

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 4, 2022



Members of Joint Base San Antonio's Natural Resources Office, Fire & Emergency Services, and Air Force Wildland Fire Branch officials conduct a prescribed burn Jan. 19 focusing on more than 1,700 acres of wildlands at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

BRIAN G. RHODES

Helping the environment, one acre at a time

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San Antonio Market launches MHS GENESIS

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Fiesta leaders visit 12th Flying Training Wing

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Invisible Wounds Initiative helps build a supportive culture through focused leadership

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

As part of the ongoing Invisible Wounds Initiative Command Team Campaign launched by Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond, Chief of Space Operations, the service is working to improve the perception of invisible wounds, remove barriers to care, enhance the continuum of care process, and provide an equitable and supportive environment for those living with invisible wounds.

The campaign, launched in October 2021, calls on each command team to act - to lead, support, and engage Airmen and Guardians living with invisible wounds.

An invisible wound is a cognitive, emotional, or behavioral condition that can be associated with trauma or serious adverse life events. Examples of possible diagnoses are major depressive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. Awareness and support from leadership significantly influence conversations about mental health and show Airmen and Guardians that seeking care is a sign of strength.

The Command Team Campaign is a communications effort to increase knowledge and enable command teams to build connectedness, trust, and openness to tough conversations. CSAF and CSO have asked commanders to implement the campaign strategies and use the resources that have been proven successful in pilots at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, and Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

To enable command teams, the IWI developed the Invisible Wounds Command Team Guide and Toolkit, designed to help commanders engage their teams, build knowledge and understanding of invisible wounds, and continue to make substantive changes to address mental health openly and honestly.

The guide and toolkit provide command teams with all the information and materials needed to implement the campaign and drive positive change. Command teams can leverage consistent internal communication channels to share information through email, all-hands, and newsletters, as well as spread messages to a wider audience using wing and squadron-level social media platforms.

Fact sheets and informational resources are included for leaders at all levels to use



COURTESY GRAPHIC

An invisible wound is a cognitive, emotional, or behavioral condition that can be associated with trauma or serious adverse life events.

in their daily conversations with Airmen and Guardians. The guide and toolkit also contain print resources to catch the attention of Airmen and Guardians in high-traffic areas with visual content on posters, table tents, and other materials.

"Leaders drive culture and enable Airmen, Guardians, and families to perform at their best, both at work and home," said Lt. Col. Michael Shick, director of Warrior Wellness and Policy Integration, Secretary of the Air Force/Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The Command Team Campaign was developed as a result of two successful culture change pilot programs to improve the awareness, communication, and help-seeking behavior around invisible wounds. The IWI piloted these culture change efforts at Joint Base Langley-Eustis and Joint Base Andrews using digital and physical communication products to promote awareness and engagement, as well as by embedding invisible wound topics into training courses.

In addition to communications and culture change activities, the IWI has implemented numerous solutions that drive timely, proactive case handling, engaged leadership, supportive environments, and accessible, effective care delivery. The program established an Invisible Wounds Clinic that significantly improved identifying, diagnosing, treating, and reintegrating Airmen and Guardians with TBI and/or PTSD.

Additionally, the team has integrated invisible wound concepts into the Basic Military Training, Leadership Development Course for Squadron Command, and Office of Disability Council curricula, including the development of self-paced IWI training videos. Another

program initiative was to develop validation criteria and the process to identify policy barriers, which has been completed, as the team continues to evaluate initially identified policy items and recommend solutions for mental health barriers.

"With the Invisible Wounds Initiative, I feel like we're moving in the right direction. It's the natural progression in our understanding for how to best care for our service members," says Maj. David Schonberg, director of Manpower & Personnel, Headquarters, District of Columbia Air National Guard. "From 'shell shock' in WWII, to PTSD and TBI, we've learned so much about the warning signs and symptoms of invisible wounds. This initiative provides our teammates with simple yet meaningful tools and resources so that together, we become a powerful safety net to help look out for one another."

The IWI was established in 2016, as a DAF enterprise-wide effort to engage Airmen, Guardians, families, care providers, and leadership to improve the perception of invisible wounds, remove barriers to care, enhance continuum of care processes, and provide an equitable environment for those with invisible wounds. The IWI encourages help-seeking behaviors by providing leaders, Airmen, Guardians, and their families with the knowledge to make the best decisions about their mental health and well-being.

"Candid conversations about personal challenges and providing access to support resources help to fight stigma and reduce barriers to help-seeking," Shick said. "It is essential that leaders foster supportive environments for everyone and in particular, those living with invisible wounds."

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller
502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE
SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com using the subject line "Feedback Fridays."

Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Q: What processes have been put in place for us to report infrastructure issues beyond our facilities person? Both the Gateway Chapel and Freedom Chapel at JBSA-Lackland have rodent and mold problems.

Black mold is growing in the small sanctuary. The mold continues to grow and has made an entire worship space untenable. To my knowledge, the last time someone surveyed the room the chapel staff was told, "You'll have to wait until someone gets sick before anyone takes care of this."

There are issues with ceiling tiles falling regularly as well. We have received paper sticky traps that the rats chew through and have resorted to making our own traps to catch them. The rats have become heavy enough that they are breaking through ceiling tiles throughout the building. We have had several tiles fall and have had to block off areas where people cannot sit.

A: Thank you for your continued interest in the state of JBSA-Lackland's Chapels.

Our chapels are vital for the spiritual health and success of Basic Military Training, technical training and permanent party communities. I thank you for your diligence in getting these concerns the attention they deserve.

The 502nd Civil Engineers have met with Chapel leadership and are pursuing actions to correct problems. A mold remediation contract is being developed for Gateway Chapel's small sanctuary and our pest management team has been actively trapping in the large sanctuary.

Trapping efforts led to the capture of three raccoons in the ceiling. Once we know all animals have been removed and we address reported ceiling leaks, ceiling tiles will be replaced. The water

leaks in room 12 are due to a foundation water intrusion, which our engineers are assessing to determine a course of action to correct. Once this is stopped, the room 12 carpet will be replaced.

The Freedom Chapel has also been assessed to address problems. Our pest management team is trapping rodents at this chapel to remove the foxes and other small animals foraging in the area. We are pursuing a contract for bat exclusion and sealing which we expect to execute in March 2022.

A roof assessment contract will determine the causes of roof leaks and the best method to repair them. Roof gutters and downspouts are also being assessed. New doors should be installed at the Freedom Chapel by April 2022.

Thank you again for your efforts to improve JBSA-Lackland's houses of worship. We ask that you continue to work with the facility managers of the chapels in identifying facility repair needs to help us ensure these vital community resources continue to provide spiritual vitality to the JBSA community.

Q: Can someone please take a look at the road at the entrance of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston? The entranceway between the Soldier

Recovery Unit and the Fire Station is in great disrepair and poses a real threat to cars and personnel alike. I have asked the police and Airmen for information on whom to contact.

I was bounced between the provost marshal's office, the guards at the gate, the 502nd visitor center, and, in the end, was given an erroneous number for public works. Each one of the personnel that I spoke to would tell me that it was none of their concerns and pass me on.

It would also be helpful to have a published number for things like this.

A: We would like to thank you for being observant and willing to provide input to JBSA leadership.

