on defending the Panama Canal from attacks by a violent extremist organization, as well as responding to natural disasters and pandemic outbreaks in various locations.

In September, 15 Navy Medicine Petty Officers First Class and an Army Sergeant First Class reached the pinnacle of their careers during a unique promotion ceremony held at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 16.

Also in September, Army South stayed busy as they were part of the Conference of the American Armies, which met in Bogota, Colombia, Sept. 19-23.

Local Navy commands, including the Navy Medicine Education and Training Command, Navy Medicine Training Support Center, Navy Recruiting District-San Antonio, Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio, Navy Operational Support Center, Defense Health Agency, Naval Technical Training Center-Lackland and Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi-San Antonio Detachment, came together in downtown San Antonio Oct. 15 to celebrate the 241st Navy birthday.

The top medics in the Army met in competition Oct. 25-27 at JBSA-Camp Bullis for the annual Best Medic Competition. Held annually in one form or another since the 1980s, the competition tests Army medics from across the country with various tasks that require feats of physical and emotional strength and call upon their critical thinking skills as they competed for the Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Clark trophy.

As part of their involvement with nations in the southern hemisphere, leaders from U.S. Army South, including Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn, ARSOUTH commanding general, began bilateral staff talks with Chilean army leaders Oct. 24 in Santiago, Chile, in order to promote the professional partnership and interaction between the two



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn, commander of U.S. Army South, salutes Chilean troops in formation Oct. 28 as part of U.S. and Chilean Army to Army Executive Staff Talks in Santiago, Chile. Leaders from both armies discuss mutual concerns and issues, and the talks end with the signing of a bilateral engagement plan for the upcoming year.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS LAUREN PARSONS

U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein delivers a speech during the Air Force Sergeants Association Professional Airmen's Conference and International Convention at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio on Aug. 24.

armies.

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter visited BAMC Nov. 16 as part of a visit to JBSA, where he personally thanked wounded and ill service members and their families along with BAMC staff for their service and sacrifice.

Leaders from the 410th Contracting Support Brigade, or CSB, cased their organizational colors during a ceremony Nov. 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-

Fort Sam Houston in preparation for the brigade's deployment to Qatar and Afghanistan to assume the command and control element of Expeditionary Contracting Command-Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel in December.

In December, AMEDD-TV, the televised media arm of the U.S. Army Medical Department, celebrated 50 years of telling the AMEDD story and providing

the technical expertise to document and transmit AMEDD medical history and training in multimedia formats.

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

Innovation and increasing effectiveness were the themes of Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in 2016, as the year recently closed out.

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James visited the 39th Training Squadron Basic Expeditionary Airmen Skills Training site, a part of basic military training where more than 35,000 Airmen learn to operate and survive in a deployed environment annually, to view the newly constructed Forward Operating Base of the Future March. 22, 2016.

The FOB of the Future refers to the section of the BEAST site where several structures rely solely on solar power technologies, reducing the use of non-renewable energy used at the site. The project was developed and executed by the Air Force Research Lab's Advanced Power Technology Office as an initiative of the U.S. Air Force Energy Strategic Plan, which seeks to

improve resiliency, reduce demand and foster an energy aware culture.

The SECAF praised the ingenuity and efforts of the AFRL and the 39th TRS for their work in reducing the Air Force's dependence on non-renewable energy.

"Through renewable and advanced energy technologies, we can ensure our bases have the power to execute their missions, even when traditional energy resources are disrupted," James said. "The same technologies, self-sustaining approach, and energy-aware culture we're demonstrating here at BEAST are just as important across all our bases."

If proved to be successful over the one year trial which will end soon, the project will be considered to expand across the Air Force at other deployed locations across the globe. The use of the solar panels in deployed locations will significantly reduce the amount fuel required, saving fuel transportation costs, according to the AFRL.

Also at JBSA-Lackland, for the first time in U.S. military history, the first unit solely dedicated to train the service's ground component was activated June 2, 2016.

The 350th Battlefield Airman Training Group activation streamlined training for the Air Force's conventional and special operations ground forces which include combat controllers, pararescuemen, special operations weathermen and tactical air control party Airmen.

