

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

DECEMBER 1, 2017



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER

Senior Airmen Sharon McGuire (left) and Nicole Osorio, 26th Aerial Port Squadron aerial transportation specialists, rig an A-22 cargo bag with 2,000 pounds of mock relief supplies in preparation for sling load evacuation during Operation Alamo Evacuation, a Joint, Total Force exercise, Nov. 18 at Martindale Army Airfield near San Antonio.

Exercise tests Airmen readiness

Page 17



Leaders serve up holiday feast for JBSA members

Page 3



Unlikely volunteers go the extra mile, make a difference

Page 15

COMMENTARY

Don't drive fatigued during holidays

By 2nd Lt. Alicia Howard
NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

We've all experienced what it feels like to drive fatigued. We've made the mistake of working all day and then taking off on a long drive to be with family or friends during a holiday or vacation.

I often did that when I was stationed at Fort Hood. On Thursday afternoons, we would be released about 3 p.m. after Sergeant's Time Training. I would hop into my vehicle, which I'd already packed, and set off on an eight-hour-plus drive to Joplin, Missouri.

Normally, I could easily make this trip after a good night's rest; however, leaving immediately after work was a different story. While the excitement was enough to keep me awake for the first three hours, around the fourth hour I would begin to experience the warning signs of drowsiness and fatigue. I would find myself having difficulty focusing, forgetting the last few miles of driving, yawning repeatedly and jerking my vehicle back into my lane.

And weather could also make these trips take longer. On one particular trip, I was driving through Oklahoma when I encountered a blinding snowstorm that forced me to slow to less than 30 mph. I was frustrated because I realized it was going to take much longer than normal to reach Joplin. But when I tried speeding up, I'd begin sliding on the road. I saw the consequences of that firsthand when a vehicle in front of me ran off the road into a ditch. I stopped to make sure the individual was OK. He was fine and I called a wrecker to come and pull him out. I knew

at that point it was no use trying to drive any farther. It just wasn't worth getting into an accident.

I knew the next town was only a few minutes away. I called my family and told them I was staying there overnight because the weather was too bad to drive. Had I tried, it would've taken me even more time to get to Joplin or I could've ended up in a bad accident. As it turned out, the next morning was beautiful and the roads were clear. I left early enough to arrive at the hotel in Joplin just after my family had gotten out of bed. We were still able to have breakfast that morning and spend an enjoyable holiday together before I had to be back at Fort Hood.

I learned my lesson on that trip and never again tried to drive it immediately after getting off from work. I now make sure I have a full night's rest before hitting the road and always check the weather forecast to make sure driving conditions will be favorable.

When I look back on it, it seems silly that I took such risks. I would never let any of my Soldiers make the same trip without first getting adequate rest. My leadership classes have taught me to apply risk management in everything I do, on or off duty. After all, accidents don't discriminate when it comes to duty status.

National Safety Council website, www.nsc.org, offers advice for safe driving.

Sleepiness slows reaction time, decreases awareness, impairs judgment and can be fatal when driving. The drivers at highest risk are third-shift workers, people who drive a substantial number of miles

each day, those with unrecognized sleep disorders and those prescribed medication with sedatives.

Recognize the symptoms of fatigue

- » Eyes closing or going out of focus
- » Persistent yawning
- » Irritability, restlessness and impatience
- » Wandering or disconnected thoughts
- » Inability to remember driving the last few miles
- » Drifting between lanes or onto the shoulder
- » Abnormal speed, tailgating or failure to obey traffic signs
- » Back tension, burning eyes, shallow breathing or inattentiveness

Safety tips

- » Maintain a regular sleep schedule that allows adequate rest.
- » When the signs of fatigue begin to show, get off the road. Take a short nap in a well-lit area. Do not simply stop on the side of the road.
- » Avoid driving between midnight and 6 a.m.

When planning long trips

- » Share driving responsibilities with a companion.
- » Begin the trip early in the day.
- » Keep the temperature cool in the car.
- » Stop every 100 miles or two hours to get out of the car and walk around; exercise helps to combat fatigue.
- » Stop for light meals and snacks.
- » Drive with your head up, shoulders back and legs flexed at about a 45-degree angle.

Honorably discharged veterans have online shopping privileges

By Chris Ward
ARMY AND AIR FORCE
EXCHANGE SERVICE

Some 18.5 million honorably discharged veterans now have a lifetime benefit enabling them to shop online at ShopMyExchange.com, marking the first expan-

sion of military exchange privileges since 1990.

"The Exchange is honored to open its virtual doors to millions of deserving veterans," said Tom Shull, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's director and CEO, a Vietnam-era Army veteran.

"There are many generations of service members who have not been properly recognized," he added. "This new benefit acknowledges their service and welcomes them home."

Every purchase veterans make online will help to improve the quality of life for those who wear the uniform today, Shull noted, as exchange earnings support programs such as combat uniforms below cost, fitness centers, child development centers and youth programs on Army garrisons, Air Force outdoor recreation programs, school lunches for war-

fighters' children overseas and more.

"This is a virtuous cycle," he said. "As a veteran myself, it is an honor to pay forward support to active-duty service members and their families."

Excitement for the new benefit has been building for months, AAFES officials said, thanks to social media shout-outs from celebrities. As a result, more than 255,000 veterans verified their eligibility for the benefit before its official Nov. 11 launch.

To verify eligibility and begin shopping, Veterans can visit ShopMyExchange.com.

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JBSA joins together to celebrate Thanksgiving



From left: U.S. Representative Will Hurd; Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Kristopher Berg, 502nd ABW and JBSA senior enlisted adviser; serve Thanksgiving dinner to workers and service members Nov. 22 at JBSA-Camp Bullis' main dining facility.

COURTESY PHOTO



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Dennis Reilly (center) with members of his family prepare to take nine Soldiers to their home Nov. 23. This marks the sixteenth year Mr. Reilly and his family have shared their Thanksgiving celebration with Soldiers from JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Soldiers from the Army Medical Department Center & School at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston wait to be picked up by families from San Antonio and surrounding cities for Mission Thanksgiving Nov. 23.



COURTESY PHOTO

The 323rd Army Band "Fort Sam's Own" from Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston spent Thanksgiving Day morning Nov. 23 marching in the 68th Annual Houston Thanksgiving Day Parade. Thousands of people braved chilly temperatures to line the city streets for the parade. The 323rd Army Band played the national anthem during the opening ceremonies, then marched off after playing the Army Song.



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Soldiers from the Army Medical Department Center & School at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston enjoy Thanksgiving dinner at the Rocco Dining Facility Nov. 23 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Maj. Gen. Brian C. Lein (left), Commanding General, Army Medical Department Center & School at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and AMEDDC&S Command Sgt. Maj. Buck O'Neal (center) serve Thanksgiving dinner to Soldiers at the Rocco Dining Facility Nov. 23 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

AU-ABC program expands education opportunities for enlisted members

By Ethan Stoker

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen join the Air Force for a variety of reasons, but perhaps the most common is for the service's vast educational opportunities.

