

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JUNE 16, 2017



PHOTO BY SEAN WORRELL

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Aberle, 802nd Security Forces Squadron installation security, conducts a security check May 9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Airman counters threats

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Secretary of the AF Heather Wilson shares thoughts during first interview

By Staff Sgt.
Alyssa C. Gibson
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In some ways, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson believes her entire life was a diversion from its planned course.

As a young girl in Keene, N.H., Wilson dreamed of becoming a pilot. With a grandfather who flew in both World Wars, and a father who began flying at the age of 13 (and later served as a crew chief in the Air Force), one could say aviation is in the Wilson family's blood.

She grew up in a 1,600 square-foot house with a kitchen, living room, den and two bedrooms.

"The den was supposed to be my bedroom, but I was in a room with my two brothers because my father was building an experimental open cockpit biplane inside our house," Wilson said. "So, when I say I grew up around aviation, I literally mean I grew up around aviation!"

Her earliest flying memory is at age 4, sitting on a pillow in a Piper J-3 Cub with her father, who would leave the aircraft door open so she and her siblings could take in the scenery.

Her surroundings drove her toward the U.S. Air Force Academy, which began accepting women when she was a junior in high school. With her grandfather's support, she applied and was accepted into the academy's third coed class.

"That changed the course of my life," she recalled. "I became someone that I never expected to be, and I saw parts of the

"I'm inspired by patriotism and by people's willingness to serve this country, and I really do think that willingness is one of the things that makes this a great country."

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson

world I never expected to experience growing up in a small town."

As a young adult, the academy influenced Wilson in many ways.

"One of the strongest is the Honor Code — 'We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does,'" she said. "That setting of values — a very firm foundation of values — is something that a service academy education does. I'm grateful for it."

She graduated from USAFA in 1982 and initially had orders to attend pilot training, but destiny had other plans. Instead, she was awarded a graduate school scholarship and earned her master's and doctoral degrees as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in England.

During her seven years of Air Force service, Wilson served as a planner, political advisor and an arms control negotiator. After, she went on to serve on the National Security Council staff, represent New Mexico's first district as a member of Congress, run a large state agency, start a small business and become president of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. Wilson said each experience contributed to the success of the next.

"The Snap-On tool guy used to come by our house and my dad had this big, red tool chest in the garage ... the truck would come by and it was almost like Christmas. My dad would get another tool and he'd put it in his toolbox," she said. "Life's like that, whatever job you have, you're adding more tools to your toolbox."

Wilson said she didn't anticipate returning to federal service, but her "toolbox" now resides in the Secretary of the Air Force office at the Pentagon.

"This was yet another diversion from my planned course," Wilson admitted. "I loved higher education, and I still do, but I've been called to serve. I will do my duty and serve the Air Force."

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis swore Wilson in as the 24th Secretary of the Air Force May 16. During her speech, she spoke with emotion about the sacrifices of American Airmen and the capabilities they bring to the joint fight.

"I'm inspired by patriotism and by people's willingness to serve this country, and I really do think that willingness is one of the things that makes this a great country," she said. "It inspires me."

"Our Airmen dominate air and space," she continued.

"This is an exceptionally qualified, technically-capable service that probably doesn't get enough credit for everything we do. It's a wonderful group of technically competent innovators, and it's a fun group to be around."

In addition to being responsible for more than 660,000 Airmen in the Total Force, she mentioned other "unique" aspects of the job that will take some getting used to.

"I'm still adjusting to having quite a few people around me," the secretary said. "I'm used to carrying my own briefcase and going down to the cafeteria for lunch ... there's a bit of an adjustment there."

Professionally, Wilson is a values-driven leader — an attribute she said is a legacy of being a member of the Air Force. She's also mission-focused and people-oriented. Airmen can expect her to be direct and honest, treat people fairly and be driven by the Air Force Core Values. In turn, she expects Airmen to expertly carry out the mission.

"The highest priority for me is to do those things that only the secretary can do, and that's to try to secure the resources, to fight for the budget, to do all of those things that are 'gotta dos,'" Wilson said. "The 'wanna dos' have to do with getting out in the field and letting people teach me what's working and what's not working, and just getting to know them...that usually makes my day. Just talking to young Airmen of all ranks and finding out who they are, where they came from,

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D-Day through the eyes of combat medics

**From Military Health
Systems Communications**

They trained with the infantry, carrying first aid kits instead of weapons. They dodged bullets to tend to wounded soldiers, sometimes with whatever supplies they could find. And even in the midst of thick combat, they remained steadily focused on their mission of saving lives. They were the combat medics of World War II.

No amount of training or planning could have prepared them for the casualties inflicted during the largest amphibious assault in history: D-Day, the Allied invasion of Europe.

"Boy Scouts was the closest thing to medical training I had before that," said Edwin Pepping, who was a 21-year-old Army private first class at the time. "But you didn't have a chance to be nervous."

In preparation for ground combat after Pearl Harbor, the Army hurried to create a ready force. Medical units made up of individuals of both military and civilian background were gathered and trained. Their duties included treating minor injuries, applying splints and tourniquets, and bandaging wounds.

Known as "band-aid bandits" to their comrades, Pep-



MATTHEW PEPPING

Edwin "Doc" Pepping (left) and Albert "Al" Mampre served as combat medics attached to Easy Company, 2nd Battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, during World War II, also known as the "Band of Brothers."

ping, who turns 95 in July, and Army Staff Sgt. Albert Mampre were attached to Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division — the unit later known as the "Band of Brothers."

Seventy-three years ago, on June 6, 1944, the U.S. took part in the invasion of Normandy, which would ultimately be the turning point of the war in Europe. More than 13,000 aircraft and 5,000 ships were

used in the D-Day landing, which was part of Operation Overlord. In the early morning hours of June 6, 1944, Pepping boarded a C-47 Skytrain transport for the big jump. But as often happens in combat, the plan didn't go as expected.

"We were supposed to be dropped at 700 feet at 95 miles per hour, which was enough to get our parachute to open and get our equipment down safely, but they dropped us at 300 feet at 165 miles per hour, which is

almost impossible to survive," he said.

As Pepping jumped, he was hit by a gust of air that ripped 125 pounds worth of supplies off of him. His parachute opened at the same time, causing him to spin violently before falling to the ground. He hit the ground so hard that his own strapped helmet flew back and knocked him in the neck, leading to a concussion and three cracked vertebrae.

After landing near the town of Angoville-au-Plain behind Utah Beach, Pepping spent the next several hours helping another medic, Willard Moore, bring severely wounded soldiers to a makeshift aid station in a nearby church. Moore drove the jeep while Pepping loaded the wounded and nursed them until they got back to the church, he said.

"There were so many catastrophic wounds that a lot of the time it was beyond us to do anything except to see if we could get a doctor to help," Pepping said. Two other medics treated patients at the aid station. They used whatever medical supplies they could find after losing most of theirs in the jump, and they treated whomever they found — American, French and German alike. Together, they saved more than 80 lives that day.

