

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

DECEMBER 7, 2018

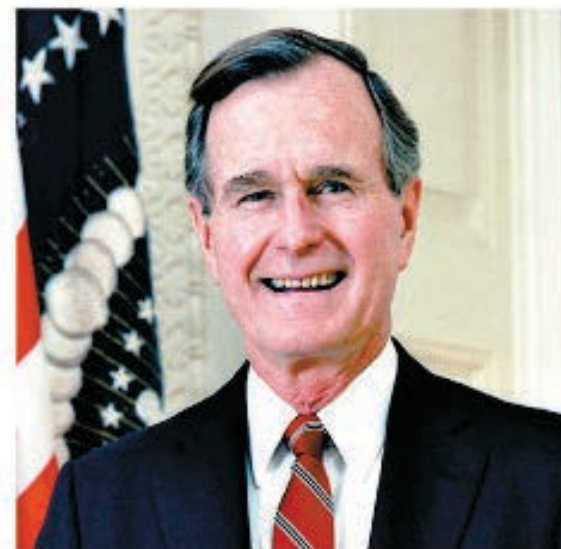


PHOTO BY AIRMAN SHELBY FRUITT

Service members and their families gather in front of a holiday-themed building 100, commonly referred to as the "Taj Mahal," at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Nov. 29 to switch on the holiday tree. Members of the Joint Base San Antonio Force Support Squadrons, Civil Engineer Squadrons, Security Forces, the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center and many others made the beginning of the holiday season a special and colorful one for service members and their families with their support during the tree-lighting ceremonies at each location recently.

Joint Base San Antonio ushers in holiday season

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COMMENTARY

Military traditions instill pride

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

I've seen more than my share of military traditions over the past 20 years. Countless times, I've sung service songs, watched the Honor Guard place the colors, and stood at attention during Reveille and Retreat.

While I've always admired the dignity and honor of these traditions, they became somewhat routine over the years. I didn't truly appreciate their purpose until my father passed away.

My father served in the Army during Vietnam and as a flight surgeon in the Air Force Reserve for 20 years. He reluctantly retired over a decade ago after receiving a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, and lost his battle with the disease last month.

He had one wish: to be buried at a cemetery among others who had served.

The day of his burial at a small veteran's cemetery up north was unseasonably cold. We were all shivering as we stood outside the sparse wooden chapel waiting for the service to begin. Nearby, six service members in dress uniform stood at attention, seemingly unaffected by the frigid

wind whipping at the towering trees and countless rows of American flags adorning gravesites in honor of Veterans Day.

As our family lined the pews, the Honor Guard marched in and carefully folded the U.S. flag into a perfect triangle, only the blue field visible at completion. They solemnly presented the flag to my mother in the front row, who was struggling to hold back her tears.

"On behalf of the President of the United States, the United States Air Force and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service."

The air filled with the heart-wrenching sound of Taps followed by a three-rifle volley, a tradition that comes from battle ceasefires after both sides clear the dead. As the shots rang out, I never felt so proud of my father or so grateful for our military's traditions, particularly the honors paid to the fallen. They are honors given to all veterans, to include homeless veterans, at the gravesite.

They are traditions that most of us take for granted or even question why we carry them on. While they take time and effort,

they must not fade away. They instill pride, honor, dignity, gratitude and a connection with a storied past.

That ceremony gave me a renewed appreciation for the military traditions we uphold each day at Brooke Army Medical Center, where I work – the precision of our flag postings by our tremendous Honor Guard, the changes of command and the service birthday celebrations.

Perhaps most importantly, no matter the branch, war or length of service, we salute every veteran and first responder who dies in the hospital with a flag ceremony by an Honor Guard.

After the U.S. flag is draped over the loved one, the Honor Guard leads a procession down the hall with the family at their side. As the group proceeds, nearby staff and visitors stand at attention or place their hand over their heart out of respect for the veteran's service.

I've seen the tears of family members as touched and honored by this final salute to their loved one as I was at my father's funeral.

Last night as I was leaving the gym, talking on my phone, I heard the sound of Retreat. I got off the phone, stood outside at attention, and listened until the final notes faded into the sky.

Getting in the habit of excellence

By Lt. Col. Dear Beloved

637TH INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT SQUADRON

Each year, more than 35,000 civilians cross the blue line and embrace the Air Force Core Values of "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do."

Today, let us consider excellence. Excellence easily translates into visible action. A lack of excellence cannot be concealed over time. No position, duty title or special project will make you excellent.

If I had to reduce it to a single thought for new military members, the habit of excellence means doing the routine, routinely well.

Do you show up on time? Do you meet deadlines? Do you produce quality work? Do you push through all the way to the finish line? It might seem easy, but not everyone does it. Sometimes peer pressure discourages one from excellence, from reliable performance.

At Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, the "Gateway to the Air Force," ask a trainee or new Airman how he/she is doing, and a common response will be, "Excellent,

sir/ma'am!"

Validation of this response comes easily if an Airman's uniform looks sharp, if the correct reporting statement is used, and if customs and courtesies are prompt and accurate.

Yet not all new Airmen meet those routine expectations, nor do some higher-ranking members.

If you attended basic training, were you ever asked by your peers, "Why are you being so strict? Why are you being such a tool?" According to Urban Dictionary, strict means "overly concerned with standards and minute detail." That sounds like excellence.

At times, excellence may feel like a burden or it may seem to be uncool. Yet, herein exists the enduring challenge of excellence. Eighty percent of those around you may not notice or appreciate your habit of excellence, but the remaining 20 percent will appreciate it whether you realize that or not. Then that higher position, duty title or special project will be a natural byproduct of an enduring habit.

Reverse peer pressure, where peers start

to follow you, can be another byproduct of excellence.

Excellence is a shared responsibility for Airmen – Excellence in All WE Do. We operate in a collective where the excellence of each Airman plugs into a joint warfighting enterprise. The Air Force's signature icon of pilots in aircraft in the sky manifests both individual and team excellence, and our (we) excellence is every bit as important as "I" – excellence.

The collective is as strong as the weakest link or the individual. Those who, at first, did not appreciate one's habit of excellence, may be encouraged to excel at the next opportunity.

When a wingman or fellow Airman falters in the pursuit of excellence, be the first to step up and say, "We depend on you, Airman. Your service and contribution can make this happen for everyone. The team depends on your best effort."

In closing, make excellence a habit now. Don't save it for that big opportunity that remains just beyond reach. Don't save it up for when you think someone is looking. Excellence precedes opportunity and success.

Make excellence a habit and the rest takes care of itself.

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman
COMMANDER, 502D AIR BASE WING
AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

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. Are Voluntary Early Retirement Authority/Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments going to be offered for Air Force civilians? Other organizations such as the Army are offering them.