The Air University-Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative program, or AU-ABC, is perhaps a little-known opportunity that can reap big rewards.

The AU-ABC was created to help enlisted Airmen pursue advanced education beyond the associate degrees they earn through the Community College of the Air Force. The program links CCAF graduates to accredited civilian academic institutions that offer online or

distance learning bachelor's degrees.

Since its inception in 2007, the AU-ABC program has helped more than 104,000 Airmen complete nearly 203,000 courses at civilian institutions, resulting in the completion of 4,396 bachelor's degrees. Of those Airmen earning their four-year degrees through the program, 94 have commissioned as officers in the Air Force.

"The AU-ABC program arguably provides our enlisted Airmen the most efficient path to earn a bachelor's degree. The Air Force is committed to helping Airmen maximize realization of their academic potential because educational advancement increases knowledge and enhances the critical thinking

skills the Air Force needs to be successful," said Lt. Col. Nathan P. Sherman, commandant, CCAF.

Currently, there are 59 higher education institutions that have partnered with the Air Force to provide 217 degree programs for Airmen. The program includes postsecondary schools with regional accreditation or accredited by the Distance Education and Accrediting Commission. Airmen can search the Air Force Virtual Education Center (afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec/Home.aspx) to see a listing the civilian institutions that have partnered with the Air Force to support this program.

One benefit of the AU-ABC program is that in most cases CCAF graduates are guaranteed to take no more than 60

semester hours in order to complete a bachelor's degree by the civilian institution. Often, students can use tuition assistance, Montgomery GI Bill or Post 9/11 benefits to help pay for the tuition costs.

The program provides Airmen the critical flexibility needed to fit into the busy-on-the-move lifestyle of today's Air Force Airmen.

"I had moved multiple times and the schools never transferred all the credits. They always wanted me to start over or this class didn't match theirs. Just having the benefit of guaranteeing at least 60 credit hours in those category 1 programs was a huge benefit," said 2nd Lt. Ryan Garrett in an interview with Joint Base San Antonio's 12th Flying Training Wing

Public Affairs Office early this year. Garrett is a prior enlisted Airmen who took advantage of the program to receive his commission.

The program is open to enlisted active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard Airmen. If students are unable to complete the degree requirements before retirement or separation from the Air Force, they may continue in the program until completion.

Airmen who want to learn more about the AU-ABC program can go airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/.

Civilian academic institutions who want more information about the AU-ABC program or would like to become a partner can contact the program manager at ccaf.decm@us.af.mil.

Army Chief: No reduction of standards to meet recruiting goals

By C. Todd Lopez

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Despite news to the contrary, the Army will not be recruiting bipolar personnel, the Army's chief of staff said in Washington, D.C., Nov. 15, even if those individuals apply for a waiver.

"There has been no change in standards," Gen. Mark A. Milley told reporters at a Defense Writers Group breakfast. "The Army hasn't reduced standards or changed standards."

What has changed, Milley said, is where decisions on waivers are made. In 2009, the Army pulled approval authority out of the hands of U.S. Army Recruiting Command and brought it up to Army Department level. In August of this year, that decision authority was pushed back down to USAREC, where it rightly belongs, the general said.

"A decision was made in

August to re-empower the commanding general of Recruiting Command with the authority to consider, grant and waive things and approve people in the Army," Milley said. In the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Air Force, he noted, approval authority for waivers sits with equivalent agencies.

Milley parsed out the meaning of the word "consideration" to ensure the definition was clear. He said all services have always considered all waiver requests. "When someone's application comes in and someone's paperwork is filled out, then someone on the Army's side has to physically look at the paperwork," he explained. "So you always are considering."

Essentially, he said, consideration happens when Army personnel read a waiver. All waiver requests, therefore, are considered, in that all waivers are read.

But, Milley clarified, "considering a waiver is not the same as granting a waiver."

Milley cited Defense Department policy that outlines what kinds of conduct and mental health waivers cannot be granted. Among waivers that cannot be granted for entry into service are those for:

- » Conviction or adverse adjudication for a sexual offense
- » Major misconduct involving an adult conviction or adult adverse adjudication, which Milley clarified as an "adult felony"
- » Misconduct or juvenile major misconduct for criminal use of drugs other than marijuana
- » Mood disorders, including major depression, cyclothymia, bipolar and other mood disorders
- » Drug or alcohol use disorder not in sustained remission (less than 12 months since last occurrence of any diagnostic criterion other than craving)

» Any overdose of any medication, prescription or over-the-counter, accidental or otherwise

» Any condition involving self-mutilation as a means of emotional coping

» Any suicidal attempt or gesture, including ideation with plan

"Those are the categories," Milley said, where "you aren't coming in the U.S. military."

Milley said Army recruiters have a tough job filling the ranks with new soldiers, and those recruiters have to meet both numbers of new recruits, and quality of new recruits. But quality has to be considered first, he said.

"If you make the numbers, great. That'll be awesome," Milley said he tells recruiters. "But make the standard. There will be no reduction in accessions standard. No change. You will not reduce quality to gain quantity."

Despite a challenging recruiting environment, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey said he thinks Army recruiters will be able to meet their recruiting goals — even if they have to maintain both Army and DOD standards for new recruits.

"It's a tough task; there are 350 million people in America," Dailey said. "And there is a decreasing population of eligible 18-to-24-year-olds. We know that. But I have no doubt that we will be successful in doing that. We demonstrated that last year. We met all DOD thresholds for requirements for our young soldiers. We had one of the best retention years we've had in over a decade in the U.S. Army by retaining very high quality soldiers."

"Numbers are important, end strength is important," Dailey said. "But quality and standards are paramount, and they will not be violated."

It's the law! Yield to emergency vehicles on JBSA

By Senior Master Sgt. Brian Bibb
502ND SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

Uh-oh! You're driving down the road on one of the Joint Base San Antonio installations and you suddenly hear sirens in the distance. What do you do now?

Here is some information and rules to follow:

Emergency response vehicles approaching from the rear

- » Slow down and check the flow of traffic around you.
- » If you're the lead vehicle, put your hazard lights on so cars behind you know there's an emergency ahead.
- » Utilize your turn signal and pull over as far to the right as you can, so the emergency vehicle can pass you. It is important to drive as safely as possible so you don't cause an accident or disrupt traffic further.
- » Come to a complete stop.
- » Pull back onto the road only after the emergency vehicle is a safe distance ahead of you.
- » Stay at least 500 feet behind any emergency vehicle with its lights on.

Emergency response vehicles approaching from the front

While the appropriate response to an emergency vehicle approaching from behind is fairly uniform across the country, what to do if the vehicle is coming

from the opposite direction varies from state to state. Texas law requires drivers to pull over to the right until the vehicle passes, no matter which direction it's coming from.

Texas also has a move-over law. This law was created in an attempt to lower the number of law enforcement officers injured or killed during traffic stops. This requires drivers to move into the opposite lane when passing a stopped emergency vehicle.

If unable to move into the next lane, drivers must slow to a speed as much as 20 mph less than the speed limit. Failure to slow down or move over may result in a driver receiving a citation.

