

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

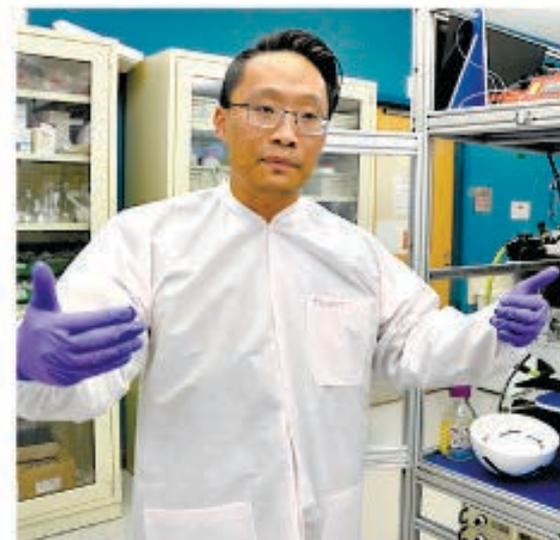
JANUARY 11, 2019



PHOTO BY JASON W. EDWARDS

Brig. Gen. George N. Appenzeller (second from right), Brooke Army Medical Center commander, and Master Sgt. Melinda Griffin (right), enlisted advisor to the deputy chief for patient support, present a gift basket to retired Army Sgt. Christopher Hunt and his wife, Hillary, after the birth of their son, Callum Charles Hunt, Jan. 2 at BAMC at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Callum, born at 1:50 a.m. on New Year's Day, was BAMC's first baby born in 2019.

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AF BOP initiative to be permanent

By Kat Bailey

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Base of Preference enhanced assignment initiative begins Jan. 9, 2019, and provides enlisted Airmen who have 48 months' time on station as of May 2019 the opportunity to apply for available Permanent Change of Station assignments in the Continental United States, or CONUS, through an immediate, straightforward and transparent process.

This is the latest evolution of the Base of Preference program run by the Air Force's Personnel Center and now includes eligible Career Airmen in ALL Air Force Specialty Codes assigned to CONUS locations.

"This final step in the initiative normalizes the process we began in April, simplifying the BOP application so Airmen and commanders can make professional development and career decisions by aligning preferences with available requirements," said Ron

Gallucci, AFPC Assignments Programs and Procedures program manager.

In April, AFPC launched an initiative designed to improve how it delivers BOP program information to Airmen, increasing the visibility of available locations. The initial phase included seven AFSCs: Logistics Plans (2GoX1), Materiel Management (2SoX1), RF Transmission Systems (3DIX3), Administration (3F5X1), Health Services Management (4AoX1), Contracting (6CoX1) and Financial Management and Comptroller (6FoX1).

In July, AFPC added Pharmacy (4PoX1), Personnel (3FoX1) and Tactical Air Control Party (1C4X1).

"Starting in January, AFPC will post the available CONUS locations where Air Force requirements exist — by skill level and Air Force Specialty Code — on the Assignment Management System, similar to the Overseas and Overseas Returnee/CONUS Mandatory Mover assignment cycles," Gallucci said.

He advises Airmen with pending BOP

applications to update their assignment preferences based on the posted available requirements. If an AFSC is not listed, Gallucci said no available requirement in that AFSC exists that quarter.

AFPC will send targeted messages directly to eligible Airmen assigned to CONUS locations, which will include cutoff dates and links to submit their applications.

"This evolution provides transparency to commanders and Airmen alike," Gallucci said. "It's important that AFPC remains agile, innovative, and responsive to Airmen's needs and Air Force requirements."

These programmatic changes do not include nor affect in-place or retraining BOP applications, nor will they impact Battlefield Airmen, Enlisted Aircrew or the Security Forces (3P) Breadth of Experience Initiative.

For more information on the BOP program, visit <http://www.afpc.af.mil/Assignment/Base-of-Preference-Program/>.

New year, new parent: Bring out the best in your parenting

By Mieke VanderBorgh

U.S. ARMY GARRISON ITALY FAMILY ADVOCACY

With the new year comes that itch to become a new and improved you. Some make resolutions to exercise more, spend less money, be more organized or procrastinate less. But how many of you have considered the new year as an opportunity to take stock of where you are as a parent and decide to make sure you're on track to raising the most wonderful little human beings you possibly can?

As parents we're all doing the best we can, but with our hectic lives it can be easy to lose our way sometimes. The good news is that there are a few things you can do right now to improve your parenting, and they're way easier than taking off those extra 10 pounds of pregnancy — or sympathy — weight that are still stubbornly lingering about.

All you need is love. And children need lots of it! Good parenting always starts with



LAURA KREIDER

Do the best you can to be a good parent. January is a perfect time to make resolutions for the new year.

love — in abundance. In times of happiness, anger, excitement, frustration, closeness and sadness. In the face of accomplishments and mistakes, wins and losses, good times and bad, all children — big, medium and small — need love.

Keep in mind that though younger children may drink it all up, as older children develop more and more of their unique personality, they may experience messages of caring differently. What can be a crystal-clear

declaration of your everlasting love for one child can be totally incomprehensible to another. If you don't know what speaks most clearly to your child, try them all and check in with them through discussion and/or observation, to see what has the biggest impact for them.

Remind your children how much you love them:

- ▶▶ Write them little notes to hide in their lunchbox or bag to find later.
- ▶▶ Make them their favorite meal.

▶▶ Give them more hugs, pats on the back, shoulder squeezes or whatever physical contact feels natural, loving and respectful.

▶▶ Read a book together, even if they've known how to read on their own for years.

▶▶ Give them a little gift. It doesn't have to cost money, but it should definitely be thoughtful and come from the heart. A simple idea could be a letter highlighting all the reasons why you're proud of them.

▶▶ Finally, you can never overuse those three little magic words. Make sure you tell them you love them at least once every day.

Busy days, endless chores, long work hours — and that's just you. Add in school and activities for the children, and you wonder how you have time fit it all in. With all the rush, it's easy to get distracted. But don't let spending quality time with your children fall by the

PARENTING continues on 15

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

Feedback Fridays is a weekly forum that aims to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Personnel Issues

Q. Why are some individuals still on an Army position description after 8-plus years? In one instance, transitioning to an Air Force position description would give a person with 30-plus years of experience a promotion, as the job is a GS-9 on the Unit Manpower Document.

A. Thank you for bringing this to my attention. For the most part, the majority of position descriptions, or PDs, have been converted to Air Force PDs. Initially, civilian personnel advised managers against altering a PD if there could be negative impact (i.e., downgrading of position). This advice was to prevent 502nd Air Base Wing employees from losing money.

