

# JBSA LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

DECEMBER 8, 2017



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG

Chaplain (Maj.) Brad Zwetschke holds his son, Shepard, so the boy can examine ornaments during the holiday tree-lighting ceremony Nov. 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

## JBSA rings in the holidays

Page 6



Sailor reflects on year spent as a recruiter

Page 8



IAAFA teams up for first ever joint exercise

Page 13

## COMMENTARY

# Be decisive in what you do

By Tech Sgt. Andrea Nazario  
ROBERT D. GAYLOR NCO ACADEMY

A few months ago, I accidentally hit a bunny rabbit driving to work. It was still dark outside and I did not notice it until my headlights shined on it right before impact. The bunny darted across the road, but hesitated in the middle of the road for a fraction of a second, uncertain whether to continue or turn back. The look in its eyes before impact showed fear. My initial thought was, "Slowest. Bunny. Ever."

Since that incident, I encountered many other animals during my morning commute. The most recent was a mother raccoon crossing the road with her two offspring following her. Just like the other animals, she too hesitated when the headlights got closer. The band of raccoons quickly turned around

and made it safely off the road. Moments like these continue to teach me a valuable lesson — be decisive in what you do!

As a young Airman, I shied away from being a leader. I was still learning how to be an adult, how to make responsible choices like paying my bills and learning how to do my laundry. The last thing I wanted was to be responsible for someone else.

The day I earned my line number for staff sergeant promotion, I found myself at a crossroads, similar to the animals I described earlier. Instead of crossing the road like I needed to, I seemed to be stuck in the middle — hesitating. Followership is easy; leadership is intimidating.

The time had come where I needed to change my perspective in life and accept the responsibility I was now being given. Promotion was the most

difficult transition period in my military career. I fought the responsibility and took almost a year to change my perspective: "Slowest. NCO. Ever."

Looking back, it feels like I just woke up one day, put on my big girl pants, and finished crossing the road.

Life is a series of choices: decisions made today impact our future options. In the moment, some of those choices are scary, fear may tempt us to hesitate. Often it is much later before we are able to appreciate those decisions.

Today, the Air Force continues to help me grow my leadership skills by allowing me to teach leadership principles to others. It is ironic that the one thing I avoided the most in life, leadership, is now the thing that brings me such great joy.

As leaders, we must remember to be decisive. The choices



COURTESY GRAPHIC

we make impact others. If we waiver or hesitate in our choices, just like the mother raccoon, we put those we lead in danger. We have to set the example. We have to teach Airmen how to commit to their decisions, regardless of the results. Airmen cannot wait in the middle of a crossroad. If we do not make a decision, someone else will make it for us. Life's roads are full of flat creatures who weren't decisive in what they do.

## Improvements in coverage with TRICARE Select

### From TRICARE Communications

On Jan. 1, TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra.

As a result, beneficiaries will notice improved coverage for preventive services with TRICARE Select.

Preventive care helps you take command of your health and manage potential issues before you experience symptoms. This type of health care allows you to address health problems before they become life threatening.

Examples of TRICARE-covered preventive services include cancer screenings and vaccines, in addition to well-woman and well-child exams.

If you currently use TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra, you do not pay anything for certain preventive services. But for all other preventive

services, beneficiaries pay between 15–25 percent of the cost after their yearly deductible is met, depending on the plan and beneficiary category.

"With TRICARE Select, beneficiaries won't pay anything out-of-pocket for covered preventive services if they are provided by a network provider," said Valerie Palmer, a health care policy analyst for TRICARE. "However, if they use a non-network provider, fewer preventive services are paid by TRICARE. This is why it is important to see a network provider for your preventive care."

The additional, no-cost preventive services beneficiaries can receive under TRICARE Prime that TRICARE Select will cover beginning in 2018 include:

One Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HP&DP) examination: This is covered

annually for beneficiaries age 6 and older. In 2018, this exam will no longer require the inclusion of a covered cancer screening or immunization if you see a network provider.

Lung cancer screening (low-dose computed tomography): This is covered annually for persons ages 55-80 with a 30 pack-per-year history of smoking who are currently smoking or have quit within the past 15 years. Screening should be discontinued once the individual has not smoked for 15 years or develops a health problem significantly limiting life expectancy or ability or willingness to undergo curative lung surgery.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA): This is a one-time screening using ultrasonography for men ages 65-75 who have ever smoked.

A new preventive service added this year for both TRI-

CARE Prime and TRICARE Select is aimed at adults with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher and children or adolescents with a BMI value greater than the 95th percentile. Intensive, multi-component behavioral interventions to promote sustained weight loss (12 to 26 sessions per year) are covered when rendered by a TRICARE-authorized provider.

Types of behavioral management interventions include diet and physical activity guidance, strategies to promote and maintain lifestyle changes and more.

This addition is a covered benefit regardless of whether the beneficiary uses a network or non-network provider, though costs are typically lower with a network provider.

Are you ready for the changes to coming TRICARE on Jan. 1? Learn more about upcoming changes and sign up for email alerts.

## JBSA LEGACY

Joint Base San Antonio  
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing  
and JBSA Commander  
BRIG. GEN. HEATHER PRINGLE

502nd ABW/JBSA  
Public Affairs Director  
TODD G. WHITE

502nd ABW/JBSA  
Chief of Command  
Information  
DAN HAWKINS

Editor  
STEVE ELLIOTT

### Staff

SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER  
DAVID DEKUNDER  
ROBERT GOETZ  
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER  
TECH. SGT. AVE YOUNG

JBSA LEGACY  
ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE  
EN COMMUNITIES  
P.O. BOX 2171  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78297  
210-250-2052

This newspaper is published by EN Communities, a private firm in no way connected with the United States Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the United States military services. Content of the publication is not necessarily the official view of, or endorsement by the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force of EN Communities, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, provided, and/or approved by the JBSA Public Affairs Offices with the 502nd Air Base Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

# Military, local leaders meet for JBSA Community Partnership Program

The initiative matches installation and community needs and resources

By Steve Elliott

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Updates on a variety of community initiatives, as well as a look at the future of automated vehicles in San Antonio, were on the agenda during the latest meeting of the Joint Base San Antonio Public/Public/Private, or P4, Community Partnership Initiative meeting Nov. 30 at the Alamo Area Council of Governments.

Meg Reyes, JBSA director of community initiatives, opened the meeting by talking about the 31 initiatives completed so far, which have generated \$28 million in benefits to JBSA. An additional 32 initiatives are in research or development phases.

The P4 Community Partnership Program between JBSA, businesses and public entities in the San Antonio area allows JBSA and the 502nd Air Base

Wing to enter into partnerships in the community to provide, receive or share installation support services for many of its municipal and morale, welfare and recreation functions.

The first JBSA Community Partnership Ideas Workshop was held in February 2014 with leaders throughout the San Antonio regional area gathering to discuss opportunities for community partnerships, with the San Antonio governance charter signed in August 2014.