Upon checking with our Civil Engineers, they have already started efforts to repair Schofield Drive from the intersection near the fire station down to the railroad tracks.

They are funding a major contract this year and are currently developing the schedule and traffic plans. The goal is to have the work done this summer.

Thank you for providing us with this feedback and allowing us to provide the best service to our JBSA community.

MilTax Online Tax-Filing Forum opens doors to service members, families

By Terri Moon Cronk
DOD NEWS

Military OneSource's MilTax forum opened for business Jan. 19 as the IRS began accepting tax returns, said an official with Defense Department Military Community and Family Policy.

Kelly Smith, program analyst with MC&FP, said the biggest factor DOD wants its service members and their families to know is that MilTax is an option for them when they're considering how to file for this tax season; the deadline is April 18.

To reach MilTax, go to MilTax: Free Military Tax Return Preparation Services • Military OneSource at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-resource-center/miltax-military-tax-services/> or call 800-342-9647.

"We know there are many other tax

products out there, but MilTax is 100% free of charge without rank or pay restrictions," Smith said. Service members are entitled to the tax-filing benefit they've earned and can use MilTax's filing software and consult with a MilTax consultant even if they have just a question. The MilTax consultants are well-versed in military-specific tax situations, she said, noting that MilTax results are guaranteed.

For example, the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act is an issue that comes up quite often, Smith said. "There are rules that military spouses need to know when it comes to filing their taxes, and there are some eligibility requirements [under the MSRR], and it applies when a spouse lives in a state different from his or her residency state."

Because military families move often, there are certain qualifying military moving expenses that can apply to filing

taxes, she said. One qualifier involves moving household goods and personal effects, and the other is reasonable travel and lodging expenses, she added.

And particularly applicable to spouses is self-employment, otherwise known as working in the gig community, Smith said. Operating a small self-business requires a Schedule C tax form, she added.

The Child Tax Credit can also come into play for 2021 tax filing, Smith said. According to Military OneSource, the child tax credit maximum amount of credit is \$2,000 per qualifying child and is refundable up to \$1,400. The bill also includes a temporary \$500 nonrefundable credit for other qualifying dependents.

As part of the American Rescue Plan to help Americans recover financially from the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 child tax credit was expanded to \$3,600

for children ages 5 and younger, and \$3,000 for children ages 6-17. Eligible taxpayers will receive monthly payments totaling half of their 2021 child tax credit from July 15, 2021, through the end of the year. Taxpayers can claim the other half when they file their 2021 tax returns. For more information, visit <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-resource-center/special-tax-considerations/advance-child-tax-credit-2021/>.

For those who are deployed overseas during the tax season and need an extension to file, Smith said DOD wants its service members to focus on their mission and not worry about filing tax forms. The IRS automatically extends tax deadlines for U.S. Armed Forces personnel deployed to a combat zone or in support of operations in a qualified hazardous duty area.

JBSA Military Ambassadors represent long-standing relationship with City of San Antonio

Kathleen Salazar

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

San Antonio has celebrated the military since the first Battle of Flowers parade in 1891 that had about 15,000 people in attendance. Since then, the event has grown and so has the representation of the military.

Today, San Antonio continues its tradition that honors the historic relationship between San Antonio and the U.S. Armed Forces.

"We take the title of Military City USA very seriously and look for any

opportunity to strengthen the bond between the military and civilian communities of San Antonio," said Jon Fristoe, Fiesta San Antonio Commission President.

"Since 1891, Fiesta serves as a celebration to honor the heroes of the Alamo," said Steve Rosenauer, Fiesta San Antonio Commission Executive Director. "The Fiesta San Antonio Commission and its 100-plus participating member organizations are proud to continue recognizing and honoring our military members through the involvement of the

Military Ambassador Program."

"Our Military Ambassadors represent the heroes who have fought for the freedoms we enjoy today," said Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander. "The communities surrounding JBSA show phenomenal support and appreciation to the men and women of the armed services, and during Fiesta, they are able to share their personal bond with the Military Ambassadors."

"These dedicated service members represent each branch of the United States military and they create a positive

impact throughout the 11 days of Fiesta by sharing their talents, attending events, promoting the military, engaging with Fiesta volunteers and guests and being positive role models to exemplify why San Antonio is Military City USA!," Rosenauer said.

"To have the Ambassadors participate in Fiesta as we celebrate our heritage and culture is testament to them as well as to their leaders who allow them the time to do so," Fristoe added. "We are proud to support and endorse them as the literal linkage between the civilian and military communities."

U.S. ARMY MILITARY AMBASSADORS

Master Sgt. Karenlee R. Hockenberry

Unit: U.S. Army North G2

Duty Title: G2 Senior Enlisted Leader

"It is an honor to serve as a Military Ambassador during Fiesta San Antonio because I get to be part of a military group representing the heroes who came before us. It's an honor to have the opportunity to help keep their memory alive and remind others of our rich cultural history here in San Antonio. What started as a group of patriotic women

celebrating our heroes grew to be one of the largest events and parades in our country. I am truly humbled and proud to be a Military Ambassador."

Staff Sgt. Corey J. Walton

Unit: U.S. Army North "Fort Sam's Own" 323rd Army Band

Duty Title: Musician, Tuba

"I am very excited for the opportunity to represent the Army during Fiesta. Being part of Fort Sam's Own 323rd Army Band, I never expected to have this awesome opportunity. As band members, we see the JBSA Military Ambassadors at many of the same Fiesta events representing the U.S. military services. Becoming an Ambassador gives me the chance to dive deeper into the true

meaning of Fiesta and interact a lot more with the people of San Antonio. Last year was one of the most challenging and

rewarding years of my Army career and to cap it off with such an honor from my command is incredible. I look forward to representing all Soldiers stationed here in Military City USA. Viva Fiesta!"

U.S. MARINES MILITARY AMBASSADORS

Sgt. Dominique J. Rudisel

Unit: 4th Reconnaissance Battalion

Duty Title: Warehouse chief

"I am truly honored to have been selected to serve as a 2022 Fiesta Ambassador for the U.S. Marine Corps. I am still very new to San Antonio, as I just arrived in the summer of 2021. I am incredibly excited to have the opportunity to be a part of San Antonio's largest celebration. I look forward to witnessing the city come alive and experience this annual tradition. Viva Fiesta!"

Sgt. Grant Finkbeiner

Unit: 4th Reconnaissance Battalion

Duty Title: Dive chief

"It is a great honor and privilege to be selected as a Marine Corps Ambassador for San Antonio's 2022 Fiesta. I am very grateful for this amazing opportunity to experience and learn about San Antonio's prestigious traditions and world-renowned heritage. I'm looking forward to meeting the people of San Antonio and participating in their historical culture."

U.S. NAVY MILITARY AMBASSADORS

Petty Officer 1st Class Henson A. Chiong

Unit: Navy Medicine Training Support Center

Duty Title: Division 6

Leading Petty Officer and Hospital Corpsman

"It is an honor to be able to represent the greatest naval fighting force in the world as a Military Ambassador. It brings me great pride and joy to bring both the local civilian and military communities together, for together we are stronger and more cohesive as one."