"When we flew into Nor-

mandy, we met some very, very serious cases, and a lot of the time we didn't know exactly how to handle them," Pepping said, adding that it taught him perseverance. Today, the church serves as a memorial. The blood stains where the wounded were laid remain on the pews.

"A sense of humor is really what saved us," he said, noting that the biggest lesson he learned as a medic was to duck. "You couldn't make it through the war without it," he added. Medics were unarmed, and they were identified by the Red Cross symbol on their helmets and arm bands. Even so, they weren't always spared as a target.

Mampre, who had to miss the jump on D-Day after coming down with a severe infection just a few days before, went on to receive the Purple Heart for action in Holland. After spotting a wounded lieutenant in a field, he was told the soldier was dead and best left alone. Mampre ran out to him through heavy gunfire and found him alive. He was shot through the leg, but he and the lieutenant made it to safety and survived.

"I'd do it all over again," Mampre said about being a combat medic. "But if they need me again at 95 years old, boy, we're in trouble."

Online shopping at exchange opens to all veterans

**From Army & Air Force
Exchange Service Public
Affairs**

As the Department of Defense's military exchange services prepare to welcome potentially 13 million honorably discharged veterans back this coming Veteran's Day, VetVerify.org has launched to confirm eligibility to receive a lifelong military exchange online shopping.

Veterans may log onto <http://www.VetVerify.org>, which will use information from DOD's Defense Manpower Data Center's records and inform them of their ability to access this new benefit.

If a veteran's record has character of service data and that data meets the criteria for the online benefit, the Veteran will be verified to shop.

Then, beginning Nov. 1, the

veteran can log onto the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy Exchange websites at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com>, <http://www.shopcgx.com>, <http://www.mymcx.com> and <http://www.mynavyexchange.com> for tax-free shopping. If a veteran's information is incomplete, VetVerify.org will provide guidance on next steps.

Extending online shopping

privileges to all honorably discharged veterans will directly improve family and support programs for Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members, as well as their families.

Increased sales and earnings resulting from the veterans online shopping benefit have the potential to generate tens of millions of dollars in additional dividends to quality-of-life pro-

grams. These funds decrease taxpayers' burden to support services and programs on military installations around the world.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Coast Guard Exchange, Marine Corps Exchange and Navy Exchange currently provide more than \$300 million annually in support for military quality-of-life programs.

**THE JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO
2017 AIR SHOW & OPEN HOUSE
IS SCHEDULED FOR NOV. 4 & 5
AT KELLY FIELD ANNEX.**

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FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION, VISIT
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2017 AIR SHOW LOGO.**

JBSA celebrates fathers, encourages support network

By Staff Sgt. Marissa Garner

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As Father's Day approaches in the United States, many families can be found in the nearest shopping malls looking for just the right gift for their father or father figures in their lives, trying to find just the right gift to express their appreciation.

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, of the roughly 315,500 active duty Airman population, more than 71 percent are male Airmen. Also, more than 392,702 spouses and children are supported by these Airmen, making for several thousand fathers in the service.

New initiatives supporting family have been introduced throughout the years, including a change to paternity leave, allowing new fathers 10 days of non-chargeable leave after the birth of a child. Still, new or seasoned fathers in the military may not always have access to the kinds of support groups women may typically have, but the 59th Medical Wing Family Advocacy Office is seeking to change that by offering classes geared toward military fathers.

"I think the main struggle military fathers have compared to their civilian counterparts is being gone for temporary duty or deployments, which can lead to the children taking longer to bond with the father," said James Price, a licensed master social worker with the 59th MDW Family Advocacy office. "I think most fathers struggle with the



TECH. SGT. NADINE BARCLAY

same thoughts; will I be good a father, will I be too tough or too easy, how will my lifestyle change, what is my role as nurturer, disciplinarian or both; and financial considerations. The dads the basic class that we offer, help guys talk with other guys about expectations, parenting, communicating with the spouse/significant other and emotional struggles they might face, in an environment that's very informal and non-judgmental."

The "Dad's: The Basics" course offers information to fathers such as how to physically handle newborns, change diapers, how to be aware of the psychological changes of becoming a father, information related to pregnancy, labor, and delivery, communicating with their spouse, caring for an infant and manag-

ing family issues. The topics were chosen because they are not those you would typically hear in a room full of men, Price said.

"Most men don't talk to other men about parenting or seek advice about an issue we might be having with our children," Price stated. "Men don't typically go up to other men and ask or share, if they will use cloth or disposable diapers, will their significant other bottle or breastfeed, when do you start solid food and things of that nature."

The Family Advocacy offices seeks to not only help men feel more comfortable speaking about these things, but to continually educate them on all aspects of parenthood while in the military, which should include constant communication with their families, as they also make sacrifices, he said.

"Some Airmen don't truly understand that when they have a family, not only is he or she in the military, but so is the entire family," Price said. "They need to understand that in any family there will be challenges and for that family member that does not understand the military culture, there will be additional hurdles to overcome."

"I think informing Airmen about communicating, which means speaking and listening to their partner or child, should be our first priority to ensuring their path toward a healthy and strong relationship, Price continues. I believe if the families have an open dialogue about expectations, there is less likely to be any surprise situations down the

road."

Price also encourages new fathers to reach out to others if they are feeling stressed or confused. Added life stressors such as changes of duty station, temporary duties or deployments while expanding their families are a fairly common aspect of military service, and Price encourages all Airmen, but especially fathers, to find someone who can relate.

"I believe we have become accustomed to doing things independently, not wanting to "bother" anyone and in return, sometimes there is this tendency for others to not get involved, unless we are asked," Price said. "Being in the military can be a challenge, but being responsible as a parent or becoming married also has it very unique challenges."

"Once established, a network will help the member and family to not feel so isolated. When we have the support of confidants and people we really feel comfortable expressing ourselves, we become more open and less afraid to let others into our life. No one can survive alone; we all need to make an effort to create a positive and encouraging network not only for our immediate family, but within the unit as well."

Various courses are offered weekly at all Joint Base San Antonio locations and members are welcome to attend at an installation. For a detailed listing of courses available, visit <http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Family-Advocacy/>.

FIRST PATIENT SEEN AT THE NEW WILFORD HALL

The 59th Medical Wing's new Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 7 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The 59th MDW identified Master Sgt. Karrin Hatcher as its first official patient to be treated in the \$418 million, 682,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility. Wilford Hall is the U.S. Air Force's flagship medical facility for outpatient care. The building features four wings on four floors, housing more than 25 outpatient clinical services.



Keep safety foremost during summer activities

By Richard S. Campos
502ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON
FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES

With summer around the corner, it's time go on road trips, excursions on the lake, have family fun on boats and head to camping sites galore. The list is endless.

But safety should be foremost in any family summer event, whether you are road tripping it or just driving a few miles. Summer months are fraught with potential concerns, especially when you and the kids pile in the family car.

Cars can catch fire for many reasons. Mechanical or electrical issues are the most common cause. A car can also catch fire as the result of a bad crash. If you see smoke or flames or smell burning rubber or plastic, respond immediately.