The Community Partnership Program is a framework to match installation and community needs and resources to increase efficiency, reduce costs and improve quality of life, as well as facilitating and sparking brainstorming of partnership ideas.

"While these community partnership proposals work to maximize the array of tools and authorities available, they are

not meant to work around or outside of existing authorities and roles/responsibilities," Reyes explained.

San Antonio is one location where the Texas Innovation Alliance is using as a real-world test-bed site to study the feasibility of automated, or driverless, vehicles in certain urban areas. The Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio is also one of the 10 national proving grounds for the vehicles.

"Fredericksburg Road has been chosen as a test-bed site for the driverless vehicles because of its long block lengths, high pedestrian use and designation as a VIA rapid transit route," said Hannah Santiago, senior innovation specialist with the Texas Innovation Alliance & Texas Automated Vehicle Proving Ground Partnership.

The subject of small unmanned aircraft systems, or sUAS – commonly known as drones – and their use around military installations and other locations was discussed by Chris Kelly, who was most re-

*"The way San Antonio came together to assist those affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria highlighted Joint Base San Antonio at its best."*

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

cently the director for the JBSA Air Show.

Drone technologies have advanced to the point where they are safe and affordable to own and will likely find their way into many homes over the holidays. But there are still use issues to be addressed, such as a public lack of understanding of sUAS, flight hazards of sUAS, airspace concerns and installation security and mission impact.

Kelly noted public messages must be created to alert people in San Antonio of the rules and regulations governing the use of these popular miniature aircraft.

Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle,

commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA, wrapped up the meeting with a look back at this year's successes and the challenges going into the new year.

"The way San Antonio came together to assist those affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria highlighted Joint Base San Antonio at its best. It was an 'all-in' effort that showed how well we can all come together," the general said. "2018 will be even better for us with myriad opportunities for us to shine, such as the NCAA men's basketball Final Four tournament and the San Antonio Tri-centennial Celebration."

# Military OneSource highlights commitment to military

By Lisa Ferdinando

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

Around the world, day or night, service members and their families have access to the free, confidential resources at Military OneSource to obtain support in a variety of areas.

Military life can get complicated with its unique challenges, frequent moves, deployments and long separations from family, Julie Blanks, the acting deputy assistant secretary of defense, military community and family policy, said.

Those complications can have an impact on force readiness, she said, underscoring the importance of the resources offered through Military OneSource, a Defense Department-funded program.

"Military OneSource has one mission — to stand ready and serve as the one source connecting service members and their families to their best (military life)," Blanks said

As part of its commitment to service members and their families, Erika Slaton, a Military OneSource program analyst, said the program launched the "Our Promise to You" initiative that is featured prominently on the website.

"Our promise is to be that one source that stands



Staff Sgt. Keith Fitzgerald with the 153rd Engineer Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, in Huron, S.D., hugs his family Sept. 30 after returning from a 10 month deployment to the Middle East.

ready to assist the military community — giving service members and their families the expert support and information they need," she said.

The commitment includes being available 24/7 to service members and their families, Slaton said. "We have the answers that they can depend on — our sole

mission is them."

Military OneSource offers resources in areas to include deployment support, education and employment, language translation, health and wellness, morale and recreation, relationships and stress management, resilience tools to include confidential nonmedical counseling, personal finance counseling and Military Tax free tax services.

The 'Our Promise to You' initiative is aimed at spreading the word about the myriad of resources available to service members and their families, Slaton said, pointing out that while Military OneSource is effective, research indicates there is a lack of awareness of the program.

"All of Military OneSource services are completely free for service members and their families," she said. "We want them to know that they can access Military OneSource via the call center (at 800-324-9647) or the website, 24/7, no matter where they live or serve," she said.

Those eligible for Military OneSource resources include active-duty service members, National Guardsmen and Reservists, new veterans, military families and survivors. Slaton recommends visiting the website at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil> for more information on resources and eligibility

# Air Force announces continuation pay rates

For active-duty Airmen the payment rate is 2.5 times the monthly basic pay



*“Continuation pay is a one-time direct cash payout, like a retention bonus. Members will receive continuation pay at 12 years of service in return for a commitment of four years of service.”*

Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services

From Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force leaders recently announced the Air Force's continuation pay rates which are part of the new Blended Retirement System, or BRS.

Continuation pay is a way to encourage Airmen covered by BRS to remain in the Air Force since it will be possible to leave with some retirement benefit prior to 20 years of service.

The system is a blend of a 20-year retirement and contribu-

tion plan that allows service members to contribute to a Thrift Savings Plan account that is transferable after separation from the military.

“Continuation pay is a one-time direct cash payout, like a retention bonus,” said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services. “Members will receive continuation pay at 12 years of service in return for a commitment of four years of

service.”

For active-duty Airmen the payment rate is 2.5 times monthly basic pay. For the Reserve component Airmen to include Guard and Reserve, the payment rate is 0.5 times monthly basic pay, as if on active duty. For Reserve component Airmen on active Guard and Reserve orders, the payment rate is 2.5 times monthly basic pay. The rates and parameters for paying

continuation pay will remain in effect until changed.

“Modernizing the current retirement system into the BRS will ensure that the vast majority of uniformed service members receive a portable government retirement benefit,” said Daniel Sitterly, acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. “It will help make the uniformed services more attractive

to new generations of American citizens by providing a retirement annuity with options on how to shape their retirement benefit.”

The BRS was enacted into law in the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, and will go into effect Jan. 1, 2018.

All currently serving members are grandfathered into the current military retirement system. However, those with fewer than 12 years of service as of Dec. 31, 2017, or Air Force Reserve component members with fewer than 4,320 retirement points may choose to “opt in” to the BRS during the designated opt-in period from Jan. 1, 2018, through Dec. 31, 2018.

*For more information about the BRS, visit MyPers at [https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/32564](https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/32564) (a Common Access Card is required).*

# JBSA heralds in the holidays with festivities



OLIVIA MENDOZA

*Santa's helpers are on hand to look after two holiday-trimmed donkeys during the annual holiday tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*



ISMAEL ORTEGA

*Members of the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland community gather for the tree-lighting ceremony at JBSA-Lackland Nov. 29. The tree-lighting ceremony is an annual event that occurs at JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph.*



OLIVIA MENDOZA

*Santa and Mrs. Claus look over who's been naughty and nice during the annual holiday tree-lighting ceremony at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 1.*



OLIVIA MENDOZA

*The 323rd Army Band, "Fort Sam's Own," entertain the audience with holiday-themed music during the annual JBSA-Fort Sam Houston tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 1.*



TECH. SGT. AVE L. YOUNG

*Members of Joint Base San Antonio gather in Washington Circle for the annual tree-lighting ceremony Nov. 30 at JBSA-Randolph. The event started at 6 p.m. with music provided by the Randolph High School Band and the Randolph Elementary School Choir.*



TECH. SGT. AVE L. YOUNG

*From left: Maj. Gen. Mark Brown, deputy commander, Air Education and Training Command, and Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, are joined in Washington Circle by children of deployed members to flip the switch, turning on the lights during the tree-lighting ceremony Nov. 30 at JBSA-Randolph.*

# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## ARSOUTH member faces a different homecoming

By Greg Fuderer  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Homecoming is an American fall tradition, full of festivities, excitement and reunions. For some U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees originally from Puerto Rico, homecoming has been a different experience this year.