A. Great question and great timing. Joint Base San Antonio will be participating in the Fiscal Year 2019 VERA/VSIP being offered within the Air Force with an effective date of March 31, 2019. This will not be offered to all employees - it will be targeted by occupational series and grade levels in which we have individuals who are currently considered surplus.

Surveys will be sent out during the week of Dec. 10, with a response date no later than Dec. 21. Employees who are tentatively approved for VERA/VSIP will be notified NLT Jan. 11, 2019. On another note, the separation incentive for VSIP has increased from \$25,000 to \$40,000 or your entitled severance pay, whichever is less. For more information, call 210-652-2223, 210-808-7580 or 210-671-1630.

Installation & Facilities

Q. With the amount of money we are paying for the JBSA-Canyon Lake cabins, is there a way to improve the facilities by providing maid service to clean the cabins thoroughly? They appear to be getting more rundown each visit. Presently tenants are required to clean the cabins, but that does not appear to be happening.

A. Thank you for utilizing the JBSA-Canyon Lake Recreational Park. It is a great place to rest, play and refresh! The rustic cabins are unlike lodging with full amenities and not having the full

maid service is what permits the cabin rental fees to remain reasonable for our customers. After each checkout, our staff restocks the dish soap, dish towels, etc., and if a cabin is not cleaned well by the prior renter, the staff will do additional cleaning.

If you check into your cabin and are not satisfied with prior cleaning, please bring it to the front desk's attention, and they will conduct a cleaning. In addition, the cabins are thoroughly cleaned, top to bottom, annually in an effort to maintain cleanliness. The great news is that many of the cabins on the Hancock side are having minor renovations this winter to improve appearance and are in the five-year plan to replace.

Q. My question is on condition of the highly traveled road to/from the Growden Gate at JBSA-Lackland. It seems that after experiencing heavy rains, this road develops serious potholes which can be damaging to our vehicles. Is there any way the Civil Engineers can patch up the holes, or is this a city responsibility?

A. The road outside Growden Gate is owned and maintained by the City of San Antonio. As this is not federally owned property, the Air Force is prohibited from expending operating budget to maintain. Our Civil Engineers are engaging with our City of San Antonio partners to advocate for the needed repairs.

Q. My concern is about the static aircraft displayed around JBSA. I really enjoy the displays, but my concern, plain and simple, is that they are in serious need of painting. It is disappointing to see their finish down to bare metal, with many losing color and some lettering. Is there funding that can be requested to bring all of these beautiful heritage aircraft back up to display quality?

A. We also love our static displays and have identified them the need to rehabilitate and repaint them. Our Civil Engineers plan to invest in some of the aircraft this fiscal year pending funds availability. Funds traditionally set aside for static display aircraft have been reduced the past few years resulting in the costs being deferred to compete for limited facility and infrastructure sustainment dollars. Any remaining static displays not addressed in 2019 will be prioritized and repaired as additional funds become available.

Q. When will the roof over the pool at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center be



repaired? The pool has been closed for almost three years now while there is new construction going on adjacent to the commissary. I heard that this is going to be a new Post Exchange building. There are many patrons who would use the pool, who do not like swimming in the outdoor pool for various reasons, and we are very frustrated that nothing is happening to make the indoor pool accessible once again.

A. Thank you very much for your question. I work out at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and I recently asked our team when the repairs would be completed. Our Civil Engineer team shared that a roof and structural repair project was awarded for the Jimmy Brought in Fiscal Year 2018. Construction is planned to begin this spring and conclude in late summer 2019. This project has been identified as a high mission priority based on community support needs and will be closely monitored to prevent further delays. In addition, the ongoing construction adjacent to the commissary is a new AAFES facility.

Miscellaneous

Q. What is the base policy concerning offensive language displayed on vehicles operated on base?

A. Thank you for your question. The display of offensive language is contrary to our military values and the professionalism the public expects from us. To that end, the JBSA Traffic Code (which can be found on the Air Force Publications website) includes a prohibition on offensive language. The applicable section reads, "No motor vehicle operated upon the public highways or on JBSA, shall bear upon any part of such vehicle or its attachments any plate, stickers, card, tag,

lettering, markings or pictures of an obscene, vulgar, racist or sexist nature." Anyone who observes a traffic code violation is encouraged to report the violation to their local Security Forces Squadron.

Q. Is there a better way to educate drivers using the Taj Mahal traffic circle? People continue not to follow proper driving lane procedures.

A. We are always looking for ways to increase safety on our roads. The JBSA-Randolph traffic circle creates driving challenges not typically experienced on military bases and certainly not found anywhere else on JBSA. Because of this, our 502d ABW Safety team briefs the topic at each JBSA-Randolph Newcomers Orientation.

Additionally, they provide unit safety reps with a visual diagram showing safe navigation of the circle, for distribution to new unit members. Our 502d ABW Public Affairs team has included reminder information in previous issues of the base newspaper.

But, you bring up a great point. We can absolutely do more to educate and help drivers safely navigate our roadways. Our Randolph Executive Agent team will work with Public Affairs and Safety to distribute refresher information through command channels and our community information forum, include in the base newspaper, and post on social media.

I'm also going to have our JBSA Traffic Engineer take a look at the traffic circle to consider any improvements or changes to signage or markings that may help. But we shouldn't forget, everyone who drives on Randolph plays a critical role in this. Following the speed limit, adhering to stop and yield signs, and staying aware of other drivers will help everyone be safer.

Year-end survey: Military caregivers can help fix the gaps

By **Mary Therese Griffin**
U.S. ARMY WARRIOR CARE AND
TRANSITION

As this year's Warrior Care Month comes to a close, the Military Caregivers Heart of Recovery initiative has developed a survey to help identify the service, resource, and training needs of those family and friends who serve as the caregiver for wounded, ill and injured military personnel.

Caregiver participation in this survey is critical because this initiative will assist them, their family, their friends, and ultimately the service member being cared for. The information learned from this survey will help guide the initiative to meet caregiver needs.

In 2015, a group of military spouses and military care experts researched and released a paper about the

needs of caregivers that are not being met, said Marianne Campano, U.S. Army Public Health Command health system specialist.

"They concluded that while there are many resources for caregivers, there is no synchronized effort above the local level to address the non-medical aspects of recovery. As a result, caregivers are left struggling to understand who is responsible for what, and what their role is in the recovery process," Campano said.

Caregivers in the areas of Fort Bragg, N.C.; Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash.; Joint Base San Antonio; and Fort Sill, Okla., provide a nice cross section and are being asked to complete the anonymous survey.