As you have stated, it has been eight years since the Army to Air Force transition and our civilian personnel staff has a better understanding how they can support grades for various positions. If you are still on an Army PD, please discuss writing a new PD with your supervisor. Once written and submitted to classifications at the Air Force's Personnel Center, the classifier will work with your supervisor to make sure that the PD is within OPM regulations.

Q. My supervisor refuses to allow physical training for appropriated funds employees in accordance with Air Force Instructions, unless it is a requirement for the job to take a PT test. Is this legal?

A. As an advocate for health, wellness and physical fitness, I encourage our civilian employees to participate in physical fitness activities as mission and workload requirements permit.

"In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-815, civilian employees may be excused to engage in physical fitness activities for up to 3 hours per

week. These workout hours are normally approved in conjunction with lunch breaks."

Participation is not contingent upon the type of position occupied, but it is required that such activities be coordinated in advance with your chain of command. For more information, please contact the Civilian Personnel Employee-Management Relations section at 210-671-1643 or 210-671-0006.

Installation & Facilities

Q. The intersection of Carswell Avenue and Truemper Street is dangerous when drivers are heading north on Carswell and turning west onto Truemper toward the Valley Hi Gate at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Although there is a sign indicating a single lane left turn onto Truemper, it is located too far back from the intersection (near the troop crossing/bridge) and drivers in the right lane often turn left believing both lanes are left turn authorized. Simply moving the sign indicating the legal direction of traffic flow from its current location closer to the intersection may be enough to fix the issue. There are arrows indicating authorized direction; however, they are at the intersection and the cars in the lines waiting at the red light cover them, which makes them "invisible" to the other drivers waiting.

A. Great feedback! In response to on your question, the 802nd Security Force Squadron accomplished a survey of the intersection and is now working with 502nd Civil Engineer Group to relocate the directional sign and paint additional arrows further back from the intersection to improve visibility for drivers as they add to the queue.

Q. Is it possible to have the Selfridge West gate at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland open until 1 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays to make it easier for personnel on that side of the base to utilize it during lunch time?

A. Unfortunately, Security Forces at JBSA-Lackland do not currently have enough manpower to open the Selfridge West gate for additional time.

Earlier this year, we analyzed JBSA-Lackland's growing mission demands, coupled with Security Forces manpower and Air Force readiness requirements, to better balance mission partner needs with customer impact. One outcome of that analysis was an adjustment to the hours of operation for certain gates.

Although we recognize the change to the Selfridge West gate is not a perfect fit for everyone, it represents a balance of competing needs.

Q. Can we open the South Gate at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph for outbound traffic at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays? The community continues to grow on that side of the base and there are people who take their kids to school on base every morning, work out at the gym and other activities that don't necessarily stay on base for the rest of the day. For those people, it would be very convenient to be able to drive off base through this gate as the outbound options are very limited in the mornings.

A. Thank you for your suggestion. There is a large volume of inbound personal and commercial traffic each morning through the JBSA-Randolph South Gate. When inbound vehicles are limited to only the traditional two inbound lanes, traffic backs up to Loop 1604, creating safety issues for highway traffic and significantly delaying all traffic through the South gate.

While we recognize converting the traditional outbound lane to inbound traffic for the first few hours of the morning creates an inconvenience for some drivers, it reduces the vehicle queue entering the base, in-turn reducing the associated safety risk and inbound time delay.

Q. Why was Lion Park on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland gutted? I understand the equipment was aging, but why not replace them? Instead, a new large park was built down the hill where base housing residents cannot walk to. The elementary school and youth center used to take field trips walking the kids to Lion Park because it was the largest, best park on base with separate equipment designed by age groups. Lion Park has become a spot for BMT families to hang out two days a week, because otherwise it's completely useless to base occupants. Please find it in the budget to replace the park equipment; and please don't let a new contractor waste another 10 months to do construction that we really could complete in a matter of weeks.

A. I really appreciate your feedback. After checked with our team, I learned that the Lion Park playground equipment was deemed unsafe and not to code due to the age and condition. This led to the subsequent removal of the equipment. Following the demolition, based on limited availability of Quality of Life funding, we were only able to rebuild a small portion of the removed equipment. The playground equipment at Stillman Park was replaced first, based

on the initial need and planning decisions. Our Civil Engineers have additional plans to phase in replacement playground equipment at Lion Park, and if able to obtain funds this fiscal year, we can proceed with the installation, though there is no guarantee on available funds.

Q. Are there any plans to repair or fill in the pot holes on Winans Road and Nursery Road on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston?

A. Joint Base San Antonio has been especially plagued by pot holes this year as a result of the excessive rainfall we experienced. Our Civil Engineer pavements team tries to repair and fill pot holes as quickly as possible, and as weather allows. Winans Road and Nursery Road are two main routes CE tries to monitor closely. We also just completed recent in-house paving repairs at Walters gate, fixing the outbound lane in November and the inbound commercial lane this past weekend.

Q. Dormitory residents were supposed to receive mattress toppers in early November 2018, but dorm management wasn't aware. Will we still be getting those mattress toppers?

A. The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston housing office purchased and issued all requested mattress toppers in early fiscal year 2018. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused. If a resident is in need of a mattress topper, please work through the dorm management staff to coordinate with James Fisher at CE for assistance. Mattress toppers are in stock and available for immediate issue.

Miscellaneous

Q. The awards system in our unit is terrible. Individuals who are doing outstanding jobs are told they are "only doing their job." However, others are getting awards for "doing their job." What can we do to standardize leadership views of when to submit personnel for awards?

A. Thank you very much for your question. Supervisors are the key to the recognition process by using consistent feedback and dialogue. They must assist our people by providing realistic evaluations of performance which may equate to an award submission.

Essentially, award recommendations should recognize outstanding performance/achievements, etc., that clearly place the individual above his or her peers. Command Chief Master Sgt. Lantagne and I will continue to advise our leadership team to be proactive and forthright in our commitment to improve the recognition process.

New program offers tradesmen credentials to Soldiers

By Amanda Kim Stairrett

FORT RILEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers can soon use federal funding to earn credentials in skilled trades.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey said the program, which is testing at Fort Hood, Texas, is one of his top priorities and will soon be available at all major Army installations. The Army's top enlisted Soldier talked about noncommissioned officer education Nov. 30 during a visit to Fort Riley, Kansas.

"You can pursue any trade or any license or any certificate for any state-recognized or industry-recognized credential in the U.S.," he said.

About 18 percent of Soldiers use tuition assistance, Dailey said, and it is limited to students on a degree plan. Funding from this year's National Defense Authorization Act "frees that up" for self-directed credential, Dailey said.