The Port of Ponce is a major seaport on Puerto Rico's Caribbean Sea southern coast. Mountains that run east to west make the terrain arid and sparsely vegetated in stark contrast to the island's lushly forested north side. Maj. Eduardo Rodríguez works there as a logistician for U.S. Army South.

Rodríguez arrived Oct. 16 from his job as an operations officer at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. He grew up in the Bayaney neighborhood of Hatillo.

"I was surprised," he said when asked to describe his initial impressions upon returning to the island after an eight-year absence. "Seeing the

devastation from the hurricane was a difficult experience."

His job is "monitoring acquisitions of real estate and coordinating support."

What that means this day is keeping an inventory of every piece of power restoration equipment being offloaded from USNS Brittin, a 950-foot Bob Hope-class roll-on/roll-off vehicle cargo ship of the U.S. Navy.

Rolling stock, basically vehicles with wheels, drives slowly down the ramp at the ship's stern. Bucket trucks, portable construction light trailers, diggers, programmable road construction signs and lowboys carrying bobcats and generators form a line for inventory. Rows of helicopters, Humvees and other military equipment sit in lines on the tarmac nearby waiting to be loaded onboard for transfer back to the States.

"It's a monumental task, especially considering the impact," Rodríguez says of the recovery. "Not just the homes devastated by the hurricane, but the routes and the effects



GREG FUDERER

Maj. Eduardo Rodríguez works as a logistician for U.S. Army South at the Port of Ponce, Puerto Rico, where he coordinates the inventory of equipment coming in to help with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers power restoration mission.

on access."

Rodríguez said it is rewarding to be part of the coordinated effort to bring electricity back to the island.

"The effort and support from fellow Americans has been unsurpassed, unmatch-

ed," he said. "Seeing how much everybody cares. How big an effort it is and the sacrifices people are making."

"Speaking not only for myself, but on behalf of my family, and many others, everybody is thankful," he said.

Rodríguez said it is difficult to compare the Hurricane Maria response to others he's experienced.

"Puerto Ricans will take time to recover," Rodríguez said. "We'll face the challenge and move on."

## BAMC stresses awareness, education to prevent falls

By David DeKunder  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is taking pro-active measures to prevent and reduce the number of patient falls at the hospital.

Patient falls are a problem for hospitals across the U.S., including BAMC, which is emphasizing awareness and education in its efforts to stop

patient falls and improve patient safety.

According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, patient falls are the most frequently reported incident in adult inpatient units at hospitals. Hospital patient falls range from 1.3 to 8.9 per 1,000 patient-days or bed-days.

At BAMC, a total of 106 patient falls have been reported so far this year in the hospital's

inpatient units, an increase of 10 from 2016.

Col. Deborah Jones, BAMC Medical Nursing Services chief, said the hospital is working with physicians, medical personnel, patients and their family members to prevent patient falls.

"Patient falls are a national problem," Jones said. "We are making every effort to mitigate it. We may not prevent every fall, but we are making every effort to prevent it. Patient

safety is everyone's responsibility."

Jones said a patient fall occurs anytime a part of the patient's body, other than their feet, touches the floor while the patient is by themselves or being assisted by someone.

There are several causes for patient falls, including changes in a patient's medication, the patient's mental status, their age and trying to get out of their bed unassisted. Patients in any of these situations may

find themselves unsteady on their feet, increasing their risk of falling.

Jones said BAMC has several safeguards and policies in place to prevent patient falls. First, an alarm on the bed alerts hospital staff if a patient attempts to get out of the bed unassisted, and second, yellow socks with non-skid bottoms and yellow arm bands worn by patients help identify them as a

BAMC continues on 9

# Sailor reflects on year of recruiting for America's Navy

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Giselle Christmas

NAVY RECRUITING DISTRICT  
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Petty Officer 1st Class Jalisa Green, a recruiter assigned to Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, has proved that not shying away from hard work and responsibility does not go unnoticed.

Green, a Louisiana native and gas turbine system technician, longed to travel and see the world beyond her hometown of Baton Rouge. She believed joining the Navy would give her that opportunity.

After enlisting in 2009, she was stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, serving on USS Cowpens.

“Working on a ship was challenging; it meant long hours, a lot of sweat, dirt, and wrench cranking, but I loved it,” Green said.

Although her passion is to



BURRELL FARMER

*Petty Officer 1st Class Jalisa Green (left), a recruiter assigned to Navy Recruiting Station Corpus Christi, Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, speaks with future Sailor Oleksandr Omelchenko regarding his career choice at the Military Entrance Processing Station.*

travel as much as possible, early in her career she knew one day she would transition to shore duty as a recruiter.

“I had a great recruiter, who has been a positive influence from day one in my decision to

become a recruiter, and continues to support me throughout my career,” Green said.

Recruiters are representatives of America's Navy and act as ambassadors in their communities. To become one re-

quires previous experience in the Navy or other branch of the military, an outgoing personality, creativity, initiative, and strong organizational and time-management skills, among other skills.

For some Sailors, transitioning from the fleet to recruiting can be challenging. Many find it difficult adapting to office work after spending time on a ship.

“For me, the biggest difference was all the paperwork,” Green said. “But the long hours and dedication you have to put in are the same. Ship life had already groomed me for that.”

Green has proven her strength and ability to adapt within the recruiting world. As a second class petty officer, she was given the position of leading petty officer, or LPO, for her division, a role that is traditionally given to a first class petty officer.

“Becoming a LPO was a tough experience. I had to make

sacrifices in my personal life for my career,” Green said.

Green says she finds strength through her many mentors in the recruiting community as well as through her family.

“I reach out often to my chief, division leading chief petty officer and my first class petty officers,” Green said. “They all encourage me to never back down and to always strive for more from myself and my recruiters.”

Green's grit and strong work ethic made her a standout Sailor within the recruiting community.

“I am thankful for this opportunity, but personally it is not enough; I need to keep pushing,” she said. “I also need to humble myself and remember all the recruiters and chiefs who have gone before me and to those whom have given me guidance to get me where I am today.”

## BAMC

From page 7

high fall risk to staff.

In addition, hospital staff are instructed to be aware if a patient is a fall risk and needs assistance and while making their rounds, checking to see if everything has been set up in the patient's room to keep them safe and prevent falls.

Jones said the patient's family members are reminded not to move a patient by themselves and to get assistance from medical personnel if the patient needs to be moved.

If a family member sees that a patient has fallen, they should immediately get help from a nurse. Family members or visitors should not move a patient who has fallen because the patient could injure themselves during the fall. Any effort to move the patient could cause further injury to the patient.