"Every caregiver situation is unique. The largest group of post 9/11 military caregivers are spouses (33 percent) followed



COURTESY PHOTO

Military caregivers are being asked to participate in a survey.

by parents (25 percent). [Of that post 9/11 caregiver group,] 37 percent are 30 or younger and 49 percent are between the ages of 31 and 55," Campano explained. "This is the reason that we went through the most

comprehensive review process with the Office of Management and Budget, so that we could survey not only Department of Defense beneficiaries, but non-dependents so that we could capture the parents,

friends and general public that are supporting our wounded warriors."

As critical as care for wounded, ill and injured military members and their families will always be, the survey being conducted is also important, Campano said.

"Caregiver responses are critical in ensuring that our leadership has the best information possible to resolve significant gaps in services and community issues," she said.

If you are a caregiver, or know a caregiver, to a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine or Guardsman, active or Reserve in the areas of Fort Bragg, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Joint Base San Antonio or Fort Sill, complete the survey at <http://militarycaregiver.health.mil/survey> to help identify and address the needs of caregivers so they can be better equipped to care for their service members.

Policy changes for Post-9/11 GI Bill transfers

By Staff Sgt.
Mercedes Taylor

19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Additional changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Benefits policy were announced Nov. 14.

The Department of Defense postponed their previous effective date of July 12, 2018, to July 12, 2019. Since the policy change was effective immediately, service members who were previously eligible found themselves ineligible to transfer their benefits. To ensure issues were addressed fairly, the effective date was pushed back a year.

The previous policy stated members separating under force-shaping before completing the required four years would keep their eligibility to transfer their benefits. This was expanded to include officers who were involuntarily separated due to being passed over for promotions and enlisted personnel separating under

high-year tenure policies. The only exception is Airmen separating at high-year tenure following reduction in rank through administrative demotion, non-judicial punishment or court martial.

“Being able to transfer benefits was used as a retention tool,” said Michael Jones, 19th Force Support Squadron education services specialist. “It’s important for Airmen to know what they want to do with their career as soon as they can. If Airmen aren’t looking to stay in for 20 years and they want to transfer their benefits, they should apply at their six-year mark.”

When the policy was first announced in June 2018, it stated the requirement of having at least 10 years of active-duty or selected Reserve service would be suspended. Service members would incur four additional years of service once they applied to transfer their education benefits to eligible dependents.

In addition to the 10-year



COURTESY GRAPHIC

suspension and the four-year service increment, the following changes are effective July 12, 2019:

- ▶ Service members must have four years of retainability from the year they apply to transfer benefits and cannot be prevented from serving their four years due to mandatory retirement date, high-year tenure, retention control point and are not being medically qualified.

- ▶ Service members must have served six years minimum at the time of application, but no

more than 16 years. Total years served will be determined by the date they applied.

- ▶ Service members must not be on limited duty, involved in a medical evaluation board, physical evaluation board or disability evaluation system at the time of application.

- ▶ Service members who have applied to transfer education benefits but were previously denied due to being on limited duty or involved in a medical evaluation board, physical evaluation board, or disability evaluation system process can

apply again when they are fit for duty and commit to an additional four years.

- ▶ Service members with more than 16 years of service who are found fit for duty can apply to transfer education benefits again as long as the member applies within 90 days of being found fit for duty.

All policy changes will be annotated in the next rewrite of Air Force Instruction 36-2649, Voluntary Education Program. For information on transferring benefits, visit <https://mypers.af.mil>.

Deadline approaching to opt in to Blended Retirement System

By Jim Garamone

DOD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

Service members have just one month left to make a decision about opting in to the blended retirement system, Jeri Busch, the Defense Department’s director of military compensation policy, said in Washington, D.C., Nov. 28.

Congress authorized the new system in 2016 and it went into effect on Jan. 1. While all soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who began service after that date are enrolled in the new system, Congress gave serving service members until Dec. 31 to decide whether to opt in.

The decision to opt in to the new system is a personal one for service members. DOD has no goal or target level of participation. One major difference is that in the new system, service members are vested after two years’ service, so if they get out of the military, their retirement benefits go with them.

“Over 80 percent of our service members will not serve a full 20-year military career,” Busch said. “However, through BRS and by maximizing their Thrift Savings Plan contributions, today’s service members can receive a government retirement benefit

whether they serve four, 14 or 20 years — a big change to what has historically been a part of military retirement.”

Another difference between the blended retirement system and the legacy system is that BRS adjusts the years-of-service multiplier from 2.5 percent to 2.0 percent for calculating monthly retired pay.

The “blend” is the combination of automatic government contributions of 1 percent of basic pay and government matching contributions of up to an additional 4 percent of basic pay to a service member’s TSP account.

“It is a highly personal choice to opt in to BRS, and there are many factors that can effect a member’s decision,” Busch said. “The department’s goal is to ensure that each eligible service member has the resources and tools to make a well-informed and educated choice best for them and their families.”

More than 300,000 active, reserve and National Guard service members have opted in to BRS, Busch said. For those who have yet to make a choice, “time is fleeting,” she said. “There are a number of resources our service members can access free, to ensure they are receiving creditable and factual information on their retirement choice.”

Each installation has a personal financial manager that service members can contact. There is also a handy site at <https://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/>. The site includes a calculator that service members can use to plug in their information and compare the two systems. Military OneSource is also available 24 hours a day to service members and their families as they face this crucial decision.

“Most junior service members may think they can’t afford to contribute to retirement, but I say in today’s environment the average worker — including our service members — can’t afford not to save for retirement,” Busch said.

For some service members opting into BRS is clearly the right choice for them, she said. For others, staying with the legacy system is the best choice. “We have strived to ensure all eligible service members are educated on the various elements of BRS, informed on the process for how to opt in, and aware of training and counselling resources and tools available,” she said.

DOD has “stress-tested” the site that allows service members to sign up for the new system, Busch said, and even if tens of thousands wait until Dec. 31 to opt in, there is still the capacity to accommodate them.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

METC histotechnician instructors make history

By Jorge Franco and Lisa Braun

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CAMPUS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Three histotechnician program instructors at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston have made history by becoming the only histotechnicians in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy to have attained the Qualification in Immunohistochemistry, or QIHC, certification by the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

The QIHC examination has an average passing rate of only 33 percent since its inception in 1994. A histotechnician is an individual who is trained in the preparation and staining of tissue slides for microscopic examination and disease diagnosis by the pathologist. Histotechnicians may be employed in a variety of areas, such as operating rooms, clinics, doctors' offices, research, veterinary pathology, marine biology, forensic pathology and the pharmaceutical industry.



LISA BRAUN

Tech. Sgt. Onyee L. Carter, a histotechnician program instructor at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, assists a student with a slide sample during laboratory training.

Master Sgt. Rose A. Andan, Tech. Sgt. Onyee L. Carter, and Petty Officer 1st Class Neisha V. Wright achieved this noteworthy milestone by challenging

and passing the arduous QIHC examination, setting the bar even higher for future generations of instructors and students.