This initiative was created as a way to help credential Soldiers in their Military Occupational Specialties —



SGT. JAREL CHUGG GUERRA

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division listen to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey during a question-and-answer session at Barlow Theater, Fort Riley, Kansas. Dailey explained changes coming to the noncommissioned officer education system.

training men and women in uniform received is equivalent to the skills of their civilian counterparts.

Leaders examined labor force numbers in the United States to help develop the new initiative. Dailey said 20 percent of jobs in America require a degree and the remaining jobs are skilled and unskilled labor.

"You know what you are," Dailey told a room full of noncommissioned officers at Barlow Theater, "Skilled labor. That's what you are. You're called skilled labor. And did you know skilled labor makes on average 30 percent more a year than an undergraduate from college?"

A worker with a credentialed skill has a 75 percent better chance of finding employment, Dailey went on to say. The country has an overabundance of educated people and a deficiency of skilled tradesmen

— a "dying breed in America."

The Army has offered civilian certification for truck drivers since 2015, and Dailey said Soldiers should get the opportunity to match what they came in the Army to do: work as skilled tradesman.

Officials unveiled the program at Fort Hood to work out the program's mechanics, and Dailey said he was moving as fast as he could, though he needed noncommissioned officers' help.

"I can only get the money for this if you use it," he said.

One hundred percent of Soldiers get out of the Army, Dailey joked, and they will have to do something in America.

"You gotta fall back on something," he said.

JBSA updates off-limits establishments list

By Mance D. Clark

JBSA THREAT INFORMATION INTEGRATION

Certain establishments in San Antonio and surrounding cities have been placed off-limits to armed force personnel, in accordance with a memorandum issued by Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio.

Armed forces members may face severe punishment if they are spotted at local businesses that are off-limits, but they also have a responsibility to stay away from areas with suspicious activity and report it wherever they are.

In accordance with Air Force Joint Instruction 31-213, Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Boards and Off-Installation Liaison and Operations, Aug. 28, 2006, the establishments listed below are off-limits:

- ▶ **ARS APPLIANCE**
10903 Wayward Drive
- ▶ **CRACKER BOX PALACE**
622 West Hildebrand Ave.
- ▶ **HAZEL SKY SMOKE SHOP (5 LOCATIONS)**
5244 Fredericksburg Road
8827 Texas Highway 151
7071 San Pedro Ave.
7915 W. Loop 1604 N.
6307 Wurzbach Road
- ▶ **LAZY DAZE COUNTER CULTURE (2 LOCATIONS)**
2166 Jackson Keller Road
531 San Pedro Ave.
- ▶ **LUSH ROOFTOP CLUB**



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- 4553 North Loop 1604 W.
- ▶ **MELLOW MONKEY**
2286 Bandera Road
- ▶ **MJM AUTOHAUS**
10740 Hillpoint No. 4
- ▶ **PLANET K (6 LOCATIONS)**
2138 Austin Highway
1015 E. Mulberry Ave.
5619 Evers Road
2803 Goliad Road
2501 Pat Booker Road
11202 West Ave.
- ▶ **RUBY SPA**
8204 Pat Booker Road
- ▶ **SMOKE N MORE VAPE AND HOOKAH SHOP (2 LOCATIONS)**
6422 Babcock Road
8450 Fredericksburg Road
- ▶ **SMOKE NEEDS**
5251 Timber Hill Road
- ▶ **SMOKERZ PARADIZE (7**

LOCATIONS)

- 18360 Blanco Road
8213 Broadway
6620 FM 78
8141 Pat Booker Road
2808 Thousand Oaks Drive
1733 SW Military Drive
12710 W. I-10
- ▶ **STYLE SMOKE**
9902 Fredericksburg Road
- ▶ **SUPERNOVA SMOKE & VAPE SHOP (4 LOCATIONS)**
9355 Callaghan Road
8400 Marbach Road
10708 Perrin Beitel Road
411 West Ave.
- ▶ **THE CLOUD CO. SMOKE & VAPE SHOP**
14415 Blanco Road
- ▶ **UP N SMOKE**
1630 Pat Booker Road, Suite B

Off-limits considerations are critical to the maintenance of good order and discipline, as well as the health, morale, safety and welfare of personnel assigned to or located at Joint Base San Antonio and the Greater San Antonio area.

The establishments listed were placed off-limits based on the recommendation of the JBSA Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board, after investigation by military law enforcement, coordination with civilian law enforcement, and reasonable efforts to address unacceptable practices with each establishment.

The Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board reminds members that the Texas Controlled Substance Act prohibits the selling, purchase and possession of any drug paraphernalia, and San Antonio prohibits the selling of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to anyone under the age of 21.

Commanders are expected to ensure this off-limits list is briefed to current and new personnel (e.g., newcomer orientations and commander's calls), posted in common and visible locations, and distributed to subordinate organizations.

This off-limits memorandum remains in effect until rescinded or superseded. For further guidance or assistance, call 210-652-1357.

To report suspicious or unusual activity, call 652-5700 or 652-5509 for JBSA-Randolph; 671-3030 or 671-2018 for JBSA-Lackland; and 221-2244 or 221-2222 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Uniform code of military justice changes

From Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, the Military Justice Act of 2016 instated the most reform to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Manual for Courts-Martial in decades, modernizing dated aspects of the military justice system while also providing transparency.

"The Military Justice Act represents the most significant change to the military justice system since the Military Justice Act of 1983. Over the past year, the Air Force JAG Corps has engaged in a robust training effort to educate every total force judge advocate

and paralegal on the changes contained in the Act," said Lt. Gen. Jeff Rockwell, Air Force Judge Advocate General.

"In addition to training our Corps, our military justice experts are building tools and updating publications. Installation commanders, convening authorities, chief master sergeants and first sergeants will continue to receive military justice training in formal courses and from their local installation legal offices," Rockwell added. "Our focus is to ensure a smooth and seamless transition for all Airmen."

The Act is the result of U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, former 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,

who proposed a systemic review of the UCMJ and MCM to the Secretary of Defense in 2013, advocating that changes need to be implemented to ensure military laws and regulations reflect today's environment.

Among its major reforms, the Military Justice Act will establish fixed numbers of members for courts-martial, expand judge-alone sentencing, expand the opportunity for convicted service members to appeal their convictions and require most court-martial documents be made publicly accessible under a system similar to those used in civilian criminal justice systems.

Additionally, the Act adds some new

offenses, such as retaliation against a person for reporting or planning to report a crime, fraudulent use of credit cards and debit cards, and sexual activity between military members in a position of trust and specially protected junior members. While these offenses were prohibited in the past, they are now specifically enumerated crimes under the UCMJ.