Petty Officer 1st Class Samantha Teliczan

Unit: Navy Information Operations Command Texas

Duty Title: Classification advisory officer, 10 Department Leading Petty Officer

"It is a great honor to be selected as a Fiesta 2022 U.S. Navy Ambassador. I am grateful to my peers, subordinates and mentors for molding me into a leader for many to aspire to. To take part in something so meaningful to the community of San Antonio and so rich in culture and heritage is

something I never thought I'd get to do. This community has been amazing to me, my family, and all the military that it truly makes me believe they work hard to be Military USA. I look forward to representing the Navy and taking part in the festivities."



Master Sgt. Karenlee R. Hockenberry



Staff Sgt. Corey J. Walton



Sgt. Dominique J. Rudisel



Sgt. Grant Finkbeiner



Petty Officer 1st Class Henson A. Chiong



Petty Officer 1st Class Samantha Teliczan

U.S. AIR FORCE MILITARY AMBASSADORS

Staff Sgt. Daniel Velasquez

Unit: 802nd Security Forces Squadron

Duty Title: Unit security manager

"I feel very blessed to be selected as a 2022 Fiesta Air Force Military Ambassador for Military City USA. Coming from a strong and proud Hispanic family, it is an incredible honor to fill this unique role! It has always been on my bucket list to take part in San Antonio's unique history and culture and find it surreal that I am going to Fiesta while being a representative for the world's greatest Air Force! Viva Fiesta!"



Staff Sgt.
Daniel Velasquez



Staff Sgt.
Clarissa Scott

Staff Sgt. Clarissa Scott

Unit: 344th Training Squadron
Duty Title: Military training leader

"I am humbled and honored to have been selected as a 2022 Air Force Ambassador! As a San Antonio native, I grew up celebrating Fiesta through a young child's perspective (lots of candy and confetti). Now as an adult, I hope to not only show

how dedicated the military is to the community but also experience all the wonderful one-of-a-kind events that make up Fiesta!"

U.S. SPACE FORCE MILITARY AMBASSADOR

Master Sgt. Edin Olano

Unit: 390th Cyberspace Operations Squadron

Duty Title: Targeting analyst

"It is truly a privilege to serve in our nation's armed forces. As the first Ambassador for the United States Space Force, I look forward to engaging with the local San Antonio community on exciting developments in our nation's armed forces and the Space Force. I am appreciative that San Antonio continues to thrive and enjoys its partnerships with our nations' military. I am



Master Sgt.
Edin Olano

thankful for the opportunity to participate in all of the 2022 Fiesta events. It will be a much-needed celebration for the city and citizens living in the city."

U.S. COAST GUARD MILITARY AMBASSADORS

Petty Officer 2nd Class Casey W. Travers

Unit: Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit-Texas

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be chosen to represent the United States Coast Guard. Throughout this process, I aspire to make my service and my country proud by wearing this uniform for all those who have sacrificed. It is an opportunity I do not take lightly and I am eager to participate in an event that holds so much culture and heritage. Let the festivities commence! Viva Fiesta!"



Petty Officer 2nd Class
Casey W. Travers

Petty Officer 3rd Class Yulianis Chevere Rodriguez

Unit: Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit-Texas

"It is a tremendous honor to be chosen as a Coast Guard Ambassador for Fiesta 2022. I am excited to be a part of this tradition and get to see firsthand San Antonio's culture, people and heritage. I look forward to celebrating the spirit of this amazing city while representing Coast Guard men and women everywhere. Viva Fiesta!"



Petty Officer 3rd Class
Yulianis Chevere
Rodriguez

Groups work to eliminate barriers to women's military service

By Jim Garamone

DOD NEWS

Women are an integral part of the American military, and Department of Defense officials are working to ensure their concerns are addressed.

Women make up roughly 20% of the Air Force, 19% of the Navy, 15% of the Army and 9% of the Marine Corps. Tens of thousands of women contribute every day to defending the nation. Their differences and needs must be considered for the United States military to function.

This is especially true since 2013, when then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, repealed the combat exclusion policy. From privates to four-star generals, women serve in every rank and can serve in any specialty in the military.

"I think we're doing a great job in terms of recruiting the right kinds of people, providing access to people from every corner, every walk of life in this country," Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III said on CNN last year. "As long as you're fit and you can qualify, there's a place for you on this team."

But simply changing the policy is not the end of the process, and that is where programs like the Air Mobility Command's Reach Athena and the Department of the Air Force Women's Initiative Team come in. These groups look at the totality of women's service to find and eliminate barriers to ensure all can serve to their full potential.

Air Force Major Jennifer N. Walters, who co-founded Reach Athena when she was stationed at Travis Air Force Base, California, along with Major Kelsey Payton, said the program does build diversity in the military, but that is not the primary aim.

"What it's for, is to identify policies that — intentional or not — are driving our talent away, or repelling them from the Air Force," she said in an interview. Reach Athena — named after the Greek goddess of wisdom and warfare — began in 2020 and is headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. The Air Combat Command has Sword Athena looking at barriers in



SENIOR AIRMAN LILLIAN MILLER

Aircrew members gather for a picture at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, March 26, 2020. An all-woman aircrew from the 96th Bomb Squadron, 11th Bomb Squadron, 20th Bomb Squadron and the 2nd Bomb Wing flew in honor of Women's History Month.

that Air Force major command. The Women's Initiative Team is at the Department of the Air Force level and began in 2008. All work together.

The WIT is part of a seven-team barrier-analysis working group. It "specifically looks at women's initiatives to decrease or remove barriers impacting women's service in the Department of the Air Force in order to increase force-wide effectiveness," Air Force Maj. Megan Biles said. "We look at existing policy which impacts women's propensity to serve and elevate solutions to senior leaders."

The idea is to identify anything that is antiquated or impedes mission success.

"Our capabilities, technology and missions have evolved, as has the population which currently serves

today," Biles said. "Future conflicts do not have the same requirements that past conflicts had. How we train and our requirements need to be evaluated and must evolve to ensure we are recruiting and training the most effective force. That means enacting policies and best practices designed to intentionally develop those serving today, not keeping outdated standards only for the sake of tradition or because that is how we've always done it."

Leaders realized some of these outdated policies disproportionately affect one gender. And have empowered the WIT to help eliminate them.

It is not just policies that these groups study, but equipment, uniforms, gear, grooming and other processes. "A lot of times folks will

identify an issue at the tactical level and pass it up the line," Walters said.

The groups also work with other service counterparts to share experiences, solutions and best practices.

One example was that body armor — designed for men — is not a good fit for women. Another was the requirement for women to wear their hair in a bun. Pilots found that having a bun made the helmets fit poorly, impacting safety, Walters said. These grooming changes made their way up the food chain, and Air Force leaders approved them last year.

The height/weight requirements are another area under scrutiny. The groups are looking at the reasons behind some of these requirements.

BARRIERS continues on 7

JBSA M&FRCs accepting nominations for annual volunteer awards

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio Military & Family Readiness Centers are accepting nominations for annual awards recognizing the contributions of outstanding volunteers within the JBSA community in 2021.

Military units, volunteer organizations and JBSA members can submit nominations of individuals or groups for the JBSA Volunteer of the Year Awards, the JBSA Volunteer Excellence Award and the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Information on the awards and award nomination instructions can be found at <http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/Volunteer-Resources/>.

To receive and submit nomination packets and forms, email Randolphmfrfc@us.af.mil. The deadline to submit an awards nomination is March 14.