BAMC medical staff educate patients and their family members on the physical and emotional well-being of a patient

after a fall.

Patient falls result in additional costs for hospitals, an average of \$14,000 per patient fall and increases the length of a patient's stay at the hospital, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality report.

Jones said while many patients aren't injured in falls, a physician still needs to assess a patient to see if they are injured using equipment such as X-rays or a scan or treat the patient if they are injured, adding to the value of medical care and costs at the hospital.

Col. Michael Ludwig, BAMC deputy commander for Inpatient Services, said hospital staff have a checklist of things to do when they check on their patients to make sure the proper safeguards are in place to prevent a fall.

"We mandate that our staff is always moving around and have their eyes on the patients," Ludwig said. "We are checking to see if the patients are okay and if they need anything."

Ludwig said hospital staff, from doctors to

housekeepers, are encouraged to speak up if they observe something is wrong with the patient and their surroundings.

"If you see something, say something," he said.

Ludwig said hospital staff are transparent with patients and family members with the procedures and safeguards BAMC uses to prevent falls and the protocol that is used if a fall should occur.

Sometime in the future, BAMC will launch a public awareness campaign to prevent patient falls. The message of the campaign — "Why Not Zero Falls?" — will include messages to the public on how to prevent patient falls and the procedures the hospital has in place if a fall should occur.

Ludwig said the "Why Not Zero Falls?" campaign will include social media, articles, posters and static displays and video screens at BAMC.

"The purpose of the campaign is to have no patient falls in the hospital, that is our goal," Ludwig said. "That is a lofty goal. There is no reason why we can't do that."

---

## FORT SAM HOUSTON BRIEFS

### Exchange construction underway

**Date:** ongoing

**Location:** Exchange & Commissary areas

Construction of the new base exchange shopping center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is now underway. There will be traffic detours in the vicinity of the Base Exchange and the Commissary. The entire worksite will be fenced off and will not be accessible by the public. A portion of the Burger King parking lot will close and the drive-thru will be rerouted. The existing cab stand at the southeast corner of the Exchange is closed until further notice. AAFES will provide an alternate location for a new cab stand in the near future. Sometime in May, the Burger King will close and be demolished. It will open in the new Dual Foods restaurant along with a new Popeye's. Once the new shopping center building is completed, the old base exchange building will be demolished and the area will become part of the new parking lot for the new shopping center.

### Blended Retirement 101

**Date:** Dec. 11, 9-10 a.m.

**Location:** Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797

The new military retirement system goes into effect Jan. 1. Attendees will learn who it applies to and how it differs from the legacy retirement pension. Additional training available online at JKO. To register, call 210-221-2705.



# USAISR Burn Center appoints new director

By Dr. Steven Galvan

U.S. ARMY INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL RESEARCH  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For the first time in six decades, the director of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is a federal government civilian employee. Dr. Leopoldo “Lee” Cancio, M.D., FACS, a retired Army colonel assigned to the USAISR Burn Center in 1995 until he retired in 2014, was appointed as director Nov. 17.

“I’m very grateful to be in this position,” Cancio said. “I’ve made this organization my life’s work, my life’s vocation. I’m very happy to do this type of work and take care of patients with people whose company I enjoy and who share the same vision that I do.”

Cancio joined the Burn Center as a major and had several titles including surgeon, chief of burn study branch, chief of clinical division (renamed burn center director), and deputy for medical operations and development.

Before his assignment to the Burn Center, Cancio was the regimental surgeon during combat operations with the 82nd Airborne Division in Panama in 1989 and during Operation Desert Storm in 1990. Cancio also deployed to Iraq three times while assigned to the Burn Center and after his second de-



DR. STEVEN GALVAN

*Dr. Leopoldo “Lee” Cancio was appointed the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center director Nov. 17.*

ployment was selected for a fellowship in surgical critical care in 2006 at Brooke Army Medical Center.

“Then I started a new task area called Combat Critical Care Engineering,” Cancio added.

During that time, Cancio also served

as acting director — twice while on active duty and during the last few months while the director, Col. (Dr.) Booker King was on deployment. King is scheduled to transfer in the spring or early summer 2018 to Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, N.C., to create a surgical program where he’ll serve as the subject matter expert in trauma critical care.

“You couldn’t be in better hands,” King said. “His contributions to the USAISR have been tremendous. He has the experience, wisdom and judgment to take this burn center to the next level.”

Cancio chose to come back to the Burn Center as a civilian because he wanted to continue working in a high-volume burn center such as this one.

“This burn center is somewhat unusual in the number of patients we admit annually — it’s on the high side,” Cancio said. “This work is not easy and I want to take care of the people who take care of our patients.”

Cancio is aware that he has some challenges ahead, but said that he’s going to do his best to make the burn center a rewarding place to work.

“First of all, we need to ensure that we have adequate staff, particularly, but not exclusively, in the area of nursing,” he said. “We need to promote the idea that working in the burn center re-

quires a unique resiliency. We need to make this a fulfilling place to work so that people feel supported in their efforts.”

As a physician and researcher, Cancio wants to ensure that the research and clinical staff communicate more among themselves. He believes that this is the “magic” that will advance burn care.

“When clinicians are able to take their problems to the lab, and the lab can take solutions back to the bedside to implement them, then that’s the surest way to rapid advancement in medical care,” Cancio added. “Although it may be magical, it doesn’t happen by accident. It requires effort, hard work, time and understanding for people to achieve working together.”

Cancio attended Georgetown University School of Medicine with a Health Professions Scholarship Program scholarship. After completing medical school in 1987, Cancio completed his internship at Brooke Army Medical Center before his tour with the 82nd Airborne Division. He then returned back to BAMC to complete his residency in general surgery, before being transferred to the USAISR Burn Center.

“I feel at home in this organization,” Cancio said. “Taking care of service members and civilians is one of the things that I care most about.”

## Joint Base San Antonio postal operations now consolidated

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Since 1993, postal operations at Air Force bases were generally the responsibility of the host communications squadron.

Effective Dec. 1, all Joint Base San Antonio postal operations became part of the 802nd Force Support Squadron. They had been a part of the 502nd Communications Squadron and will be realigned under the 802nd FSS.

JBSA Postal Operations process more than 4 million pieces of official and personal mail per year at three official mail centers, six postal service centers and a student mail center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Twenty-two personnel oversee this important operation and thousands of Basic Military Training and technical school students and more than 250-unit mail rooms rely on the efficiency and speed of the postal service to provide their mail. From crucial military documents to “care packages” from home, 802nd FSS Postal Operations at JBSA delivers.