The UCMJ's is Chapter 47, Title 10, United States Code and can only be changed by legislation while the MCM is issued by the president as an Executive Order. The Act was enacted by Congress and signed by former President Barack Obama in 2016.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Navy scientists developing wound dressing

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In addressing complications that hinder the ability of wounded service members to recover from their injuries, researchers at Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio, or NAMRU-SA, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston are developing and testing a type of wound dressing that contributes to the healing process and improves patient outcomes.

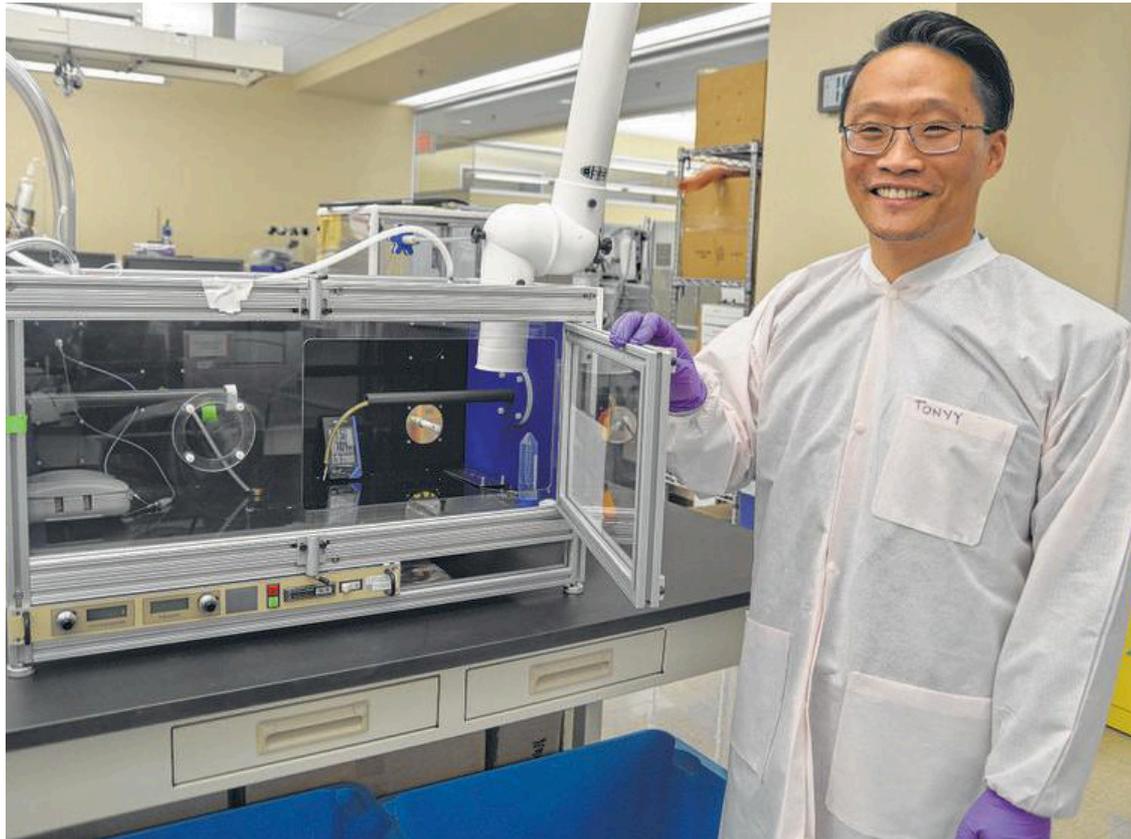
NAMRU-SA scientists and researchers have been developing a wound dressing that could speed up the healing process, with the potential of reducing scar formation, in troops wounded on the battlefield.

Dr. Tony Yuan, NAMRU-SA senior scientist and biomedical engineer, is one of the researchers involved in the project to create and develop the wound dressing. He said the wound dressing is being developed through an electrospinning process to produce a nanofibrous dressing containing natural fibers, which participate in the wound healing process.

Yuan said electrospinning is a process that uses high-voltage electricity as a force to produce a nanofibrous scaffold from biomaterials, such as polymers that can be used to deliver biomolecules and drugs for various biomedical applications, including wound healing.

A polymer is a substance that has a molecular structure consisting of a large number of similar units bonded together, such as polyethylene oxide found in plastic bags.

The developed nanofibrous wound dressing is an artificial



DAVID DEKUNDER

Dr. Tony Yuan, Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio senior scientist and biomedical engineer at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, stands next to a second generation electrospinner that was built in 2017 to expand capability of NAMRU-SA to fabricate 3-D nanofibrous scaffolds. The electrospinner uses high voltage electricity as a force to produce and create a nanofibrous scaffold that contains natural fibers, which will be used as a wound dressing, to deliver biomolecules and drugs to heal and treat the wounds of service members injured in combat.

matrix designed to mimic the natural environment to enhance tissue and wound repair. Simultaneously, it was designed to release drugs and biomolecules that are essential to the wound healing process. One of those biomolecules that is delivered through the scaffold is platelet-derived growth factor, or PDGF.

Yuan said PDGF is a natural biomolecule that is a critical component in wound healing.

“PDGF drives the entire wound healing process,” he said. “Different type of cells are attracted by this molecule when

it is released in the body. Our idea is to bring more cells to the wound site so it can heal faster.”

The nanofibrous scaffold was made by an electrospinner that was custom built by the NAMRU-SA biomedical engineering team.

The system enables researchers to create and tailor nanofibers for scaffolds to be used in various biomedical applications. The researchers are able to control the pattern, nanofiber size and composition as well as the structure of the scaffold during the electrospinning process. Using

custom and unique designs, the electrospinner is able to create three-dimensional scaffolds that are analogous to cotton candy and cotton balls.

“The nanofibers allow you to load a substantial amount of biomolecules into them to be delivered to heal the wound,” Yuan said.

Lt. Cmdr. Nicholas Hamlin, NAMRU-SA principal investigator and department head of Environmental Surveillance in the Craniofacial Health and Restorative Medicine Directorate, said the nanofibrous scaffold will help

reduce complications that come about in the healing process for service members wounded on the battlefield.

Those complications include an increased risk of infection and illness.

“The wound dressing and the delivered biomolecules promote the body’s own healing process,” Hamlin said. “It (nanofibrous scaffold) participates in the (healing) process. The faster the wound is closed, the lesser the risk of having an infection and potentially reducing complications for the patient.”

The development of this type of biomaterial-based nanofiber wound dressing could be critical in treating craniofacial wounds. Approximately 65 percent of injuries on the battlefield are related to head, face or neck trauma. Antibiotic-resistant infections to these type of wounds increase the instances of illnesses and death and direct costs of treatment by 30 to 100 percent.

