JBSA observes Memorial Day

Members of the Special Forces Association, Chapter XV, present the service flags of each military branch as each service's song is played by the 323rd Army Band "Fort Sam's Own" during the Memorial Day ceremony May 28 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery amphitheater.

Painting honors local officer lost on 9/11

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12th TS casual lieutenant supports UPT Next

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Check your ego at the door, be your own advocate

From Air Force News Service

Master Sgt. James Stalnaker always thought going to mental health issues was a deal breaker for your career; that mental issues make you a weaker person. It took encountering struggles of his own to hang those views.

Stalnaker has persevered through a debilitating motorcycle accident that left him struggling with an undiagnosed traumatic brain injury and multiple painful physical injuries. Thanks to strong leadership and family support, his career is thriving again and he's developing young Airmen as a master resiliency trainer.

"I've always been able to pull through, on any challenges I've had. But on this one I needed help."

Master Sgt. James Stalnaker

These struggles define invisible wounds — especially since he wasn't yet diagnosed to provide an explanation of what was causing his issues. He was desperate to explain to his leadership what was going on, and why he was having such a significant drop in performance. But he didn't have the answers. He couldn't even form the words.

His frustration and anger began to get the best of him. Tanya, his wife of more than 12 years, shared that the decision to get help wasn't an easy one for either of them. The worst part for her was that she couldn't do anything to help him.

"It was terrifying," she said. "My husband is such a strong person, and he was broken. He doesn't ask for help. He's so strong willed and does anything he puts his mind to. To see him that way, it was heartbreaking."

"The way I grew up, if you had mental health issues, you
By Airman Shelby Pruitt
FROM 502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“No matter what corner of JBSA I went to, everyone felt tied to each other and they felt tied to the mission. They really wanted to see their peers succeed, as well as the mission.”

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

“‘A dream come true,’” is how Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, describes her experience at JBSA.

“I cherish every person that I met and every hand that I shook,” said Pringle, who will relinquish her command June 6. “I’m pretty lucky to have the opportunity to command, come to a community like Military City, USA, and to work with all our sister services.”

Prior to her arrival at JBSA, Pringle served as commander of the 555th International Materiel Squadron, Air Force Security Assistance Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; vice commander of the 577th Air Base Wing, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico; and as executive officer to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force in Washington, D.C.

For two years, Pringle has been the commander of the 8,000-person 502nd ABW, which executes 49 installation support functions that create the largest joint base in the Department of Defense. JBSA is made up of 266 mission partners, more than 80,000 full-time personnel and a local community of more than 250,000 retirees.

“It’s a diverse, complex and geographically distributed wing, and I think synchronizing all those moving parts is really a challenge,” Pringle said. “I think the 502nd makes it look easy, but it’s a tough one.”

Commanders can sometimes face many challenges, but Pringle said she feels lucky to have been in San Antonio because of its Military City, USA distinction.

“The community really embraces the military, it’s proud of its military heritage in which they work hard to earn and they give to all the service members,” she said.

For Pringle, JBSA’s greatest attributes are the sense of family and the commitment to the success of the mission.

“No matter what corner of JBSA I went to, everyone felt tied to each other and they felt tied to the mission,” she said. “They really wanted to see their peers succeed, as well as the mission.”

Throughout her command here, Pringle said there were too many things accomplished by JBSA to name.

“There are lot of really exciting and large-scale things that this team has accomplished, whether it’s working through some real emergency actions, to putting on a huge air show with the community,” she said. “It’s pretty exciting and makes me proud to watch.”

When she leaves the installation, Pringle hopes the wing continues to excel as it does now.

“I know that this wing is going to keep doing great things even after I leave and honestly I hope that’s what my legacy is,” she said. “That they just keep doing things that they have been doing and they continue to go down that path in the future whether I’m here or not.

“I can’t wait for JBSA to be recognized as the premier installation in DOD.”
**FIT TO FIGHT**

From page 2

be armed individual combat. For a Sailor, it could be dealing with disaster and firefighting. For an Airman, it could be in a convoy or on an airfield where disaster strikes or an enemy attacks.

“In any event, we shouldn’t be training to pass a fitness test,” he said. “We would be training for what we need to do on that worst day. We don’t do that enough.”

In extreme cases, there are service members who have been nondeployable for three or four years, the sergeant major said. Someone else still has to go. The sergeant major described one specialty with just 32 people. Only eight are deployable, and they shoulder the burden.

Physical fitness helps mentally as well, Troxell said.

“It’s a medical fact that the more physically fit you are, the more mental and emotional preparedness you are going to have,” he said. “You are already used to pushing against boundaries in physical training. You have already conditioned your body and your mind to handle adversity in training and that has a payout when you go through the worst day of your life.”

Medical experts who deal with post-traumatic stress say that developing physical fitness is a factor in combating that condition.

Troxell said the NCO and petty officer ranks need to make change happen.