MIKE WATKINS

*Lt. Col. Hart (left), 802nd Force Support Squadron commander, and Lt. Col. Robert G. Giovannetti, 502nd Communications Squadron, stand outside the student mail center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Nov. 27 after JBSA postal operations transferred to the direction of the 802nd FSS.*

# ‘We own the night’: Training problem solved

By Army Staff Sgt.  
Tomora Nance

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Army has many axioms, but one that equates to triumph on the battlefield is “we own the night,” which is uttered by Department of Defense service members at home and abroad. The phrase derives from the overwhelming advantage provided by the United States military’s night vision capabilities.

Part of the success is the ability to conduct realistic training for night operations. But what happens when the training is skewed?

Several training officials for Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis and Martin Marietta Quarry’s managerial team partnered to fix lighting issues that affected service members’ realistic night training. The issue service members encountered at JBSA-Camp Bullis’ was light interference from a nearby source — the Martin Marietta Quarry.

“While training with night vision goggles, service members had to avoid looking in a specific direction from one of the biggest light sources outside of the training area,



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KRYSTAL ARDREY

*A service member wearing night vision goggles reloads an M4 carbine rifle during night-fire training at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.*

which interfered with the night vision’s capabilities,” said Jim Cannizzo, administrative and civil law adviser for U.S. Army, JBSA-Camp Stanley Army Material Command and Retained Army Functions at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis.

“The reason the quarry is the biggest source of light is due mainly to its proximity. The quarry is only 2,500 feet from the primary area where they do the night vision goggle training along the southern area of Camp Bullis at the locations called Mama Bear, Papa Bear and Baby Bear, which are three hilltops,” Can-

nizzo said. “Mama Bear is where the service members conduct most of the night vision training.”

Cannizzo had to witness the effects on the quarry himself. He described looking into the night vision goggles, or NVGs, and only being able to see a bright blur versus a well-defined area.

After witnessing the affects the quarry’s lighting had on training Cannizzo decided to enlist help from the management team at the quarry to resolve the lighting issue.

“I realized [the personnel at Camp Bullis] could probably engage with the management

team at the quarry; we worked with and resolved issues with them in the past,” Cannizzo said. “So, I lined up a meeting with them at the end of August 2017.”

While at the meeting Cannizzo was informed that the quarry was already grandfathered by the 2009 light ordinance and weren’t required to make any adjustments to their lighting. However, the quarry’s management team agreed to visit the site at night to witness the affects the quarry has on the training environment.

“They witnessed the lights’ impact on the training environment, which made any night training extremely difficult,” Cannizzo said.

“I didn’t expect our lights to be this bright or affect the training this much,” said Rick Dockery, the electrical manager for Central Texas Aggregates at Martin Marietta Quarry. “I knew then we needed to look at putting shielding on our lights, so that it doesn’t interfere with training.”

From the initial visit to the training site, the quarry’s management made a decision to shield the lights, which would help to only illuminate their area and lessen the lights onto JBSA-Camp Bullis’ training

area. And, three months later, the project of shielding the lights was complete.

Both parties came together for a final site visit to JBSA-Camp Bullis Mama Bear training area Nov. 28 to see if the shielding worked.

Cannizzo recounted the expressions from the quarry’s management team, “Wow, this is amazingly better.”

The quarry light shielding accounted for approximately 90 percent improvement rating for night vision capabilities according to Cannizzo.

“Although the quarry didn’t have to shield the lights because they were already grandfathered, I’m glad we were able to work together, yet again, to provide service members with a better training environment,” Cannizzo said.

“I’m just happy we could help support because part of our motto is ‘being good neighbors’ and at the end of the day that’s what it is all about,” Dockery said.

“We are better than our adversary at operating at night. We not only have the sophisticated technology to conduct night operations, but we have the effective training to continue saying ‘we own the night,’” Cannizzo added.

## ‘Show Some Love’ during 2017 Combined Federal Campaign

By Steve Elliott

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

There have been changes for the 2017 Combined Federal Campaign, but the mission remains the same: to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all Federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

“As the Honorary Chairperson of the 2017 CFC, I would like to thank you for serving as part of a powerful Federal community that raises hundreds of millions of dollars to help important causes and individuals in need,” said the Hon.

Ben Carson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and 2017 CFC Honorary Chairperson.

“This year, we will ask our colleagues to ‘Show Some Love’ by making a pledge, via monetary gift or volunteer time, to one or more of the many worthy charities in the campaign. Together, we will help wounded warriors, provide medical care, feed the hungry, house the homeless, protect animals and the environment, and make a difference in countless other ways,” Carson added.

The biggest change is the elimination of the hard-copy paper contribution forms. There is now one central donation system at [\[somelovecfc\]\(http://opm.gov/show-somelovecfc\). Other changes include the fact that federal employees can now pledge volunteer hours and federal retirees can contribute through their annuity.](http://opm.gov/show-</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

In addition to online donations, donors can choose a payroll deduction or a one-time or recurring monthly pledge via a credit card, debit card or direct bank transfer. For the next five years, donors also have the option of completing a paper pledge card and submitting it to the Central Campaign Administrator using the address provided on the pledge form or by giving the completed form to their keyworker. Paper pledge donors can give via payroll deduction or check.

For the first time, federal employees are also invited to broaden the impact of their gift by pledging volunteer hours to participating charities in addition to monetary donations.

Donors also need to know that cash donations can no longer be accepted. Undesignated contributions are no longer permitted under new CFC regulations. Donors are asked to designate their pledge to the specific CFC charity or charities of their choice. A list of Frequently Asked Questions is available at <https://www.opm.gov/combined-federal-campaign/cfc-faqs/>.

Source: Combined Federal Campaign

# The need for blood doesn't take a holiday

From 502nd Air Base Wing  
Public Affairs

Blood donations often decline during the holidays when busy schedules, holiday travel and seasonal illnesses can make it more difficult for donors to make and keep blood-donation appointments. But the need for blood doesn't get a break for the holiday season.

Donors with all blood types are needed during the next few weeks before the start of Holiday Block Leave, or HBL, to help ensure the Brooke Army Medical Center and Audie Murphy VA hospitals have critically needed blood and blood products.



Scheduling an appointment in advance minimizes waiting time and al-

lows donors to select location and time that best suits them. There are two loca-

tions in San Antonio to donate.

The first is the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, located at B1249 Harney Road, next to the Medical Education and Training Camus dining facility. Whole blood and plasma donations are needed at this facility.

While walk-in donors are welcome, appointments between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. are encouraged. Call 210-295-4655 for information.

People can also go to the Armed Services Blood Bank Center-San Antonio at JBSA-Lackland, located in building 3425 at 2430 Ladd St.

Again, walk-ins are welcome, but it's best to make an appointment between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call 210-292-8145 for more information.

# LACKLAND

## IAAFA teams up for first ever joint exercise

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Students from both the Inter-American Air Force Academy's 837th Training Squadron and the 343rd TRS from the 37th Training Group partnered in what each are hoping will be the first of many joint military training exercises.

The 837th TRS spent several weeks training for this exercise, which put them on the same team with students from Combat Leaders Course. Each squadron conducted missions separately prior to the first-ever exercise.