Emergency response vehicles stopped on the road

If you are driving and come upon a stopped ambulance, fire truck or police car with its lights flashing:

- » Vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle.
- » Slow to a speed not more than 20 mph less than the speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 mph or more.
- » Slow to a speed not more than 5 mph when the posted speed limit is less than 25 mph.

Also, it is important to remember that emergency vehicles will request the right away via lights and sirens when clearing intersections while responding to emergency situations.

A good rule of thumb is to simply drive as safe as



COURTESY GRAPHIC

possible. By giving emergency vehicles the right of way and/or enough space to get where they need to go, you'll ensure your safety and will assist JBSA first responders to do their jobs — protecting our families.

New Secretary of the Army sends message to the force

By Secretary of the Army
Mark T. Esper
ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To the Army Family,
Today (Nov. 21), I had the great honor of being sworn in as your 23rd Secretary of the Army. Having served previously in the Regular Army, Guard and Reserves, I know well that people are the Army's greatest asset.

I fully understand and acknowledge the sacrifices our Soldiers and Families have given to our great Army; especially during the previous 16 years of sustained combat operations.

Thanks to your service, our Army remains the world's premier ground combat force and the bedrock of our Nation's defense. This is why the readiness and welfare of our Soldiers, civilians and their families will always be foremost in



COURTESY PHOTO

Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper

my mind, and why I intend to pursue initiatives that will offer the professional opportunities and quality of life all deserve.

As I return to duty, I want you to know that my first priority is Readiness — ensuring the Total Army is ready to deploy, fight and win across the entire spectrum of conflict,

with an immediate focus on preparing for a high-end fight against a near-peer adversary. Improving Readiness is the benchmark for everything we do; it should guide our decision-making.

My second priority is Modernization — building greater capacity and capabilities in the longer term. This means growing our operational force while maintaining quality, reshaping it to be more robust and successful in all domains, and modernizing it with the best weapons and equipment available to guarantee clear overmatch in future conflicts.

My third priority is Reform — improving the way we do business, including how we implement these priorities, to make the Total Army more lethal, capable, and efficient. This means changing the organizations, policies, processes, and tasks that consume time,

“Thanks to your service, our Army remains the world’s premier ground combat force and the bedrock of our Nation’s defense.”

money, or manpower without delivering real value, and applying the savings to our top priorities.

Lastly, I place great importance on a commitment by all — especially leaders — to the Army's values. This includes treating everyone with respect, collaborating broadly, and always doing the right thing.

The Army is at its best when it works and fights as one team, and with the challenges we face ahead, a recommitment to these values will serve us

well.

I will be working hard on all of these priorities, and welcome your ideas on how we can best achieve them. To be successful, we must work together and empower people at all levels to lead, innovate, and make smart decisions.

I look forward to meeting with and hearing from many of you in the months ahead, and am excited about the great things we will accomplish together.

Army Strong!

FORT SAM HOUSTON

ARSOUTH makes history with new teammate

By Sgt. 1st Class
Matt Graham

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Ellen S. Clark assumed the position of U.S. Army South's Director for the Army Reserve Engagement Cell, or AREC, during a Nov. 15 ceremony hosted by Army South Commanding General Maj. Gen. Mark R. Stammer.

Aside from the significance of being the second highest ranked Soldier in the organization, Clark is also the first female general officer to serve in U.S. Army South.

While Clark acknowledges the significance of her historical assignment, she doesn't intend on making the fact that she is a woman the focus of her time at Army South.

"I think it is important to remember that the reason I have this position is because the women who came before

me made it possible," Clark said. "I love working for the Army. I'm here because I love to serve alongside the Soldiers and civilians that make this Army the best in the world. I just want to do my part."

Stammer hailed Clark's arrival and laid out just how significant the role of AREC director is.

"Clark brings a level of knowledge and experience that we will rely upon heavily in order to complete our mission down in Central and South America," Stammer said.

The AREC director is responsible for synchronizing the Army Reserve into the U.S. Army South mission. Highlighting the capabilities that the Army Reserve component can contribute, while coordinating their involvement at the earliest stages of the planning process is not an easy task.

"One of the challenges the

active component faces with working with the reserve component is time," Clark said. "There is a significant amount of time involved in incorporating the reserve element into and active duty mission. Reserve Soldiers can have a significant impact on the outcome of a mission; the planners just have to keep in mind the time it takes to incorporate them."

In addition to the requirements of leading the AREC, Stammer said that Clark would serve the command in additional capacities. As the number two officer within the command, she may represent the command in his absence when multiple events require the attendance of a general officer.

"I have every faith and confidence that Gen. Clark will represent the command, the U.S. Army and our country with the utmost professionalism," Stammer added.



SGT. 1ST CLASS MATT GRAHAM

Brig. Gen. Ellen S. Clark sings the Army song during her welcome ceremony as Army South's newest director for the Army Reserve Engagement Cell during a ceremony Nov. 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

JBSA-FSH youth group honors veterans at senior center

By Janet Rivera

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM
HOUSTON YOUTH CENTER

A group of members of the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center's Torch Club went to the Parklane West Senior Center outside JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's Wurzbach Gate Nov. 11 and put together a veteran's day ceremony to honor them and thank them for their service.

Torch Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs. The program is a vehicle through which club or youth center staff can help meet the special needs of young adolescents at a critical



JANET RIVERA

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center's Torch Club members visit residents of the Parklane West Senior Living Center on Nov. 11 during a Veterans Day ceremony.

stage in their development. Torch Club members learn to

work together to plan and implement activities in four

areas: education, health and fitness, service to club and

community and social recreation.

Through service activities, Torch Club members identify club and community needs and give back to their communities. These activities provide opportunities for youth to practice communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

Each year they implement a special service to the community and this year the 2017-18 Torch Club National Project is "Seeds of Kindness," which focuses on everyday acts of kindness that are created and implemented by Torch Club members throughout their clubs, youth centers and communities.

JBSA-FSH hosts German Armed Forces proficiency event

By Lt. Col. Robert Wagner
4TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND
(EXPEDITIONARY)

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston hosted a German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge event Nov. 3-5. Competing to earn the German Weapons Badge and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge was an opportunity for military members to gain a cultural understanding and appreciation for what German Soldiers do to remain qualified every year.

This was the second post-wide event, following an initial event in April. This year, it was opened this up to all active duty members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force and their respective Reserve and National Guard units. There were even ROTC cadets from Baylor University, Texas State University and University of Texas-San Antonio.

There were more than 380 Soldiers competing, but only 134 Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen earned the badge, with 18 earning the bronze, 77 earning the silver and 39 earning the gold.

The event began with a pre-qualification day, where participants completed the swim portion, completing a 100-meter swim challenge within four minutes while in uniform, trousers and blouse only; then taking the trousers and blouse off while treading water. There can be up to a 40-60 percent failure rate in this event alone.