The advancements made by NAMRU-SA in the wound dressings developed from nanofibrous scaffolds could improve the quality of life of many wounded service members, especially for long-term esthetic outcomes.

NAMRU-SA has conducted this research using electrospinning to create nanofibrous biomaterials in wound dressings to treat wounds since 2012. Future plans for this project will focus on tissue engineering and regenerative medicine applications, specifically to fully restore function of injured tissues. Included in the next phase of this research is the development of 3D printed scaffolds to recreate and mimic vascularized tissues.

Brooke Army Medical Center welcomes its first baby of 2019

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

He was due after the holiday, but decided to come early for the New Year's party.

A few hours after the ball dropped in Times Square in New York City, Callum Charles Hunt made his appearance at 1:50 a.m. on New Year's Day, marking Brooke Army Medical Center's first delivery of 2019.

Retired Army Sgt. Christopher Hunt and his wife, Hillary, had been planning for a delivery later in the week and were surprised to hear the moment was at hand.

"I had a 2:30 p.m. appointment on New Year's Eve and was taken to labor and delivery right away," Hillary said.

Christopher was working at the time.

"When I got the call I rushed right over," he said.



JASON W. EDWARDS

The couple was told they were now in the San Antonio "baby race," an annual event in which local hospitals track to see who has the first baby of the New Year.

University Health System

won that race this year with a baby born exactly at midnight; however, the Hunts were still surprised to hear they had BAMC's first baby of the year.

"I was in labor and heard everyone saying 'Happy New

Year,' but I was pretty busy at that time," Hillary said.

Baby races aside, the couple's focus is on their newborn, Callum, who weighed in at 5 pounds, 4 ounces.

BAMC Commander Brig.

Brig. Gen. George N. Appenzeller (second from right), Brooke Army Medical Center commander, and Master Sgt. Melinda Griffin (right), enlisted advisor to the deputy chief for patient support, present a gift basket to retired Army Sgt. Christopher Hunt and his wife, Hillary, after the birth of their son, Callum Charles Hunt, Jan. 2 at BAMC at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Callum, born at 1:50 a.m. on New Year's Day, was BAMC's first baby born in 2019.

Gen. George Appenzeller stopped by for a quick visit and helped present the family, which includes daughter Ayla, with a "first baby of the year" gift basket packed with newborn necessities, courtesy of the BAMC Auxiliary.

Last year, BAMC's first baby was born Jan. 1 at 2:27 a.m. The hospital went on to deliver 1,915 babies in 2018, an average of 160 babies per month, according to the maternal child section.

The labor and delivery unit comprises a team of specialists, including certified midwives. This mix of specialties enables expectant moms to customize their birthing plan, whether they're set on natural childbirth or open to pain relief interventions.

The now mother of two said she was impressed with BAMC's reception and the care.

"They have great nurses and great doctors," she said.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston tax center opens Jan. 28

By **Jesse C. Bolaños**
502ND FSG MILITARY TAX
ASSISTANCE CENTER

With the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military Tax Assistance Center opening Jan. 28, it is important to understand who the MTAC serves and the scope of the services provided. The MTAC is located in building 133, 2405 Dragon Valley Road.

First, the MTAC serves all active-duty military members and military retirees, and their dependents.

Unless you are otherwise authorized services as an active-duty military member, retired military or their family members, the MTAC cannot prepare returns for civilian personnel, military contractors and the general civilian population.

The center also does not provide services for Reservists and Guardsmen, unless they are on Title 10 orders for 30 days or more, or just came off extended active duty. The MTAC does not



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military Tax Assistance Center opens Jan. 28. The tax center serves active-duty military members and military retirees, and their dependents.

provide services for “gray-area” retired Reservists. If a retired Reservist or Guard is receiving retirement pay, they are eligible for services.

If you are not sure if you are authorized to have your taxes completed at the MTAC, a good rule of thumb is if you can obtain medical treatment from Brooke Army Medical Center, then you are eligible to utilize MTAC services. If you are not sure, contact the MTAC at 210-295-1040 to clarify your authorization.

If you are authorized to have

your taxes completed at the MTAC, then the next question is, what type of services does it provide?

The tax center can prepare most personal income tax returns, and the staff is certified by the IRS to complete advance and military tax returns. The MTAC can complete tax returns covering wages, interest, dividend, capital gains with basis, residential rental real estate, IRA distributions, pension, unemployment and Social Security incomes, and also complete Schedule C-EZ

business income returns for Child Development Center day care providers.

The MTAC can also complete tax returns that require Schedule A itemized deductions and education, residential energy, dependent care, retirement savings, child tax, additional child tax and earned income credits.

The staff at the tax center is specifically trained to prepare tax returns for military members with combat zone excluded pay and other military unique tax situations.

There are certain services that are outside the scope of the MTAC. For example, the tax center does not provide tax services for day traders, capital gains without basis, people with three or more rental properties, sale of rental property, returns requiring K-1s beyond interest and royalties, farm income, foreign tax credits greater than \$600 and other returns deemed outside the scope by the MTAC director.

For more information, call

210-295-1040. The staff of the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military Tax Assistance Center looks forward to providing those eligible with outstanding personal income tax preparation services in the weeks and months ahead.

One more thing, and it's important. We operate under the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, or VITA, program. As such, we have to operate under rules for that program. Those rules state that taxpayers must bring in Social Security cards (the actual card, not just the number) for themselves and everyone that will be listed on the tax return. That includes spouses, children and anyone else you might claim as a dependent. Additionally, we can only prepare taxes for a married couple filing jointly if both are present or one has a valid power of attorney. Please remember this, as we do not want to have to turn anyone away.

Appointments can be made beginning Jan. 21 at 210-295-1040 for the Jan. 28 opening.

JBSA WTB commemorates 77th Pearl Harbor anniversary

By **Capt. Xyla V. Corpus**
UTSA NORTHWEST VISTA COLLEGE
RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

During the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the United States lost 2,335 American fighting men and women, including 2,008 Sailors, 218 Soldiers, 109 Marines and 68 civilians, resulting in a total of 2,403 American lives lost.

To commemorate the event which drove the nation into World War II, the recovering service members and supporting staff at the Joint Base San Antonio Warrior Transition Battalion conducted a unified physical training event at the Fitness Center at

the Medical Education and Training Campus on Dec. 7.

Non-commissioned officers from the U.S. Marine Corps led the stretching and warm-up exercises.

“Our NCOs are pretty good at knowing everyone in their platoon and understand that conditioning is through scalable physical activity, in accordance with the individual service member’s profile limitations,” said Capt. Joaquin Matias Garcia, JBSA Warrior Transition Battalion operations officer.