According to Tech. Sgt. Brian Lamoire, 343rd TRS instructor supervisor, the idea was the result of timing.

"Everything happened at the right time," he said.

Both groups met at the forward operations base at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis Nov. 8 ready to expect the unexpected.



Students from the Inter-American Air Force Academy's 837th Training Squadron and 343rd TRS attend a pre-mission briefing at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis as part of their final training exercise Nov. 8. The students practiced reconnaissance, ambush, search and patrol tactics. This was the first time the 837th TRS and 343rd TRS partnered for joint training.

ISMAEL ORTEGA

EXERCISE continues on 14

### FRONT & CENTER

## Fifty years later, musical resource specialist has more to offer

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When a musical band performs, there's usually a conductor who leads the group – but before they ever take center stage, there's someone making sure they're at the right place and right on time.

For Stanley Lockaby, Band of the West musical resource specialist at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, 50 years of military service is a milestone – but he insists he is not ready for the next chapter of rest and



Stanley Lockaby (center), musical resource specialist at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, gathers with members of Band of the West. The 70-year old Lockaby recently celebrated 50 years of active-duty and civilian military service.

SPECIALIST continues on 15

COURTESY PHOTO

## EXERCISE

From page 13

“We’re gonna act as a support unit to the mission they’re conducting,” said Staff Sgt. Josue Tello, 837th TRS international force protection flight instructor.

Twenty-seven students from the 837th TRS consisted of personnel from Colombia and Honduras. Forty-five students from the 343rd TRS, comprised of noncommissioned officers — each experienced in reconnaissance, ambush missions, and combat patrolling entrenched — joined their international counterparts for the mission.

The student-led course was taught to help them prepare for several factors.

“The language barrier is gonna be interesting,” said Lamorie, adding how the teams communicate will be important. “It’s going to be completely (foreign) to all of them because this is something that has never been done before.”

Tello said both units have more in common than they think.

“Both are pretty similar as far as tactics, troop leading procedures, patrolling, convoy operations and this is where our (IAAFA) partnership skills will come into place to see how good we’re providing a world class instruction,” said Tello.

The operation lasted about four hours. Tello’s international students were told to be ready to adapt to the JBSA-Camp Bullis terrain, which is similar to their respective home countries.

The mission was for the joint forces to clear a village and secure a target, but that didn’t mean there wouldn’t be challenges.

“We want to put them under a little bit of stress,” said Tello.

Lamorie agreed.

“We want them to step outside of their comfort zone and not worry too much about failure and take advantage of this training opportunity,” he said. “We’re just gonna drop it on them and see how they react as NCOs; what type of lead-

ership they are,” said Lamorie.

By putting them in situations they haven’t already been in, Lamorie’s students will become better leaders as a result.

This training exercise was the first for many IAAFA students.

“Some of them have never worked with U.S. military,” said Tello. “This is their first time in the United States.”

The unification of both units will continue to strengthen bonds with IAAFA’s international students from partner nations in the Western Hemisphere. Lamorie’s students got the chance to look into the future with regard to forming positive relationships with other countries around the world.

“It’s really to get them used to playing along with other countries or individuals since we are in a changing environment,” said Lamorie.

Both groups communicated very well, said Tello.

“They executed (the mission) excellent(ly). It was amazing,” said Tello.

## SPECIALIST

From page 13

relaxation.

Lockaby celebrated his 50th anniversary this past summer. His career in the Air Force began in 1967 when he reported for duty with the 695th Air Force Band of the Black Hills at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, as a flute player.

Music is something that came naturally to Lockaby from the time he first picked up a flute when he was 8 years old. As he got older, he learned to play the guitar and trumpet. From junior high school through his senior year, he performed in a band, and continued by studying music in college.

"Listening to (classical) tunes and listening to nice orchestras and jazz players makes me happy," said Lockaby.

After numerous assignments both stateside and overseas, Lockaby decided to retire after 26 years of active-duty service. During the retirement process, Lockaby was approached by a representative from Band of the West and was asked to apply for a civilian position with them. After waiting nearly six months for the process to take place, Lockaby was hired in 1994.

Band of the West, formed in October 1941 at Moffett Field, California, relocated to then-Lackland Air Force Base in 1947. Airmen assigned to Band of the West are highly trained professional musicians who serve their country through music. They perform for military and civilian audiences throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida, according to their official website.

For Lockaby, a normal day at the office involves assisting in scheduling Band of the West performances. His role as musical resource specialist keeps him focused on making sure questions are

## *"You know and respect Mr. Lockaby for his position and what he does, but at the same time Mr. Lockaby is the kind of person you can just walk in and have a conversation with."*

Master Sgt. Nicholas Wellman, audio engineer

answered and plans are finalized.

"Sometimes it's hard to get ahold of someone if he doesn't answer," Lockaby said. "I have more time than the musicians do. I'm in my office where I can do things like that and not have to worry about going to rehearsal."

Lockaby's colleagues appreciate his efforts.

"You know and respect Mr. Lockaby for his position and what he does, but at the same time Mr. Lockaby is the kind of person you can just walk in and have a conversation with," said Master Sgt. Nicholas Wellman, an audio engineer.

Wellman recalls his when he was a young marching band drummer with Band of the West and one morning he missed the bus for a performance at JBSA-Randolph. Lockaby volunteered to drive him over to the installation in time for the performance.

"He did that for me without any motive whatsoever. That's the kind of person that he is," Wellman said.

Lockaby's kindness is widespread with a band favorite: doughnut Friday. "People just absolutely love that. He continues that and it's out of the goodness of his heart," added Wellman.

The band's adventures through the years is what makes Lockaby proud to play a role in its success. To this day, he can still pick up his flute and perform with the band, if needed. The music has even reached those who are serving in the military abroad.

"Some of our folks go overseas into

the war zone areas and we are able to play for those individuals," he said.

"That makes some of them so happy to be able to hear the music and see the musicians, to get on stage with them and just make them have a relaxing evening rather than worrying about what they're doing overseas all the time."

Through the years, Lockaby has had a front-row seat to the band's expansion.

"Back in the day of '67, when we had 35 members, you had what I would call very small pieces," he said. "Nowadays, the band has about 60 members (and) can perform quite a bit more. The band sounds much better than they did then."

As for the caliber of the musicians, Lockaby says they're some of the best around.

"They're very strong musicians. Most

of them have their master's degree and some have their doctorate," Lockaby said.

When Band of the West performs, audiences can hear music ranging from classical, country, marches and even mambos, according to their website.

They've had the honor of performing for presidents, heads of states and dignitaries from around the world. Honors like these is what keeps Lockaby on his beat of making beautiful music available for the masses and he says he's not making any plans to stop.

"When I decide to retire, I would say hopefully they would be able to find someone that loves their job as much as I do and wants to do it," Lockaby said. "Even one of the generals told me to put together a booklet of some sort if I could to make sure those people know who to call, when to call and who to speak to at some of these agencies."

