

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MAY 10, 2019



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. KRISTAL WRIGHT

Students at Lackland Independent School District march in the PurpleUp! Parade April 12 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Visiting dignitary views Lackland ISD's PurpleUp! Parade

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Army Medicine welcomes new appointee to the SES

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AF establishes 24/7 helpline to address housing concerns

By Zoe Schlott

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Residents of privatized housing on Air Force bases now have a 24/7 toll-free helpline to better assist with any housing concerns that they have not been able to resolve with their local privatized or government housing office, or housing chain of command.

Representatives are now available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, toll-free at **1-800-482-6431**.

The helpline connects residents to the appropriate channels for assistance and consultation, said Col. Michael Beach, Air Force Housing Privatization division chief.

“Our military members and their families are the Air Force’s most important resource, and their access to safe, affordable housing remains a top priority,” Beach said.

The 24/7 helpline is in response to recent concerns raised regarding military privatized housing programs. The Air Force is taking proactive measures to correct housing issues while creating an



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Residents of privatized housing on Air Force bases now have a 24/7 toll-free helpline to assist with any housing concerns. Representatives are available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, toll-free at 1-800-482-6431.

improved and standardized system that ensures the health and safety of Airmen and their families, Beach said.

Once connected to a call-line agent, the representative will document the concern and route it through the Air Force Civil Engineer Center Installations Directorate, which manages and executes the Air Force’s Housing Program. AFCEC will monitor calls to detect possible trends, allowing the Air Force and project owners to collaborate to prevent and resolve issues

at installations.

Although the toll-free helpline is an option to resolve issues, residents and their family members are encouraged to reach out to their project owner or government housing office and wing leadership first to try to resolve the issue. Residents may also use the helpline if they feel uncomfortable approaching their leadership about their situation.

“Our focus with this tool is to provide residents with a way to raise their concerns so they are assured that they are being addressed and resolved in a timely manner,” Beach said.

The Air Force is working closely with concerned residents, project owners and base leadership to review current housing conditions, address health and safety hazards and implement procedures to ensure privatized housing matters are appropriately addressed.

The helpline is just one of the actions the Air Force is taking to demonstrate its commitment to empower residents and reestablish trust within the housing program.

With 300 skilled jobs open, AFCS holds job fair

By Angelina Casarez

AIR FORCE’S PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Civilian Service held a job fair concentrated on skilled-trade candidates April 22-23.

The event focused on filling more than 300 skilled-labored Air Force positions in the San Antonio and surrounding areas, including Altus and Laughlin Air Force Bases, Texas.

“Without a coordinated team effort with our mission partners, these job fairs wouldn’t be possible,” said Mike Brosnan, Air Force’s Personnel Center Talent Acquisition chief. “When we prepare for a job fair of this magnitude, it’s important to have AFPC talent acquisition consultants, staffing and classification teams, unit human resources liaisons, servicing civilian personnel staff and hiring managers working together.”

The event was open to the public and prescreened more than 50 candidates who were invited to interview for positions.

Overall, the event garnered more than 250 applicants, with tentative job offers



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given to more than 80 candidates on the spot.

The Joint Base San Antonio area still has more than 1,000 open positions to fill across various occupations, with skilled trades such as aircraft maintenance and civil engineering having the most.

AFCS plans on hosting more than 80 job fairs across the United States during fiscal year 2019 and anticipates adding more than 3,000 qualified civilians to the

Air Force workforce.

“Civilian employees are critical to continuity and leadership, building a lethal and ready Air Force,” Brosnan said. “The AFCS team is ready to support installation hiring requirements in order to help achieve the Air Force mission.”

To learn more about the Air Force Civilian Service, career opportunities and future events, visit <https://www.afciviliancareers.com/>.

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman

502D AIR BASE WING AND
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

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

Personnel Issues

Q. Why are we not enforcing that motorcycle riders wear their orange vests on base?

A. Thank you for your question! Safety is extremely important for all Joint Base San Antonio personnel, especially for our motorcycle riders.

Regarding your question on motorcycle riders not wearing orange vests, none of the governing standards, Department of Defense Instruction 6055.04, AR 385-10, OPNAVINST 5100.12J, and AFI 91-207, mandate wearing them.

AFI 91-207 and AR 385-10 does state "Riders are encouraged to select PPE that incorporates fluorescent colors and retro-reflective material," but orange vests are not required.

Please continue to ride safely as we enter summer riding weather. If you are a non-rider, ensure that you are on the lookout for motorcycles on the roads to keep all JBSA personnel safe.

Installation & Facilities

Q. Is it possible for the Gateway Club hours at JBSA-Lackland to be extended for the Sunday brunch hours? They are currently from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

A. Thank you for your question. While the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club currently offers a Sunday Breakfast Buffet, we have not offered a traditional Sunday brunch for some time. This decision was based off of customer demand that was expressed in a survey conducted.