"Much like when the Air Force separated from the Army in 1947 to have Airmen lead air power, this allows Battlefield Airmen leaders to lead Battlefield Airmen training across the entire enterprise," said Col. Ronald Stenger, the inaugural commander of the BA TG and special tactics officer. "Our mission at the Battlefield Airmen Training Group is to select, train and mentor Airmen for global combat operations."

The activation of the group and squadrons will reduce costs

TAX HELP

From page 5

ing appointments Jan. 23. The first is located at the Sam Houston Community Center Java Café, 1395 Chaffee Road, while the second is located at SAMMC, Room 119-11 on the first floor.

Hours at both locations are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Active-duty members, their family members and military retirees are eligible at both locations. For appointments at either location, call 295-1040.

These services are not available for people with business income or losses (with the exception of family child care providers) or who have more than two rental properties.

The JBSA-Randolph tax center, located next to the Legal Assistance Center in building 202, 10711 W. 2nd St., is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center is closed on

Fridays.

Service members and retirees can begin scheduling appointments Jan. 23, by calling 652-1040. The center will be open to active-duty members and family members, but services are not available for retirees with business income or losses or who have rental properties and those eligible retirees will be accepted on a space-available basis.

The JBSA-Lackland tax center is located in building 6629, at the intersection of Hughes Avenue and Gentile Street. Due to a limited number of volunteer tax preparers, appointments will only be available for basic returns, with no business income or losses and no rental income, for: enlisted members in the grade of E-6 and below and their families; officers in the grade of O-2 and below and their families; families of all deployed service members; and retirees with earned income under \$65,000.

The tax center will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mondays and Tuesdays and from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Appointments will be taken beginning Jan. 25 by calling 671-1001.

Service members must bring all necessary documents, including last year's tax return, a canceled check for direct deposit, a military identification card and a Social Security card for each payer and dependent to the appointment. The tax centers will not be using the same software as in previous years so filers will not have access to previous years' returns or information at the tax center.

To receive assistance at any of the JBSA Tax Centers, bring your Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, and your Form 1095, which is required under the Affordable Care Act. These documents are available through myPay. If applicable to your financial situation, you must also bring the following:

- ▶ December 2016 Leave and Earnings Statement;
- ▶ Form 1099-INT or Form 1099-DIV to report any interest

or dividends you received as income in 2016;

- ▶ Form 1098 to report payment of mortgage interest and property taxes, if any;
- ▶ Form 1099-B for stock sales in 2016 together with your cost basis for capital gain or loss calculations;
- ▶ Form 1099-R to report any distributions from an IRA or 401(k) you received in 2016;
- ▶ Form SSA-1099 to report any Social Security benefits received in 2016;
- ▶ Form 1099-MISC if you have self-employment or miscellaneous income, outside of your regular job.

Remember to bring these documents, otherwise your tax preparer will not be able to help you. Tax center personnel will review your documents during scheduled appointments and help you complete your tax return.

If you've already received a 2016 state tax refund, you may need to report it as income.

In accordance with IRS regulations, the tax centers are limited to preparing simple tax

returns during one-on-one consultations. The tax center is not equipped to prepare complex tax returns.

Members who are married, or filing jointly, will both need to attend the appointment, unless there is a power of attorney.

Customers are reminded to arrange for child care during the appointment.

There are also many other services available, many of which are free, that make filing easy.

Military OneSource (<http://www.MilitaryOneSource.mil> or call 800-342-9647) provides access to free tax-preparation software with on-call assistance from tax professionals. These services are available to all active-duty members, as well as Guard/Reserve members and family members beginning Monday, Jan. 16.

The city of San Antonio also has Volunteer Income Tax Assistance locations for anyone with income below \$60,000. Visit <http://www.vita-sa.org> for more information.

Glaucoma Awareness Month a reminder to see eye doctor

By Senior Airman Stormy Archer

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Known as the "sneak thief of eyesight," glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness and can steal up to 40 percent of someone's vision. The National Eye Institute is raising awareness about glaucoma during January, stressing the importance of regular eye exams.