Each exercise was followed by a guided discussion about a specific core value intended to enhance the overall sense of meaning and purpose within

the ranks of the formation, in order to set conditions for positive organizational climates within and among the services.

“All military services rarely conduct physical training together because we have different cultures; we have different ways of executing our exercises,” said Gunnery Sgt. Mark P. Mangio, U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Battalion-East Staff NCOIC.

“The fact that all we share the same hardships and loss of our comrades, we honor our fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen sacrifices through our joint physical fitness training – conducting different exercises representing the shared military core values and lives lost during Pearl Harbor makes this event very significant and meaningful,” Mangio added.



CAPT. XYLA V. CORPUS

Recovering service members and supporting staff at the Joint Base San Antonio Warrior Transition Battalion conduct a unified physical training event to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor at the Medical Education and Training Campus Fitness Center on Dec. 7.

LACKLAND

MTI Schoolhouse: training the trainer

By Staff Sgt. Krystal Wright

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The distinct wide-brimmed blue campaign hat is easily recognizable and worn only by a specific group of Airmen: U.S. Air Force military training instructors.

Known for professionalism, these specially selected and trained MTIs are tasked with mentoring, teaching and molding civilians arriving at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland for basic military training, or BMT.

To give MTIs skills to be successful in their role, the 37th Training Wing first trains any aspiring instructor with a combination of on-the-job training and having them attend a course at the military training instructor schoolhouse located here.

“Being an MTI is about motivating, developing, mentoring and supervising 50 people at once, but how do you do that?” said Master Sgt. Kyle Eckert, 737th Training Support Squadron Military Training Instructor Schoolhouse, or MTIS, commandant. “That is what a lot of the course is based on: how to be approachable, but firm; how to use your experience as an NCO and translating it to 50 people.”

To attend the course and become an instructor, Airmen first submit a developmental special duty application package. If selected, the instructor candidate will shadow an experienced MTI for about two weeks to experience day-to-day life of an instructor before attending the formal course, which is 35 academic days. Afterwards, they are assigned to one of the training squadrons for on-the-job training for an additional 90 days.

“The course teaches the foundation of how to be a proper MTI,” Eckert said.

“It is probably one of the most difficult things I have done because you have to get yourself in the mindset that you are going to be the image of the Air Force,” said Staff Sgt. Heath Goins, 737th TRSS MTIS student. “You are going to be the face that these trainees remember for the rest of their lives. You



SY PINTHONG

Air Force basic military training trainees listen closely to Military Training Instructor Master Sgt. Michael Hernandez, Reserve Citizen Airman with the 433rd Training Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

want to make sure you are on your Ps and Qs all the time.

“You have to put the time in and study your materials and become familiar with it because you are going to be doing it every week for 8½ weeks per flight,” Goins continued. “The knowledge you learn here, you are going to apply out there.”

The course covers a range of topics to include heat stress, nutrition, sexual assault prevention and response, and using a command voice. The students learn how to teach the proper way set up a dorm room from making beds to rolling socks and shirts to ensuring proper cleanliness. They also practice how to conduct dorm evaluations, uniform inspections, as well as drill and ceremony.

It also focuses on how to effectively teach and mentor by going over concepts like learning styles, laws of learning and communication process along with questioning and counseling techniques. The 737th TRSS has also incorporated military training consult services, which is composed of behavior specialists who brief students on topics like coping with

stress and behavioral drift.

“It is very structured on how to deliver instruction,” Eckert said. “The schoolhouse spends a lot of time focusing on how people learn and how to best deliver information. It is important because there are 50 people (in a basic training flight) who need to learn an unbelievable amount of information in eight weeks.

“The course teaches how to effectively train; how to reach out to people who have different learning styles and get the same result regardless of whom I am speaking with or training,” Goins added.

The seven learning styles the instructors must be familiar with are visual, aural or auditory-musical, verbal, physical/kinesthetic, logical, social and solitary.

“It is not inherently natural to teach to all the different learning styles and it is no secret that public speaking is a challenge,” Eckert said. “As an MTI, if I can present information in a way that auditory learner can understand it as well as visual and kinesthetic learners, then I am confident that all 50 people in my flight are going to pick up on what I

“Being an MTI is about motivating, developing, mentoring and supervising 50 people at once, but how do you do that? That is what a lot of the course is based on: how to be approachable, but firm; how to use your experience as an NCO and translating it to 50 people.”

Master Sgt. Kyle Eckert, 737th Training Support Squadron Military Training Instructor Schoolhouse commandant

am teaching them.”

Despite how challenging the course is, both the experienced and aspiring instructors expressed pride for their role in the mission.

“There is nothing else like being an MTI,” Eckert said, adding that he loves being a MTI so much he applied to extend his time as one. “Becoming an MTI is something you really have to dedicate yourself to because the initial training is very challenging both physically and mentally, however, it’s rewarding – we have a direct impact on the Air Force and a life-long impact on every single trainee.”

This was the case for Goins.

“My MTI earned my respect and gave me a good insight on how the military is supposed to be,” Goins recalled, adding that he was the first in his family to join the military. “I haven’t forgotten him, I haven’t forgotten the things he taught.”

In fact, it was his MTI’s influence that inspired Goins to apply to become one himself.

The MTI position is one of 10 developmental special duty positions. For more information, visit <https://www.afpc.af.mil/Assignment/Developmental-Special-Duty/>.

433rd AW Reserve Airmen continue holiday tradition

By Tech. Sgt. Carlos J. Treviño

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 433rd Airlift Wing joined forces with 1,000 other volunteers from the Greater San Antonio area in serving more than 10,000 meals during the afternoon shift at H-E-B's 26th Annual Feast of Sharing holiday dinner Dec. 23 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.

The group of 71 Reserve Citizen Airmen from the Alamo Wing, along with family members and friends, served food and drinks, cleaned tables, sorted recyclables and provided fellowship to the assembled guests, who came from throughout the San Antonio area to share the dinner.

According to the company website, the event serves an average of 3,000 pounds of sliced turkey, 2,500 pounds of dressing, 750 apple pies, 380 gallons of mashed potatoes and 140 gallons of turkey gravy.

This is the fifth year in a row members with the 433rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron have served at the annual event.

"It's always a good time," Chief Master Sgt. Ernesto Flores with the 433rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron said. "We are out here because we like to give back to the community, the community always gives back to us."

The H-E-B's Annual Feast of Sharing holiday dinner began in Laredo, Texas, in 1989 to fight hunger. Today, it takes place in 24 cities throughout Texas and

Mexico, just before Christmas.