The findings of the survey told us that customer usage of the 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. hour was very low. While the breakfast buffet is served from 9:30-11:30 a.m., our staff may extend service until 12:30 p.m., based on customer demand for the specific day.

We will continue to evaluate our hours of operation to ensure we meet customer needs and desires, along with our established financial goals.

Q. Is it true residents that live on JBSA-Medina Annex will start getting paid to live there and/or will rent prices be lowered for member who stay on JBSA-Medina?

A. Thank you for your inquiry. We are always interested in hearing questions and concerns pertaining to our family housing.

The rumor of residents being paid to live in JBSA-Medina Annex housing is not true.

All military housing residents receive their respective Basic Allowance for Housing rates and then have their agreed upon rent taken out as an allotment.

JBSA-Medina Annex housing, however, is a market rent community.

This means that rents are based on comparable market prices for housing in the surrounding area.

Rent prices can fluctuate and often times are less than BAH. Any difference between rent and BAH is retained by the resident. The good news is that even if area rent becomes higher than BAH rates, the rent for military housing will never exceed BAH.

If you have further questions on rent rates, please reach out to your respective privatized housing office for more information.

Q. There is a big crater by Stewart Street and Carlswell Avenue at JBSA-Lackland. It has been there for months. It is so big that you have to drive through it! When will this be fixed?

A. Thank you very much for identifying this concern. Our Civil Engineer pavements team were scheduled to have this pothole repaired May 8, weather permitting. In the meantime, we will fill in the hole with gravel to reduce the impact to vehicles and their occupants until the permanent fix is made.

On another positive note, CE has a number of larger road repair projects

across all of JBSA scheduled for this year and next year. We will continue to strive to provide smooth and safe roads for everyone who lives, works, and plays on JBSA.

Miscellaneous

Q. When is the Band of the West going to play Metallica songs for us???

A. Thank you for your request! You are in good company ... Chief Lantagne is a Metallica fan too.

We usually pick our tunes for commander's calls and special events based on the capabilities of the band and the requirements of our missions. We haven't included any Metallica yet because we haven't found a need or requirement for one of their songs in the types of shows we've done.

However, now that we know we have some interest from our valued customers, we will keep that in mind as we move ahead with future song selection and set lists.

We can't guarantee that we can meet every request, but you never know ... "Enter Sandman" may make an appearance on a set list soon.

Celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

By Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Public Affairs

Each year, celebrated in May, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month recognizes the challenges faced by Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians and their vital contributions to the American story.

The observance was established by Title 36, U.S. Code, Section 102, and celebrates the service and sacrifices of Asian/Pacific Islanders throughout the United States. The theme for the observance changes each year; this year's theme is "Unite Our Mission by Engaging Each Other."

The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, or DEOMI, recently unveiled this year's official



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artwork, commemorating the celebration. The piece was inspired by traditional puzzle designs of Asian and Pacific Island cultures, such as the Edakoodam, Tangram and Lu Ban Lock.

The vibrant colors in the design embody the diversity of

the Asian American Pacific Islander community, which represents nearly 50 countries and ethnic groups, each with distinct cultures, traditions and histories. The words surrounding the puzzle emphasize the skills and characteristics necessary to

"Unite Our Mission by Engaging Each Other."

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month honors Americans with a proud heritage that encompasses all of the Asian continent and Pacific islands of Polynesia, Melanesia and

Micronesia.

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month was introduced in the House of Representatives in June 1978. This joint resolution was passed by the House and Senate and was later signed by the president on Oct. 5, 1978. This law directed the president to declare a seven-day period, beginning May 4, 1979, as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week." It wasn't until 1992 that Congress designated May as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

May was selected to commemorate the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, and immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843. Chinese workers formed the majority of workers who laid the transcontinental railroad.

Limited professional gear allowed during PCS

By Master Sgt. Dan DeCook
AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AGENCY

As the permanent change of station peak season approaches, Air Force officials are reminding Airmen to review the Department of Defense policy on transportation of professional gear to avoid costly charges.

"We highly encourage Airmen get one-on-one counseling with their personal property processing office to learn exactly what is and what isn't considered professional gear," said Kevin Kennedy, Personal Property Activity deputy director. "Travelers should also carefully read through the Joint Federal Travel Regulation."

As of May 1, 2014, the amount of professional books, papers

and equipment, or PBP&E, shipped in household goods during a PCS move is limited to a maximum of 2,000 pounds and is not charged against the authorized household goods weight allowances.

This includes items such as instruments, tools and equipment unique to technicians, mechanics, medical professionals, musicians and members of the professions; and specialized clothing, such as diving suits, astronauts' suits, flying suits and helmets, band uniforms, chaplains' vestments; and other specialized apparel and unusual uniforms or clothing for the performance of official duties at the next duty assignment.