“I want those midrange noncommissioned officer and the petty officers to own this,” he said. “They need to say there won’t be unfit people in their formations. They have to have people they can count on physically, mentally, emotionally, technically to thrive on the worst day. They shouldn’t be discovery learning on the worst days of their lives that the buddies next to them can’t carry someone out of a bad situation.”

Regardless of how good the U.S. military is, bad things can happen and “we have to prepare, and it starts every day with this culture of ‘I am a warrior-athlete,’ ” Troxell said.

He practices what he preaches. Troxell has embraced a tough physical training program. The 54-year-old senior NCO still qualifies in the Ranger School 5-mile standard in under 40 minutes.

Passing a physical training test requires a 60 percent score. “We can’t be a 60 percent force,” Troxell said. “We have to strive for perfection.”
Hundreds salute fallen military members

By Steve Elliott

Despite the sweltering heat of a late May Texas day, hundreds of people packed the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery May 28 for a Memorial Day remembrance ceremony to honor those who sacrificed their lives in service of their country.

More than 400 people sought shade beneath trees or umbrellas at the emetery’s amphitheater, which is set amongst almost 160,000 headstones, each sporting an American flag placed there by volunteers a few days earlier. Many were in uniforms brought out the closet for this day, or in shirts or jackets which spoke of their past service.

Many people were quietly offering prayers and shedding tears in between the words of the guest speakers and performances from the 323rd Army Band “Fort Sam’s Own” and the Alamo Metro Chorus of Sweet Adelines.

Memorial Day is rooted in Decoration Day, a holiday honoring Civil War dead on both sides. First observed in 1868, it became a widespread tradition and was expanded after World War I to commemorate U.S. troops who died in all conflicts. Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday in 1971.

While many people choose to spend the holiday barbecuing or shopping with family and friends, retired Air Force Master Sgt. Tom Earnest, who served as master of ceremonies, said, “On Memorial Day, all Americans should remember and reflect on those who died for our country and who now lie in peace.”

Roshanda Bost, the cemetery’s assistant director, read a letter from U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas).

“This weekend, Americans pause to pay tribute to the men and women who paid the ultimate price for our freedom,” Cruz’s letter said. “Freedom is a precious gift, handed down from one generation to the next, but the greatest gift comes with great responsibility. America has been blessed with millions of men and women who courageously accepted the responsibility to serve our nation’s military. They gave their all to pass down freedom, which is the dream of so many.”

Retired U.S. Army Col. Sylvia Sanchez was this year’s guest speaker. A native of San Antonio who graduated from Brackenridge High School, she began her military career in the Army Student Nurse Program while studying at St. Mary’s School of Nursing and was accepted into the Army Nurse Corps in 1967.

She left active duty in 1977 and then joined the Texas Army National Guard. Sanchez was the first woman to serve as the state commander for the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars.

At the ceremony, Sanchez focused on honoring the fallen and embracing the feeling of honor and pride.

“From the patriots who fired the first shot of the American Revolution to the forces we have deployed around the world today, America has been blessed to have citizens who will serve, fight, and sometimes die for this country,” Sanchez said.

“People around the world were able to gain freedom from oppression, from dictatorship, and just to get their country back in shape,” Sanchez said of those being honored. “It is not for money or medals that these people step forward. It is instead for patriotism, a love for this country, and for the values on which it was founded – life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Sanchez said.

Each headstone here carries a different story,” she added. “Each person had a name, had a family. We must continue to honor their legacy, the legacy of America’s true heroes. “We need to ensure the youth of tomorrow know the true cost of freedom,” Sanchez said. “We must remind each other that the freedoms we enjoy today have come at a very expensive price. Freedom isn’t free.”
Painting honors local Army officer lost on 9/11

By Jose Rodriguez
ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CENTER & SCHOOL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Army Lt. Col. Karen J. Wagner was one of the 125 people killed during the 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon in 2001. She was serving at her position of medical personnel officer in the Office of the Army Surgeon General and Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel on that tragic day.

To recognize her service and sacrifice to the U.S. Army and the nation, the headquarters building of the 32nd Medical Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is named in her honor. At the entrance to Wagner Hall, her photo is on display, along with a shadow box with her awards.

Now a special painting will be placed on the wall of building 902, created by another person who dedicated his life to service, the late Richard Valdez. The Valdez family recently donated a painting of Wagner to the Soldiers of the 32nd Medical Brigade.

Wagner served 17 years in the Army, growing up in a military family in San Antonio, attending school in the Judson Independent School District. A 1984 graduate of the ROTC program at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, she earned a Master’s in Health Services Administration at the San Antonio campus of Webster University in St. Louis in 1992.

Wagner’s Army postings included serving as adjutant for the 88th Medical Evacuation Hospital at Fort Lee, Va.; executive officer and company commander of Company D in the 887th Medical Battalion at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; and chief of personnel for the 57th Evacuation Hospital in Wuerzburg, Germany. She also headed the personnel services branch at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

“Remembering the sacrifice of Lt. Col. Wagner is an honor and we want this painting to be seen by everyone,” said Kourtney Valdez, daughter of Richard Valdez.