The Alamo Wing volunteers had a variety of people from all walks of life serving. For some, like identical twins Airmen 1st Class Maranda Smith, 433rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron health services technician, and Mariah Smith, 433rd Force Support Squadron communications technician, this was their first time helping at an event like the feast.

"It's very humbling to see everyone out here enjoying the holiday, sitting around laughing, smiling, this is what you want to see this time of year," Maranda said as a cover band played José Feliciano's holiday classic "Feliz Navidad" in the background.

The twins agreed that giving up their personal time on a warm, sunny winter's

day in San Antonio was indeed worth the effort.

"I like to make memories, I like to give back to the community. I can't do that if I am sleeping in and throwing the day away," Mariah said.

Echoing those thoughts of giving back to Military City, U.S.A. was Lt. Col. Marc Mulkey, 733rd Training Squadron commander.

"I thought (serving at this event) was a good deal for not only for myself to help out in the community, but I also brought my wife and children to help," he said. "This is a chance for them to give back and to see how fortunate they are, and how there are some people that don't have the same things we do. It is good for them to give back during the holiday season. We will definitely be back."

433rd AES takes part in C-5M medevac tests

By Master Sgt. Joey Swafford

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

During the cold, gloomy first week of December, total force Airmen teamed up at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, to test the capability of the Air Force's largest aircraft to perform aeromedical evacuation during a proof of concept event.

They were joined in the proof of concept by other active-duty Airmen and civilians from various commands and units, including the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The goal was to establish the C-5M Super Galaxy as part of the universal qualification training program for AE forces. If successfully certified, the C-5M will have the capability to move three times the current capacity in one mission compared to other AE platforms.

The proof of concept event was made possible by recent upgrades to the C-5, making the cargo compartment more suitable for AE operations.

"The engine upgrade allowed the aircraft to produce a lot more power and to use the jet more efficiently," said Master Sgt. Christopher Boots, 60th Operations Group Standardization and Evaluation C-5M flight engineer evaluator. "Another factor was the environmental system received upgrades. We now have better control over the systems, and we're able to better control the environment (temperature and cabin pressure) that the AE folks would have downstairs in the cargo compartment."

The C-5M upgrades allowed the proof of concept to work, but the Airmen's innovation is what made it happen.

"The Air Force as a whole is more interested in using the assets that we have more efficiently," said Maj. Kevin Simonds, 22nd Airlift Squadron C-5M pilot. "I think this is an example of that. It's a priority within the force and in the MAJCOM (Air Mobility Command) as well to try to maximize the way we use the assets that we have."

With the Department of Defense's shift to great power



JOEY SWAFFORD

U.S. Air Force aeromedical evacuation team members participate in a training scenario during a C-5M Super Galaxy AE proof of concept flight from Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, on Dec. 5.

competition and maintaining readiness, the C-5M's greater capability to the AE enterprise could be a game changer.

"It was great to observe our Airmen working hard to make innovative strides using our existing platforms to get after a critical mission set," said Brig. Gen. Darren James, director of AMC's Operations, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration. "Last week's test provided valuable learning as we move forward in evaluating ways to increase our readiness and support of the 2018 National Defense Strategy."

The C-5M AE mission not only benefits readiness for any

future conflicts, it will be a benefit during any future natural disasters.

"Using the C-5 for AE is going to be a pivotal point moving forward because it can be another platform for AE to move troops and also to aid in humanitarian missions and do mass evacuations," said Maj. Catherine Paterson, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse. "Being able to help either troops or humanitarian relief makes my job more exciting and warms my heart."

The C-5M and the active-duty Airmen crew traveled from Travis AFB.

They were joined in the proof of concept by other active-duty Airmen and civilians from AMC, Scott AFB and the 43rd AES out of Pope Army Air Field, North Carolina. Reserve AE teams from the 439th AES out of Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts, and the 433rd AES out of Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland also joined them.

Lastly, the team included the 142nd AES with the Delaware Air National Guard, making it a total force effort.

This effort allowed for training standardization and boosted readiness for operational missions.

149TH OPERATIONS GROUP GETS NEW COMMANDER



STAFF SGT. JORDYN FETTER

Col. Matthew Jensen (right), an F-16 pilot assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing, assumes command of the 149th Operations Group on Dec. 13, 2018, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Col. Raul Rosario (left), 149th Fighter Wing commander, presided over the ceremony.

PARENTING

From page 2

wayside. With the new year, take a good look at your schedule and make sure you're finding the space to spend high quality time together as a family.

Busy families will appreciate that it's the quality, not necessarily the quantity, that counts. Quality means tuning in to your children and giving them your full attention to meet them at their level.

Even just 15 minutes a day of undistracted time that you dedicate entirely to your children can make a big difference. Here are some other tips:

- ▶▶ Find out what they love doing — whether it's playing with Legos, listening to music or roller-skating — and do it with them. Let them take the lead and teach you what they know.
- ▶▶ On the flip side, look for something new to do with them that can expand their horizons and expose them to new ideas or experiences. Take a day trip, watch a documentary, try a new restaurant, or play a new sport.
- ▶▶ Cook together. Plan the meals, go shopping, and enjoy your hard work together. Or, if that's too much, make sure to at least eat as many family meals together as possible. Start with three per week, and add more as you can.
- ▶▶ Create screen-free zones in the house

and/or times of day when everyone — you too, parents! — puts their screens away and concentrates on each other.

▶▶ Yes, you've seen this one before, but it truly is golden: read together!

Give yourself a break. Parenting is tough — really tough. It's draining, frustrating and often completely thankless. Plus, we're parents, not superheroes. So give yourself a break when things don't go exactly as you'd like. The new year is a great time to give yourself some credit for the good job you're already doing. Most parents' goal is to raise self-sufficient, happy, well-adjusted people. If your overall message, more often than not, is one of love, mixed with reasonable and firm boundaries and expectations, you're doing a great job toward reaching that goal!

Some things to remember:

- ▶▶ No one is perfect, especially parents.
- ▶▶ Forgive yourself for the mistakes you make.
- ▶▶ When you do make mistakes, turn them into teachable moments by owning up to your mistake and talking to your children about what you learned from it. This experience is actually much more valuable for your children than being perfect all the time!
- ▶▶ Do something to reward yourself for the fine job you're doing!

In 2019, be the best parent you can be!

RANDOLPH

HEALTHY EQUALS HAPPY

Motivation spurs commitment to physical fitness

By Tech. Sgt. Ave I. Young

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With the beginning of the new year, many people use this opportunity as a clear slate to make positive changes. Tech. Sgt. Maurice Monroe, Air Force Manpower Analysis Agency Training Management Branch manager at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, has always been mission-ready, but found motivation from an unflattering photo of himself to become more physically fit.