The other requirements include the German Physical Fitness Test, a 110-meter shuttle run, pull-up hang and 1,000-meter sprint, pistol qualification with a stationary target and a 12-kilometer (7.4-mile) rucksack march while carrying 33 pounds of additional weight.

These events test many more areas of the body than the typ-



COURTESY PHOTO

A Soldier from the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston shoots during a German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge event Nov. 3-5.

ical U.S. Army Physical Fitness Test, which consists of a 2-mile run, sit-up and push-up events.

The six events included:

► Nuclear, Biological, Chemical: basic task of putting on the mask and Mission Oriented

Protective Posture, or MOPP, Level 4

► First aid test: basic skills test, waived if Combat Life Saver course was completed in the past three years

► Swim test: 100 meters in four

minutes; then take off uniform and throw it out of the water

► Track event:

Shuttle run: 110 meters total; 10 meters for 5 ½ times

Pull hang: keeping the chin above the bar

1,000-meter sprint: 2 ½ times around a 400-meter track
► Pistol: Three 20-meter targets; five rounds and must hit each target once to qualify

► Ruck march: 33-pound ruck; 12 kilometers in two hours

Each qualification had specific requirements to make the courses even more challenging.

For example, although there are only six rounds in the stationary target pistol qualification, participants must have at least one round in each of the three positions, plus one additional round to qualify for bronze. Between this event and the one in April, 347 Soldiers have now earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.

Army North leader speaks to group at New Braunfels Utilities

By Maj. Mike Loveall
U.S. ARMY NORTH

The military uniform is the most visible sign of a veteran, but Soldiers in uniform are only a small percentage of veterans within the population. In the San Antonio area — Military City, USA — there are veterans all around us every day. That's no different at New Braunfels Utilities, or NBU, a community-owned, not-for-profit public power utility for the city of New Braunfels.

As part of Veterans Day recognition events, Army North Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Division Chief Col. J.D. Highfill spoke at the NBU's annual Veterans Day breakfast Nov. 10. Highfill recently returned from his post as operations officer of Task Force 51, the lead Army North unit

coordinating Hurricane Harvey relief efforts in Houston.

As part of his discussion with the NBU, Highfill discussed the history of Veterans Day, the continuing role of veterans in civil society and current Army North operations, including relief efforts after Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, wild-land firefighting and partnership with Mexico.

"It was an invaluable connection between the Army community and veterans in the local community," Highfill said, noting that the value of the appearance was in the continuing connection between veterans in uniform and out of uniform. They want that outreach — it helps them stay connected to what makes being a veteran so special."

Highfill wasn't the only person in the room just returned

from Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. The NBU chief executive officer, Ian Taylor, was activated during the operation by the Texas Army National Guard during Hurricane Harvey.

In addition to Taylor, NBU sent eight employees to assist in relief efforts in Yoakum, Texas, and another seven employees to assist the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative.

In addition to this, Taylor is working on a veterans' apprenticeship program for transitioning service members. There are approximately 34 veterans that are part of the 200 employees of the New Braunfels Utilities. This, coupled with their efforts in Hurricane Harvey, demonstrates the continued service of veterans in the NBU.

The NBU also hosted the New Braunfels High School Junior ROTC unit.



GRETCHEN REUWER

Col. J.D. Highfill, Army North Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Division chief, speaks at New Braunfels Utilities' annual Veterans Day breakfast Nov. 10.

JBSA-FSH observes National American Indian Heritage Month

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The contributions of Native Americans to the U.S. military and to the history of San Antonio were recognized Nov. 16 during the National American Indian Heritage Month Observance held in Blesse Auditorium at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The observance included remarks from Maj. Gen. Brian Lein, AMEDDC&S commanding general, and Ramon

Vasquez, executive director and tribal historian for American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions, or AITSCM. AITSCM is a nonprofit organization that works to protect and preserve the culture and traditions of the Tapilam Coahuiltecan Nation and the indigenous population residing in Central and South Texas.

Since 1990, November has been designated as National American Indian Heritage Month, which recognizes the accom-

plishments and contributions of Native Americans who were the original inhabitants and settlers in the U.S.

Lein said Native Americans have a long-standing history of serving in the U.S. military with distinction and great courage.

"Historically, American Indians have the highest record of military service per capita when compared to all the other ethnic groups," Lein said. "Today, more than 9,000 Native Americans wear the cloth of our nation."

By observing National American Indian Heritage Month, Lein said he is encouraging the Army family to recognize and express appreciation for the past and present contributions of Native American Soldiers, veterans, civilians and military family members.

Lein pointed out the contributions made by Native American service members in World War II, including Ira Hayes, one of six service members who raised the U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima, the names of Native Americans who were awarded the Medal of Honor for their valor, and doctors and nurses of Native American descent who served in AMEDD.

"These are just a few of the many examples of honor and courage displayed by Native Americans," he said.

Vasquez said archaeological evidence proves that Native Americans have been in the San Antonio area for at least 10,000 years, and were here when the first Spanish settlers arrived and established San Antonio in 1718.

While speaking, he sang a Native American song in which the words

he used in the Native American language translates into "welcome to the land of the spirit waters, welcome to Yanaguana." Yanaguana was the name given to present day San Antonio by the Papaya Indians before the arrival of the Spanish.

Vasquez said the five Spanish missions in San Antonio are burial sites for Native Americans, including the documentation of 1,400 that are buried in front of the Alamo.

"Our people are still here," Vasquez said. "We've made constant contributions to the history of San Antonio. Archaeology at the Alamo says we have been here 10,000 years. Since 10,000 years ago, we have been making contributions to this land."

In the 1740s, Vasquez said 100 Native Americans from Mission San Antonio de Valero, known as the Alamo, fought off a group of Apache Indians who were about to attack the Canary Islanders settling in San Antonio from Spain.

Vasquez said the actions of those Native Americans who fought off the Apaches helped to preserve the settlement of San Antonio because if the settlers had been annihilated, the Spanish may have decided to leave San Antonio.

In concluding his remarks, Vasquez said Native Americans are still making contributions to the area and the U.S. in several occupations, including the military. He thanked the service members gathered in the auditorium for their service.

Dressed in Native American regalia, Isaac Cardenas and Jose Garcia II, members of the American Indians in Texas



Jose Garcia II, a member of the American Indians in Texas Dance Theater group, also performs a traditional Native American dance during the observance.

Dance Theater group, performed Native American dances.

Cardenas, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, spoke to the attendees at the observance after he performed.

"I want to thank every one of you for remembering us, the first people," Cardenas said. "I'm honored to be here and I wish you blessings."

Lein presented certificates of appreciation to

both Vasquez and the dancers from AMEDDC&S. Vasquez was also presented a proclamation recognizing National American Indian Heritage Month in San Antonio from Mayor Ron Nirenberg.

After the conclusion of the ceremony, attendees got to sample Native American foods and view displays about AITSCM set up outside the auditorium.