Award nominees and winners will be honored at the 2022 JBSA Volunteer Awards Ceremony April 20 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797. The ceremony starts at 1 p.m.

"I think the most important thing we can do is to recognize our volunteers, to honor them for their time and the work they do," said George Romero, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC installation volunteer coordinator. "This ceremony of appreciation affords an opportunity to recognize the impact of volunteer service



Award nominees and winners will be honored at the 2022 Joint Base San Antonio Volunteer Awards Ceremony April 20 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center.

both on and off the installation. It is commendable that even in the midst of a pandemic the resilience and dedication of the volunteers has greatly enhanced and strengthened our communities."

The Volunteer of the Year Awards identify and recognize individuals who contributed their time and service to JBSA units and volunteer organizations in 2021, to include all branches of service, and who made a significant positive impact on the lives of others.

Individuals who are eligible for these awards are active duty, military family members, military retirees, Department of Defense civilians, contractors and non-military affiliated volunteers.

There are eight Volunteer of the Year Award categories in which nominations can be submitted: active duty, military family member, youth, retiree, civilian, small group (50 members or less), large group (51 or more members) and volunteer family of the year.

Each JBSA military unit and tenant organization, down to the battalion/squadron level, and community volunteer organizations are allowed to submit one nomination in each category, except for the youth category in which unlimited nominations may be submitted.

The Volunteer Excellence Award honors federal civilians, military family members, military retirees and federal retirees of all service branches who have dedicated a lifetime to community service. There is no limit to the number of Volunteer Excellence Award nominations that may be submitted for consideration.

The President's Volunteer Service Award, or PVSA, honors individuals whose service has positively impacted communities across the nation and inspires those around them to volunteer as well. PVSA eligibility is based upon the number of documented volunteer hours worked over the course of the year.

Romero said there are approximately 3,000 volunteers within JBSA, working in various roles in military units and organizations supporting active-duty members, military family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilians.

"Volunteers are always very, very important to our mission here at JBSA, and this is especially true now," Romero said. "A volunteer is an amazing support because of their flexibility and providing support at any given time. A volunteer can help fill the gaps so that paid staff members are able to focus more specifically on daily tasks, to ensure

deadlines are met and that the mission is accomplished. In this way, volunteers are essential partners in achieving the mission."

JBSA members will notice the presence of volunteers throughout the installation, from greeting and giving directions to visitors at the information desk at Brooke Army Medical Center, to helping customers at 502nd Air Base Wing ID card services and working as nurses at JBSA medical facilities, Romero said.

"For example, at the ID card section, we have five volunteers there," he said. "They help with customer service. They're able to assist customers with their questions which frees up employees to work on tasks. Volunteers really take on a lot of the additional tasks and help them out tremendously."

JBSA Military & Family Readiness Centers are offering nomination writing workshops for JBSA members who need help writing and submitting nominations for the volunteer awards. The virtual workshops cover how to review awards criteria and nomination forms and how to write an effective nomination package.

Workshops will be held at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC from 1-2 p.m. Feb. 23; at JBSA-Lackland M&FRC from 2-3 p.m. Feb. 22 and March 8.

For details about registration for the Nomination Writing Workshops or for information on the JBSA Volunteer Awards, contact the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC at 210-221-2705; JBSA-Lackland M&FRC at 210-671-4057; or JBSA-Randolph M&FRC at 210-652-5321.

BARRIERS

From page 6

Women are generally shorter than men. "If there is a mission requirement driving the height restrictions, that's fine," Biles said. "Our analysis provides recommendations to evolve requirements that were developed 50-60 years ago, which were based on anthropometric averages from a different demographic than currently serves today. The result of not updating these policies is an artificial

limitation regarding recruitment potential into key military positions."

Pregnancy is another area of discussion. At one time, if a woman became pregnant, she was involuntarily discharged from service. Now, of course, women can continue to serve while pregnant. But there are still limitations pertaining to pregnant aviators that the barrier analysis groups are examining. Previously, if a woman became pregnant, she was automatically taken off flight status.

"Now we've opened the aperture so that you can fly during the second

trimester," Walters said. "But we're looking at Federal Aviation Administration practices and what commercial airlines do. They allow women to fly through the majority of the pregnancy without placing the mothers or the missions at risk."

The Air Force is now investigating the possibility of allowing aviators with doctor-confirmed "uncomplicated pregnancies" to continue flying longer, which would increase readiness and positively impact culture.

Tied to this is the issue of breastfeeding. Most obstetricians and

pediatricians recommend mothers breastfeed their babies. If they are home stationed, women can use a breast pump to feed their children while at work. The problem comes when mission requirements drive temporary dislocation. The groups are looking for ways to ship the breast milk home.

There are undoubtedly other areas where there may be barriers to women's service. These barrier analysis groups will continue to work to enable women to contribute to national defense.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Helping the environment, one acre at a time

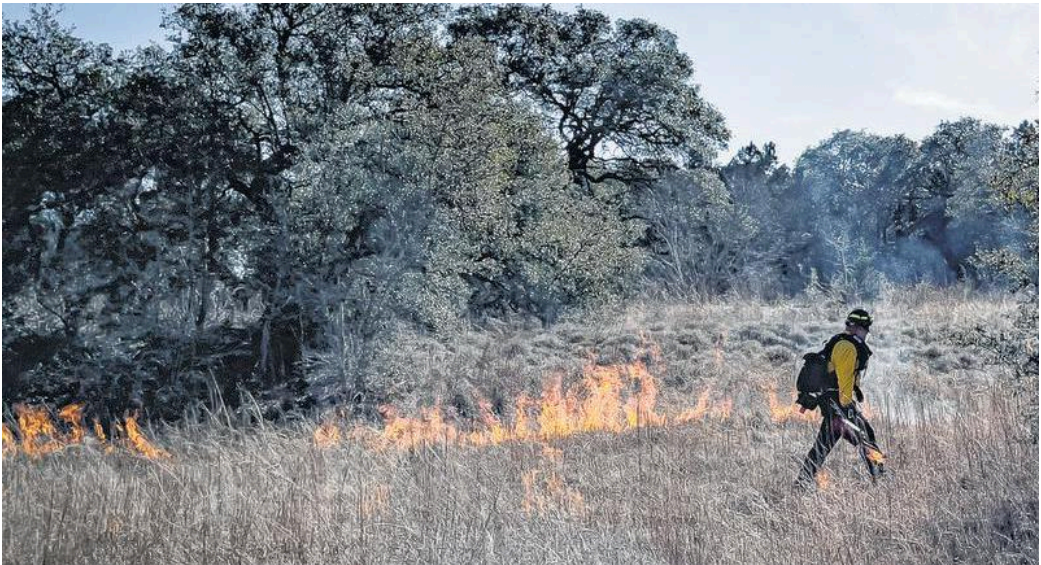
By Brian G. Rhodes
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio's Natural Resources Office, Fire & Emergency Services, and Air Force Wildland Fire Branch members conducted a prescribed burn from Jan. 18-26 at JBSA-Camp Bullis, Texas.

The process focused on more than 1,700 acres of wildlands at JBSA-Camp Bullis. The burn is intended to reduce fuel loads, such as dead vegetation and thick brush, which will lessen the risk of future and potentially catastrophic wildfires.

JBSA Fire Emergency Services personnel coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as fire departments in the surrounding areas to ensure the burn happened safely and remains fully contained throughout the scheduled periods.