“With the new year just starting, a lot of people make goals where they want to look a specific way, but your goals have to be realistic and attainable,” Monroe said. “You shouldn’t worry about what everyone else is doing, you need to choose something that works for you. I might go to the gym six times a week, but maybe that’s not feasible for you, so maybe just three times a week is OK for you, or maybe it’s 45 minutes working out, playing basketball, running, cycling or playing tennis. Just being active for those 45 minutes will benefit you more than just sitting on the couch.”

Exercise is work, but it doesn’t have to be boring, Monroe said.

“When you exercise you should do something that you actually enjoy,” he said. “That’s the fun part. It’s an outlet, it’s a release. If you enjoy running, find your playlist that makes you happy. This is your opportunity to get away.”

Monroe described what he does when he exercises.

“When I get up in the



TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG

Tech. Sgt. Maurice Monroe, Air Force Manpower Analysis Agency Training Management Branch manager, runs laps during his lunch Jan. 3 at the Rambler Fitness Center track at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

morning I do 100 pushups, 100 situps and then I have a simple breakfast, usually a banana and some juice,” he said. “At lunch, I’ll try to get a good 45- to 50-minute workout at the gym, so I’ll either do cardio or work a muscle group using weights. After work, I’ll go to another gym on the way home and finish up with another hour session.”

Monroe also works out when he’s out with his children.

“There are some days I can’t go to the gym so I take my kids to the park,” Monroe said.

“We’ll run or hike at the park

together. They have monkey bars, so I can do pullups there or do a pushup challenge or run and play tag. You’re getting a workout at the same time playing with your family.”

The Rambler Fitness Center offers competitive events and a variety of classes.

“The gym does 5Ks all the time, so you can sign up for those if improving your run is a goal,” he said. “They also offer other classes like spin.”

Music often plays a part in Monroe’s workouts.

“I zone out personally,” he

“When you exercise you should do something that you actually enjoy. That’s the fun part. It’s an outlet, it’s a release. If you enjoy running, find your playlist that makes you happy. This is your opportunity to get away.”

Tech. Sgt. Maurice Monroe, Air Force Manpower Analysis Agency Training Management Branch manager

said. “I just turn my music up and it just depends on how I’m feeling that day. Sometimes I’ll actually sing out loud because I’m in my own world in my own environment having a great time.”

Your health affects more than just you, Monroe has discovered.

“My diet has changed a lot, realizing that my parents are older and knowing high blood pressure and diabetes runs in my family,” he said. “I’m a single parent now and with that I want to be around as long as I can to take care of my kids. With me being healthy, they’re going to be healthy too. We’re all living a healthy lifestyle together now.”

Accountability is a key factor in keeping with goals, Monroe said.

“One of the things I picked up from working out are group exercise workouts,” he said. “It’s sort of like in basic training. This may help to motivate the person next to you to keep going, because if they see that you’re still going, that may push them to keep going.”

“When I conduct PT for the unit, I make sure we’re in a circle to see each other so we’re accountable.”

Accountability is also key when one doesn’t feel like

working out.

“There’s some days I don’t want to go to the gym and I’ll look on my Instagram and see my friends at the gym and I’ll think, ‘Aw man, he’s doing it, he’s getting it today,’” Monroe said. “So now I have to go — it’s just having an accountability partner. You have to have somebody that has your back.”

Resting is just as important as lifting weights, Monroe said.

“I learned that rest days help you to recover and build muscle and repair so you can continue to work out,” he said. “I try to get in bed by 9:30 p.m., 10 at the latest so I can get eight hours of rest. If you’re not getting adequate sleep, your body can’t recover and then you won’t be as focused in the morning because you’ll be tired.”

Monroe has achieved some key milestones during his fitness journey. He has lost 20 pounds, reduced his body fat to 8.9 percent and improved his run time by a minute and a half.

He has also improved his overall state.

“I’m happy. Exercise gets rids of a lot of stressors and puts me in a happy state. I come into work energized, motivated. I have less fatigue and am excited to come in after a good workout.”

Missing Man formation honors Freedom Flyer organizer

By Randy Martin

12TH FLYING TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Three T-38C Talons flew over the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio at 1:45 p.m. Dec. 21, 2018. It was a missing man formation and a rare but fitting tribute to the instructor pilot who played a key role welcoming home freed prisoners of war.

In 1973, Air Force retired Lt. Col. Charles E. Huff Sr. was assigned to the 560th Flying Training Squadron at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. He was a resident of San Antonio and he died Dec. 5, 2018. He received full military honors during his interment ceremony.

During his career, Huff flew more than 600 combat hours in the F-4 Phantom, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross twice. After the Vietnam War, he was credited as the designer of a patch that more than 200 former POWs continue to qualify for each year.

It all started in February 1973, after the first of nearly 600 POWs were released as part of a cease-fire agreement with North Vietnam. Among them were hundreds of Air Force aircrew members.

“Then we got more news ... news, which stunned us. The POWs were coming to Randolph,” Huff said according to “Home With Honor,” a 2003 album that chronicles the 560th’s requalification program for former Air Force pilots who had been POWs.



COURTESY PHOTO

A photo from 2015 shows retired Air Force Lt. Col. Charles Huff during a Freedom Flyer Reunion at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Huff died Dec. 5, 2018. The 560th Flying Training Squadron flew a missing man formation with three T-38C Talons over his interment ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

In the album, Huff described meeting with his wing and squadron commander along with other key staff when they heard that the squadron had the mission.

“The POWs were coming to Randolph to qualify in our T-38 jets. We would serve as instructors for them. This was almost too much to comprehend,” Huff said.

They mapped out how to begin training and the “Freedom Flight” program was born. Huff participated in three flights with fellow pilots.

The sky-blue “Three’s In” patch, he designed features the words “God Bless America” and “Operation Homecoming.” The script surrounds a U.S. flag and four aircraft in formation beside the words, “Three’s In.” The formation suggests the return of a missing aircraft to where it belongs.

Today, more than 200 former Air Force pilots and navigators have returned to the skies thanks to the 560th FTS and the Freedom Flyer program. The unit has helped host a reunion for 45 years and it has recently included a symposium to educate young airmen as well as ceremonies to honor the memories of all POWs and service members missing in action.

“We are really honored to get to do the flyover for Col. Huff,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Jackson, an instructor pilot with the 560th FTS assigned to the 39th Flying Training Squadron. “The Freedom Flyers really, really appreciate all the work he did with that program over the years.”

An American flag was carried aboard one of the planes along with a lineup card featuring Huff’s picture.

“These will go to his family as a memento from our squadron for his service that we are all so proud of,” Jackson said.