There are 29,740 board-certified histotechnicians, or HT, and histotechnologists, or HTL, in the United States, but only 1,590 (5.3 percent) are QIHC qualified.

Immunohistochemistry is the process whereby antibodies are used to detect proteins (antigens) in cells within a tissue section and detected by the color reaction of a special "colorant."

Immunohistochemistry has numerous applications in medicine, especially in the origin of tumors, cancer diagnosis, prognosis and treatment.

The QIHC qualification proves that the HT possesses specific skills in a highly technical area within their discipline. To receive this additional credential, candidates must meet the eligibility requirements and take the appropriate examination.

Candidates must be board certified HTs and have a minimum of six months of documented, full-time acceptable experience in immunohistochemistry (clinical, veterinary industry or research).

JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON TREE LIGHTING BRINGS SIGNS OF THE SEASON



Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman (right), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, gathers with children Nov. 30 to throw the switch lighting up the holiday tree near the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston flagpole.

MARCELO JONIAUX

FSH teacher wins EXCEL Award for dedication to children

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Kim Ware, a second-grade teacher at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School, loves to teach because she gets to make an impact on children each day she is in the classroom.

“I just feel like that you’re doing something to make a difference in the world and that experience they have in my classroom will carry with them long past the time that they’re with me, and I really love being part of that,” Ware said.

Ware’s passion and dedication for the children she teaches has earned her the KENS 5 Credit Human EXCEL Award for the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District, an award that recognizes local and San Antonio area public school teachers who use innovative practices in the classroom and

are making a difference in the lives of students in the classroom and beyond.

Each year the EXCEL Award program recognizes one teacher from each of the 19 area school districts, who submit nominations for the award. The teachers who are selected for the award each receive a \$1,000 check from Credit Human, a local credit union, and a news feature about them on television station KENS, channel 5.

Ware received the award from KENS morning news anchor Sarah Forgany during an assembly of schoolchildren, teachers and administrators in the Fort Sam Houston Elementary School cafeteria Nov. 13.

Before presenting the award to Ware, Forgany gave the reasons why the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District nominated the elementary school teacher for the award.



DAVID DEKUNDER

Kim Ware is a second-grade teacher at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School.

“She sets an outstanding example of teacher leadership at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School,” Forgany said. “She shows up every day with a big smile on her face and she is never afraid to try something new.”

After receiving the award, a surprised Ware addressed the schoolchildren, teachers and parents in the audience.

“I’m truly honored to receive

this award,” she said. “Fort Sam Houston Elementary is the best school to teach in. I’m constantly borrowing and learning and growing from the teachers that I teach with and I truly feel blessed to be teaching here.

“The parents, the kids, you guys bring such joy to my life,” Ware added. “I love you so much. Thank you.”

Ware has been an elementary school teacher for 17 years, including seven at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School.

Ware said as a teacher she tries to find ways to make learning fun for the children she teaches.

“I always try to make it authentic,” Ware said. “I try to think what would engage them and make them interested in learning. I also develop a relationship with the kids early on in the year to make sure that I’m meeting their emotional needs. I feel like if their emotional needs are being met,

then their academic needs will then follow through.”

Dr. Joseph Cerna, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School principal, said Ware is a teacher who puts students first.

“Most of our teachers gravitate to her because she’s student centered,” Cerna said. “She does a lot of work with our children and makes sure every student has an opportunity to do well, and it’s not just once in a while, that’s all the time with her.”

In addition, Cerna said Ware is a resilient and patient person who is always helping her colleagues to become better teachers.

“She will face any challenge ... will help anybody with a challenge that they have,” the school principal said. “That’s one thing we noticed about her right away. She’s always willing to help and that leadership is what makes her the most deserving of the award.”

NRD SA hosts DEP, Influencer Meeting

By Burrell Parmer

NAVY RECRUITING COMMAND SAN ANTONIO

Division 6 of Navy Recruiting District San Antonio held their All-Female Delayed Entry Program, or DEP, and Key Influencer Meeting at the Rosenberg Sky Room on the campus of the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

More than 80 female future Sailors, parents and supporters attended the event where they heard from a panel of Sailors ranging from a yeoman second class to a commander regarding life as a woman in America's Navy.

"I love this aspect of recruiting," said Chief Petty Officer Isabel Guerrero, the Division 6 leading chief petty officer. "Providing mentorship, leadership and preparing these young women to be Sailors is very important."

According to Lt. Amy Zabel of Island Pond, Vt., Division 6 officer, this type of event not only provides future Sailors the opportunity to ask questions but also their parents.

"These ladies are our future leaders of tomorrow," Zabel said. "They have joined our family and that includes their families as well."

Future Sailor Audrey Moreno of Pleasanton attended the DEP meeting along with her mother, Nancy.



Chief Petty Officer Isabel Guerrero, Division 6 leading chief petty officer, is joined by Division 6 Officer Lt. Amy Zabel, both assigned to Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, to address more than 80 future Sailors, parents and supporters during an All-Female Delayed Entry Program and Key Influencer Meeting held at the Rosenberg Sky Room on the campus of the University of the Incarnate Word.

"It was empowering to hear from the panel of Sailors," said Moreno, who

graduated from Pleasanton High School, and will serve as a

master-at-arms. "It made me feel like I was not alone in this process and made me feel less nervous, too. The event provided information that let me know what to expect in boot camp and throughout my career with the Navy."

According to her mother, attending meetings such as these provided her with peace of mind.

"It's a proud moment for me that my daughter is joining the Navy," Nancy said. "I'm sad that she will be leaving, but I support her decision to serve the nation. It was inspiring to hear from the panel of Sailors who answered my questions directly and honestly."

Senior Chief Petty Officer Julie Pierre-Louis assigned to Navy Information Operations Command, or NIOC, Texas served as a panelist.

"I think it is absolutely important for these young ladies and their parents to hear our perspectives as women in the Navy," said Pierre-Louis, who is originally from Haiti. "We were able to provide tangible ideas on what they can accomplish with a career with the Navy."

The Navy's recruiting force totals over 6,100 personnel in more than 1,000 recruiting stations around the globe. Their combined goal is to attract the highest quality candidates to assure the ongoing success of America's Navy.

NAMRU-SA scientists collaborate with Cornell University researcher

By Flisa Stevenson

NAMRU-SA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Scientists from Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio, or NAMRU-SA, Biomaterials and Epidemiology Department, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, are collaborating with a Cornell University researcher.

Dr. Sylvain Cardin, chief science director, and Dr. Luis Martinez, principal investigator, NAMRU-SA, have been discussing future collaborations involving the gut microbiome and the immune system's response to wound trauma with Dr. Alireza Abbaspourrad, a nanoparticle technology researcher in his lab at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Department of Food

Science in Ithaca, N.Y.