Vehicle safety tips

What to do if your car is on fire

- ▶ Pull over as quickly as it is safe to do so, be sure to use your signal as you make your way to a safe location off the road such as the breakdown lane or rest stop.
- ▶ Once you have stopped, turn off the engine.
- ▶ Get everyone out of the car. Never return to a burning car for anything.
- ▶ Move everyone at least 100 feet from the burning car and well away from traffic.
- ▶ Call 9-1-1.

How to prevent a car fire

- ▶ Have your car serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. If you spot leaks, your car is not running properly, get it checked. A well-maintained car is less likely to have a fire.
- ▶ If you must transport gasoline, transport only a small amount in a certified gas can that is sealed. Keep a window open for ventilation.
- ▶ Gas cans and propane cylinders should never be transported in the passenger compartment.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

When planning summer road trips, excursions to the lake, boating and camping, safety should be the foremost concern.

- ▶ Never park a car where flammables, such as grass, are touching the catalytic converter.
- ▶ Drive safely to avoid an accident.

Know the danger signs

- ▶ Cracked or loose wiring or electrical problems, including a fuse that blows more than once
- ▶ Oil or fluid leaks
- ▶ Oil cap not on securely
- ▶ Rapid changes in fuel or fluid level or engine temperature

Boat safety tips

Boating safety equipment

- ▶ Keep the fun on the water coming – whether it's a fishing boat, a canoe, or a personal watercraft that "floats your boat."
- ▶ Operator inexperience, inattention, recklessness, and speeding are the four leading causes of tragic watercraft crashes and the leading cause of death is drowning.
- ▶ Crash statistics indicate boaters who wear life jackets and take boater safety courses are most likely to stay safe on the water.
- ▶ Leave alcohol onshore
- ▶ Never use drugs or alcohol before or during boat operation. Alcohol's effects are greatly exaggerated by exposure to sun, glare, wind, noise, and vibration.

Use and maintain the right

safety equipment

- ▶ Have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person onboard and one approved throwable device for any boat 16 feet and longer. The DNR recommends that everyone wear their lifejackets while on the water.
- ▶ Have a fire extinguisher.
- ▶ Have operable boat lights and always test boat lights before the boat leaves the dock and carry extra batteries. Keep emergency supplies on board in a floating pouch, to include a cell phone, maps, flares and a first aid kit.
- ▶ Learn about key equipment to keep you safe.

Paddle board safety tips

- ▶ Wear a lifejacket. More than 90 percent of boat fatalities related to drowning involve victims not wearing life jackets, you need one for your safety. You also need one because Wisconsin law, as well as U.S. Coast Guard law, treats paddleboards the same as kayaks and canoes. This means there must be a personal flotation device for each person on board. However, the best way to obey this law and to ensure your safety is to just wear the life jacket.
- ▶ Carry a whistle
- ▶ Be a competent swimmer
- ▶ Know how to self-rescue
- ▶ Know how to tow another board

- ▶ Know the local regulations and navigation rules
- ▶ Understand the elements and hazards – winds, tidal ranges, current, terrain
- ▶ Know when to wear a leash
- ▶ Be defensive – don't go where you aren't supposed to be and avoid other swimmers, boaters, paddleboards
- ▶ Use proper blade angle to be the most efficient paddle boarder
- ▶ And, take a safety course, such as the paddling safety course at <http://www.boat-erexam.com/paddling>.

Be weather wise

Regardless of the season, keep a close eye on the weather and bring a radio. Sudden wind shifts, lightning flashes and choppy water all can mean a storm is brewing. If bad weather is approaching, get off the water early to avoid a long waiting line in inclement weather.

- ▶ Take these steps before getting underway:
- ▶ Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- ▶ Open all hatches and run the blower after you refuel and before getting underway. Sniff for fumes before starting the engine and if you smell fumes, do not start the engine.
- ▶ Check the boat landing for any local regulations that apply. If boating on the Great Lakes or Mississippi River, review the federal regulations for additional requirements.

Loading and unloading your boat

- ▶ Overloading a boat with gear or passengers will make the boat unstable and increase the risk of capsizing or swamping. Abide by the boats capacity plate which located near the boat operators position.
- ▶ Follow navigation and other rules on the water
- ▶ Never allow passengers to ride on gunwales or seatbacks or outside of protective railings, including the front of a pontoon boat. A sudden turn, stop or

start could cause a fall overboard.

- ▶ After leaving the boat launch, maintain slow-no-wake speed for a safe and legal distance from the launch.

Take special cold water precautions in spring

Cold water temperatures reduce your margin for error on the water: if you fall in or your boat capsizes, you may have as little as two minutes before losing your ability to move your muscles and get back in the boat or seek help.

RV safety tips

- ▶ With the summer months approaching the anticipation of hitting the road in the recreational vehicle, or RV, becomes implanted into our brain. To the meticulous RV enthusiast, fire safety is of exceptional significance. In America today, fire is one of the major causes of RV loss. An estimated 20,000 RV fires transpire yearly according to the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA. Don't let yours be one of them.

RV fire hazards

- ▶ In an article written by Kathy Komatz, National Structural Fire Training Specialist, dated August 2012, RV fires can start when your RV is moving or when it is parked. The following tips can help you recognize the most common fire hazards:
- ▶ Make a pre-trip checklist and inspect you RV every time you hit the road.
- ▶ Have three fire extinguishers for your RV – one in the kitchen, one in the bedroom, and one outside in an unlocked compartment or in your tow vehicle. Make sure every traveler knows where they are located and how to use them.
- ▶ Test your smoke detector.
- ▶ Have at least two escape routes and an escape plan. Practice it with your travelers.
- ▶ Make sure all travelers can open the front door, hatches and

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SAFETY

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emergency exits.

► Ensure that your RV's carbon monoxide and the propane detectors are properly located and functioning.

► Spontaneous combustion can occur in damp charcoal. Before you travel, buy fresh charcoal, keep it dry, and store it in a covered metal container.

► Ensure that the power cord for connecting your RV to a campground's electricity supply is in good condition and of suitable gauge wire to handle the electrical load. Replace damaged cords immediately.

Maintenance is important

► Have your RV's brakes checked. A dragging brake can create enough friction to ignite a tire or brake fluid.

► Bouncing down the road can loosen electrical connections which produce heat, and in turn, fire. Tighten them before your trip.

► Check all 12-volt connections before every trip. Many RV fires are caused by a 12-volt short.

► Leaking fluids in the engine compartment can ignite. During your pre-trip inspection, check all hoses for firmness, clamp tightness, and signs of leaking. Have repairs made before you travel.

► Mechanical or electrical failures cause roughly three-quarters of the highway vehicle fires. Proper maintenance will help reduce your chances of having malfunctions on the road.

While driving

► At each rest stop, give your tires at least an eyeball check. Remember a pressure gauge reading on hot tires is NOT accurate.

► Shut off the propane at the tank and turn off all propane-powered appliances while driving. If you have an accident or tire blowout while the propane is on, your injury and the damage to your vehicle can be significantly worse. If you elect to

travel with the refrigerator operating on propane, you must turn it and all appliances off prior to entering a fuel stop. Most refrigerators will keep food cold or frozen for eight hours without running while you travel.