Although its most common forms mostly affect the middle-aged and elderly, glaucoma can affect people of all ages. People of African, Asian and Hispanic descent are at higher risk. Other high-risk groups include people over 60, family members of those already diagnosed, diabetics and peo-

ple who are nearsighted.

According to the World Health Organization, glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness, and in the most common form, there are virtually no symptoms. The best way to protect your sight is with regular comprehensive eye examinations.

There is no cure for glaucoma. Early detection is vital to stopping the progress of the disease.

To schedule an appointment with an optometrist at your Joint Base San Antonio operating location, call the Consult and Appointment Management Office at (210) 916-9900.

LACKLAND

59th MDW cares for the warfighter

By Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis

59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“This is our purpose and my motivation for what we do,” said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Ketu Lincoln, 59th Medical Wing oral maxillofacial prosthodontic fellow, describing the patient that inspired her. “He’s given so much, so we wanted to do whatever possible as a way of giving back to him.”

In mid-November, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Kenneth Dwyer, a Special Forces officer assigned to U.S. Army 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, traveled to San Antonio for a week for a follow-up appointment. Within that short timeframe, he left with more than he expected and was able to get one of his longtime wishes fulfilled thanks to the specialists here at the wing.

“I appreciate all the things the staff has done,” said Dwyer. “The staff has been incredible in helping get me to be the best me that I can be.”

In 2006, Dwyer was 29 years old and had only been in the Army for eight years. During a deployment to Afghanistan, he sustained near-fatal injuries from an enemy rocket-propelled grenade.

“After I got hurt, I remember my first thoughts when they pulled me out of sedation and I talked to my battalion commander,” said Dwyer. “I told him to send me back in. I wanted to know what I needed to do to get back in the fight because I didn’t want to let my guys down.”

After a long road to recovery, Dwyer managed to not only recover but excel at life, and he



Lt. Col. Kenneth Dwyer, patient and Special Forces officer assigned to U.S. Army 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne), get his new prosthetic eye with his unit’s crest.

now commands an elite unit of Army Green Berets and Rangers on a daily basis.

“I have been in the Army now longer with one hand and one eye than when I had two hands and two eyes,” said Dwyer. I want the people around me—my soldiers, peers, and family to realize it’s not acceptable to quit doing what you love just because it gets a little bit harder or you get hurt,” said Dwyer. “You just got to find a creative way to do it and make it happen.”

For years Dwyer has wanted to honor the men and women he has served with and had a thought of reproducing his

unit’s crest on his prosthetic eye. Lincoln consulted with the wing’s medical illustrators at the public affairs office to construct the crest.

Robert Shelley, 59th MDW medical illustrator, gladly accepted the tasked and coined the experience working with Dwyer as rewarding.

“Guys get tattoos and things they’re proud of such as their kids’ or family’s name, symbols or whatever,” said Dwyer. “For me it’s my tribute to the unit and the guys who never had a chance to come home. And how boring would it be if I just had a regular eye...now I can show off my unit and how proud I am.”

Dwyer described how the wing is a convenient location because there are so many assets here.

“It’s amazing what I was able to get done in a week and it was way more than I expected,” he said. “I didn’t think I was going to be able to get the surgery completed. I expected to have the initial consult, and thought I would have to come back for more treatment.”

Occasionally Dwyer’s previous prosthetic eye would slip out of position due to the degeneration of muscles around the eye socket. Lincoln contacted Dr. Brett Davies, 59th MDW director of orbit and oculoplas-



Staff Sgt. Michael Ellis

Dwyer received the new prosthetic eye at the Air Force Postgraduate Dental School.

tics, and within two days they were able to perform a surgery to tighten up Dwyer’s lower eyelid. He also received an oral examination for the evaluation of the dental implants placed following his injury. In addition, Dwyer had the opportunity to get his prosthetic arm worked on at the Center for the Intrepid at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

“Overall the customer service, level of training and expertise, and professionalism of every single airman, officer and doctor I have talked to here has been tremendous,” Dwyer said. “They get you in and take care of your needs. Everyone has jumped through hoops to make things happen.”

Every service member, regardless of branch or specialty, have their part to play in the greater construct of the military,” he said.