"A portion of our immune system is actually regulated by our gut microbiome and Dr. Abbaspourrad's novel research captures the gut physiology on a chip," Cardin said.

The gut microbiome data will inform NAMRU-SA's biomedical scientists, already engaged in extensively characterizing the physiology and molecular responses to trauma. Understanding the relationship between the gut microbiome, the immune system, and impaired healing may lead to the development of better treatment strategies for shock and trauma in wounded warfighters.

NAMRU-SA conducts gap-driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research to improve survival, operational readiness and safety of warfighters.



Dr. Sylvain Cardin, center, chief science director, and Dr. Luis Martinez, right, principal investigator, NAMRU-SA, have been discussing future collaborations involving the gut microbiome and the immune system's response to wound trauma with Dr. Alireza Abbaspourrad, left, a nanoparticle technology researcher in his lab at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Department of Food Science in Ithaca, N.Y.

MICC members supporting presidential funeral

By Daniel P. Elkins

MICC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the nation mourns the passing of the 41st president of the United States, a three-person team from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Sam Houston is providing contract support for funeral arrangements as part of the Task Force Texas.

Within one hour of notification, the team began mobilizing to depart for Ellington Air Field in Houston Dec. 1 for approximately the next two weeks where it is deployed as part of the Reserve's 75th Training Command in support of arrangements for former President George H.W. Bush. The World War II veteran passed away at the age of 94 Nov. 30.

“It is an honor to be an integral part of this historic event. Thousands of people from around the U.S. and world will meet to pay their respects and be a witness to a state funeral that is steeped in tradition.”

Lulu Cachola, Mission and Installation Contracting Command

“While we’re all deeply saddened with the passing of President Bush, MICC-Fort Sam Houston is proud and honored to be called on to support his services in this way,” said Ray Harris, the director of contracting for MICC-Fort Sam Houston.

Lulu Cachola, a contracting officer who leads the deployed contracting support team, explained that Task Force Texas consists of federal organizations responsible for the Houston and

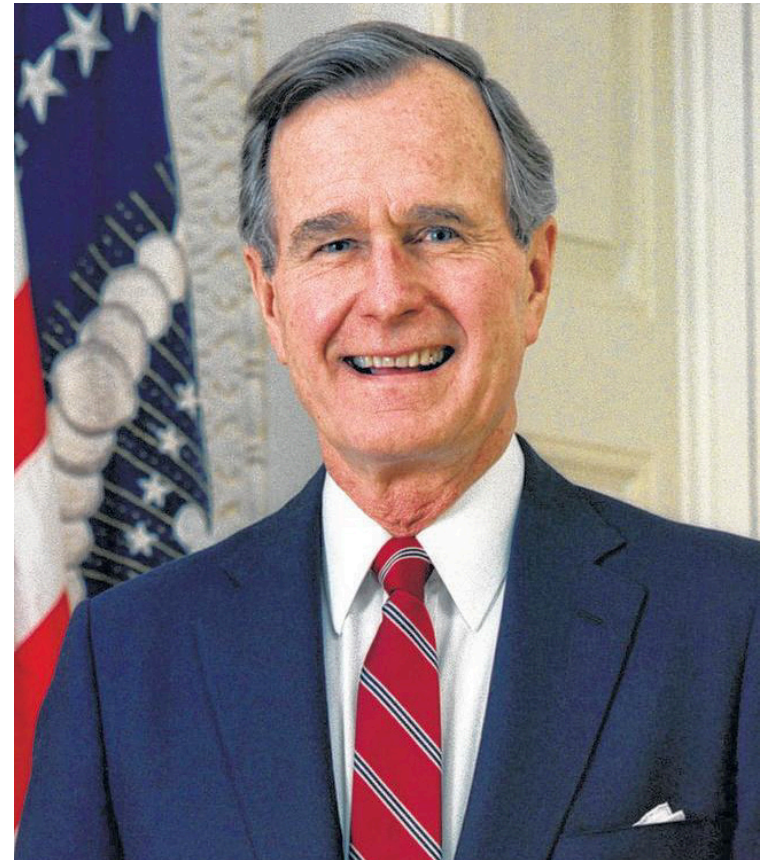
nearby College Station areas of operation. The 75th TC directly supports the Joint Task Force Headquarters-National Capital Region in Washington. It is responsible for providing the command and control for administrative and logistical support of state funeral plans.

“It is an honor to be an integral part of this historic event. Thousands of people from around the U.S. and world will meet to pay their respects and be a witness to a state funeral that is steeped in tradition,” Cachola said. “In this particular case, President George H.W. Bush had strong ties to the Houston community and Texas in general, and still called Texas ‘home.’ ”

Cachola’s team includes contract specialists Barbara Richardson and Benjamin Guerrero, who together represent a combined 50-plus years of contracting experience dedicated toward this mission.

“The MICC was responsible for soliciting and awarding all contracts related to the support of this mission as well as providing on-site contract support,” Cachola explained. “We contracted different services for more than 1,000 DOD support personnel and representatives from all five branches of the armed forces.”

Contracts awarded by the team will support various elements associated with a state funeral to include honor guards, bands, choirs, public affairs, ceremonial troops, escorts, drivers and other logistical, administrative and operational support staff in downtown Houston, Ellington



COURTESY PHOTO

Former President George H.W. Bush

and other locations.


Given the short timeline to execute a national event, initial preparation for contracts began in early 2013, with the first contract signed in August 2013. Those contracts include several hotels in the Houston area, catering support, rental vehicles, buses, tents and flatbed trucks among other requirements. Contracted under a blanket purchase agreement intended for filling anticipated supplies or services, all awards were revalidated quarterly leading up to the team’s deployment this week.

Now in Houston to support state ceremonies, Cachola and her team are also reaching back to MICC-Fort Sam Houston for additional support by contracting officer Andrea Vigliotti and contract specialist Israel Gutierrez. Together, they are administering the contracts already in place but still anticipate last-minute


requirements for hard-to-find lodging rooms in a city of more than 80,000 hotel rooms.

“The unknowns are many, and we are prepared to execute at a moment’s notice,” Cachola said, adding that support for the state funeral differs from the team’s day-to-day workload since contracts were awarded with no set date or number of days. “This is challenging when issuing contracts because contractors have to be willing to work with some unknown facts. Additionally, some contractors cannot guarantee performance for the same reason.”

MICC-Fort Sam Houston is made up of about 90 military and civilian members who are responsible for contracting good and services in support of Soldiers. The contracting office is responsible for administering more approximately 2,000 contracts that include supplies, services, construction, energy and environmental.



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LACKLAND

Texas, Washington ANG members participate in international exercise

By Tech Sgt. Mindy Bloem

149TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brazil kicked off its multinational air combat exercise CRUZEX VII Nov. 18 and invited participation from U.S. and six other partner nations.