Valdez and her family were on hand to unveil the portrait of Wagner, along with many of Richard Valdez’s friends and coworkers.

“My father loved painting and the thing he truly loved doing was painting the armed forces of America,” she said. “He wanted to create this painting of Karen Wagner and my family is pleased to donate this painting, and we know it will now go to an amazing home, where it will be here way past all of us.”

Richard Valdez, a realism artist, received his early training in the commercial art arena. He worked as an illustrator/exhibit specialist from 1975 to 1978, and was also chief of graphics for Impact Productions from 1979 to 1985 at JBSA-Lackland. From 1985 to 2015, he was chief of medical graphics for the Electronic Multimedia Imaging Center Branch at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. In 2015, Richard Valdez passed away after a long illness.

“We’re humbled and honored to accept this work of art dedicated in memory of Karen Wagner and on behalf of Mr. Valdez,” said Maj. Gen. Brian C. Lein, commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School. “I can’t thank the family of Mr. Valdez enough for this painting. This fall, there will be young Soldiers training here that were too young to remember 9/11. This painting will stand as a memory to every single man and women that were here as trainees, so that we never forget.”

This painting is another chance for people to remember Lt. Col. Wagner’s service and sacrifice along with appreciating Valdez’ spirit and artistic talents. The painting can be seen at the 32nd Medical Brigade headquarters at building 902 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Forum provides voice for JBSA members on quality of life issues

By David DeKunder
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio members have a chance to provide input on the quality of life issues they want addressed through an annual forum that aims to improve the well-being of military members.

The Armed Forces Action Plan forum will be Oct. 29-Nov. 1 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797.

The forum gives military members an opportunity to provide their ideas and suggestions on critical issues concerning quality of life, readiness, welfare and morale to senior JBSA leadership for action and resolution.

Yazmine Gutierrez, JBSA Armed Forces Action Plan coordinator, said AFAP provides an avenue for the military community to voice the quality of life issues concerning and impacting them.

“This is a high-visibility forum,” Gutierrez said. “The leadership looks forward to it. They actively want to participate and hear the community’s quality of life concerns and are genuinely interested in not just hearing, but seeing these issues come to resolution.”

Military service members, including active, Reserve and National Guard,
BAMC holds first health fair geared for women

Attendees spoke with providers about health

By Rachel Cooper
AMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center hosted the first Women’s Health Fair May 19 in the hospital’s Medical Mall.

The event included information sessions on pelvic, spiritual, financial and women’s nutritional health. There were also tables set up for participants to get information and speak with providers about their health from various departments.

“Today is about that reminder of making ourselves a priority,” said BAMC Deputy Commander Col. Traci Crawford. “It is about making sure you get the education and information you need to make the best decisions for your life and for your health so you can continue to do the great and tremendous things you do on a daily basis.”

Tips included make oneself a priority, getting recommended screenings and preventative care on a regular basis, getting moving by walking and practicing healthy behaviors such as driving and household safety.

“We all go through stress and have days we’re not feeling our best. It doesn’t make us weak it makes us human,” Crawford said.

Patricia Rodriguez, pelvic floor physical therapist, said this event was to help women through education, because she “has a passion to get women educated about their female parts.”

The path to overall wellness in pelvic health is meditation, diet modifications, good posture, exercise, well-woman exams, physical therapy, counseling and acupuncture, Rodriguez explained.

“We really hope that you have the opportunity to network and fellowship with women and health care providers that are here to support your needs, the things you want to do so you can have a healthier life and be happy with yourself and who you are as an individual,” Crawford said.

Medical student Tiffani Houston learns about food and insect allergies during the Brooke Army Medical Center Women’s Health Fair May 19 in the hospital’s Medical Mall.
AMEDDC&S celebrates Asian American, Pacific Islander Heritage Month

By Jose E. Rodriguez

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CENTER & SCHOOL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School hosted the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Commemoration for Joint Base San Antonio at Blesse Auditorium at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston May 22.

Guest speaker Maj. Anish Patel, Medical Director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinic at Brooke Army Medical Center, reflected on his family’s experiences immigrating to the United States, growing up as an Indian American, and his experience as a physician in the U.S. Army.

Two cultural dance and music presentations were presented, the first by Sonali Sarkar, Saheli Datta and Pampa Bhattacharya, who performed a dance from the state of West Bengal, the main language of which is Bengali. The dance was a modern take on the tradition of welcoming the spring season.

Afterwards the Desert Polynesia Dance Troupe, the official performers for SeaWorld Aquatica San Antonio’s “Island Nights,” entertained the audience with traditional Polynesia music and dances.

After the ceremony, there was a sampling of Asian and Pacific Island food dishes.
JBSA-FSH Quadrangle a popular destination

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Quadrangle at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, or the “Quad,” as it is commonly known, is an iconic structure rich in history dating back to the end of the Civil War. After the Civil War in 1876, construction began on the Quadrangle, as well as the water and watch tower. The U.S. Army started its move from the Alamo in 1877 before the addition of the Quadrangle, building 16, where the museum entrance is marked by a blue awning.