This bandsman wants to keep the music playing for now. He's already helping coordinate several local performances later this year.

"Being 70 years old, I think it keeps me younger working," Lockaby said. "I'm just not sure I want to punch the button."

# 25th AF civilian recognized as exceptional, visionary leader

By Lori A. Bultman  
25TH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The recipient of the 2018 Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught Visionary Leadership Award for Air Combat Command was awarded to Pierre Terry, 25th Air Force director of staff at Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection Directorate.

Among the entire civilian Airmen population at 25th AF, Terry has shown herself to be a visionary leader and an exemplary civilian Airman with many accomplishments.

This dedicated wingman championed the 25th Air Force INSPIRE program, redefining the program's charter and supporting the headquarters' commitment to diversity in the workplace.

"Ms. Terry has been a staunch advocate for the 25th Air Force INSPIRE program and she has promoted women's empowerment as it relates to growth and development in the Intel



LORI A. BULTMAN

*Pierre Terry, 25th Air Force director of staff at Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection Directorate, is the civilian recipient of the 2018 Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught Visionary Leadership Award for Air Combat Command.*

community," said Jerry Rizzo, deputy director, A4. "Her systematic approach, coupled with a focus-driven attitude, have made an enduring impact on the

women assigned to the NAF (Numbered Air Force)."

This civil servant and leader has fostered relationships with community leaders to advocate for new and innovative personal and professional programs.

"Her footprint extends far beyond the halls of the 25th Air Force," Rizzo said. "She was instrumental in the development of a Headquarters, U.S. Army Pacific INSPIRE program; she assisted in authoring the unit's charter and established processes that uplifted 175 NATO teammates."

Terry has been active in community organizations, to include the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, where she built a bilateral rapport with local leaders for more than 235 NAF members.

In an effort to keep women motivated in the workplace, Terry facilitated "Brown Bag" events highlighting career progression, stress reduction and

mitigating workplace issues. She organized a Women's Fitness Fair to inspire healthy lifestyles and encourage regular fitness routines, and sponsored a six-week challenge targeting health improvement to reduce civilian employee sick leave days. She was the event planner for the headquarters' Women's History Month program, which included six events.

"Ms. Terry has generated awareness of the contributions of the total force," Rizzo said. "She is a true advocate for the advancement and upward mobility for all women throughout the organization."

The award, named in honor of Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, recognizes civilians and service members who have exhibited innovation, commitment and a selfless spirit of service while inspiring others and significantly improving the integration of and opportunities for women within the Air Force.

# 433rd Airlift Wing honors CCAF degree recipients

By Tech. Sgt.  
Carlos J. Treviño  
433RD AIRLIFT WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 433rd Airlift Wing recognized 38 Community College of the Air Force graduates during a special ceremony Nov. 18, 2017 at the Defense Language Institute auditorium at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The Community College of the Air Force was established in 1972 to meet the education

and training requirements of the Air Force and help Airmen achieve their professional goals.

While only 38 Airmen could make it to the ceremony, there were 158 Airmen in all who obtained their associate degrees from the college.

"Although I participated in off duty education, I began to ask myself why," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael S. Senigo, who serves as the deputy commandant, Career enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence, and

is assigned to the 733rd Training Squadron of the 433rd Airlift Wing. Senigo holds three CCAF degrees before earning a bachelor of arts and a master's degree.

"Why does education make you better, why does education make you valuable to the Air Force," he asked the graduates, friends and family gathered.

The CCAF is the world's largest degree granting institution of higher learning. It is a federally chartered degree-

granting institution that serves the United States Air Force's enlisted total force. They partner with over 108 affiliated Air Force schools, 82 education service offices located worldwide and more than 1,500 civilian academic institutions to serve approximately 300,000 active, Guard and reserve enlisted personnel, making CCAF the world's largest community college system. The college annually awards over 22,000 associate in applied science degrees

from 68 degree programs according to the Air University website.

"The answer to my question is: self-growth, gain confidence, improved communication and time management skills, and the exemplified commitment," he said. "You can now bring these qualities to your unit enabling more effective mission accomplishment meeting the wing's vision of providing the best combat ready force."

# RANDOLPH

## Pilots earn AETC safety award nomination

The pair acted quickly to overcome engine failure and landed safely

By Robert Goetz  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

What could have been a sortie with disastrous consequences was averted the morning of June 29 by an instructor pilot and student pilot from the 435th Fighter Training Squadron who were practicing bombing deliveries at a range south of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The pilots, relying on their training and keeping their cool, overcame the failure of one of their T-38C's engines to guide the aircraft to an airfield some 20 miles away for a safe landing.

For their heads-up actions that early summer morning, Capt. Joshua Smith, 435th FTS flight commander and weapons systems officer, and 1st Lt. Spencer Rhoton, now assigned to the 310th Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, are nominees for an Air Education and Training Command safety award.

For Smith, it was just another day in the sky.

"It is an honor and surprise to be nominated because I feel we did nothing beyond what any other trained aircrew would have accomplished," he said. "We were able to maintain composure due to appropriate prior planning, training and crew coordination."

Rhoton also called the nomination an honor and, like Smith, attributed their handling of the situation to preparedness.

"When the engine failed I



immediately fell back onto the priorities that are ingrained in pilots from day one of pilot training, and that is to keep proper control over the aircraft, figure out what the issue is at hand, take the proper steps to correct that issue and get the aircraft back on a suitable piece of pavement," he said.

The pilots had just turned their aircraft around after a practice delivery when the right engine shut down, Smith said.

"Three other aircraft were near us, so we had to maintain power to stay at the right altitude," he said. "There was no airfield there, but we had to land as soon as possible because it was an emergency situation."

Preparing for situations such as engine failures is an important part of pilot training, so Smith and Rhoton relied on the knowledge obtained in simulators and briefings -



Capt. Joshua Smith, 435th Fighter Training Squadron flight commander and weapons systems officer, stands in front of a T-38C Talon Sept. 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

including the use of equipment checklists - to address the problem.

"Having had extensive emergency procedures training helped tremendously," Rhoton said. "Stepping through emergency situations mentally and verbally on the ground, practicing in the simulator and even simulating single-engine operations in the jet to get a feel for changes in flight characteristics are all part of our training regime."

There are several possible consequences of engine failure, Smith said.

"You can lose some of the electrical system," he said. "You don't have as much thrust, so it takes more work to maintain flying altitude. You can also lose the ability to

lower the aircraft's flaps or landing gear."

Accompanied by another aircraft in the 435th FTS fleet, Smith and Rhoton turned their T-38C toward the nearest airfield and executed a successful landing.

"These are things we practice, but they don't happen very often," Smith said. "The way we prepare is exactly what happened."

Neither pilot had experienced engine failure.

"I've never had an engine fail, but the fact that I had seen other emergencies enabled me to remain calm," Smith said.

Lt. Col. Jason Earley, 435th FTS commander, commended the actions of Smith and Rhoton. He said Smith, who has weapons systems officer train-

ing, has expanded his role beyond what is expected of a WSO.