JBSA-Camp Bullis comprises more than 27,000 acres of ranges, training areas, and wildlands on San Antonio's north side and is a crucial training location for service members from Joint Base San Antonio.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN G. RHODES

Joint Base San Antonio's Natural Resources Office, Fire & Emergency Services, and Air Force Wildland Fire Branch officials conducted a prescribed burn Jan. 19 at JBSA-Camp Bullis.



David Sanchez, Air Force Wildland Fire Branch firefighter, conducts a prescribed burn Jan. 19 at JBSA-Camp Bullis.



The burn is intended to reduce fuel loads, such as dead vegetation and thick brush, which will lessen the risk of future and potentially catastrophic wildfires.



Nesa Yoko Rampernas, Air Force Wildland Fire Branch firefighter, along with Joint Base San Antonio's Natural Resources Office, and Fire & Emergency Services conduct a prescribed burn Jan. 19 at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

Registration open for 2022 national virtual industry outreach

By Daniel P. Elkins

MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Registration is now open at SAM.gov for the second annual Mission and Installation Contracting Command Advance Planning Briefing for Industry taking place virtually March 7-10, 2022.

MICC officials announced in November the virtual APBI event as their single, command-wide effort for 2022 allowing small business and large industry representatives to hear forecasted requirements in support of varied Army mission partners from the command's senior contracting officials.

Amy Ulisse, an assistant director for the office of small business programs at MICC Field Directorate Office Fort Eustis, Virginia, is leading planning efforts for the March APBI.

"The virtual outreach opportunity allows the MICC to reduce the barriers to competition and increase the transparency of information by expanding the knowledge of contract opportunities with the Army," Ulisse said. "In addition, the APBI will reinforce to small businesses that their

capabilities and capacity are key."

Different from the inaugural APBI in 2021, participants will have the opportunity to hear from leaders with the Army's major commands and small business programs office prior to the start of this year's event. Recorded briefings from Army major command senior leaders will provide an overview of their respective command by outlining their mission and priorities; types of contracted requirements; fiscal 2021 small business achievements; and methods in which industry can assist in overcoming contract challenges.

These video briefings will be posted to the APBI SAM.gov announcement leading up to the event to allow industry to better prepare for the live business engagement in March.

On the first day of the live, virtual APBI, March 7, contract requirements by the MICC Field Directorate Office at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, will be briefed from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. CDT. It will include forecasted requirements for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Contracting officials from the 419th

Contracting Support Brigade at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, will brief their requirements on the second day, March 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. CDT. The brigade is responsible for contract requirements at Fort Bragg; Fort Drum, New York; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; Fort Stewart, Georgia; and Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

The third day of the APBI, March 9, includes a forecast of contract requirements by the MICC Field Directorate Office at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. CDT. Installation for which the field directorate contracts supplies and services include Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Lee, Virginia; Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania; Fort Eustis; Fort Rucker, Alabama; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; West Point, New York; and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

On the APBI's final day, March 10, the 418th CSB at Fort Hood, Texas, briefs its forecast contract requirements from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. CDT. The brigade includes subordinate contracting elements at Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Riley,

Kansas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Hood; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Irwin, California; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; Dugway Proving Ground, Utah; and Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.

The upcoming event follows the MICC's first command-wide virtual industry outreach in March 2021 that attracted more than 1,300 representatives from small and large industry. The 2021 APBI featured remarks by leaders from the Installation Management Command, Army Office of Small Business Programs, Training and Doctrine Command, and Army Test and Evaluation Command as well as acquisition leaders from throughout the MICC.

In fiscal 2021, MICC contracting professionals executed more than 27,000 contract actions valued at \$5.2 billion in support of installation support services, facilities maintenance and sustainment, logistics, and range and mission support services for the Army enterprise across the continental United States.

For more information, visit SAM.gov notice or email usarmy.jbsa.acc-micc.list.hq-sbs-2022-apbi@army.mil.

San Antonio Market successfully launches MHS GENESIS

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After months of training and preparation, the San Antonio Market, to include Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, went live with MHS GENESIS Jan. 22.

MHS GENESIS is the Military Health System's new electronic health record system being deployed to military hospitals and clinics around the world. The MHS GENESIS system is the centerpiece of a larger transformation to securely standardize, integrate and manage medical records across the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"It has been a tremendous undertaking to be the largest MHS GENESIS implementation wave within the Military Health System," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Jeannine M. Ryder, 59th Medical Wing commander and San Antonio Market director. "Our medics are engaged, positive and flexible while adapting to this new electronic medical record."

To help ensure a smooth transition, Brooke Army Medical Center stood up the Emergency Operations Center and had clinical and support teams across the organization working around the clock.

"The team that's helping to implement MHS GENESIS and the staff as a whole are doing a wonderful job," said Brig. Gen. Clinton Murray, BAMC commanding general and San Antonio Market deputy director.

"I'm pleased to say the implementation is going very well," he added. "As I visited various departments and services throughout the weekend, I was incredibly impressed by everyone's enthusiasm and positive feedback. The time between turning systems off and on can be tricky with paper orders, labs and X-rays, but the team did it flawlessly."

While the transition should be mostly transparent for patients, a key change is the switch from TRICARE Online to the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal for online support. The secure website provides 24/7 access to individual and family health information, including visit notes, secure messaging, test results, appointment scheduling and online



TECH. SGT. TORY PATTERSON

Maj. (Dr.) Andrew Gausepohl, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center Family Emergency Center medical director, celebrates inputting his first prescription into the new MHS GENESIS system at the FEC at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 22.

"I'm pleased to say the implementation is going very well. As I visited various departments and services throughout the weekend, I was incredibly impressed by everyone's enthusiasm and positive feedback. The time between turning systems off and on can be tricky with paper orders, labs and X-rays, but the team did it flawlessly."

**Brig. Gen. Clinton Murray,
BAMC commanding general and San Antonio Market deputy director**

prescription renewal.

Patients can access the new Portal at <https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil> using their same DS Logon: <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/>.

Beneficiaries who are experiencing issues with their records or information in the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal can submit an Enterprise Service Desk ticket by calling 1-800-600-9332 or email

dha.jbsa.j-6.mbx.mhs-service-desk@mail.mil. For issues logging onto the system, contact the Defense Manpower Data Center at 1-800-538-9552.

Market leaders continue to ask patients and staff for their patience and support during the transition. To enable care teams and support personnel to train and learn the system, the Market has temporarily reduced the

number of available appointments. As a result, patients may be referred to the network for primary or specialty care, directed to urgent care centers for same-day care, or experience longer wait times for medical services.

"I realize there are frustrations for both staff and patients, however this record will provide safe, quality care to all of our beneficiaries," Ryder said. "Our staff continued to provide the most acute and complex care without losing inpatient capabilities and capacity at BAMC. This is a testament to engaged leadership, clinical experts and our partners within the MHS GENESIS implementation team."

"We are incredibly proud of the staff and greatly appreciate our beneficiaries' support and patience at this time," Murray added. "Thanks to this team's hard work and commitment, we are anticipating continued success with this transition."

Military hospital support to FEMA to begin in Maine, Maryland, expands in three states

U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) Public Affairs

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, approximately 115 military medical personnel, including medical doctors, nurses, and respiratory therapists, have deployed or will deploy in five teams, to five states to support civilian healthcare workers treating COVID-19 patients.