The completed water and watch tower, with the headquarters element soon to follow. The water and watch tower was later converted to the lock tower in 1882. Both the Quadrangle and the lock tower are the oldest buildings on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

In 1886, the U.S. Army famously held Apache leader Geronimo and 32 other Apache men, women and children prisoners inside the Quadrangle for approximately six weeks.

Two myths about Geronimo’s stay have been debunked, however. He wasn’t housed at, nor did he jump from, the lock tower.

The Quadrangle is now home to the U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) where Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan commands as the senior mission commander for both JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis.

The Quad is also well known for its wildlife, particularly the ever-present peacocks with their piercing squawks, which roam freely among the visitors.

Jacqueline Davis, the Fort Sam Houston Museum director, said in a JBSA Legacy article earlier this year, “The first mention I have of the peacocks is from a newspaper article dated 1898. In the article, a Soldier is making little wooden boxes to place the peacocks in, so that the deer also living in the Quadrangle won’t eat them.”

Visitors commonly ask Davis why peacocks are living in the Quadrangle.

“There is no good reason other than having peacocks was a popular thing to do in the 1800s,” Davis said. “Peacocks are native to Asia and were more than likely brought to Texas from India.”

The grounds of the Quadrangle is currently home to various animals including deer, peacocks, ducks, geese, turkeys and numerous other bird species that fly in occasionally.

“It is a gift that everyone should come out here and enjoy,” said Adam Quintero, a Vietnam veteran who continues to serve as wildlife caretaker after four decades. “Whether they come just to visit the animals or come to the museum, they should come to enjoy it.”

The Quadrangle is also the home of the Fort Sam Houston Museum, which is housed in what were once storerooms at the former quartermaster depot, constructed in 1876. The museum contains six rooms of exhibits and displays, beginning with the establishment of a U.S. Army post in San Antonio in 1845, to the construction of the fort and how the post evolved to support the units and service members who served in numerous conflicts at home and abroad.

“The Quadrangle is the most historic site on the post and the oldest building on the post,” Davis said. “It has been a tourist destination since the walls went up.”

Davis said visitors to the museum will come away with a greater appreciation of the fort’s history.

“One of the comments we get is, ‘I didn’t know Fort Sam Houston had a lot of history,’” she said. “There is always something to be learned. I learn something every time I do research on the fort. For people who served and lived here, it tells them something about their history. It’s an easy way to learn because it’s visual. I hope people get enjoyment out of it.”

The museum has more than 8,200 artifacts on permanent display or housed in two storage rooms. A reference library contains books, publications and sources related to the history of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and other JBSA installations, unofficial records, military manuals, personal papers of service members who were stationed at the installation and publications on identifying and taking care of artifacts. The reference library includes archival holdings that contain a collection of approximately 10,000 photos and a small document collection.

Visitors can access the museum by entering through the Quadrangle’s Sally Port, going right to the east wing of the Quadrangle, building 16, where the museum entrance is marked by a blue awning.

The museum offers orientations and guided tours, which should be reserved one week in advance, and the reference library and archives can be used for research by appointment. In addition, the museum conducts outreach programs for schools and colleges and supports professional development training for military organizations. To reserve a guided tour or orientation, information on museum programs, or to make an appointment to use the library and archives, contact the museum at 210-221-1886.

Visitors who want to come to the museum, but do not have DOD access to get into JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, should refer to the JBSA website at http://www.jbsa.af.mil/library/visitorinformation.asp for base entry requirements.

The Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle is open to visitors every weekday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 12-8 p.m. The museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 12-4 p.m. Saturday.

(Images: U.S. Army North Public Affairs, Fort Sam Houston Museum, 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs)
WFSC beats summer swelter with canopy

**By Sgt. Maj. Dean Welch**

**U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

He arrived at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in August 2006 for treatment of his combat injuries and never really left.

During his recovery, when he felt better and started to move around, Charles Dominguez and his family spent time at the Warrior & Family Support Center to assist in his healing.

That long road to recovery has led him to the WFSC almost every day since his first visit nearly 12 years ago. Today, he serves as the facility manager, overseeing the complex that sits on nearly 14 acres of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, serving wounded, ill and injured military members and their families.

“I volunteered here as a Soldier. I believed in its mission — helping wounded warriors and family members out — and I’ve stayed on board pretty much from the time I got my DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty),” Dominguez said.

The Ontario, California, native suffered near-fatal injuries in Ramadi, Iraq, when a suicide bomber detonated at the Iraqi camp where he lived and worked as a police transition team member.

Dominguez, a military police corporal at the time, received the WFSC. “It was a good way different stuff, more activities during the day,” Dominguez said. “Everybody’s not runched to use it first thing in the morning now.”

Recently, Dominguez oversaw the construction of a canopy over Freedom Park Amphitheater on the WFSC campus. Dominguez attended the rededication ceremony May 17, which was the warmest day of the year up to that date, with the sun beaming down from the Texas sky.