► Be cautious of where you pull over and park. A hot exhaust pipe or catalytic converter can easily ignite dry grass underneath your RV.

While you are camping (or parked)

► Never leave cooking unattended.

► Never leave appliances that are plugged in and on unattended.

► Turn off overhead exhaust fans when you leave the RV.

► Don't leave 12-volt lights on. Keep clothing and other burnable things away from them.

► If the flame on your galley stove goes out while in use, unless you have run out of fuel, the gas will continue to flow and could result in an explosion. Turn off the stove and air out

the RV before trying to relight.

► Keep all combustibles – from paper towels to curtains – far enough away from your stove that they cannot catch fire.

► Gasoline and propane can pose an immediate, explosive danger. Deal at once with any leaks or spills, and use all fuels in adequately vented areas.

Operate your generator in an area where gasoline fumes cannot reach an ignition source!

► Keep your campsite fire sources such as fire rings, tiki torches and lanterns away from all vehicles.

► RVs often have a very limited number of electrical outlets, and sometimes RVers use power strips to plug more things in.

Don't overload the electrical outlets! Circuit breakers don't always prevent overloads from starting fires!

► It's best never to use an extension cord in an RV. If you must, make sure you use a heavy duty extension cord, and make sure the load you put on it is well within its safe load capacity. Don't run any electrical cord

under a carpet or floor mat.

If there is a fire

► The first step is to get everybody out of the RV and away from the fire safely.

► If it is a small fire and you can extinguish it without putting yourself in danger, put it out with a fire extinguisher.

► If it is too big of a fire or coming from an unknown source, do not risk your safety. Get out.

► Never re-enter a burning RV to retrieve anything.

► Get help. All adults and older children should know how to dial 911. Remember that cell service may be limited where you are, so make a plan ahead of time.

For more information about Summer Safety safety, visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at <http://www.nfpa.org/education> or contact the fire prevention offices at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-2727, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2921 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6915.

Know how to stay safe in the water this summer

By Airman Dillon Parker

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

(Editor's note: This story is part of a series focused on summer safety while participating in activities.)

Whether boating, swimming or participating in water sports, it is important for service members and their families to be aware of the risks and stay safe.

More than 3,500 people in the United States die annually from drowning, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the CDC, some of the factors that lead to drowning risks include:

- ▶ Lack of swimming ability among adults and children.
- ▶ Lack of barriers, such as pool fencing to prevent young children from accessing pool areas without supervision.
- ▶ Lack of close supervision;

drownings can happen quickly and quietly anywhere there is water, such as bathtubs, swimming pools, buckets, and even in the presence of lifeguards.

▶ People of different ages drown in different locations. For example, most children ages 1 to 4 drown in home swimming pools. The percentage of drownings in natural water settings — including lakes, rivers and oceans — increases with age.

▶ Alcohol use; 70 percent of water recreation deaths among adults and adolescents involved alcohol use in 2015.

Kenyon Luthi, Occupational Safety and Health manager at the 37th Training Wing Safety Office, offers some tips for staying safe while swimming this summer:

- ▶ Swim only in authorized places. Unauthorized areas are unauthorized for a reason.
- ▶ Most likely there are hidden

dangers that can kill you.

▶ Never swim alone. The buddy system does save lives.

▶ Know the depth of the water before you dive in.

▶ Don't drink when you swim. Alcohol and water are a deadly combination.

▶ Learn to swim.

"The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around water is to learn how to swim," according to Gilbert Resendez, a safety specialist at the 502nd Air Base Wing Safety Office.

The water can be especially dangerous for children, said Resendez, who urges parents to stay vigilant when at a pool or beach and keep a close watch on kids in the area, even if they know how to swim.

"Children can never ever be left alone (around any body of water)," said Resendez. "Make sure they wear their life jackets and never let them out of your eyesight. It's important to know

that children can drown in as little as two inches of water and that rattlesnakes can swim, also."

"Whether you're at the pool, the lake or the ocean, lifeguards can't watch everybody," he added.

Edward Mesa, another safety specialist at the 502nd ABW Safety Office, imparted some safety tips for boating, a popular activity in South Texas which has led to unintentional drownings. Mesa added any service member who wants to rent and operate equipment or be involved in water sports is required to take some form of safety training, which can be provided at any Joint Base San Antonio Safety Office or Outdoor Adventure Center.

"It's about taking care of our people in the Air Force," said Resendez. "We don't want Airmen or their families getting hurt so that's why these safety

courses are required."

"Most important (before operating a marine vehicle) make sure you're familiar with the marina and lake rules for whatever body of water you're on," said Mesa. "Such as which items you're required to have when on the lake like, tow ropes, flashlights or radios."

"You're required to wear a life jacket if you're under the age of 18," said Mesa. "But a good boat operator will make sure everyone has one on."

For more information on water safety, contact the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center at 210-221-4887; The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center at 210-671-2413; or the JBSA-Randolph South Pool, at 210-652-2053.

The JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Adventure Center offers a 95-minute course on basic boating procedures Mondays and Thursdays at 1 p.m., and Tuesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. Call 210-925-5532 for more information.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

West Point cadets learn about the U.S. Army Environmental Command through sponsorship

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Two cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., considering career options gained valuable experience and knowledge from members of the U.S. Army Environmental Command during a three-day visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in early June.

Cadets Naquore Davis and Kimi Walker, incoming second-year students at West Point, were at the U.S. Army Environmental Command Headquarters from May 31-June 2 through the Individual Advanced Development, or IAD, program at West Point, which gives cadets the opportunity to gain educational experience with what they learn in the classroom at any Army unit, command, agen-

cy or department in the U.S. and throughout the world that participates in the program.

Each year, the Army Environmental Command participates and sponsors cadets in the IAD program. The sponsorship allows the cadets to learn about the Army Environmental Command and its programs.

Walker said being at and with members of the Army Environmental Command was a unique opportunity, corresponding to the field she is studying at West Point, which is environmental engineering.

"It's mostly about learning and absorbing as much as I possibly can," Walker said. "I think this is a great learning opportunity to get my feet wet in the Army Environmental Command and in the different environmental programs."

Davis, who like Walker is an

environmental engineering major, said being assigned to the Army Environmental Command through the IAD program fits into his career plans of becoming a civil or structural engineer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"There's so many jobs and stuff here that revolve around what I want to study at West Point," Davis said. "You have that ability to go into this field and directly use what you learned in school, and it applies directly to your job. I get the benefit of matching what I want to learn as well as taking advantage of a rare learning opportunity."

After their stay at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the cadets got to accompany members of the Army Environmental Command



DAVID DEKUNDER

Cadets Naquore Davis (left) and Kimi Walker, from the U.S. Military Academy, gained valuable experience and knowledge from members of the U.S. Army Environmental Command during a visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston May 31-June 2.

CADETS continues on 19

MILITARY LEADERS SPUR ON SOLDIERS AT ARMY BIRTHDAY RUN

Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn (left), U.S. Army South commanding general at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, congratulates runners after the U.S. Army Birthday Run at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston June 4. June 14 marked the U.S. Army's 242nd birthday. In celebration of this historic occasion, Soldiers assigned to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston participated in a three-mile run around the installation.