PHOTOS BY ISMAEL ORTEGA

Isaac Cardenas, a member of the American Indians in Texas Dance Theater group, performs a traditional Native American dance during the National American Indian Heritage Month observance Nov. 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

LACKLAND

C-5M Super Galaxy: ready at a moment's notice

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the hurricane season comes to a close, the work doesn't stop for the Air Force Reserve Command's 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

So far this year, the airlift wing's fleet of C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft have answered the call to assist with 19 humanitarian missions as a result of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

From the moment a Combat Readiness Flight team is assembled, an intricate game plan is executed to assure the area and the people impacted by the hurricanes get the help they need as quickly as possible.

Before any assistance can even get to the affected area, there has to be a place for the \$270 million C-5M aircraft and personnel to land.

"Typically, when there's no established airport presence, we'll go in and set up the airfield," said Lt. Col. Robert Acosta, 433rd AW Contingency Response Flight commander.

His diverse team includes aircrew, airfield managers, as well as command and control personnel making them completely self-reliant.

"We go into mission execution with delivering relief supplies or humanitarian assistance or disaster response or wartime mission as well," Acosta said.

Acosta's team of 20 arrive at dark airfields no longer having infrastructure. They take pride in the mission and the hard work everyone puts in.

"It's a tremendous satisfac-



Soldiers from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood and Airmen from the 26th and 74th Aerial Port Squadrons begin loading a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter into the cargo hold of a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft June 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

BENJAMIN FASKE

tion at the end of every day to see how many planes have come through, how much cargo has been delivered," he added.

The complexity of each mission and the fluidity of them means the C-5M has to be ready at a moment's notice. That involves a strict maintenance schedule to insure the safety of the crew, the plane and the accomplishment of the mission.

Inspections on the C-5M is only good for 72 hours. Chief Master Sgt. Pedro A. Saenz, 433rd AW aircraft maintenance squadron chief, said the fleet must be ready hours before they leave the airfield — three hours prior to a mission.

"They'll come in at four o'clock in the morning, do the

inspection, get the plane ready for a 10 o'clock mission in the morning," Saenz said.

The most important inspection on the C-5M is Basic Post Flight. With these inspections, visual examinations and manual checks are performed to determine the condition of the aircraft.

There is also a Quick Turn inspection that occurs when a C-5M parks with the engines running and the air crews are swapped. As long as there are no discrepancies reported during the original mission, the aircraft can take off.

During a QT inspection, the C-5M is refueled. It uses about 120,000 pounds of fuel on a local mission, but can handle 240,000 pounds for longer missions.

"With the M model, this plane can fly from here to Germany nonstop," Saenz said. "Puerto Rico, we were going back and forth."

Saenz's maintenance teams sometimes put in 14- or 15-hour days.

"You don't go to bed until you land that plane on the ground, do your inspection, look it over and make sure nothing is broken," Saenz said.

The most important routine maintenance the crew performs is changing the C-5M's tires. The number of times the tires are changed can be between 30 and 40, depending on the number of "touch and go" the aircraft makes.

The C-5M is used to transport cargo and personnel, but it has the capacity to hold six

"We get to go out there and fly worldwide. We see other countries and realize how good we have it here in the United States."

Col. Thomas K. "TK" Smith Jr.,
433rd Airlift Wing commander

Greyhound buses, as well as an eight-lane bowling alley. It weighs 1.3 tons and experts say it could stay in service for at least 20 years.

It has been quiet the past couple of years until hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria came along this year, according to Col. Thomas K. "TK" Smith Jr., 433rd AW commander. The wing was engaged with hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. They have also run missions when a tsunami hit Sri Lanka in 2004.

"This wing flew one plane and two aircrews to Japan and took turns flying the planes to Sri Lanka and back," Smith said. "I think the C-5 is the best mission in the Air Force."

The Air Force currently has 54 C-5M aircrafts. Joint Base San Antonio has eight, with two on loan right now as JBSA C-5M aircrafts undergo intense maintenance which can take up to a year.

Smith says the aircraft have been the all over the world to provide cargo transport.

"We get to go out there and fly worldwide. We see other countries and realize how good we have it here in the United States."

ISR Airmen harness power of technology

By Lori A. Bultman

25TH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Vice commander of the 25th Air Force, Brig. Gen. James Cluff, along with Brig. Gen. Peter Lambert, Air Combat Command director of intelligence, discussed the future of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance during a panel discussion at the annual Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's Alamo Ace conference Nov. 15 in San Antonio.

"The future of ISR is here, and it's our Airmen," Cluff said in his opening remarks. "What we have to do is harness the power of technology that will make our Airmen better able to produce the data and information that our decision-makers need to win our nation's wars."

An example of this is a technical sergeant assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center who is uniquely certified as a Cloud Computing Security Professional, Cluff said.

"What he has done in his

job at AFTAC is save \$2 million in his first year by working with partnerships across the enterprise to better tag data," said Cluff, adding that the team tagged and uploaded four years' worth of data that is now available for numerous agencies to use.

"This is a young man who has the passion and the smarts to take some of these advance technologies and enable war fighting," Cluff said. "When I say the future is here, he is an example of that future."

In addition to the Airmen, Cluff said it is also important to understand the importance of networks in future operations.

"I think we need to stop talking about the information age and start talking about the network age. The network age is today," he said. "We see it in the IC community, in the work we have to do to network information, to fuse information. You see it in your daily lives. We are all networked. It is going to be how we harness those networks that will make us succeed in warfare; it's



COURTESY GRAPHIC

going to be how we target our enemies' networks that lets us succeed in warfare."

Another capability Cluff addressed is cyber. The synergistic power that can be obtained through harnessing ISR, cyber, electronic warfare and information operations into the information warfare arena is absolutely going to be critical to future war fighting, he said.

The 25th Air Force provides full-spectrum decision advantage to war fighters and national leaders through globally integrated ISR, electronic

warfare, information operations, and strategic command and control.

The three-day Alamo Ace event was an engagement opportunity for intelligence and information technology professionals, as well as leaders from the military and civilian industries, to discuss collaboration, innovation and integration. The more than 1,600 professionals in attendance focused on cyber, ISR, medical IT and education or training career fields during keynote presentations, panel discussions and information-sharing.

FIRING RANGE TRESPASS NOTICE

It is illegal and dangerous to trespass on the Medina Firing Range, 900 Patrol Road, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Training Annex at Medina. Weapons training is conducted daily. For more information or valid entry requests, contact the 37th Training Support Squadron, Combat Weapons Section range control office at 210-671-2349 or 210-671-0023.

JBSA clinic first to offer new breakthrough procedure

By Senior Airman Stefan Alvarez

59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Poor eyesight can, and will, pose a potential career ending medical condition to many service members. The 59th Medical Wing's Wilford Hall Eye Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland has a solution for it.

Wilford Hall Eye Center is the first Air Force medical clinic to perform corneal collagen crosslinking in-house, and has already treated 10 patients so far.

Corneal collagen crosslinking is a breakthrough procedure approved by the Food and Drug Association in April 2016. The surgery is a preventative treat-



COURTESY PHOTO

Wilford Hall Eye Center is the first Air Force medical clinic to perform corneal collagen crosslinking in-house.

ment for keratoconus, an eye disease caused by the decrease of protective antioxidants in the cornea. Often diagnosed during Lasik and other corrective eye

surgeries, keratoconus affects roughly one in 2,000 people between the ages of 20-40. If left untreated, it can severely effect vision enough to cause blind-

ness.