Guardsmen from the Texas and Washington Air National Guard joined the two-weeklong exercise and lent support by providing fighter and tanker aircraft as well as personnel from multiple Air Force job specialties.

The exercise fosters cooperation among nation partners while exchanging operational experiences in an effort to promote peace and security when responding to potential events around the world.

“Being able to understand how they operate with their search and rescue capabilities helps us during crisis,” said Tech. Sgt. Kyle Bryant, a SERE specialist with 141st Air Refueling Wing, Wash., Air National Guard. “It’s about building relationships, and it’s a good opportunity to work through a lot of the language barriers and terminology. That way we can be on the same page if and when we have to utilize that capability.”

CRUZEX incorporates simulated air-focused scenarios that prepare partner militaries for air operations aimed at employing missions with complementary objectives involving sweeps, escorts, strikes and air refuels.

“For me it is awesome flying somewhere that I’ve never been, with countries that I’ve never flown with, against airplanes I’ve never flown with, and just seeing everyone come together to participate in a large-force exercise,” said Maj. Weston Killian, an F-16 pilot assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. “It was cool to come together and listen to the way they do things and plan things,

and they are very interested to learn from us also, see how we do things and get better as we work together as a team.”

Ground crews like the Joint Tactical Air Controllers also get to hone their skills as they establish tactics, techniques and procedures with other JTACs from countries like France, Portugal and Brazil.

“The goal is to work together, to train on how to properly and more efficiently call in close air support in a combat situation, said Tech. Sgt. Matt Renteria, a JTAC with the 147th Attack Wing in Houston. “Riding on the planes, calling in the air strikes together, it makes the learning that much easier because you’ve already built a rapport. There is trust and you know each other, and that just works really well on a training level.”

Since promoting strong defense relationships is crucial to addressing challenges to democratic principles, the participants see this exercise as foundational to protecting basic human freedoms across the globe.

“It shows the National Guard is engaged, not just at the United States level but at an international affairs level,” said Lt. Col. Keegan, deputy director of J3 civil support operations, New York National Guard. “It’s important for both the Brazilians and the U.S., training along with coalition partners so that when there is an actual international emergency, we are not meeting for the first time during the event.”

New York’s National Guard members and service members from Brazil officially became partners in June under the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program, a program that links a state’s National Guard with another country’s military and conducts military-to-military, military-to-civilian



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Thomas Werner, a 149th Fighter Wing F-16 pilot, Air National Guard, flies in an international aircraft formation Nov. 20 during #CRUZEX2018.

and civilian-to-civilian exchanges.

Keegan believes relationship building is the key to promoting quicker disaster response and used the earthquake in Haiti several years ago as just one example. According to Keegan, two primary leaders for that response, a U.S. general and a Brazilian general, had formerly attended a military school together and had become fast friends. The byproduct of that previously established friendship was a more seamless response effort during the crisis.

“They were able to work together in lockstep because of that friendship,” Keegan said. “These types of events are priceless for familiarization and understanding of each other’s capabilities.”

One of the boasting points of CRUZEX is that the air exchange among partner nations increases interoperability, but it also supports military readiness according to Lt. Col. Sarah Johnson, the commander in charge of the 149th Maintenance Group during CRUZEX.

“It exercises our pack-up-and-get-out-of-town mentality and then operate in unfamiliar

territory,” Johnson said. “It plans for our supply readiness, what parts do we typically need and helps us understand what do we do next time, so it builds greater expectations, greater lessons learned for our next operational objective.”

Participants also acknowledge the valuable role these collaborative exercises play in relationship building. Military members are able to form new friendships and continue ones long established.

One example of this is the camaraderie shared between the Chilean Air Force pilots and the 149th FW pilots. The Chileans are the 149th’s state partners under the Guard’s SPP, and both organizations have taken turns hosting each other for events at their respective bases.

“I’ve seen some of them on their visits to San Antonio, and they recognize a lot of us from the exercises we’ve done with them,” Killian said. “We’ve built some friendships with the Chilean F-16 pilots over the years, so it’s almost like flying with guys in the squadron, and their English is very good. It’s been a really good experience.”

433rd Airlift Wing hosts high school AFJROTC

By Minnie Jones

433RD AIRLIFT WING

Members of the Porter High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps from Porter, Texas, ended a two-day tour of Joint Base San Antonio by spending their last day of the tour hosted by the 433rd Airlift Wing.

During the first leg of the trip, the group attended a basic military training graduation on the parade grounds of JBSA-Lackland, to watch the Airmen "Pass in Review" and reaffirm their "Oath of Enlistment."

"They talked about the precision, attention to details and teamwork of each flight. One of my freshman cadets told me after the graduation that she wanted to be out on that field in four years," said Maj. Wes Sagendorph, senior aerospace science instructor at Porter High School.

The second stop of the tour

was a visit to the U.S. Air Force Airman Heritage Museum. There they were greeted by Command Curator Rudy Purificato, who walked the group back in time with a pictorial presentation of basic military training and technical training from the early days of U.S. Air Force history, up to the present.

The next stop was a visit to the 433rd AW, where the group received a tour of a C-5M Super Galaxy, the Air Force's largest airlifter aircraft.

"First and foremost, we appreciated the professionalism and the attention that the 433rd Airlift Wing provided during this tour. The aircrew that gave the tour was great and very knowledgeable, they were able to answer all the questions asked," Sagendorph said. "I would rate this tour as the best we have done in the three years we have been coming to JBSA-Lackland."



MINNIE JONES

Flight Engineer Tech. Sgt. Ryan Lohrer (center) with the 68th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, explains the different controls located in the cockpit of the new upgraded C-5M Super Galaxy to Porter High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets Nov. 16 at JBSA-Lackland.

59th MDW radiology system saves time and money

By Staff Sgt. Kevin Iinuma

59TH MEDICAL WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With cardiothoracic disease imaging at the forefront in computer-aided detection, artificial intelligence and machine learning research, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Giovanni Lorenz, 59th Medical Wing, provides knowledge and expertise toward solving major coronary diseases.

Currently, there are only two fellowship-trained cardiothoracic radiologists in the Air Force: Lorenz, who serves at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, and another at Travis Air Force Base's David Grant USAF Medical Center in Fairfield, Calif.

"Cardiac magnetic resonance

imaging can usually solve the anatomic and functional questions in one exam," Lorenz said. "This makes it a very cost-effective tool for our colleagues and a time saver for patients."

Cardiac MRI, which takes approximately 20-45 minutes, is a non-invasive assessment of the function and structure of the heart.

"Twenty-five patients have undergone exams since cardiac MRI became available here at Wilford Hall in October," Lorenz said. "We've received an increase number of patients, so we've had to increase appointment availability from once a week to twice a week."