"It took an extra level of airmanship to get that aircraft on the ground," he said, noting that the pilots had to execute a low-altitude flight and go to an unfamiliar airfield in a remote area.

Simulators involved in training are similar to what happens in real life, Earley said, but pilots have to contend with the "shock and awe" that accompanies an actual emergency.

"The biggest danger is that when an engine fails, the aircraft loses more than 50 percent of its performance capability," he said. "You have to understand what the situation is and act quickly."

COURTESY PHOTO



# Risk assessment helps make holiday travels safer

By Robert Goetz  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force members and their families will be among the millions of Americans who will be hitting the roads in the coming weeks to visit loved ones or vacation destinations for the Christmas holidays.

To ensure those travels are safe, proper planning before leaving the driveway is essential, a Joint Base San Antonio safety official said.

"Planning is your risk assessment," said John McLaughlin, 502nd Air Base Wing safety and occupational health specialist at JBSA-Lackland. "By doing that, you actually are not reacting to a situation, you are being proactive."

Planning starts with an inspection of the vehicle, McLaughlin said.

"One of the main things to inspect are the seat belts," he said. "If they are frayed, they can fail in an accident. You should also take care of general maintenance items, such as tires and fluids. You don't want to get trapped on a snowy road or in the middle of the desert."

Packing appropriate cloth-

ing is another essential element of trip preparation, McLaughlin said.

"Be sure to have suitable clothing for wherever you're going," he said.

During the holidays, that typically means warm clothing for colder winter weather, but McLaughlin also noted that travelers should account for extreme fluctuations in temperatures, common in states such as Texas, by also packing clothing more appropriate for warm weather.

"You should also make sure you have blankets on hand as well as food and water in the event of a roadside emergency," he said.

Travelers should ensure their homes are safe and secure while they are gone by following a few measures, McLaughlin said. An important step is setting the home's alarm system.

"There are many instances where people forgot to set their alarm and their homes were burglarized," he said.

Other precautions are making sure appliances including stoves and fans are off.

Freezing pipes are always a concern during the winter months, so thermostats should



COURTESY PHOTO

*Air Force members and their families will be among the millions of Americans who will be hitting the roads in the coming weeks to visit loved ones or vacation destinations for the holidays.*

be set at 60 degrees before departing, McLaughlin said.

"That will help with your heating bill but also keep the house warm enough to keep indoor pipes from freezing," he said. "You should also have someone watch your house and make sure water is dripping from outdoor faucets when the temperature reaches freezing."

People who are traveling by plane should also be prepared

for their journey, McLaughlin said.

"You need to be up to date with Federal Aviation Administration regulations and know what you can and can't carry on the plane," he said. "Empty your bags after packing them to make sure you're not carrying prohibited items. You don't want any surprises when the bags are checked."

Drivers have responsibilities to ensure their passengers are

safe, McLaughlin said.

"Don't drink and drive, and stay off your cellphones," he said.

If travelers become stranded on roadways, the Air Force Safety Center recommends they stay calm, get their vehicles as far off the road as safely possible and turn on emergency flashers; call or text for roadside assistance; make the vehicle visible; and remain in the vehicle until help is visible.



JOEL MARTINEZ

## JBSA LEADERS MEET WITH HONORARY COMMANDERS

*Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle (center left), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, meets with 502nd ABW and local community leaders for an honorary commanders tour Nov. 28 at JBSA-Randolph. The honorary commander program provides local community leaders an opportunity to see the inner workings of the Air Force mission and culture.*

## JBSA HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The U.S. Air Force Band of the West and “Fort Sam’s Own” 323rd Army Band present “Holiday in Red, White and Blue” on Dec. 9 and 10 with both performances beginning at 3 p.m. at the Edgewood Performing Arts Center, 402 Lance St. in San Antonio.

The performances are free and open to the public. Complimentary reserved tickets are available at [bit.ly/HIB2017](http://bit.ly/HIB2017). Visit <http://www.bandofthewest.af.mil> for more details. Attendees without tickets will be admitted 15 minutes prior to the performance.

### LACKLAND BRIEFS

#### Firing Range Trespass Notice

**Location:** Medina Firing Range, 900 Patrol Road, JBSA-Lackland Training Annex at Medina  
It is illegal and dangerous to trespass on the Medina Firing Range. 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.

#### San Antonio Military Children's Holiday Party

**Date/Time:** Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Location:** JBSA-Kelly Annex, building 1610, 303 S. Frank Luke Ave., Port San Antonio  
This free event is open to all military and civilian members, retirees and their families. The event will include visits from Santa and the Grinch, free food, entertainment and more.

#### Newly Assigned Commanders & First Sergeants Briefing

**Date/Time:** Dec. 11, 8-11 a.m.  
**Location:** Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249  
For newly assigned Commanders, Command Chiefs, and First Sergeants: This mandatory briefing satisfies AFI requirements while in-

roducing key personnel from installation support agencies. To register, call 210-671-3722.

#### Pre-Separation: Retirement

**Date/Time:** Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to noon  
**Location:** Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249  
This is a mandatory briefing for all service members who are planning to retire from federal service. Schedule an appointment up to 24-months prior to retirement. To register, call 210-671-3722.

#### Bundles for Babies

**Date/Time:** Dec. 12, 1-3 p.m.  
**Location:** Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249  
Attendees will obtain information on financial planning from conception to college, support programs offered within the community, and parenting skills. To register, call 210-671-3722.

#### Newcomer's orientation

**Date/Time:** Dec 13, 8 a.m. to noon  
**Location:** Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249  
A mandatory in-processing briefing for all service members new to JBSA. To register, call 210-671-3722.

### RANDOLPH BRIEFS

#### Changes to VCC hours of operation

Starting Dec. 15, the JBSA-Randolph Visitor Control Center, or VCC, will modify hours of operation and be closed on Saturdays. Base passes can be issued at the main gate with a sponsor present after hours. The new hours of operation will be:

- ▶ Monday through Friday: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday and Sunday: Closed
- ▶ Holidays and Family Days: Closed

#### Flu shots available

The JBSA-Randolph Clinic is now offering flu vaccines for all TRICARE beneficiaries, age six months and older, at the Immunizations Clinic 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. Patients must have a valid ID to get a vaccine.

#### Walk-In Support Group for Separation & Divorce

**Date/Time:** Thursdays, 12:15-12:45 p.m.  
**Location:** M&FRC, building 693  
This support group is open to military and family members dealing with a separation or divorce. Call 210-627-1223 or 210-834-6904 for additional details or to set up a one-on-one appointment.

#### Post-Deployment: Reintegration

**Date:** Tuesdays, 8-9 a.m.  
**Location:** M&FRC, building 693  
All military members returning from a deployment are required to attend this briefing. This training reviews reintegration into home life and provides resources to deal with associated stressors. Military spouses are encouraged to attend. To register, call 210-652-5321.