During the two-hour procedure, the outer deformed layer of the cornea is scrubbed off to make it as normal as possible. Eye drops are then applied to sensitize the cornea, followed by ultraviolet light shined into the cornea for 30 minutes. This causes it to harden and become more rigid, preventing the keratoconus from changing the shape any further.

"Over the past 10 years that I've been at the clinic here, I've seen a lot of patients with keratoconus and, previously, we really couldn't offer them anything to stop it" said Col. Matthew Caldwell, 59th MDW chairman of the new eye center.

"This is huge to be able to change the course of their lives and careers when they can go on and function normally once you stop the progression."

Ophthalmologists at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., are able to treat patients at Fort Belvoir, Va., which makes it the Army's first location to host the Crosslinking procedure. In the next few years, Crosslinking will most likely be performed at many more locations, increasing the capability of treating military personnel across the country.

For more information on the 59th Medical Wing, to include Wilford Hall Eye Center, visit www.59mdw.af.mil.

Fueled: Hurdles ignite 59th MDW Airman's path to a successful career in the military

He remained resilient and persevered through hard times

By Senior Airman Keifer Bowes
59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"My grandma was in charge of drug and weapon distribution from the east coast down to the Caribbean," said Tech. Sgt. Claudio Collazo Jr, 59th Medical Operations Squadron health care manager.

"Many of my father's friends boasted about my future in that same kind of life which eventually spearheaded our family leaving the city. Getting away was our only shot

for not necessarily a better life, but a life at all," he said.

Collazo's mother told his father she was leaving, taking their infant child with or without him. The ultimatum hurdled the young family out of New York City and landed them in Connecticut.

His father scrapped to find work as a carpenter, sweating through various cabinet manufacturing projects. Unfortunately,



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SENIOR AIRMAN KEIFER BOWES

Tech. Sgt. Claudio Collazo Jr. is a command section staff member from the 59th Medical Operations Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

legitimate labor provided much less than his previous employment, frequently landing young Claudio's head on homeless shelter pillows.

"I was in elementary school when my maternal grandpa passed away," he said. "It really changed everything because even though my father's career

path started to trend upward with his cabinets, my mom needed to be by her family during that rough time."

The family once again packed up and moved, this time to be closer to his mother's family in Puerto Rico. Collazo found that their new home was a much colder and harsher

place than his already inconsistent situation in Connecticut. Concerns about where to ride his bicycle during the day transitioned to a child's worry about whether he would die in his sleep due to a stray bullet.

"While it was nice to be closer to family, I had to grow up quickly to survive," he said. "I heard my first gun shot and saw my first dead body in that neighborhood. I saw things there that I never wanted to see. Whenever I heard shots at night, I always told myself they were just firecrackers in order to stay calm enough to sleep."

Moving rapidly between Puerto Rico and

Volunteers help 502nd CES accomplish mission

By **Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker**
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Forty office personnel from the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron volunteered their weekend to help renovate a building for the Battlefield Airmen Training Group on Nov. 18 and 19 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Given a short deadline to finish the job, 502nd CES personnel who normally work behind a desk were asked to step in and help with the hands-on renovation.

"Leadership has directed us to do whatever it takes to get the job done," said Scott Daniel, 502nd CES Element Chief. "We've got a short suspense so we've got some outside help to assist us. We've got folks from customer service and logistics that don't normally do this kind of stuff, but they all volunteered to help us finish the mission on time."

Rosie Edwards, a 502nd CES customer service lead, was excited about the opportunity to help out and volunteer.

"I sit behind a desk all day so I was excited to be able to come out and do

hands-on work," Edwards said. "It's also a great opportunity to get a better understanding of what we do."

Volunteers like Edwards were crucial for the first part of the mission, tearing down 17 dividing walls, Daniel said.

"Tearing down and clearing the dividing walls is the bulk of what we hope to accomplish this weekend," Daniel said. "There's going to be a lot of waste and debris we'll have to clear out when the walls come down and the extra hands are going to help a lot."

While the main focus that weekend was demolishing and clearing the dividing walls, 502nd CES plans to re-paint, add in new carpeting and finish previously unfinished areas in the coming weeks for Battlefield Airmen training.

"It's important because the Battlefield Airmen need a place to train," Daniel said. "As a part of their support team, it's our job to make sure they have what they need using whatever means necessary."

502nd CES volunteers took "whatever means necessary" to heart.

"We're extremely thankful to the



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

Forty office personnel from the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron volunteered their weekend to help with building renovations to meet a short deadline Nov. 18 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

volunteers," Daniel said. "They're crucial to finishing the mission on time.

The more hands you have, the quicker things go."

SUCCESS

From page 14

Connecticut for the following years, Collazo grew up longing for stability, associating the idea as a pinnacle of success.

After returning to the United States again at 15, he vowed to stay and earn a stable, quality life. A life that did not include living in homeless shelters.

Forgoing his educational desires, Collazo dropped out of school and got married a year later.

In support of his new, very young family, the hard-working young man found work as a kitchen laborer at ESPN. He crossed paths with many famous people, fueling his desire for a better life. Collazo was convinced that if he poured everything he had into even the smallest of jobs, someone would eventually give him

a chance.

"I became the go-to man at my job. I was 17 running the night shift by myself, managing a 2.5 million dollar facility," Collazo said. "I didn't meet just the people in front of the cameras, but also behind them, and many were retired Air Force people. That was the first time joining the military really entered my head."

The seed had been planted, but Collazo was still a high school dropout, rendering him unqualified for enlistment into the Air Force. He knew he couldn't work in the cafeteria forever, so he took matters into his own hands yet again.

"I don't like people saying I can't do something, or I'm not good enough," Collazo said. "I had family members tell my dad I'd be an addict, a drug dealer, or wouldn't

make it, and that fueled me to be more than that. I went to the library, picked up the General Education Diploma book, and I told myself I had to do something to take the next steps."

Collazo went to night classes and earned his GED on his second try. With his first educational success in hand, Collazo made his way into the Army recruiter's office. They welcomed him with an opportunity to be an infantryman and he began preparing for life as a Soldier.

"While I was working out with the Army late one day, I saw an Air Force recruiter with his office lights still on, so I decided to just say hi," he said. "I'll never forget him, Master Sgt. Riley, standing there in his blues. We started talking and he told me my GED wasn't good enough. It did not meet

"I was blessed with leadership throughout my career that have given me an opportunity to change my life. Their impact on my life fuels me to repay them by working as hard as I can."

Tech. Sgt. Claudio Collazo Jr., 59th Medical Operations Squadron health care manager

the standard for enlistment. That rejection really lit a fire and fueled me to prove him wrong."