Lt. Col. Carol McClelland



No-notice mass casualty exercise tests BAMC's response

By Lori Newman

BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center held a no-notice mass casualty exercise May 31 to test the staff's ability to respond and care for multiple casualties.

"During exercises, we practice what we would really do," said Steve Burton, BAMC emergency management specialist. "With this one, we wanted to take it a step further. We gave the staff a one-week window, only a few people knew when it would take place."

The exercise was a collaborative effort between BAMC and Schertz emergency medical services, fire and police departments, which took about five months to plan.

The scenario mirrored real-life events that have taken place in cities across the world. A large crowd was gathered for a festival at Pickrell Park in Schertz, when a vehicle plowed into the crowd, sending 25-30 casualties to BAMC. Inclement weather and a traffic accident



ROBERT A. WHETSTONE

Spc. William Waggoner, assigned to the Brooke Army Medical Center emergency room, and Domingo Guerrero, a Schertz emergency medical technician, prepare to move Shannon Murphy, an emergency medical service student role playing a patient, into the ER during a no-notice mass casualty exercise with the city of Schertz on May 31.

on Interstate 35 added real-world elements to the planned scenario.

"The rain and a traffic accident gave us the ability to really see how long it would take our staff to get here once they were notified," Burton said. "All these things are valuable to see how effective we are responding to a mass casualty event."

"A disaster doesn't knock on your door and say, 'is this a convenient time,'" he added.

Mike Shown, Schertz EMS clinical manager, said this was an opportunity for Schertz emergency personnel to train for a mass casualty emergency as well.

"We learned a lot," Shown said.

The emergency department

set up two areas in preparation for the patients' arrival. Two nurses were ready to evaluate patients who walked in on their own to the waiting room area.

"We are here to access them quickly to see if they have minor injuries," said Amanda Scallon, registered nurse. "If anyone needs to go back urgently, we are going to send them to the emergent area."

As ambulances began to roll into the emergency department, teams were ready to move patients into the trauma bays as quickly as possible.

"This is the first time, that I know of, that we have had a no-notice recall like this," said Air Force Col. Mark Antonacci, Emergency Department chief. "I think it's gone well."

Several Schertz emergency medical personnel were on hand to observe how the patients were triaged and treated in the ED.

"BAMC is our primary trauma center, we work with them day-in and day-out," Shown said. "We need to work together

or we can't get the job done."

To add to the excitement, the decontamination team was activated in response to another scenario involving a train carrying chemicals striking a 15-passenger van. "This type of accident really happened here in 2004," Burton said.

The DECON team was up and running within minutes. The 10 additional simulated casualties were sent through the decontamination process before being brought to the emergency department for additional treatment.

"This was definitely different from our usual training," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Coley, noncommissioned officer in charge of the DECON team.

"My team did absolutely phenomenal," Coley said.

Burton said he hopes to continue doing the MASCAL exercises this way.

"Our goal is to make sure that we can respond as an organization as effectively and efficiently as we possibly can," he said.

ARNORTH celebrates Army birthday at San Antonio City Hall

By Staff Sgt. Tomora Nance

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Every year, people across the world celebrate their birthday with festivities and, of course, cake. So, what happens when a branch of the Armed Forces turns a year older? There's also a celebration.

Several Soldiers and City of San Antonio officials gathered to partake in an Army Birthday cake cutting ceremony at City Hall June 1. This ceremony marked the first event for Soldiers at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's celebration of the Army's 242nd birthday.

"I'm honored to be here at City Hall to mark the celebration of the 242nd Army birthday celebration," said Lt. Gen.

Jeffrey S. Buchanan, commander, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), as he gave the opening remarks.

Buchanan spoke briefly of the partnership between the Army and the City of San Antonio, before the Army cake was presented to the audience. As a long-standing Army tradition and a crucial part of the ceremony, the cake was cut by the oldest and youngest Army representatives as well as Buchanan and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Orosz, the senior enlisted adviser for Army North.

The youngest Soldier was represented by Sgt. Catherine Trisch, a geospatial engineer with Army North with just over three years of service.

"It was a great experience; I

couldn't think of a better place to have the ceremony than at City Hall," Trisch said. "To be able to celebrate with a city that supports the military so much, it is a huge deal and we were welcomed with opened arms."

The oldest military person was represented by Ray Lopez, outgoing city councilman for District 6, who served in the Army from 1968 to 1984 and is currently 67 years old.

"It was heartwarming to see the Army pride and the community pride at such a high level," said Lopez, who helped cut the Army birthday cake.

Lopez also reminisced about his fondest memory in the military, which was "sight-seeing in Europe while stationed in Germany as a power pack and electrical specialist."



FREDERICK GONZALES

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, commander of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, gives the opening remarks June 1 at City Hall in San Antonio during the Army birthday cake-cutting ceremony.

FORT SAM HOUSTON BRIEFS

FSHISD seeks Board of Trustees members

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District is seeking nominees to be considered for three openings on the Board of Trustees. The positions must be filled by either a military member or civilian, living on or employed by Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, must be 18 years of age or older, a U.S. citizen, a qualified voter and must not be a convicted felon. For more information, call 210-221-2256.

Center for The Intrepid tours

The Center for the Intrepid tours will be offered only on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. for anyone 16 years or older with a maximum of 40 visitors per tour. Another option is to view the CFI video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ac9Kg78SLQ>. Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs will coordinate all visits to the CFI, to include gate entry authorization. For more information or to schedule a visit, call 210-916-5160.

Warrant officer meeting

Date/Time: June 19, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Longhorn Cafe, 1003 Rittiman Road
The Lone Star Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association is open to all active duty, retired, Reserve and National Guard warrant officers and family members of current or retired warrant officers. For more information, call 808-256-5128.

Key Spouse education

Date/Time: June 19, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797
Active Key Spouses and Key Spouse mentors are required to attend at least one continuing education class per quarter. To register, call 210-221-2418.

FRG Fund custodian

Date/Time: June 20, 1-3 p.m.
Location: M&FRC, building 2797
Current and incoming FRG Fund custodians

review regulations for managing informal funds and fundraising. To register, call 210-221-2418.

Financial Services Office closures

Date/Time: June 21, 11 a.m.
The 502nd Comptroller Squadron's Financial Services Office closes for the day at 11 a.m. for an official function. This affects all customer service sections at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph. Regular service resumes at 8 a.m. June 22 at all locations.

Interview for Success

Date/Time: June 21, 9-11 a.m.
Location: M&FRC, building 2797
Discover ways to prepare for a job interview, review proper attire, salary negotiation and the importance of social media and networking. To register, call 210-221-2418.

Learn & Lunch with EFMP

Date/Time: June 21, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: M&FRC, building 2797
Guest speaker Dana Reeder discusses ways to prepare for college and tips on finding the right track. For more information, call 210-221-2705.