Lincoln described how she simply wanted to do her part as a way of giving back and contributing to the mission.

“As a dental specialist, I more than likely will never find myself in actual combat,” said Lincoln. “He’s the one that’s directly contributing to the war effort. By taking care of the warfighter and getting him back to the fight, we are doing our part in trying to save lives.”

Courtesy photo

Cyberspace Operations Group wins 'CSAF Excellence Award'

By Jessica Turner

24TH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Operations Tasking Development Team from the 690th Cyberspace Operations Group (690th COG), 67th Cyberspace Wing, 24th Air Force (24th AF), Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, won the Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award at the Air Force Space Command level Sept. 20.

The 690th COG global cyber operations team innovatively created and tirelessly implemented a first of its kind authoritative process to prioritize, plan, task, organize and resource high-demand Air Force cyber forces to execute Department of Defense Information Network (DoDIN) operations.

While the process is innovative for enterprise cyber operations, it pulls its theory and operational construct from Joint Operations as described under Joint Publication 3-60. The 690th COG mirrored the JP 3-60's Joint Integrated Prioritized Target List (JIPTL) construct to create the

Synchronized Cyber Integrated Task List (SCITL).

The 690th COG prefers not to create new "cyber lingo," referring to SCITL, but found it necessary to develop a new construct since "targeting" in "blue" cyberspace construed a different meaning that originally intended by the JIPTL.

The SCITL is a key product in the overall DoDIN Operations Tasking Process (DOT-P); which includes:

- ▶▶ Defined entry point for all tasks requiring Air Force Cyber (AFCYBER) DoDIN Ops Forces
- ▶▶ Clear prioritization processes and approvals at appropriate organizational levels
- ▶▶ Articulation of operational risk when resources are not available
- ▶▶ Clear linkage of strategy to task for DODIN Ops missions
- ▶▶ Alignment with existing 24th AF, 624th Operations Center processes and doctrinal best practices
- ▶▶ Utilization of DODIN force package construct to establish a defined set of resources available for each tasking

Through the 624th OC,

Major Gen. Christopher Weggeman, 24th AF-AFCYBER commander, makes daily priority decisions that assigns tasks based on available forces. However, not all force requirements are strictly in response to a threat.

The main demand for DODIN forces is currently within the "Build" and "Secure" lines of effort. In reality, the AFCYBER commander should be able to prioritize across all lines of effort applicable to DoDIN forces: Build, Operate, Secure, Defend, Extend and Engage.

Since establishment of the SCITL Coordination Board (SCB), Major Commands (MAJCOMS), military installations, and the Secretary of the Air Force Chief Information Officer have been able to provide additional justification to the AFCYBER commander based on the need to raise the priority of their request for DoDIN forces. As the DOT-P evolves, proper onboarding will reduce the current workload on DoDIN forces, thus increasing capacity for DoDIN forces to shift focus to proactive security of the cyber terrain.

LACKLAND BRIEFS

Medina firing range trespass notice

Trespassing on the Medina Firing Range is both illegal and dangerous due to gunfire. Weapons training is conducted daily at the firing range, located at 900 Patrol Road on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Training Annex at Medina. For more information or valid entry requests, contact the 37th Training Support Squadrons, Combat Weapons Section range control office at 671-2349 or 671-0023.

JBSA-Lackland Spouses' Club scholarship program

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Spouses Club is seeking applicants for their scholarship program. Eligible applicants include military dependents who are high school seniors graduating from a San Antonio area high school (or homeschool) and the civilian spouses or widows of Armed Forces personnel. Military spouses or widows must be pursuing a technical, associate, undergraduate or graduate degree. Military dependents who are geographically separated from their military sponsor currently stationed at JBSA-Lackland are eligible for the scholarship if they are not otherwise eligible for a military "Spouses Club" scholarship at their

location. Download the application at <http://www.lackland-dosc.org/philanthropy/scholarships/> or email lackland-scholarships@gmail.com for more information.