The former 1st Armored Division Soldier said the canopy offers a 15 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit temperature difference. The 12,000-square-foot canopy opens the amphitheater for use throughout the day, not just in the early hours.

“Now we can use it for different stuff, more activities during the day,” Dominguez said. “Everybody’s not runched to use it first thing in the morning now.”

The original center opened in 2003, with the current WFSC opening five years later. “They’ve got two world-class facilities here, in the hospital and the rehabilitation center, and they deserve a world-class facility for socializing and doing what they need to do to rehabilitate,” said retired Army Lt. Gen. Glynn Mallory of the WFSC complex in a 2008 Army interview.

Mallory served on the board that oversaw fundraising and construction of the WFSC, which sits adjacent to the Center for the Intrepid. Both facilities received private funding for their construction and operating costs.

Now, with the addition of the canopy over the Freedom Park Amphitheater, paid for by private organizations, they’ve got an outdoor area for meetings, cookouts, movies or for WFSC visitors to just sit outside away from the sun.

“The new structure is a testament to the nation’s continued support for our wounded, ill and injured warriors and their families, and honors their service and sacrifices,” wrote Acting Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy in an Oct. 25 note accepting the canopy gift.

An outdoor fitness trail, a therapeutic garden with waterfall and a recreation area make up Freedom Park, located behind the WFSC building.

The amphitheater is open year-round, and individuals or units interested in holding an event there can all 210-916-8234.
ADVOCATE
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were a weaker person,” explained Stalnaker. “So, I’ve always been able to pull through, on any challenges I’ve had. But on this one I needed help.”

Shortly after the accident, Stalnaker transferred to his new squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and with the support of his new commander, Lt. Col. Claudio Cova i, 60th MXS commander, he began his care journey.

“When he first arrived, he was struggling with speech. He was very squared away, determined and dedicated. I encouraged him to talk to someone to get the help he needed,” Covacci said.

Ultimately the decision was made between Stalnaker and Tanya.

“Sometimes you have to check your ego at the door and be your own advocate,” he said.

Since his care began, Stalnaker has had ongoing surgeries and pain management to manage his physical wounds. And the mental health providers helped him identify healthy coping mechanisms for when his anger and frustration bubbles up.

“The support from the mental health providers has been unbelievably helpful. Who knows how long it would have been before he would have been able to recover from the issues caused by his TBI,” Tanya said.

Finding healing by helping other Airmen Stalnaker has now become a master resiliency training instructor to help young Airmen develop their mental fitness. He believes that by enhancing these skills he’s helping to better prepare the next generation for long-term careers in the Air Force.

“It allows me to open my eyes and see outside of my bubble,” Stalnaker said. “To not only help myself, but to help others by giving them the tools they need to push forward, helps me to heal. I can connect with them, because I can say, ‘This is what I’ve been through, and this is what worked for me.’”

He also began developing training at Travis Air Force Base.

“I’m working with NCOs and senior NCOs to develop new ways to deal with mental fitness and communicate with the younger generation of Airmen,” he said. “The younger generations need to know why and how they fit into the puzzle and what value they bring to the table, organization, and the Air Force. I truly believe that if we enhance how we communicate, we are going to be much more mentally healthy issues in advance.”

Covacci said he considers Stalnaker a blessing to his unit.

“He’s altruistic, a true servant leader,” he said. “He’s spearheading the training efforts to help integrate the younger generation into the Air Force for long-term success. It’s going to have a wide spectrum of positive impacts on young guys across the base into the future.”

Advocating for invisible wounds: We truly never know what people are going through.

Stalnaker wanted to step forward as an advocate for others with invisible wounds, because he wants to be a part of the culture shift in the Air Force.

“Pre-accident, it didn’t affect me, so it didn’t hold weight,” he said. The change of the attitude within my own mind has made me a better person, father, husband, senior NCO. Everything I went through hanged my perspective completely. Once I was able to gather my thoughts and reflect on how I was viewed, because I had wounds that didn’t make sense, I realized that I needed to do something about hanging the culture not only in the Air Force but everywhere. We truly never know what people are going through.”


NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO DISCUSS BUDGET

The Lackland ISD Board of Trustees will hold a public meeting on June 21, 2018 at 11:30 am in the Board Room, of the Lackland ISD Administration Building, 2460 Kenly Building #8265, San Antonio, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget for the 2018-2019 school year. Public participation in the discussion is invited. Immediately following the Public Hearing, the Board of Trustees will hold a public meeting that will include in the agenda an action item to adopt the 2018-2019 budget.

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* Southwest Solutions Group
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Kelly Airfield stands down to conduct safety review

By Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker
502nd AIR  AFB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Kelly Airfield and the 502nd Operational Support Squadron eased usual activities May 21 to conduct an operational safety review directed by Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein.

Goldfein shared a video highlighting the importance of aviation safety and directed Air Force wide operational safety reviews as a result of recent incidents.

Demonstrating how important safety is to Joint Base San Antonio leadership as well, Brig. Gen. Heather L. Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA Deputy Commander, spoke at the event, highlighting airfield safety comes down to group effort.