DHA Health Fair

Date/Time: June 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: M&FRC, building 2797
The Defense Health Agency sponsors this health fair beginning at 9 a.m. with a one-mile fun run/walk at the running tracks on Stanley Road. A Zumba class is also available at 9 a.m. at the M&FRC, building 2797. A variety of free screenings are also available. For information, call 210-295-2217, 210-295-3339 or 210-295-3633.

Trails & Tails Tour

Date/Time: June 23, 8-11 a.m.
Location: M&FRC, building 2797
Take a guided tour of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and learn about its rich history. Due to limited seating, registration is required. Call 210-221-2705.

LACKLAND

Airman counters threats before they occur

By **Jeremy Gerlach**
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Aberle, 802nd Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of physical security, can't see into the future, but she can work to prevent security breaches from ever happening here.

"My work is all about eliminating risk," said Aberle, assigned with securing all protection level assets at JBSA-Lackland. "Especially unnecessary risk — if you can prepare yourself for potential problems, you've already won most of the battle."

That work can be painstaking for Aberle, who spends her days ensuring restricted areas at JBSA-Lackland stay restricted.

One week, she might be completing a design review for a new building on the installa-

tion. The next week, she might be providing other types of guidance like crime prevention surveys, or coordinating police services for events like National Night Out. These surveys help Aberle's team figure out ways security can be enhanced to protect the inhabitants of a facility.

Aberle's work goes far beyond the Air Force Instructions and the manuals. She balances her workload with a demanding physical component.

"Any given day, I'm out there on an All-Terrain Vehicle, patrolling along the border fence myself," Aberle said. "We're looking for cuts in the fence, holes, any sort of damage that someone could exploit to enter the base illegally."

Checking miles of perimeter fence for wear and damage can

AIRMAN continues on 15



SEAN WORRELL

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Aberle, 802nd Security Forces Squadron installation security, drives along the base fence line during a security check May 9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Afghan Ministry of Interior Awards Medal to DLI

By **Airman Dillon Parker**
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Afghanistan Homeland Security Service Medal was awarded to a member of the Defense Language Institute English Language Center staff as a token of appreciation for his exceptional meritorious leadership and performance of duty on behalf of the Afghan Ministry of Interior.

Retired Air Force Col. Juan Martua, the director of the Afghanistan Student Management Office at DLIELC, was presented with the medal by Afghanistan National Army

Maj. Nasrullah Khosti on behalf of the Afghan Ministry of the Interior. As the director of the Afghan Student Management Office, which was created to provide dedicated support to Afghan students training at DLIELC, Martua supports more than 150 students annually, assisting with housing and financial issues and any barriers that would hinder them from completing their courses, he said.

"We help these guys with self-study, mentorship and we try to focus on instilling the importance of what they're doing," said Martua. "We do whatever we can to help their

mission here."

Students from Afghanistan train at DLIELC and either move on to a specialized training course in the United States, or they return home to rejoin their nation's military to share what they have learned. During their time here, though, students build connections with members of the student management office.

"He is just like a big brother for the Afghan ministry students when they are at DLI (Defense Language Institute)," said Khosti, an Mi-17 pilot and student of Martua. "If anybody has any problem, they go and talk with him."

Problems, according to Howard Morgan, who also works in the Afghan Student Management Office, can range anywhere from finances and helping work out any issues that may stem from currency exchange from the banks, cultural differences, issues passing or excelling in courses, medical needs and more. The team of four people, including Martua, is always there to assist or elevate the issue to someone who can help.

"We try to provide a welcoming environment to the students, so they can come to us with an issue and we can

help," Morgan said. "Mr. Martua has been working with us since April of 2011 and he does a fine job of being a leader of this organization, and that is evident both in the award and the positive relationships we have with our students."

"The Afghan students are very happy to have someone as helpful and generous as him," said Khosti.

Khosti added that Martua's knowledge of Afghan culture is a big part of what makes him so great.

"I don't know how, but he completely knows everything about our culture," said Khosti. "He has inspired us with his devotion to duty, spirit of sacrifice and love for his students," said Khosti.

Command surgeon recognized for decades of exemplary service

By **Lori A. Bultman**
25TH AIR FORCE

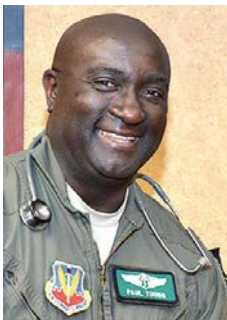
When it comes to aviation medicine, Col. Paul

A. Young, command surgeon, 25th Air Force, is one of the best, which is why he was selected by the Society of United States Air Force Flight Surgeons as the recipient of this year's George E. Schafer Award.

The award recognizes the outstanding, career-long contributions of Air Force flight surgeons to the health, welfare, safety and mission effectiveness of aircrews as well as to the vitality of the specialty of aerospace medicine, according to the Society's website.

"It is a great honor to receive this award. This was something that in the past I wished I could have achieved," he said. "It is a pinnacle of Aviation Medicine recognition."

Young said the award reflects not on individual



LORI A. BULTMAN
Col. Paul A. Young, 25th Air Force command surgeon, has been awarded the George E. Schafer Award by the Society of U.S. Air Force Flight Surgeons Board of Governors for 2017.

achievements, but on all contributions over a lifetime.

"It is almost, to me, like the Presidential Medal of Freedom for the Air Force," he said. "This was decades of work and

continuous contributions to the essential aspects of aviation and aerospace occupational medicine."

Young, a 1983 Reserve Officer Training Corps graduate of North Carolina State University, was the first minority ROTC detachment commander at the university. He received his medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987 and has been actively engaged in aviation medicine since 1990.

"I have a complete interest in aviation medicine," Young said. "Nothing is off-limits when it comes to learning, understanding, observing, acting or conducting aviation, occupational, and preventive medicine. It is a passion."

Young also graduated from the Air War College in 2013 and routinely

assists as an adjunct presenter for medical elective seminars there.

At 25th Air Force, Young is responsible for the medical support of almost 30,000 personnel serving in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance worldwide. He works with Airmen on behavior, appropriate risk management, proactive lifestyle choices and changes, and making the proper choices so they are able to perform their duties, he said.

Young's focus is on all aircrew Airmen, and their support teams, not just the pilots.

"It is not just about flying and aviation medicine anymore," Young said. "I have to be a clinician, flier, consultant, mentor, and specialist in every field. It is about the cyber operation tele-

warrior component, too. We deal with everything that has to do with flying and operational medicine for mission support.

"This job is important to what 25th Air Force does and, in a broader context, to national security," said Young, who also works with multiple military branches, agencies and components of the Department of Defense.

In addition, he is a Diplomat of the American Board of Preventive Medicine, with specialization in Aerospace and Occupational Medicine, a Fellow for the Aerospace Medical Association and a senior member and Board Officer of several medical international councils, to include the NATO Research and Technological Organization.

AIRMAN

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take hours, given the fact trespassers typically don't hit the same spots in the fencing repeatedly.

Even if Aberle and her team could apprehend every interloper armed with bolt cutters in the San Antonio area, they'd still have to deal with weather damage to the installation fencing from lightning, wind debris, or other natural elements.