Active parenting of teens

Date/Time: Thursday and Jan 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Location: Building 2513 (formerly Health and Wellness Center)

This class will give parents the confidence and courage to meet the challenges while savoring the joy of their children's teen years. The Family Advocacy is hosting this four-part workshop at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, room 9D09, located on the 9th floor. The class is by appointment only and is for military members and their spouses. To register, call 292-5967.

Road Map to Your Career: an employment symposium

Date/Time: Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249

Make connections within the city and learn about the local job market. Speak with civilian and NAF Personnel, the Texas Workforce Commission, private industries and more. Review required supporting docu-

ments that are needed when applying for a federal job and discuss resources like Priority Placement Program (PPP), spousal preference, employment assistance, resume review, volunteer opportunities and more. Call 671-3722 for more information.

Heart link

Date/Time: Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, building 4600

Heart Link is an orientation for military spouses of any branch of service. Meet new friends while learning about the military mission, lifestyle, protocol and other programs available. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided, registration required. Call 671-8388 for more information.

Employment Workshop

Date/Time: Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249

Attendees to the employment workshop can review the federal employment process, resume writing techniques, interviewing skills and how to dress for success. Participants need to bring a copy of their current resume. To register, call 671-3722.

RANDOLPH

AF program aids special needs family members

By Richard Salomon

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Being the parent of an 11-year-old boy with high-functioning autism is often a challenging and difficult journey that requires patience and sacrifice said Master Sgt. Virmania Accoo.

“One of the biggest struggles we face as a family is helping my son adjust to a new PCS location and to find the right school that has the special education services our son needs,” said Accoo, the Equal Opportunity office superintendent at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

Fortunately, thousands of active-duty members like Accoo, and her husband, Master Sgt. Anthony Accoo, have found support through the Air Force Exceptional Family Member Program which allows Airmen to proceed to assignment locations where suitable medical, educational and other resources are available to treat special needs family members.

“Since we are enrolled in



The Exceptional Family Member Program allows airmen to proceed to locations where suitable medical, educational, and other resources are available.

COURTESY PHOTO

EFMP, it gives us peace of mind knowing that we will not PCS to a location that does not have the required services for our son,” Accoo said. “Shortly after our arrival at Nellis, it was comforting for my husband and me to get a phone call from our EFMP representative asking us if we needed anything. We also enjoy taking part in numerous events where various EFMP families can get together for support and networking.”

EFMP has three components:

▶▶ The assignment component ensures adequate special needs care is available at the Airman's projected location. It reassigns Airmen and their families if a new diagnosis cannot be provided through the military treatment facility, the supporting TRICARE network or a combination thereof.

▶▶ The medical component oversees medical clearances and

enrolls the service member in EFMP. Special needs coordinators at base medical treatment facilities screen family members, so service members can obtain the necessary assignment limitation code, “Q,” which identifies them as having a family member with special needs.

▶▶ The family support component provides referral information, support services, respite care and relocation services, as well as contacts with government resources and civilian agencies. The family support function also assists with school-related issues, finance questions, crisis situations, and provides outreach and educational briefings to installation leadership and the community.

“All three components work together to streamline the process and support the needs of Airmen and their families,” said Sandra Nichols, a EFMP's community readiness analyst at the Air Force Personnel Center. “All Airman and Family Readiness Centers have a staff member assigned to

work with Airmen and their special needs family members. They provide needs assessments and assistance in a multitude of areas.”

Enrollment in EFMP is mandatory for all active-duty Airmen with a family member with special needs. More than 28,000 active-duty Airmen with one or more exceptional family members are enrolled in the program.

EFMP is limited to the Airman's spouse, child or other person actually residing in the Airman's household who is dependent on the Airman for financial support and who meets Defense Department enrollment criteria and is a military health care beneficiary.

“After the initial diagnosis, it can be a sad and confusing time for some families,” Accoo said, “but they do not have to shoulder the burden alone.”

AFPC will host two EFMP webcasts on Jan. 12 for spouses and families.

For more information, search “EFMP” on the www.myPers website.

Enlisted nursing commissioning programs accepting applications

By Kat Bailey

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Nurse Enlisted and Direct Enlisted Commissioning Programs are accepting applications from active duty enlisted Airmen through Jan. 27, 2017, for the April selection boards.