“What I really want everybody to understand is that this is not just a 502nd OSS issue,” said Pringle, “This is a JBSA issue that doesn’t belong to just one unit.”

Pringle also emphasized the importance of understanding that while some factors are outside of human control, human factors still play a significant role in minimizing risk.

“Dangerous outside factors are going to happen,” said Pringle. “But maybe we can lessen the impact of these factors and mitigate risks by coming together today and identifying ways to be safer. We really want to keep this a zero incident airfield.”

Reiterating the team aspect of airfield safety, Lt. Col. Patrick K.F. McClintock, 502nd OSS commander, pointed out the unique aspects of Kelly Airfield.

“We have civil partners along with large military units that use the airfield, so teamwork is especially important here,” said McClintock. “It was great today to be able to get everybody in the same room to discuss procedures, marry up our after-action reports and find out where we can get better as a team so that we’re more prepared to prevent and respond to emergencies.”

AFIMSC summit delivers mission support solutions

By Shannon Carabajal
AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center delivered solutions to challenges base-level leaders face at a forum May 14-16 in San Antonio.

The 2nd Annual Mission Support Leadership Summit provided a platform for support group commanders and senior enlisted superintendents to better understand the programs AFIMSC conducts to enable their missions.

Nearly 200 military and civilian Airmen participated in briefings, panel discussions and networking sessions to gain in-depth insight about the more than 150 centralized capabilities the enter executes for the Air Force. Those functions include chaplain, civil engineering, communications, contracting, financial management, logistics readiness, public affairs, security forces and services programs that support 77 Air Force installations across the globe.

“We want this to be a collaborative dialogue, and we want to lean forward and help,” said Maj. Gen. Brad Spacy, AFIMSC commander, at the summit kickoff. “We want your feedback, and we want to help you learn about the AFIMSC enterprise and strategize with you about how to do this job together.”

Since achieving full operational capability in 2016, AFIMSC has focused on transforming and streamlining its mission execution. The annual summit provides the opportunity to meet with customers in order to optimize the enter’s Air Force-wide programs, said Chief Master Sgt. Brion Blais, AFIMSC command chief master sergeant.

“We need your expertise and your perspectives. We need to hear about what we’re doing right and what we’re doing wrong,” Blais said.

Candid, in-person dialogue helps the AFIMSC team better understand issues in the field, said Maj. Andrew Moore, summit project officer.

“Everything revolves around how we can best support the warfighter,” Moore said. “We invited every mission support group commander in the Air Force. We discussed topics all of them are facing or could be facing. We bring those issues back and use them as action items to make sure we’re solving base-level challenges.”

Col. Jason Knight, 4th Mission Support Group commander at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., said the summit offered him the chance to discuss common issues with colleagues from across the force.

“Col. Seth Frank talks with Air Force mission support group commanders and superintendents about protection services during the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Leadership Summit May 16 in San Antonio.

“It was a good opportunity to interact with my fellow commanders and command superintendents,” he said. “People asked different questions and it gave me insight into their challenges. Hearing the AFIMSC responses helped me better understand the overall situation and gave me things to take back and apply at my installation.”
An 802nd Security Forces Airman tries out virtual reality technology at the Air Education and Training Command Educational Virtual Reality Symposium May 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The 37th Training Wing hosted a virtual reality symposium. Eleven vendors presented hands-on exhibitions to showcase virtual reality technology and how it can be applied to military training initiatives. Forklift simulators, virtual reality presentations and virtual scenarios were showcased aiming to show the capabilities of new technology.
AIRMAN SHARES EXPERIENCES, MOTIVATION FOR SURVIVING COMBAT INJURIES

By Debbie Aragon

Innovation was alive here this week, as senior leaders heard proposals May 16 to address some of the greatest challenges facing the agile combat support community at the conclusion of the 2nd Annual Installation and Mission Support Weapons and Tactics Conference, hosted by the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center.

Four teams presented innovative recommendations for infrastructure investment, resilient and agile support operations, and development of multi-function combat Airmen to a packed auditorium of nearly 1,000 Airmen from across the force and Joint Base San Antonio.

The out-briefs culminate a process that began in late 2017 when warfighters from across the Air Force submitted more than 50 challenges in need of solutions. Leaders narrowed the list to the four most critical topics and four teams, called mission area working groups made up of more than 100 Airmen and joint service members from dozens of functional communities, convened in January to tackle them.

“Our most innovative ideas really come from the field,” said John Henderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy, “and we don’t get a chance to link those ideas up unless we bring people together, we discuss them and we bring our senior leaders in to see what those solutions are and how they might influence policy. I-WEPTAC is extremely important for the Air Force enterprise.”

“What’s great about this event is that it’s a forum for innovation,” said Maj. Gen. Brad Spacy, AFIMSC commander.

“Our goal is to get ideas from our Airmen into action. We know the ideas are out there — our Airmen are coming up with them.”