“As we have seen at other times during the pandemic, a rise in hospitalizations from COVID-19 starts at different times in different locations,” said Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., U.S. Army North commander. “Our long-established relationship with FEMA in each of its ten regions allows us to approach this volatility from a position of strength and, in partnership with federal, state, and local authorities, and civilian hospital staff, alleviate the suffering of those hardest hit.”

The Department of Defense is beginning support in Maine and Maryland, and expanding support in Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio.

In Maine, a 15-person team from the U.S. Air Force will support Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston.

In Maryland, a 40-person team from the U.S. Navy will support Adventist HealthCare Alternate Care



SPC. JAMES ALEGRIA

Army Sgt. Tyler Bardo (left), a practical nurse specialist from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, puts on proper protective equipment in preparation to enter a patient's room at Northwest Texas Healthcare System in Amarillo Jan. 27.

Site in Takoma Park.

In Michigan, a 20-person team from the U.S. Army is supporting Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. This team joins five other teams located in Dearborn, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Muskegon, and Wyandotte.

In Minnesota, a 20-person team from the U.S. Army will support

Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. This team is in addition to the support that previously occurred in Minneapolis and St. Cloud, both of which ended recently.

In Ohio, a 20-person team from the U.S. Army will support Summa Health System — Akron Campus in Akron. This team joins the team

currently supporting Cleveland.

In addition to the aforementioned teams and locations, the joint Department of Defense effort currently includes fourteen teams working in ten states — one in Arizona, one in Indiana, one in New Hampshire, one in New Jersey, two in New Mexico, three in New York, two in Pennsylvania, one in Rhode Island, one in Texas, one in Wisconsin — and one team in the Navajo Nation.

U.S. Army North, under U.S. Northern Command's oversight, provides operational command of the teams.

On Dec. 30, 2021, the Secretary of Defense approved the activation of 1,000 military medical personnel to support the federal COVID-19 response mission. Five hundred of the 1,000 were made available to support requests for federal support on Jan. 15, 2022. The other 500 will become available at the end of the month.

These 1,000 personnel join approximately 400 other military medical personnel, previously activated to provide assistance to civilian hospitals.

All of the personnel announced today are from the recently assigned additional forces. In total, 275 of the first 500 of these 1,000 additional forces are supporting or will soon support hospitals.

Stay safe heating your home this winter

902nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Heating is the second leading cause of home fires and injuries, and the third leading cause of home fire deaths, according to the National Fire Prevention Association.

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January and February.

The following safety tips and precautions can prevent most heating fires from happening:

- ▶ Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment,

like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove and portable space heaters.

- ▶ Have a three-foot child-free and pet-free zone around open fires and space heaters.
- ▶ Never use a stove or oven to heat the home.
- ▶ Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- ▶ Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- ▶ Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.

- ▶ Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks and embers from flying into the room. Ashes should be cooled before putting them in a metal container.
- ▶ Make sure smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button, at least once a month.

When it comes to wood-burning stoves, install them following the manufacturer's instructions or have a professional install them.

All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide, or CO, poisoning. Install and

maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.

If you smell gas in your gas heater or gas appliances, do not light the appliance. Evacuate the home immediately and call 911 to report an emergency.

For more information about heating safety, visit the National Fire Prevention Association at www.nfpa.org/education or contact one of the Joint Base San Antonio fire prevention offices at JBAS-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-2727, at JBAS-Lackland at 210-671-2921, or at JBAS-Randolph at 210-652-6915.

BAMC earns re-verification as Level I Trauma Center

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL
CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center has been re-verified as a Level I Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons for its dedication to providing optimal care for injured patients.

“This achievement confirms our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality trauma care for our civilian and military patients,” said BAMC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Clinton Murray. “It’s also a testament to our trauma staff’s professionalism and expertise.”

BAMC is the only Level I trauma center within the Department of Defense and one of two Level I trauma centers within San Antonio. Alongside University Health System, BAMC administered lifesaving care to more than 5,600 trauma patients last year, admitting more than 3,900 of those patients, from an area that stretches across 22 counties in Southwest Texas and encompasses 2.2 million people.

“During the unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic, BAMC was able to work with our community partners to maintain the regional trauma system during three separate COVID-19 surges,” said Army Col. Wyman Peterson, deputy commander for surgical services. “This led to an increase of almost 30 percent in trauma admissions.”

Hospitals seeking verification must undergo intense scrutiny by reviewers from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma every three years. To be verified, the hospital must demonstrate its ability to provide a broad spectrum of trauma care resources to address the needs of all injured patients. This spectrum encompasses the prehospital phase through the rehabilitation process.

There are five separate categories of verification in the COT’s program. Each category has specific criteria that must be met by a facility seeking that level of



COREY TOVE

Trauma personnel receive an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation or ECMO patient into the Emergency Department at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 24.

verification. To obtain the re-verification, BAMC underwent an on-site review by a team of experienced site reviewers, who use the current Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient manual as a guideline in conducting the survey.

“Maintaining our Level I trauma status is not only an asset for the San Antonio community, it’s critical to military readiness,” Murray said. “We are the only military treatment facility within the DoD with this volume of complex trauma, making us the premier medical readiness training platform for military healthcare professionals.

“What we do here ensures our medical personnel are ready to do what’s needed to save a life whether stateside or downrange, for full-scale military operations or humanitarian assistance,” he added.

LACKLAND

MTI achieves success from humble beginnings

By Joe Gangemi

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

There are more trainees attending Air Force Basic Military Training than residents living in the small city of Garapan, Saipan, the hometown of Tech. Sgt. Eileen Echaluse, a Master Military Training Instructor at the 331st Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Although she was from the largest island of the Northern Mariana Islands, she realized there had to be a better way of life outside her tiny village.

Echaluse was a member of her high school exhibition rifle drill team and an Army JROTC cadet; as a senior, she led her company as a cadet captain. So there was little hesitation in reaching out to her regional Air Force recruiter after graduating high school. She acknowledged she had no desire to attend an island college and there were no other substantial opportunities to grow.

"The Marines tried to recruit me first and they almost got me in there!" she said. "They were ready to send me to the military entrance processing station, but I just felt like the Air Force was a better option for me. I sought out the Air Force recruiter from Guam and told him I was interested. Tech. Sgt. Frank Hernandez — best recruiter ever!"

Before enlisting, Echaluse had zero ties to the Air Force. She didn't know how long basic military training was or that it took place in San Antonio.

"Our Airmen come from all walks of life and they are seeking to make themselves a better version than the day before," said Chief Master Sgt. Learie Gaitan, former 737th Training Group superintendent. "Eileen's story is much like mine, an immigrant's journey in the Air Force and now the superintendent of Air Force Basic Training — who would have thought?"

Echaluse joined the Air Force in August 2011 and spent the first seven years of her career as a Services Craftsman. During her assignment at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, she decided to apply for developmental special duty positions. Honor Guard Manager and Airman Leadership School



Tech. Sgt. Eileen Echaluse (far right), then assigned to the 37th Training Wing Detachment 5 as a military training instructor, leads graduating basic military trainees during their graduation ceremony at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, Sept. 11, 2020.