NECP offers the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree in nursing at a college

or university with an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps detachment or a college or university with a “cross-town agreement.” Applicants are required to attend school year-round in a resident-based program for up to 24 consecutive calendar months, to include summer sessions. Airmen selected by the NECP board will start school in fall 2017.

The DEC program allows

Airmen to commission into the Nurse Corps if they already possess a nursing degree and have passed the National Council Licensure Examination, or NCLEX.

“Qualified, dedicated nurses are critical to the military and civilian communities,” said Maj. Karen Jackson, Nurse Education program manager at the Air Force Personnel Center. “Candidates go through rigorous screening to

identify those who are ready for the responsibility and highly likely to succeed in the school and career field.”

To be considered for the NECP or DEC boards, applicants must be U.S. citizens with rank of senior airman or higher and no more than 10 years total active federal service (12 years for DEC) as of April 30, 2017.

In addition, Airmen must meet time-on-station and re-

tainability requirements, possess current security clearances, be worldwide qualified and commissioned by age 42.

For complete application instructions and requirements, visit <http://www.myPers.com>. Select “Active Duty Enlisted” from the drop down menu and search “NECP” or “DEC.”

For more information about these Air Force personnel programs, go to <http://www.myPers.com>.

Program helps trainees become citizens

By 1st Lt. Beau Downey
AIR EDUCATION AND
TRAINING COMMAND PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

The wind was picking up and the temperature was colder than expected for a San Antonio morning as the basic military training retreat ceremony began Dec. 8 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Amid the brush of jackets and the murmurs of the crowd, a lone trainee stood at attention, waiting patiently for a moment that was 10 years in the making.

The trainee marched to his position in front of a waving American flag and waited to repeat the words that would officially make him an American citizen.

Airman Basic Rachid Karame, a member of the 321st Training Squadron, and his family had lived

most of their lives in Lebanon, his father a Lebanese air force pilot.

"My first visit to the United States was to Lackland Air Force Base in 1999 for my father's training," said Karame. "I could never have imagined that this would be the place I would become a citizen."

Karame and his family applied for U.S. citizenship in 2002 and moved from Lebanon to the United States in 2012. Karame's father encouraged him to join the military.

"He was the one who first brought up becoming a citizen through the military," Karame said of his father. "He wanted me to join because of the opportunities it would provide."

Karame followed in his father's footsteps and decided to join the Air

Force with the goal of becoming a citizen in the process.

Like many other immigrants, Karame took advantage of a provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 that helps foreign service members become citizens. Under Section 329 of the law, the president may authorize the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to expedite the naturalization process for those who have served in certain wars and military conflicts.

These criteria include World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and Operation Enduring Freedom. Karame is entering service during Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2009, the Army noted a need for soldiers in certain categories con-

sidered vital to national interests, such as health care officers and special forces units, the nature of which required that soldiers be citizens.

"The Army needed these soldiers to naturalize as soon as possible after joining," Arwen Consaul of the USCIS said. "This led to the USCIS establishing the Naturalization at Basic Training Initiative with the Army in August 2009 to give noncitizen enlistees the opportunity to naturalize when they graduated from basic training."

The program was adopted by the Navy in 2010, Air Force in 2011 and Marines in 2013. Participants begin the citizenship process before entering basic training and become citizens by the time they graduate.

AF COOL offers enlisted members help

By Airman 1st Class Lauren Parsons
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.

At least that's what Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa, said.

Fortunately, the Air Force offers an abundant number of options for service members to further their educational repertoire, such as courses on the Advanced Distributed Learning Service, the Montgomery GI Bill, tuition assistance and Community College of the Air Force degrees.

Another option for

service members is Air Force Credentialing Opportunities On-Line, or AF COOL.

AF COOL allows enlisted members access to funds to achieve credentials and licensures through CCAF according to their Air Force Specialty Code, or AFSC. Members receive a one-time \$4,500 to use toward completing certifications, which will cover costs for boot camps and study classes, books and study materials, registration fees and the exam, said Lynda Packett, 802nd Force Support Squadron education services specialist.