The teams developed their proposed courses of action in a lean environment that wasn’t “top heavy with bureaucracy,” said Marc Vandeveer, senior mentor for this year’s working groups and a member of the AFIMSC Expeditionary Support Directorate.

This allowed them to find answers to challenges relatively quickly.

“Left to other means, it may take years to do, and we’re doing it in weeks and months,” he added.

That type of dynamic wouldn’t have been possible without cross-functional teams.

The diverse group of Airmen around the table allowed each person to “think differently and invest differently within our infrastructure,” said Capt. Brendan Dorsay-Spitz, a working group chairman and member of AFIMSC’s Expeditionary Support Directorate.

The innovative ideas developed in his group coupled with available technologies “allowed us to get after the problem sets,” he said.

By bringing in “the folks who are doing the mission right now and having them think creatively and collaborate collectively to come up with the best ideas, I truly believe what comes out of I-WEPTAC will ensure the agility of combat support in the future,” said Lt. Col. Steve Thomas, AFIMSC Plans and Analysis Division chief and this year’s conference chairman.

Air Force leaders will now take the teams’ proposals under consideration for action. They selected 17 recommendations from the inaugural I-WEPTAC in 2017. Those are now staffed for further analysis and action.

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Senior Master Sgt. Israel Del Toro speaks with a member of 25th Air Force during his visit May 15. The 25th Air Force Guest Speaker Program welcomed Del Toro, who spoke to Airmen about his life experiences, career and what motivated him to survive after being injured in combat. In 2005, Del Toro was on deployment in Afghanistan when his Humvee rolled over a buried landmine and exploded. He suffered third degree burns on more than 80 percent of his body and both of his hands were seriously damaged. Doctors gave him a 15 percent chance of survival, but Del Toro woke up from a three-month coma more determined to survive than ever. He was the first ever 100 percent combat disabled Air Force technician to re-enlist, and he continues to serve his country as a member of the U.S. Air Force “Wings of Blue” parachute team.
Project transforms one of Randolph’s oldest buildings

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR. ASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Y-shaped building that was constructed as the post exchange during Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph’s Army Air Corps era is in the midst of a renovation project that is transforming the interior of two of the structure’s three wings.

The first phase of the project at building 200 — which is located at Washington Circle and Northwest Drive across from the Taj Mahal — was finished early this year, said Jonathan Scoggins, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron architect and project manager. That portion of the building, B Wing, will be home to Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 404 Operating Location-A.

“We had to go in, remove and add exterior doors, level the floor, install new partitions and ensure that the interrogation rooms met all of OSI’s requirements, including carpeted walls to protect people who are being interviewed from being overheard,” he said.

This phase of the project also included adding office space, a break room, a shower room, a conference room and carpet tiles for flooring.

Work on the first phase started a year and a half ago, Scoggins said, but was delayed for several months because the electrical system needed updating to meet code requirements, which he cited as the biggest challenge of the project.

Construction at building 200 is on hiatus until the final design for the second phase of the project is complete and a construction contract is awarded later this year, he said.

This portion of the building, A Wing, will house offices of the Air Force Judiciary Central Circuit, Air Force Legal Operations Agency.

Work will involve erecting partitions and adding office space, communication lines, electrical service, restrooms, a conference room, a break room, a mechanical room and a heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system. The wing has already been insulated for energy savings.

Little of the project involves exterior work because of the structure’s status as a historical building, Scoggins said. It retains its white color, one of the unusual features of the building compared with most of JBSA-Randolph’s structures.

“Like the Taj and the main chapel, it’s one of the few buildings that’s painted white,” he said. “We want the exterior to maintain its historical aura, so much so that we work with JBSA’s cultural resources chief Dayna Cramer.”

The structure was part of the initial phase of construction at what was then called Randolph Field.

“Tour of Historic Randolph,” a publication of the Air Education and Training Command Office of History and Research, describes the building:

“Across the street and just to the west of the wing headquarters is the old Post Exchange (Building 200), another uniquely designed structure. Constructed around a circular courtyard, the building consists of three wings that jut out in the shape of a Y. At the enter of the courtyard and enclosed by colorful tiles stands a Spanish-style fountain that is visible through the graceful triple arches that serve as the entrance. The building was designed by San Antonio architect Robert B. Kelly and was completed in 1931 at a cost of $41,000.”

When the post exchange opened for business on June 27, 1931, it housed the main sales store, a restaurant and a commissary, according to documents from the 12th Flying Training Wing History Office.

Although more exchange branches were opened in separate facilities in the 1940s and 1950s, building 200 remained a post exchange and, later, the base exchange when the Air Force became a service branch.

The main sales store in the base exchange was razed by a fire in November 1955, but reopened in March 1957 and was renovated in the late 1960s.

However, the building was left vacant when a new base exchange was completed in September 1977. Since that time, the building has had various occupants, most recently AFOSI 4th Field Investigations Squadron OL-A in B Wing and the 12th FTW inspector general’s office, 12th FTW history office and 802nd Force Support Squadron manpower and organization section in C Wing, which is not part of the renovation project.