KEMBERLY GROUE

Instructor were among her top choices. However, her final choice was to be an MTI and she was selected in March 2018. She was awarded her Master Military Training Instructor blue rope, Oct. 21, 2021.

Gaitan said that as an MTI, Echaluse is the first introduction many trainees have to the Air Force and that she sets the standards for what an NCO should be.

"Character isn't built during a crisis, it's revealed," Gaitan said. "Tech. Sgt. Echaluse's character is the epitome of an American Airman. Her steadfast devotion to helping the 737th TRG keep our training pipeline open speaks to the commitment of our Force Generators."

"There is one thing that transcends every generation of Airmen — their commitment to serve our Air Force and our beloved nation," Gaitan said. "I am truly proud of 'Ech' — a young woman from a village in Garapan, who continues to improve not only herself but for our Air Force and Space Force."

In 2020, as part of an ongoing



TECH. SGT. MONICA BRADEN

Tech. Sgt. Eileen Echaluse, a Master Military Training Instructor at the 331st Training Squadron, poses for a photo in front of the 331st TRS mural at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 13.

contingency response to COVID-19 and to prove that locations other than JBSA-Lackland could also host BMT, Echaluse spent eight months leading trainees through BMT at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The MTIs tasked with training and enforcing the standards while at Keesler

Air Force Base ensured that the intensity and training did not change because of the location.

"Training was intense," Echaluse said. "The only thing about Keesler BMT that was different was the furniture, the dormitory, and the transit to and from the mini-mall. We pushed those trainees to learn quickly, perform every single day, and to become the standard for the future."

Echaluse's time as an MTI has taught her to multi-task at an ultimate level, increase her decision-making process and quickly problem-solve. With an upcoming permanent-change of station, Echaluse will use what she has learned at her next duty station.

"This job has made me connect with some of the best people I will ever meet and get to work with," she said, who will be returning to her force support career field come March 2022. "This is the best job in the Air Force and being in charge of drill and ceremonies for the 331st Training Squadron is the cherry on top of it all. I would do it again."

JBSA-Lackland to host voting assistance officer training

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center will conduct a training workshop for voting assistance officers, Family Support & Readiness Groups and networks of military Ombudsman and Key spouses from 9-11 a.m. Feb 28 at the JBSA-Lackland Arnold Hall Community Center.

The workshop will cover the roles and responsibilities of voting assistance officers, or VAOs, who help service members in exercising their right to vote as provided by the Federal Voting Assistance Program, or FVAP, said Tracy Bramlett, JBSA-Lackland M&FRC community readiness consultant.

FVAP is a Department of Defense Program that ensures service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are informed on their right to vote and how to do so from anywhere in the U.S. and the world.

Bramlett said the workshop will be



COURTESY GRAPHIC

facilitated by Clarissa Rodriguez, an FVAP program analyst with the Office of the Undersecretary of the Department of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Rodriguez will provide comprehensive hands-on training and give VAOs the opportunity to provide feedback.

The workshop will include discussions on upcoming changes to FVAP and other

topics related to the duties of VAOs, Bramlett said.

"It will include critical information on the absentee voting process and the resources and tools needed for the success and performance of VAO duties," Bramlett said.

Appointed by a unit commander, VAOs assist active duty members within

their units, military family members and overseas DOD civilian employees in exercising their right to vote by providing and connecting them with the resources, tools and forms needed to do so.

Bramlett said VAOs can assist active duty members and DOD civilians overseas with obtaining knowledge of the process for submitting an absentee ballot if they are stationed or assigned away from the place they are registered to vote at.

VAOs and any JBSA member who is interested in attending this workshop can register for it by contacting the installation voting office at JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-3722 or 210-671-3723 or emailing lackland.vote@us.af.mil.

JBSA members who need information on voting can contact the JBSA-Lackland Installation Voting Office as well as voting installation offices at JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-5321 or randolph.vote@us.af.mil; or at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-8683 or usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-fss-voting.assistance@mail.mil.

AFIMSC releases updated strategic plan

By Shannon Carabajal

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center released its updated strategic plan Jan. 25, identifying new goals and objectives for helping two services, nine major commands and 83 installations execute their missions and take care of Airmen, Guardians and families around the world.

"This formal update to our strategic plan includes highlights of our work in 2021 along with an introduction to new goals and objectives," said Maj. Gen. Tom Wilcox, AFIMSC commander, in the plan foreword. "They will continue to evolve as we move forward, maintain a cycle of continuous improvement and pursue excellence."

The updated strategy also includes links to news coverage showing real-world impacts of AFIMSC's work.

"Everything we do must be relevant and valuable to commanders, Airmen, Guardians and families we support," Wilcox said.

To fine-tune its strategy, AFIMSC added four new goals across its three major areas, or Lines of Effort, of mission focus: increase lethality and readiness; strengthen Airmen and families; and pursue organizational excellence.

► Create Data Driven Execution Plan Process: Using a deliberate process, this goal delivers a viable path

toward developing a data driven execution plan tool supporting each installation and mission support portfolio.

► Integrate Air Base Command and Control: This goal seeks to optimize decision-making by integrating legacy and emerging IT systems and processes used for installation support and emergency management.

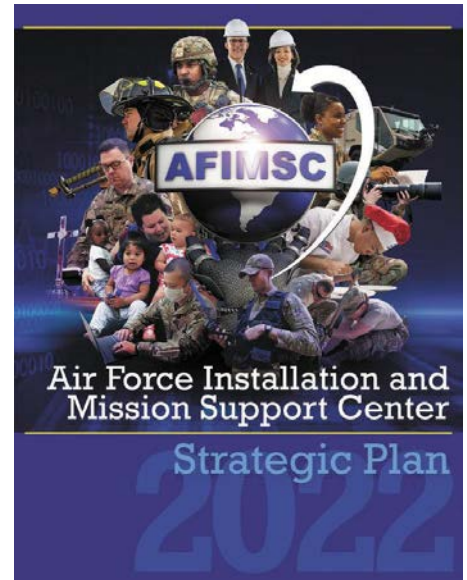
► Implement Office of the Future: This goal focuses on objectives for building and benchmarking a better, radically new way of working at AFIMSC called the Office of the Future, or O2F.

► Build an Inclusive and Equitable Culture/Environment: Through fostering and sustaining an inclusive organizational infrastructure and practices, this goal seeks to ensure AFIMSC employees uphold the center's strategy for maintaining a diverse and inclusive workforce.

For AFIMSC, a continued focus on strategy is helping the center stay focused on what matters most every day, said Trish Marshall, AFIMSC Strategy chief.

"Strategy is baked into daily decision making across the center and has really become part of our culture," she said. "We established a regular rhythm for looking at our strategic goal and objectives so we can keep moving in the right direction and adjust as needed to deliver exceptional installation and mission support."

To learn more about the AFIMSC Strategy, and view the complete strategic plan, visit www.afimsc.af.mil/About-Us/AFIMSC-Strategy.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

RANDOLPH

AETC continues to develop Airmen, celebrates 80th anniversary

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Members of Air Education and Training Command celebrate the command's 80th anniversary recently, honoring the Air Force's oldest major command and all of the students and trainees who have been recruited, trained and educated at First Command.

Throughout 2022, members at AETC have plans to celebrate the 80th milestone for AETC, with various events around the command.

The first event to honor the anniversary was Jan. 22 during an anniversary event, where Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown Jr., provided remarks virtually.