"We're always looking out for that type of damage, too," Aberle said. "You'd be surprised how often that happens (with the weather). Any time you have a destroyed or mangled fence, that allows for unauthorized access."

Despite these external hazards, Aberle noted her team also faces internal pressure from impatient people trying to get on base.

"So many people view security as an inconvenience, something they really don't want to deal with," Aberle said. "It's tough to help them understand that there is a reason for everything we do."

In a sense, the more successful Aber-

le is at countering threats proactively, the more flak her team catches from people who are unaware of these threats.

"When we prevent problems from happening, those people might not be aware of all the risk (that) exists in the first place," Aberle explained. "But without someone doing this job, you'd sacrifice a lot of the security we take for granted. You'd see more unauthorized entry, and you wouldn't have security guidance for new facilities that enables them to be safer."

While the job can be demanding at times, Aberle is proud to defend JBSA-Lackland.

After working two years as physical security NCOIC, Aberle recently moved on to her new duty position with the 737th Training Group this month. Aberle, who has enjoyed a career as a Security Forces Squadron Defender for last 12 years, said she was proud to continue on that career path.

"While most people might run away from danger, we're running towards it," Aberle said. "That's how we help people — and that's why I'm here — because I can go home every day knowing that I've helped keep people safe."

SECAF

From page 2

what they do, why they do it ... it's the best part of this job."

Since returning to the Air Force, Wilson has reviewed the service's current challenges and developed her list of priorities. Her first focus is Air Force readiness.

"We have to restore the readiness of the force in order to be ready for any fight, anytime, anywhere," Wilson said. "I also think readiness is a morale issue. If our Airmen have what they need to do the job, if they're getting the flying hours they need, if maintainers have the parts they need, if there are enough people to do the job, morale tends to be high. But if we're not providing those things to Airmen trying to do a job, it's frustrat-

ing. So, readiness is number one."

During her review, Wilson took note of the number of Air Force modernization programs over the next five to 10 years, and made modernizing the force her second focus.

"It's not just one big program — it's fighters ... and tankers ... and bombers ... and space assets ... and the nuclear deterrent — it's across the board," she explained. "There's a lot of acquisition going on in the Air Force. We've got to get that right — we've got to value every dollar that's spent, because somebody earned that dollar."

Wilson believes she won the lottery with the Air Force's current leadership. Her final priority falls in line with one of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein's focus areas.

"Both the chief and I believe that the squadron is the basic unit of the Air Force," Wilson explained. "If we have great leadership in the squadron and a great culture set at the squadron, there's almost nothing he and I can do to screw this up. The development of leaders at the squadron level has to be a priority, and if we get that right the culture of the Air Force will be one that's mission-focused, values-driven and people-oriented."

Though the Air Force secretary's life has been a series of diversions, the one thing that stayed the course for Wilson is her love of airplanes. She is now an instrument-rated private pilot and the owner of a Cessna 152. "It's not much, but it flies and it's mine," she says. She hopes to return to the skies soon, but first — duty calls.

LACKLAND BRIEFS

Social Security & You

Date/Time: June 20, 10 a.m. to noon

Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249

Attendees will learn about the changes to social security benefits and how they can affect retirement. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

Financial Services Office closures

Date/Time: June 21, 11 a.m.

The 502nd Comptroller Squadron's Financial Services Office closes for the day at 11 a.m. for an official function. This affects all customer service sections at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph. Regular service resumes at 8 a.m. June 22 at all locations.

Hiring fair prep

Date/Time: June 26, 9-11 a.m.

Location: M&FRC, building 1249

Participants will brush up on a 30 second elevator speech, polish their social media profile, and more. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

Hiring Fair

Date/Time: June 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: M&FRC, building 1249

Attendees will meet with employers looking to hire. The event is open to all DOD ID cardholders. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

Bundles for Babies

Date/Time: June 27, 1-4:30 p.m.

Location: M&FRC, building 1249

Information will be provided on financial planning and parenting skills. Military members who are expecting and are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

Buying a Home

Date/Time: June 29, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: M&FRC, building 1249

Participants will discuss the pros and cons of renting versus home ownership, budgets, different types of loans and more. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

Camo to Classroom

Date/Time: June 29, 9-11:30 a.m.

Location: M&FRC, building 1249

Representatives from Region 20 Education Service Center will explain how to obtain teaching certificates through traditional, alternative and ROTC routes. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

Employment symposium

Date/Time: July 17, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: M&FRC, building 1249

Attendees review resources like Priority Placement Program and more. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

Career technical training

Date/Time: July 17-18, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: M&FRC, building 1249

Participants learn about civilian careers that require a license or certificate, financial aid, VA benefits, apprenticeships and more. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

RANDOLPH

FTAC shifts focus from in-processing to professional development

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The new First Term Airmen Course curriculum is now a reality at Joint Base San Antonio.

Beta-tested at JBSA-Lackland from December through May, the new curriculum, which was rolled out June 5-9 at JBSA, represents a shift from an in-processing focus to professional development.

The course features a curriculum called "Airmanship 300," which was developed at the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence at JBSA-Randolph and includes modules from the "Enhancing Human Capital" course taken by senior Air Force leaders.

"The new FTAC curriculum will benefit Airmen by giving them the tools to learn how to build and develop their teams and how to succeed in diverse environments," said Staff Sgt. Mitchell Gorham, former NCO in charge of the JBSA First Term Airmen Center who participated in the curriculum's planning process.

"My initial impression of the course is that we are developing Airmen from the time they hit the ground," he said. "I think the changes are amazing, seeing that we have Airmen coming in with college degrees and we are introducing a challenging curriculum to them as soon as they arrive."

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Daffinee, current NCO in charge of JBSA FTAC, said the course is designed to shift an Airman's mindset from the training



MELISSA PETERSON

Staff Sgt. Mitchell Gorham participates in the first (beta) Career Assistance Advisor training course for the newly redesigned First Term Airmen Course held in November 2016.

environment to the operational force.

"The tri-part material in the course is geared toward team-building, challenging new Airmen to discuss ethical dilemmas they will encounter in their careers and establishing a base line of professionalism," she said. "It contains several team-building activities and guided conversations facilitated by senior NCOs. The goal is to reinforce core values from the top down as Airmen transition to their first duty stations."

Daffinee said she appreciates how FTAC has evolved.

"I sat in these very seats five years ago and received valuable information, but all in the form of briefs with little to no interaction with NCOs or senior NCOs," she said. "As a former public educator, I see value in the material, but even more value in establishing those relationships with our Airmen and getting to know their stories by having that time to discuss everything from the job to family, personal goals and career paths. There is still flexibility in the schedule to tailor instruction to your base's area of responsibility and to work in micro-briefs."

Students are giving the course positive marks on feedback forms, Daffinee said.

"All in all, FTAC was a great week for me," said Airman 1st Class Tyler Eccleton, 37th Training Support Squadron courseware developer. "Basic and tech school had worn me down quite a bit and I was no longer interested in doing more than four years. Now I am re-motivated and inspired to do my best and excel. Reconsidering staying in for 20 again now. Thank you."

Daffinee said she sees growth in students as they take the course.