The three wings of the building were initially separate, joined only by the courtyard, but A and B Wings were connected, possibly in the 1950s, adding interior space. In addition, A Wing was lengthened, making it the longest of the three wings.

The project marks another interior transformation for building 200, but without hanging the historical character of its exterior.

“It looks old on the outside, but on the inside you have all the modern conveniences,” Scoggins said. “That’s the goal.”

A Y-shaped building that was constructed as the post exchange during Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph’s Army Air Corps era is in the midst of a renovation project that is transforming the interior of two of the structure’s three wings.
12th TS casual lieutenant innovates, supports UPT Next

By 2nd Lt. Jeremy Garcia
502nd Air Force Wing Public Affairs

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Surnames of Remotely Piloted Aircraft operators are withheld to comply with Air Force directives concerning their security)

A second lieutenant on casual status at the 12th Training Squadron will soon enter a new phase in his Air Force career when he joins other Airmen at Initial Flight Training.

However, what sets him apart from many of his peers is his prior experience in the flying world.

“Both of my parents were in the Air Force and my old man was an air traffic controller,” said 2nd Lt. Sean. “That’s all I ever wanted to be. I grew up in it.”

Sean called his parents his “heroes,” his source of inspiration, when they lived as a family at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, pursuing their Air Force careers.

With a sense of pride and joy, Sean mentioned that his parents have been retired from the military after 26 years of service but still continue to serve their nation today by working in the Pentagon as civilians. He says he still speaks to them quite often.

Just like his father, Sean headed to Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, to become an air traffic controller.

“It was awesome to get to experience a complexity that I had never known but get to do it quickly under military training,” he said.

“Getting in on the tactical level, supporting soldiers on the ground is pretty awesome and definitely team-based,” he said.

Sean’s eyes lit up when speaking about the career field still in its infancy. There was a sense of enthusiasm as he spoke passionately about the new and innovative way of flying. He will be at the forefront of this career field and have the opportunity to watch it grow.

“That’s the future and I’m going to make it work,” he said.

However, until he pins on his wings, Sean spends his time as an air traffic controller at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, assisting Air Education and Training Command with its new program called Undergraduate Pilot Training Next. While on casual status, he is “able to give pilots taxiing instructions; landing and take-off and pattern instructions; weather data; and different scenarios to saturate the radios to improve training quality.” He said this kind of training increases the pilots’ situational awareness.

When asked if there was any advice he would give to any Airman, Sean said to “keep your eyes on the horizon,” a phrase often used in the flying world that refers to looking for opportunities to be better.

“Look for ways to improve yourself,” he said. “Attempt to be a part of the change. Don’t be a roadblock.”
FORUM
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military spouses, family members, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and survivors are eligible to participate in the AFAP forum process.
They can do so by submitting an issue form at Military & Family Readiness Centers at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797; JBSA-Lackland, 2160 Kenly Ave., building 1249; and JBSA-Randolph, 555 F Street West, building 693, at AFAP comment boxes located throughout JBSA or at http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/ Armed-Forces-Action-Plan/. The form is located on the right hand side of the page under “Forms” and by clicking on the “Submit an Issue” link.

The deadline for issue submissions is Aug. 14.

Gutierrez said the issues submitted to the forum will be reviewed by four workgroups consisting of 11 to 13 delegates each selected from installation and tenant commands throughout JBSA. Workgroups include family, force, military health and teen.

“All qualifiable issues are accepted and inputted into the forum for workgroups to prioritize,” she said. “Then the workgroups will generate a complete AFAP recommendation for the top two issues from each workgroup.”

The workgroups will work with assigned subject matter experts and the Facilitators, Recorders, Transcribers and Issue, or FRTI, support team made up of JBSA staff members and community volunteers.

“There will be a lot of flow of information in the forum between delegates and subject matter experts to ensure all decisions are informed and that selected prioritized issues are well written and impactful,” Gutierrez said.

Each workgroup will reveal its recommendations to JBSA leaders in a final report on the last day of the forum, Nov. 1.

Started in 1983, the AFAP program has led to hundreds of legislative, regulatory and policy changes concerning over 600 issues that came out of forums throughout the military.

Changes that have come about through AFAP include the distribution of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to dependents, medical entitlements for college age dependents and increasing the amount of life insurance for service members from $50,000 to $400,000 and the elimination of Social Security numbers from ID cards.

At the fiscal year 2017 JBSA AFAP forum, 46 quality of life issues were reviewed and prioritized. Of those 46 issues, 32 remained at the local level for action and resolution, 10 were sent to JBSA Navy leaders and four elevated to U.S. Army Installation Management Command Headquarters.

Of the 32 issues sent to the JBSA local level, 19 have been resolved while the remaining 13 are actively being worked for resolution.

JBSA members who want to serve as a delegate at the forum can submit an application online at http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/Armed-Forces-Action-Plan/. The application is located under “Forms” and can accessed by clicking on the “Delegate Application” link.

Delegate applications are also available in person from Gutierrez at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797.