Cardiac MRI staff continues to explore innovative ways of establishing a test that will give the most anatomic and functional information in one exam. Lorenz believes his

department has this ability and is excited to prove it.

"Right now [the 59th MDW is] on the rise," Lorenz said. "Our team is creating world class capabilities here at WHASC and are committed to being a high reliability organization. I'm blessed to be working with some of the smartest MRI technologists and cardiologists in my career."

Lorenz joined the Air Force with a goal to become a physician and treat service members.

"I'm ecstatic to be a part of the 59th MDW mission and provide cardiac MRI for patients," Lorenz said. "I've previously called San Antonio home when I worked at Brooks Air Force Base, and more recently as a diagnostic radiology resident at Brooke Army Medical Center."



STAFF SGT. KEVIN IINUMA

Marvin Perez, 59th Medical Wing cardiac magnetic resonance imaging technologist, observes a patient's vitals during a scan at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

JBSA-LACKLAND ILLUMINATES THE SEASON WITH TREE LIGHTING

Kicking off the holiday season at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, service members and their families enjoy the newly lit tree with the U.S. Air Force symbol at its apex against a San Antonio sunset Nov. 28.



ISHMAEL ORTEGA

Airmen test limits at Ranger Assessment Course

By Vicki Stein

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION
SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Imagine signing up to be starved, sleep deprived and trying to fight for survival during a 19-day combat leadership course in the mosquito-, rattlesnake- and wild boar-infested hilly terrain north of San Antonio with 28 other Airmen.

This was the scenario for 29 Airmen who took part in the Ranger Assessment Course at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis, Oct. 29 - Nov. 16. Upon successful completion of RAC, the Airmen would have a chance to enroll in the coveted, yet even more grueling, Army Ranger Course.

One of the 12 instructors, Tech. Sgt. Gavin Saiz from the 435th Security Forces Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, said RAC is a combat leadership course emphasizing doctrine that uses a host of tactical and technical procedures to instruct the students, who have to learn and apply a firehose of information in a short period.

Qualified Airmen from any career field can attend the course, which is held twice a year. Efforts are underway to see if the course can be expanded to four times a year in order to conduct them in U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa and Pacific Air Forces. If the applicant is physically and mentally qualified, they can enroll in the course, but not everyone makes it to the finish line. The course has a 66-percent fail rate.

Since 1955 when the Army began accepting Airmen into its school, nearly 300 Airmen have earned the Ranger tab. The Army Ranger Course is one of the Army's toughest leadership courses, with a concentration on small-unit tactics and combat leadership. The course seeks to develop proficiency in leading squad and platoon dismounted operations in an around-the-clock, all-climates and terrain atmosphere. RAC is based on the first two weeks of the Army Ranger Course.

Capt. Nicholas Cunningham, 741st Missile Security Forces Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Mont., was one of five students selected for the Ranger Training Assessment Course, or RTAC, which is a dynamic two-week spin up to acclimate Army and sometimes joint



VICKI STEIN

Airmen from different career fields challenge themselves in the Ranger Assessment course, which is a combat leadership course that can lead to attending Army Ranger School.

or partner service members to the rigors of Ranger School. If he successfully completes that course, he may be referred to Army Ranger School.

"The course taught us tons of lessons about working as a team, pushing past mental limits and mostly leadership," he said. "Where we as Ranger students at first were acting as individuals, we had to shift toward operating together as a single unit. The more we acted by ourselves, the worse we did as a team. To meet the objective, whether it was packing our clothes within a certain amount of time or assaulting an enemy force, required every Ranger to do their part of the

task and then some."

After the first week of classroom and hands-on training, Sloat said they select students for various leadership positions for the missions and then challenge them to plan, prepare and conduct missions, whether it is a recon or ambush mission. They plan backwards based on a higher headquarters Operation Order.

On the last day of missions, 10 tired, hungry and cold Airmen made it to the finish line, having tested their mettle to the extremes. The 29 Airmen who began the course came from six major commands and represented security forces, tactical air control party, airfield management and Battlefield

Airmen specialties.

The first female to finish the course, 2nd Lt. Chelsey Hibsich from Yokota Air Base, Japan, has also been selected for RTAC. She said she saw more individuals fail as a follower because they didn't want to go out of their way to help their partners succeed.

"Those who were good followers tended to have others follow them with more enthusiasm because they had each other's backs," she said. "You learn how you react when everything is against you. Some individuals pressed on and others froze."

The Air Force Security Forces Center, one of the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center's subordinate units, hosted the course. The instructors, all having been through the course and graduated Army Ranger School, put the students through the mind-numbing days and nights. The instructors provide this stress-oriented battle school for Airmen to develop better leadership and command tools under the mental, emotional and physical strain and improve their resiliency and coping mechanisms.

Below are the names of those who successfully met the challenge in the 19-01 Ranger Assessment Course and will be recommended to attend the Army Ranger Course:

- ▶▶ Staff Sgt. Paul Cdebaca/TACP/3 Air Support Operations Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska
- ▶▶ Staff Sgt. Mark Bunkley/TACP/350 SWTS - Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland
- ▶▶ Senior Airman Troy Hicks/TACP/7 Air Support Operations Squadron - Fort Bliss, Texas
- ▶▶ Senior Airman Aaron Lee/SF/9 Security Forces Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, Calif.
- ▶▶ Senior Airman Zachary Scott/SF/802 Security Forces Squadron, JBSA-Lackland

A second group of Airmen recommended for RTAC along with Cunningham and Hibsich:

- ▶▶ Senior Airman Sage Featherstone/TACP/7 Air Support Operations Squadron, Fort Bliss, Texas
- ▶▶ Senior Airman Austin Flores/SF/75 Security Forces Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah
- ▶▶ Staff Sgt. Brayden Morrow/SF/341 Security Support Squadron, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.

RANDOLPH

Program creates pathway to success

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An act signed into law seven years ago by President Barack Obama continues to provide a pathway to success in the civilian sector for retiring and separating military members.

The Veterans Opportunity to Work to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, also known as the VOW Act, assisted veterans by extending Montgomery GI Bill and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits at a time when veteran unemployment rates remained high following the Great Recession.

The act also authorized the retooling of the decades-old Transition Assistance Program through a collaborative effort of government partners, including the departments of Defense, Education, Labor and Veterans Affairs; the Office of Personnel Management; and the Small Business Administration.

“All these entities came together to create proposals to maximize the career readiness of service members transitioning to the civilian sector,” said Criselda Guerrero-Smith, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center community readiness consultant. “What they were finding is that many service members were having trouble with this transition, so they created a more robust program to meet their needs.”

TAP is available to service members at military and family readiness centers throughout the Department of Defense, which offer classes and one-on-one counseling in conjunction with the program. For Army members, the program is called Soldier for Life – TAP.