"Throughout the course of the week I see the students begin to display confidence, lead each other and gain self-awareness," she said.

Airmanship 300 is part of a continuum of training that begins with Airmanship 100, better known as Airmen's Week, following basic military training and Airmanship 200 at technical school. Airmanship 400 and 500 are projected to be developed for the NCO and senior NCO professional enhancement courses.

FTAC, a one-week course, is offered to JBSA Airmen twice a month at JBSA-Lackland.

A father's influence creates legacy of pilots

By Kimberly Parker
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

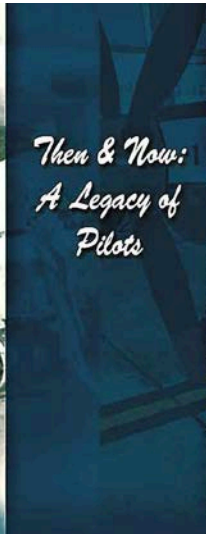
Having a fighter pilot inspire you to join the Air Force is fairly common, but having that inspiration living in the same house adds a different outlook.

Lt. Col. Andrew "Kisser" Kissinger, 39th Flying Training Squadron T-6 Texan instructor pilot,

understands the pull of the Air Force after watching and admiring his own father's career in the clouds.

Kissinger explained that it was at the age of eight when his dad took him to an air show at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas that his dreams of becoming a pilot were cemented.

"At the end of the air show, the Thunderbirds



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Col. (ret) Forrest "Dutch" Kissinger (left) prior to his deployment to Vietnam in 1968. He served as a fighter pilot during the war, flying the F-4 Phantom. He would inspire his son, Lt. Col. Andrew "Kisser" Kissinger (right) to become an Air Force pilot.

performed in their T-38s," he said. "Dad told me the maneuvers they were flying were just like the aerobatics he did most days flying. It was such a simple outing, but what a huge impact it had. I was hooked, and from then on I told everyone I was going to be a pilot."

His dad, Col. (ret) Forrest "Dutch" Kissinger, enlisted in the Air Force at 18 years old in 1949 as an aircraft mechanic. He explained that three years later he was given the opportunity to become a pilot during the Korean War when the Air Force needed to surge and grow its pilot population.

"I had to take a test, and if I passed the test they would let me be a pilot," Forrest said. "If I didn't pass then my enlistment was up, and I would go home. Well, thirty-one years and three months later, I had a great career and retired as a full bird colonel."

His son, Andrew, would take a different route to becoming a pilot. He attended the U.S. Air Force Academy, later earning his wings in 1990. He flew the B-52 Stratofortress, logging over 2,000 flight hours. He would separate from active duty in 1998, but has been flying with the Air Force Reserves ever since.

While their paths to becoming pilots were slightly different, there are some parallels.

Forrest came through pilot-instructor-training at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph in 1972 while on his way to Laughlin AFB to be the director of operations. During Andrew's career, he flew the same T-37s and T-38s that his father flew back in the early 1970's.

While Andrew said he learned many life-lessons from his father, the most important was simple: never quit.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Col. Andrew "Kisser" Kissinger, 39th Flying Training Squadron T-6 Texan instructor pilot, poses with his son, Nicholas, in front of a T-6 Texan at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

"Whether I was struggling on the pitching mound as a child, considering quitting the Air Force Academy (the thought crossed my mind nearly every day) or having tough days at pilot training, his motivation to never quit was what enabled me to continue. I'm teaching my little boy those same things," he said.

Andrew talked about how his father's influence has now reached a third

generation with his son, Nicholas.

"Nicholas is thirteen, but has started talking about wanting to go to the Air Force Academy," he said.

Forrest had this advice to give any young person joining the Air Force:

"Do a good job at whatever you're doing, do your best. We have the greatest Air Force in the world, the best trained people in the world, and the best military," he said.

RANDOLPH BRIEFS

Fitness center access

The 24-hour CAC Access System at the Rambler Fitness Center is currently down. The 502nd Force Support Squadron is working closely with the manufacturer of the access system to repair the problem. Until further notice, personnel with registered CACs will not be able to access the gym outside of normal hours of operation. Normal hours of operation are: weekdays: 5:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. and weekends: 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.

Financial Services Office closures

Date/Time: June 21, 11 a.m.
The 502nd Comptroller Squadron's Financial Services Office

closes for the day at 11 a.m. for an official function. This affects all customer service sections at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph. Regular service resumes at 8 a.m. June 22 at all locations.

Children of Divorce "Caught in the Middle"

Date/Time: Every Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Location: Health Promotions
This course offers information on how families can meet the needs of children growing up between two homes due to divorce or separation. This class meets Texas court man-

dated requirements.

Master Your Emotions

Date/Time: Every Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: Health Promotions
For those who want to learn to cope with anger in healthy and productive ways. Get tips on dealing with angry people. Register by calling, 210-652-2448

Making marriage work

Date/Time: Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Location: Health Promotions
For couples who want to enhance their relationship by learning seven principles that will draw you closer to your partner.

CADETS

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compliance staff on an Environmental Performance Assessment and Assistance System, or EPAAS, visit at Fort Benning, Ga., from June 5-9.

Dr. William Miller, Army Environmental Command entomologist, said an EPAAS visit is conducted to determine if an Army installation is following state, federal, and Department of Defense environmental guidelines in several areas, including water, storm water, hazardous materials, natural resources and cultural resources.

Miller said the cadets provided the Army Environmental Command with a biography, which provided their areas of interest. Based on that biography, the cadets were paired with members of the Army Environmental Command who were working in the area they were interested in, particularly during the EPAAS visit at Fort Benning.

Walker said anything the Army Environmental Command was inspecting and looking at during the EPAAS visit, the cadets would be able to accompa-

ny them on.

During his time in the IAD program, Davis said he learned that the Army Environmental Command has members in several career fields and areas that work together to support the Army's goals, including training to fight, readiness and sustainability.

"I definitely learned that this field, this branch has such a big impact on everything that goes on with the Army," he said.

Walker, who is considering becoming a helicopter pilot, said environmental protection will have an impact on any Army career she chooses to go into.

"I think the whole environmental aspect really does touch upon everything and it does touch upon the safety aspects that come along with aviation," Walker said. "That to me is the big picture. Whether if I do end up flying helicopters or go to field artillery, it's still going to be something that's relevant and something you need to think about, mostly because there are so many rules and so many things you have to be aware of."

Walker said she planned to take what she

learned at the Army Environmental Command and apply it to her classes at West Point. Also, Walker said she will share what she learned with her West Point peers and show them how they can apply it to their future Army careers.

Members of the Army Environmental Command were always willing to share what they knew with the cadets, said Davis.

"The people are great, very friendly and very passionate about their work, which is always great to have," he said. "There are so ready to give information on what they do and how they do it. They are always ready to give you their side of what they do and how they do it."

By going through the IAD program, Miller said the cadets now understand what the Army Environmental Command does, which will help them when they start their military careers.

"It's nice to see young cadets who'll become officers take an interest in environmental programs," Miller said. "They have an awareness of what the environment is and how our actions impact it."