"The familiar torch of knowledge has been continuously passed and still lights our way in a complex world," Brown said. "Everything the men and women of AETC do underpins the Air Force's critical role in national defense and global security. We must never forget AETC is where we started, and where we came from. Your history is the Air Force's history, and you chart our important path into the future."

Other events planned during 2022 to highlight the anniversary are the Wings Over Columbus Air Show and Stem Expo at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, March 26-27; Fiesta San Antonio March 31-April 10, 2022; Great Texas Air Show at JBSA-Randolph April 23-24; and Legacy of Liberty Air Show and Open House at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, May 7-8.

"For 80 years, AETC has taken America's sons and daughters — young men and women who have volunteered to serve their country in difficult times — and forged and developed them into professional Airmen and Guardians," said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AETC commander. "Our legacy then and now is fighting through challenges. We must continue



COURTESY PHOTO

When then-Chief of Staff of the Air Corps Lt. Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold visited San Antonio in December 1942, he spoke to Airmen in training at the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center—today's Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. He spoke in front of 10 acres of air cadets, pilots and crew that would fight the coming key air battles of World War II.

to invest in learning opportunities that allow Airmen to learn the way they live. Accelerating change starts with an empowered workforce that has the foundational competencies, the right skills, and the drive to innovate."

Throughout AETC's history, training to develop Airmen, and most recently Guardians, has been a priority.

"Our people, are our greatest weapon system, no matter the decade," Chief Master Sgt. Erik Thompson, AETC's command chief master sergeant, said. "We celebrate in the fact that nearly all Airmen begin their careers in the First Command and continue to return to us throughout their careers for their

development. We take pride in knowing that our people programs keep Airmen ready to meet the challenges of today and the future."

Key AETC Historical Events

- » Feb. 20, 1910 — Wright Brothers open flying school at the future site of Maxwell Air Force Base
- » March 2, 1910 — Lt. Benjamin Foulois teaches himself to fly aboard Army Aeroplane One at Fort Sam Houston
- » Nov. 1, 1927 — Construction begins on Randolph Field
- » Aug. 17, 1940 — San Angelo Air Corps Basic Flying School established (Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas)
- » March 29, 1941 — Groundbreaking at Litchfield Park Air Base (Luke Air

Force Base, Arizona)

- » April 1, 1941 — First aircraft lands at Albuquerque Army Air Base (Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico)
 - » June 12, 1941 — Army Air Corps Station Eight established (Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi)
 - » Jun 15, 1941 — San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center established (Lackland Air Force Base, Texas)
 - » July 12, 1941 — Enid Army Flying School established (Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma)
 - » Sept. 12, 1941 — Construction begins for Kaye Field (Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi)
 - » Oct. 17, 1941 — Sheppard Field opens (Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas)
 - » Jan. 23, 1942 — Activation of Air Corps Flying Training Command
 - » March 15, 1942 — ACFTC redesignated Army Air Forces Flying Training Command
 - » June 17, 1942 — Altus Army Airfield established (Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma)
 - » March 3, 1943 — Establishment of Laughlin Army Air Field (Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas)
 - » July 31, 1943 — AAFFTC redesignated Army Air Forces Training Command
 - » July 1, 1946 — Air Training Command (ATC) organized as redesignation of AAFTC
 - » July 1, 1993 — Air Education and Training Command established, absorbing Air University, as redesignation of ATC
- For AETC's complete history, go to the Air Force Historian's publications website at <https://www.afhistory.af.mil/Portals/64/Books/Titles/Complete%2080th%20Anniversary%20History%20red2.pdf?ver=9KNxRXhUJPybNzXGQFTSA%3d%3d>
- » Facebook: [Air Education and Training Command](#)
 - » Instagram: [@aetc_firstcommand](#)
 - » Twitter: [@AETCCommand](#)

Fiesta leaders visit 12th Flying Training Wing

By Benjamin Faske

12TH FLYING TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fiesta San Antonio leadership visited the 12th Flying Training Wing Jan. 18-19 and got to see what it takes to be an Air Force pilot.

The two-day visit began with egress training and a flight physiology brief and then they headed to the squadrons for their flight suite fittings. On Jan. 19, they were ready to take flight.

Retired Army Col. Jon Fristoe, 2022 Fiesta Commission President, flew with the 560th Flying Training Squadron. Barton Simpson, 2022 King Antonio XCIX, flew with the 435th Fighter Training Squadron. Augustine "Augie" Cortez Jr., 2022 El Rey Feo, flew with the 559th Flying Training Squadron.

Fiesta® San Antonio started in 1891 as a one-parade event to honor the memory of the heroes of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto.

That historic commemoration still takes place, but for more than a century, Fiesta® has grown into a celebration of San Antonio's rich and diverse cultures and today is one of this nation's premier festivals with an economic impact of more than \$340 million.



BRIAN BOISVERT

Augustine "Augie" Cortez Jr., 2022 El Rey Feo, flew with the 559th Flying Training Squadron.



BENJAMIN FASKE

Barton Simpson, 2022 King Antonio XCIX, flew with the 435th Fighter Training Squadron.



TECH. SGT. KEITH JAMES

Retired Army Col. Jon Fristoe, 2022 Fiesta Commission President, flew with the 560th Flying Training Squadron.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

By Tonya Lee

JBSA-RANDOLPH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INTEGRATOR

Dating is a normal part of life that many experience for the first time as a teenager or young adult.

Healthy relationships require hard work, communication, and a level of maturity that may be complex for our youth to navigate. As a result, approximately one-third of teens and young adults' relationships are characterized as unhealthy or violent.

Understanding dating violence, recognizing the risk factors and warning signs are the first steps in prevention.

Teen/young adult dating violence includes physical, psychological, sexual abuse, harassment, or stalking in a person between the ages of 12 and 18, including past, present, romantic or consensual relationships.

During February, advocates across the United States stand in solidarity against interpersonal violence among our teens and young adults.

February is dedicated to Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, or TDVAM, a month-long effort to raise awareness about dating abuse and to increase the protective factors which help stop the abuse before it occurs.

This year's TDVAM campaign theme is "Talk About It," which calls for teens, young adults, family, and friends to engage in meaningful conversation about healthy relationships to better understand the signs of unhealthy and/or abusive relationships.

Open and honest conversations with peers and loved ones are essential to feeling safe and supported. Talking about healthy relationships and recognizing warning signs should not be a conversation only held at home. These conversations would be in our classrooms, dorm rooms, youth centers, churches, and anywhere our youth spend their time.

The Joint Base San Antonio community is hosting several events during the month of February to share resources, information, and tools to "Talk About It" and create positive,

nonjudgmental, and caring spaces for all young people.

Together with shared experiences, people can be empowered to take the time to talk and begin the healing process.

Throughout February

» Jeans for Teens Drive: Collection boxes will be placed at JBSA chapels.

» Informational Booths: Tables displays/banners/ribbons at JBSA middle and high schools. Educational materials and other awareness items will be given out to teens/youth.

FEB. 15

In Their Shoes — Teen and Dating Violence Classroom Edition: Texas Advocacy in Austin will host engaging conversations about dating violence and healthy relationships. Topics cover sexting, pregnancy, homophobia, and stalking. The session is at 4:15 p.m. at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Center. Call 210-652-3298 for more information.