The process starts with a mandatory pre-separation briefing, Guerrero-Smith said. At JBSA, these briefings are conducted three or four times a month at the M&FRCs at the main locations: JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph. Appointments may be made up to 24 months before retirement and 12 months before separation.

“Our job is to tell them about all the

different services that are available when they transition out of the military,” she said.

Services presented during pre-separation counseling cover a broad spectrum, from voting assistance, health care, legal assistance and financial management to education, employment opportunities and veterans’ benefits.

Pre-separation counseling also affords retiring and separating service members an opportunity to begin developing a transitioning plan with three possible tracks, Guerrero-Smith said.

“We want them to assess where they are and create a transitioning plan,” she said. “They have three choices: employment, going to school or opening their own business. They have to turn in a nine-page self-assessment and make a decision on one of those choices when

they move on to TAP’s final phase.”

TAP’s second phase is Transition GPS – Goals, Plans, Success – a mandatory five-day workshop designed to build service members’ skills so they are career-ready when they retire or separate. Facilitated by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs as well as M&FR community readiness consultants, the weeklong workshop covers a variety of topics.

Supplemental optional programs also benefit service members as they look beyond their military careers.

The Career Skills Program links transitioning service members with civilian training opportunities such as apprenticeships, internships, job shadowing, on-the-job training and employment skills training.

“This program opens an opportunity

for service members, but they have to be proactive,” Guerrero-Smith said. “If they wait until the last minute, they can’t take advantage of it. It’s an opportunity they’ve lost.”

Boots to Business, a two-day workshop offered on a regular basis at JBSA M&FRCs, shows participants how to start a business from the ground up, giving them a head start on their entrepreneurial pursuits. It is conducted in partnership with the Small Business Administration.

Another two-day workshop, Career Exploration and Planning, is also optional but requires completion of Transition GPS. This workshop allows service members to identify skills, increase their awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve their career goals.

The TAP process all comes together at the “capstone” session, a one-on-one session with a transitioning counselor, Guerrero-Smith said.

“This is where they present their transitioning plan,” she said. “We try to make sure they’ve dotted their i’s and crossed their t’s.”

The departing service member’s commander completes the TAP process by signing off on DD Form 2648, which certifies the member has completed TAP and met career readiness standards.

TAP is beneficial because it offers a holistic approach to life after military service, Guerrero-Smith said.

“Service members often focus on VA benefits and miss the mark on things such as preparing a resume, getting ready for an interview and doing the things they have to do to gain employment,” she said. “It’s important that they embrace a particular pathway.”

It’s also important that they start the TAP process as early as possible.

“There’s a lot to do, but we’re here to help them every step of the way,” Guerrero-Smith said.

For more information on the Transition Assistance Program, call the M&FRC at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-1213; JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-3722; or JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-5321.



Citizen volunteers serve America in CAP

By Tech. Sgt. Ave I. Young

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Established Dec. 1, 1941, the Civil Air Patrol was formed during World War II to mobilize the nation's civilian aviation resources for national defense service. As America's Air Force auxiliary, CAP is comprised of 60,000 members to carry out three primary missions: Emergency Services, Aerospace Education and Cadet programs.

"Members of the CAP perform emergency services for state and local agencies, as well as the federal government. My squadron recently located a personal locator beacon that was inadvertently set off in San Antonio," said Roger Corbin, who manages the Air Force Occupational Analysis Program at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. "We dispatched an air asset to electronically locate the beacon, directed a ground team to the general location and with the help of law enforcement, the ground team was able to silence the device."

"I am very deeply honored to continue serving our great Air Force and nation as an Air Force Civil Servant in Air Education and Training Command and as a Mission Pilot with the Civil Air Patrol Squadron from San Marcos Texas," said Corbin, who is a lieutenant colonel with the Civil Air Patrol's David Lee "Tex" Hill Composite Squadron based in San Marcos. "Both these opportunities afford me to continue my service to the great USA after a 30-year

Active Duty Air Force career."

"I enjoy making a difference in the way Air Force formal training is delivered by helping focus, through actionable occupational analysis data, the right skills sets and proficiencies," Corbin said.

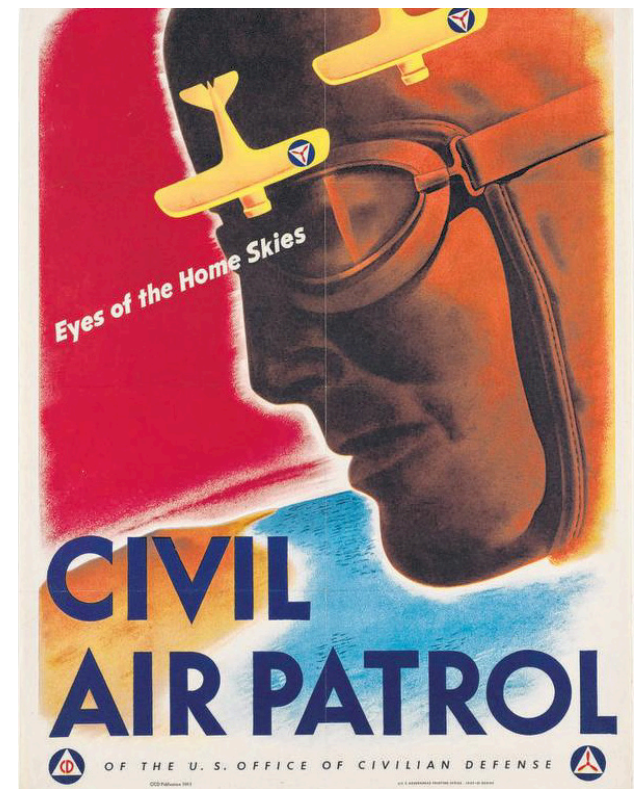
The Civil Air Patrol's awarding-winning aerospace education program promotes aerospace, aviation and STEM-related careers with engaging, standards-based, hands-on curriculum and activities. It shapes the experiences and aspirations of youth both in and outside of CAP's cadet program.

In his CAP duties, Corbin is able to mentor young men and women.

"Our squadron has recently provided Air Force Junior ROTC cadets from Steele High School and Lockhart High School orientation flights and our CAP Cadets are very active with learning the historical roots of our USAF and participating orientation flights in the San Marco based airplane," Corbin added.

Civil Air Patrol's cadet program transforms youth into dynamic Americans and aerospace leaders through a curriculum that focuses on leadership, aerospace, fitness and character. Several of our squadron cadets have gone on to Service Academies and several are currently working towards their FAA Private Pilot's License.

With a mission statement of "Supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development and



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promotion of air, space and cyber power," CAP preserves a long legacy of citizen Airmen committed to service to America.