Abandoning his march toward the Army, Collazo started getting all the college credits beyond his GED needed to enlist in the Air Force. Working three jobs and going to school at the same time, he eventually earned the right to leave for the Air Force's basic military training. It was during this professional breakthrough that Collazo simultaneously crossed into more dark-times in his personal life.

"I remember getting my first phone call home during basic," he said with several pauses. "I was so excited to talk to my wife and tell her about what is going on. It was weird though...the other side of the phone didn't seem as exited. I really only got dry responses back."

Collazo, during a time of significant breakthrough, encountered

hurdles that almost derailed his budding Air Force career.

"I discovered in technical school one day that my wife had cleaned out my bank account and had left me," he said. "My car got repossessed and I became mentally overwhelmed by everything happening personally, while still trying to do my best in tech school. Luckily, the superintendent of the schoolhouse brought me to his office and said that he was going to help me out. He went out of his way to help me settle the storm and be able to continue on this journey."

Collazo remained resilient and persevered through the crushing blow of his wife leaving him, crediting his Air Force support structure as a pillar that shaped him into being who he is today.

"After living in homeless shelters and seeing dead bodies on the street, I don't want that for my kids," Collazo, who remarried several years

later, said. "I want to give them the option to go to college and have a good future, without having to overcome some of the things that I did. The Air Force not only helped me out, but it gave my kids a brighter future."

Collazo doesn't shy away from the path he took to get where he is today, openly sharing his story to those around him when appropriate. For being the grandson of a crime lord, a high school dropout, night shift laborer, left by his spouse with nothing, Collazo is still widely known as the most positive, dedicated, professional Airman in his shop.

While his story is still unfolding through the remaining years of his Air Force career, Collazo embraces the opportunity ahead.

"I was blessed with leadership throughout my career that have given me an opportunity to change my life," he said. "Their impact on my life fuels me to repay them by working as hard as I can. Hopefully, I can provide the same kind of mentorship to younger Airmen out there who have people telling them they won't make it. I want to be able to be there and tell them, 'Don't surrender, start the fire inside of you and keep fueling it. Don't listen to negativity, but keep moving forward.' That's my goal now."

RANDOLPH

Joint, Total-Force team soars to new heights

By Col. Kjäll Gopaul

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL OPERATIONS
ACTIVITY

The deceptively cool morning skies over Martindale Army Airfield had started their climb to 90 degrees Fahrenheit as a joint, Total Force team of Texas Army National Guard Soldiers, Air Force Reserve Airmen, and an Active Duty pathfinder team prepared for their own climb into the heavens on wings of titanium.

Their mission, dubbed Operation Alamo Evacuation, was simple in its definition, but far-reaching in its demonstration for how components of the armed services can flawlessly converge on an objective and excel in its execution.

The exercise scenario took place Nov. 18 at Martindale Army Airfield and simulated Airmen from the 26th Aerial Port Squadron receiving air-dropped relief supplies from the 136th Airlift Wing in a remote part of Southwest Asia. The Airmen then re-rigged the loads for sling load evacuation and pinpoint delivery by the Soldiers of Company C, 2-149 Aviation, to the relief supply recipients in the impassable mountains overlooking the drop zone. The Soldiers subsequently conducted no-notice "alert" 9-line medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) responses in support of the scenario's follow-on operations that afternoon, and flew the Airmen as MEDEVAC actors from Martindale Army Airfield to Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis and back.

"We started the morning with an aircraft safety brief and rehearsals for our hookups," Senior Airman Justin King, 26th APS ramp operator, said as he described the morning's

activities. "Once things got going, the UH-60 Black Hawks came in two at-a-time, picking up the sling loads for a simulated relief supply drop-off. It was exciting to do something that is part of the aerial porter job, yet not part of our everyday norm. This was a great experience! Now we've all conducted live sling loads, and understand how they can benefit our future operations wherever we go."

During the exercise, each two-person hook-up team on the ground stood beneath a helicopter while it hovered overhead, then attached the load to the aircraft's cargo hook.

"It was neat watching the Soldiers bring their aircraft in over us," Air Force 2nd Lt. Matthew Gonzales, 26th APS officer in charge of the passenger terminal, added. "It's also intimidating as a huge helicopter approaches the load with the blades spinning, the rotor wash was incredible. I didn't think that it would be that powerful, or that someone would really be needed to stand behind and brace the hook-up person, but I'm glad they were there. This was an awesome opportunity. I just received my commission last week, and I haven't done anything like this in my 10 years in the Air Force. This is my first drill weekend at the 26 Aerial Port Squadron, and this type of training instills military pride, develops a joint mindset by working with other services, and aligns with the chief of staff of the Air Force's vision on joint operations."

Chief Master Sgt. Joe Gonzalez, 26th APS operations superintendent, served as the pick-up zone NCO in charge (PZ NCOIC) and remarked on the opportunity this mission

afforded his Airmen.

"As the PZ NCOIC, I participated in the mission planning and supervised the safe execution of hook-ups at the touch-down points," he said. "It was great to see our Traditional Reservists get outside the normal garrison training environment and onto a flight line with the Army National Guard Soldiers. As aerial porters, we deploy downrange, and don't always know what we'll be asked to do, so we have to work with what's there. Likewise, this mission gave us valuable experience with less familiar tasks. We rigged A-22 cargo bags and conducted sling load training with live helicopters, something that that most aerial porters rarely do before deploying. This was especially valuable as our unit approaches its deployment window."

Offering an aviator's perspective of the sling load hook-ups, Army 1st Lt. Christian Lubbe, Texas ARNG Company C, 2-149 Aviation, aeromedical evacuation officer and platoon leader for the Sustainment Platoon, commented, "The ground crews were very proficient and clearly had been trained to be familiar with the task at hand. I was impressed at the rate which we were accomplishing the iterations. The aircraft would leave and the ground teams were ready to hook the next load."

He particularly noted the joint benefit, "From an inter-service standpoint, it's amazing to have a team of Airmen here with us. This is my first type of training like this, and I hope to do more in the future."

Army Sgt. Tiffani Smith, Texas ARNG Company C, 2-149 Aviation, flight medic, echoed that the morning sling loads



SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER

Airmen from the 26th Aerial Port Squadron attach an A-22 cargo bag with 2,000 pounds of "relief supplies" to the cargo hook of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flown by Soldiers from Texas Army National Guard Company C, 2-149 Aviation during Operation Alamo Evacuation Nov. 18 at Martindale Army Airfield, Texas.

were well coordinated from beginning to end.

"It was well-thought out process, executed well, and served as a good refresher for me," she said. "I thought that the visual cues with the ground marking panels and hook-up

teams' colored safety vests were helpful. It allowed me to see when the hook-up team was ready, and where to aim the aircraft as we approached the load."

TEAM continues on 19

Preventing FOD a continuous effort on flightlines, in aircraft hangars, shops

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force pilots face the threat of bird strikes on a daily basis, incidents that cost the service millions of dollars in damage to aircraft each year and place flyers' lives in jeopardy.

However, bird strikes are not the only danger pilots confront when they are flying.