The sum can be used to receive as many certifications as the \$4,500 will

allow, or can also cover renewals if any of the original sum remains. Leadership and management certifications are also available to senior NCOs, added Packett.

"The purpose is to strengthen the member when they transition out of the military, as well as strengthen the Air Force," said Packett. "Therefore, the Air Force is getting just as much as return on the investment as the actual outside when the person transitions out of the military."

Packett said service members can also use tuition assistance for college courses simultaneously with AF COOL, but she recommends they

focus on just one.

To begin applying for AF COOL, Airmen must be E-3 and above and possess a 5-skill level in their respective AFSC. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members may participate, but they must be on active duty orders for the duration of the AF COOL process.

For more information on AF COOL, call your local education office or visit <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec/Public/COOL/>. Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Air Force service members may call JBSA-Randolph at 652-5964; JBSA-Lackland at 671-2895; and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 221-1738.

RANDOLPH BRIEFS

Blue Cross Blue Shield Representative

Date/Time: Jan. 17/1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Building 399, 2nd floor, conference room 222

A Blue Cross Blue Shield representative will be making a health benefits site visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Officer First Duty Station Mandatory Financial Training

Date/Time: Jan. 17/8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 693

This training is mandatory for all 2d Lt., 1st Lt., and Capt. assigned to their first permanent duty station. The training explores all aspects of finances to include pay, entitlements, insurance and more on. To register, call 652-5321.

Initial Key Spouse Training

Date/Time: Jan. 19/ 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 693

Mandatory training for all newly appointed Key Spouses and highly recommended for Key Spouse mentors. To register, call 652-5321.

Newcomer's Orientation

Date/Time: Jan. 23/8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 693

Mandatory in-processing for all newly assigned JBSA-Randolph military and civilian personnel. Spouses are welcome to attend. Call 652-3036 to register.

Tech Expo

Date/Time: Jan. 24/10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Parr O'Club

The 502nd Communications Squadron is hosting a Tech Expo. The event is free and is open to all DoD cardholders. For more information, visit: www.FederalEvents.com/JBSA-Randolph.

Nominations for Outstanding JBSA Volunteers

Accepted Jan. 1 through Feb. 24. Volunteers will be recognized at the annual award ceremony on April 26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Military &

Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Road, Bldg. 2797, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Nomination forms can be found at www.jbsa.mil/Re-sources/Military-Family-Readiness/Volunteer-Resources. For more information please call one of the volunteer offices at JBSA-Randolph M&FRC, 652-5321; JBSA-Lackland M&FRC, 671-3722; or JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC, 221-9849.

Randolph Fleenor Theater Schedule

The Taj Mahal movie theater in the Fleenor Auditorium at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph is now open. To view the upcoming movie schedule, visit www.aafes.com/exchange-stores/Movie-Guide.

Some Businesses Off Limits

A handful of businesses in the area are off-limits to armed forces members without exception. According to a 502nd Air Base Wing memorandum dated June 1, all 502nd ABW and Joint Base San Antonio military members are forbidden to enter any establishments named Cracker Box Palace, Planet K, Players Club of San Antonio, MJM Autohaus or VIP Spa. This also includes all locations in Bexar, Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina and Wilson counties. These businesses are areas where suspicious activity has been reported that is perceived as damaging to the military mission. The JBSA Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board meets quarterly to ensure safety and security is a top military priority. The establishment of off-limits areas is a function of command used to help maintain good order and discipline, health, morale, safety, and welfare of personnel assigned and/or located at JBSA and/or in the Greater San Antonio area. Members will soon see briefings on this information at newcomer orientation meetings, commanders calls and unit bulletin boards. For more information, call 652-5727.

Flu Shots now available

Flu vaccinations are now available at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Clinic. Walk-ins are welcome Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, please contact immunizations at 652-3279.

REVIEW

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and increase efficiencies across the pipeline to produce highly-qualified Battlefield Airmen, cutting the training locations from 16 sites to eight. The squadrons consolidate and organize already existing training courses under BA leadership.