Seemingly harmless objects such as small rocks, bolts, screws and gaskets can become inadvertently lodged in the mechanical systems of aircraft, causing potentially deadly engine or instrument failure when pilots take to the skies.

An Air Force initiative called the Foreign Object Damage Program strives to ensure aircraft are free of items that can compromise their operation, keeping aircrew members out of harm's way.

Keeping aircraft FOD-free is a joint effort of aircraft mechanics, maintenance personnel and repair specialists as well as aircrew members — or anyone who steps foot on a flightline or



Master Sgt. Lance Stephenson, 28th Bomb Wing Foreign Object Debris program manager, inspects the FOD Mule prior to driving it onto the flightline at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., Jan. 31, 2014.

in a hangar where aircraft are housed, said Bill Taylor, 12th Flying Training Wing FOD monitor.

"It's all a team effort, from the flightline to the back shops," he

said. "Everybody has to be aware. If you work on aircraft or fly aircraft, you have to be FOD-conscious."

Because any foreign object in a maintenance or manufactur-

ing area has the potential to cause damage, prevention is the first line of defense against FOD.

Training for employees who work on aircraft emphasizes FOD prevention practices such

as good housekeeping — continuous actions to improve work areas, keeping work areas safe and free of hazardous conditions and ensuring all items in work areas have a marked place and can be easily and immediately retrieved, as well as cleaning work areas on a regular basis.

Other prevention practices include proper storage of work-place items, work area controls, repair precautions and regular inspections.

Another important prevention measure is capping components when they are being stored or when a piece of equipment is taken apart for maintenance or repair, Taylor said.

Debris can enter an open space created by the removal of a piece of equipment and compromise aircraft operation, he said.

When an item is discovered missing by pilots or maintenance personnel, it is immediately reported to the Maintenance Operations Control Center, which immediately notifies

FOD continues on 19

Community Services Mall provides one-stop shopping

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the Joint Base San Antonio community have a one-stop shop where they can prepare for their leisure-time activities, from buying theme park tickets to renting equipment for their weekend chores.

The Community Services Mall, located in building 895 on J Street West at JBSA-Randolph, houses arts and crafts; information, tickets and travel (ITT); and outdoor recreation

(ODR).

"The Community Services Mall gives people the opportunity to accomplish more than one thing when they come here," said MariAnne Clark, CSM director. "They can purchase their theme park tickets, rent equipment for the weekend, sign up for pool passes, place their vehicles on the resale lot and get their mementos framed, all with one visit."

The mall underwent a transformation in 2012, when the three services were consolidated in one location, maximizing

the use of the facility.

The consolidation of services also resulted in staff and management efficiencies, Clark said.

"The other ITTs and ODRs in JBSA have staff that only work ITT or ODR," she said. "My staff does both as we have both activities combined under one roof with one manager versus separate staff with separate managers."

The CSM's staff assists customers with ticket sales to theme parks — Disneyland, Disney World, Six Flags, SeaWorld and other local attrac-

tions, Clark said.

"Our frame shop produces outstanding work and does custom-type framing; there are a lot of different framing options available," she said. "We also have a wide variety of rental equipment from lawn mowers, party items and camping equipment to water sports and towable recreational trailers."

The CSM controls both south and center pools at JBSA-Randolph and signs up people for swim lessons and pool passes. It also has recreational vehicle

storage spaces for rent and a parking lot dedicated for vehicle resale.

Eberle Park on the east side of JBSA-Randolph is available to the community, Clark said. The park is reserved through CSM for daily use, and a new playground and swinging area was just finished.

The mall's hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

For more information, call 652-5142. Option 1 is for ITT, option 2 for ODR and option 3 for framing.

TEAM

From page 17

She noted the inter-service camaraderie demonstrated during her safety brief to the Airmen that morning carried over to their MEDEVAC flights as passengers that afternoon.

“They were all eager and professional,” she said. “During the safety brief, they were focused and paid attention. I think it’s because we’re all familiar with American military operations. We just came back from Kosovo, and working with other nations presents different challenges. Today’s team was calm, cool, and collected. They were prepared, and followed directions very well so we could focus on the mission.”

In keeping with its exercise name, Operation Alamo Evacuation witnessed the sling load evacuation of more than 36,000 pounds of cargo and the medical evacuation of 27 MEDEVAC actors. Both of the leaders of the participating Texas

Army National Guard and Air Force Reserve units emphasized that the day’s mission had value far beyond these tactical measures of accomplishment.

Lt. Col. Jeremy Moore, 26th APS commander, underscored that the mission of the exercise aligned with his unit’s war fighting mission.

“Our primary mission at the 26th APS is to train and provide combat ready aerial porters,” he said. “This joint opportunity let us exercise some of our more unique support requirements that we normally wouldn’t see outside of a deployed location. More importantly, it provided our younger Airmen the opportunity to build and understand inter-service relationships with a key mission partner, the Army. It was exciting to see this come together, and to reinforce our ability to provide Rapid Global Mobility.”

Offering his key leader perspective, Lt. Col. José Reyes, Texas ARNG Company C, 2-149 Aviation commander, re-

marked how beneficial the training was for both developing technical proficiency and inter-service relationships.

“This was a tremendous opportunity for our units to work together,” he said. “I challenged my staff to plan the most efficient training with aircrew and aircraft sequencing. Integrating the Air Force hook-up teams and pre-rigged loads improved the process, allowing faster iterations. We trained 12 pilots, six crew chiefs, and four medics. To put that many crews through training with only two aircraft in such a short amount of time speaks volumes for the value of inter-service cooperation.”

Reyes remarked that the success of the day’s exercise shows a promising future for joint operations.

“We’re building a relationship,” he said. “We’ve established an association, successfully executed this mission, and now we can plan on future opportunities to reinforce our Joint, Total-Force partnership.”

FOD

From page 18

Quality Assurance, Taylor said. At that time a “Lost Tool or FO Report” is initiated and gets the ball rolling.

An internal search by maintenance personnel begins immediately, he said. If the search comes up empty, a QA inspector is called to the scene to perform a thorough search as well. In addition to serving as the wing FO monitor, Taylor is a QA inspector.

Searches can be time-consuming, especially if ejection seats have to be removed to facilitate a

more extensive search in the cockpit areas, Taylor said.

Maintenance shops are not the only places where FOD prevention is required, he said. Flightlines also need to be free of debris because anything that can be sucked into an aircraft’s air intake has the potential for grave consequences. A FOD sweeping device is used on the flightlines at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph and other airfields to remove foreign objects that can harm aircraft and aircraft tires.

Aircraft mechanics and maintenance personnel play a major role in FOD prevention, Taylor said.

“Anytime you work on an aircraft, you have to keep track of your tools and hardware,” he said. “You have to be vigilant.”

That same vigilance applies to aircrew members because they carry pens, pencils, publications, wallets and other items that can be dropped and end up in aircraft systems, Taylor said.

“The bottom line is that FOD prevention is a must when you’re working on the flightline or in one of the shops,” he said. “A foreign object could be anywhere in the aircraft. We have to stay on top, because we don’t want to lose aircraft or any of our people.”