Continuing the theme of increasing effectiveness, the Transportation Security Authority Canine Training Center opened at JBSA-Lackland March 4, 2016. The opening of the 25,000 square foot facility increases TSA's ability to train and deploy more than 250 law enforcement-led canine teams.

The new facility houses seven classrooms and 13 indoor venues that mimic various transportation sites such as a cargo facility, an airport gate, a checkpoint, a baggage claim area, the interior of an aircraft, a vehicle parking lot, a light rail car and an air cargo facility.

The TSA mission has been directly supported by JBSA-Lackland since its creation, as the 341st Training Squadron is the home of the Department of Defense Military Working Dog school and supplies all DoD agencies with trained MDWs. The new location increased the amount of dogs and teams readily available to support security initiatives nationwide.

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

The United States secretary of defense and Air Force chief of staff visited Joint Base Antonio-Randolph in 2016, marking an eventful year for the JBSA location.

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter's participation in a T-1A Jayhawk orientation flight at JBSA-Randolph Nov. 16 wrapped up a day that also included a presentation to Air Force basic military training trainees at JBSA-Lackland and a visit to Brooke Army Medical Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Air Force Chief of Staff David L. Goldfein met Aug. 23 with



SEAN WORRELL

Staff Sgt. Matthew Cummings, 902nd Security Forces Squadron combatives instructor, demonstrates a mount position during training Sept. 14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Kimura and Americana submission holds are often seen in mixed martial arts matches, but now they're also commonplace in Hangar 52 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

commanders of two JBSA mission partners at JBSA-Randolph before discussing the Air Force's challenges and opportunities in a keynote address the next day at a downtown San Antonio hotel.

Other noteworthy events in 2016 included the ramping-up of the number of students enrolled in remotely piloted aircraft pilot training classes and the construction of a combatives training facility for the 902nd Security Forces Squadron.

Goldfein, an Air Force Academy graduate who formerly

served as commander of the U.S. Air Forces Central Command in Southwest Asia, discussed critical Air Force personnel programs and Airmen and family programs with Maj. Gen. Peggy Poore, Air Force Personnel Center commander, during a visit on Aug. 23.

That same day, Goldfein received information from Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencaik, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, and other officials on recruitment methods and the challenges facing careers such as medical, engineering and

special operations.

"This is about opening the door for people to come in," Goldfein said during his visit. "This is the greatest treasure in the nation's arsenal, our young men and women that we bring in."

Goldfein's trip to San Antonio concluded with his keynote address at the Air Force Sergeants Association Professional Airmen's Conference and International Convention Aug. 24.

Also during 2016, the 558th Flying Training Squadron at JBSA-Randolph doubled the

size of its RPA pilot training classes from 12 to 24 students to meet an Air Force initiative to increase the number of RPA pilots across the service.

"The RPA community as a whole is experiencing manpower issues, and there is a need to train more pilots to help ease the overall strain on the career field," Lt. Col. John Stallworth, 558th FTS commander, said in January 2016. "We have worked diligently since last April to ensure we can meet the increased demand for trained '18X' pilots."

The RPA program also received a boost during 2016 when the first enlisted members – three master sergeants and one technical sergeant – started RPA pilot training as the Enlisted Pilot Initial Class at the 558th FTS.

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James met with the students when they were still attending the Air Force's Initial Flight Training school at Pueblo Memorial Airport in Pueblo, Colo., in October.

"The integration of enlisted RPA pilots in RQ-4 Global Hawk operations is part of a broader effort to meet the continual RPA demands of combatant commanders in the field, ensuring they are provided with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities in their areas of responsibilities worldwide," she said.

Members of the 902nd SFS at JBSA-Randolph, who previously had to travel to JBSA-Lackland for mandatory combatives training, started training at their own home in Hangar 52 in 2016.

The squadron's combat arms section constructed the combatives room, a 30-by-30-foot protective cage with vinyl-coated chain-link fencing, padded support posts and a thick gym mat.

"I think the combatives room is a great tool for defenders to add to their toolkit," said Tech. Sgt. Johnathan Kuenzli, 902nd SFS Combat Arms NCO in charge. "You never know when you might have to wrestle someone off you; it could be the difference between life and death."