Issues arise when Airmen claim items as PBP&E that are not, which could cost them.



LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

"An article which loses its identity as PBP&E continues as household goods, which can lead to excess weight charges for which an Airman is still financially responsible," Kennedy said.

Policy excludes items of a

professional nature that will not be necessary at the next duty station, such as textbooks from schools and personal books, even if used as part of a previous professional reading program, and some previously allowed categories such as

personal computer equipment and memorabilia.

To view the JFTR and changes, see Joint Federal Travel Regulation change 327 and Joint Travel Regulation change 581. These DOD guidelines apply to all military services.

Government contracted movement specialists pack furniture aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point June 6. The summer months are the peak of business for moving companies, causing backups in business and long wait periods. Marines and Sailors receiving new orders can find themselves without help preparing their possessions and family without proper planning.

Continuing TRICARE health coverage after retirement

From TRICARE Communications

When you retire from active duty or turn 60 as a retired reserve member, your TRICARE coverage changes.

After either of these Qualifying Life Events, or QLEs, you must take action and enroll in a TRICARE retiree health plan so you and your family members don't have a gap in your TRICARE coverage after retirement.

Typically, you have up to 90 days after your retirement date to enroll in a TRICARE plan as a retiree. If you don't, you and your family members will only be able to get care at a military hospital or clinic if space is available.

Each service is responsible for updating the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, with your retirement date. Until that date is posted to DEERS, you can't enroll in a retiree TRICARE plan. In some cases, the retirement date doesn't show up in DEERS until days or even months after you've retired. For the time being, the Defense Health Agency is allowing retiring members and their eligible family members up to 12 months from their retirement date, or turning age 60 for retired reserve members.

"This 12-month period is longer than

the standard QLE period of 90 days," said Mark Ellis, TRICARE Select Program Manager, DHA. "This allows plenty of time to update DEERS and enroll in a TRICARE health plan as our new retirees adjust to civilian life."

Coverage must begin effective the day after you ended your previous TRICARE coverage, and any TRICARE enrollment fees must be paid retroactive to that date.

Continuing TRICARE health care coverage isn't automatic following these QLEs. If you don't enroll in a plan after retiring from active duty or turning 60, you'll lose TRICARE coverage and only be able to receive care at military hospitals and clinics if space is available. After the 12-month period, you may only enroll in or make changes to your health plan during the annual TRICARE Open Season or following another QLE.

You'll need to make sure you update your and your family's information in DEERS. You and your family members will also need new identification cards upon the sponsor's status change. No matter when you enroll within the 12-month period, coverage begins on the first day of your retirement and you must pay all enrollment fees back to that date.

If you're retiring from active duty, you

previously paid nothing out of pocket and your family's costs were minimal (if covered under TRICARE Select). As a retiree, you'll now pay retiree costs for care. Depending on the retiree TRICARE health plan you choose, you may see an increase in your enrollment fees, deductibles, copayments, cost-shares, and other fees.

If you're a retired reserve member who turns age 60 and were enrolled in TRICARE Retired Reserve, your TRR coverage ends the day you turn age 60 and become eligible for TRICARE or TRICARE Select coverage. You must have your retirement fully completed with your service personnel office or command. This means your retirement pay is processed and activated with the Defense Finance and Accounting Services.

To confirm your retired status is properly reflected in DEERS, visit <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect> or call the DEERS Support Office (1-800-538-9552). Once DEERS is accurate, enroll in a TRICARE health plan based on your residence within 12 months from your 60th birthday. As a retiree, you'll pay retiree costs such as enrollment fees, deductibles, copayments, and cost-shares.

You and your family members may be eligible for one of the following TRICARE health plans:

- ▶▶ TRICARE Prime (if residing in a Prime Service Area)
- ▶▶ TRICARE Select or TRICARE Overseas Program Select
- ▶▶ US Family Health Plan
- ▶▶ TRICARE For Life

Visit the TRICARE Plan Finder to learn more about your options. Once you enroll in a TRICARE health plan, you also have pharmacy coverage.

Retiring service members and their eligible family members have the option to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, or FEDVIP. You don't have to be enrolled in a TRICARE retiree health plan to purchase dental coverage. However, you must be enrolled in a TRICARE health plan to potentially qualify to purchase vision coverage through FEDVIP. For more information about FEDVIP and to check your eligibility, visit the FEDVIP website at <https://www.benefeds.com/>.

Learn more about retiring with TRICARE by downloading the Retiring from Active Duty Brochure and Costs and Fees Sheet. Take command of your health and understand your benefits before you retire.

Air Force 2019 PHOTO Contest



The 2019 Air Force Photo Contest runs May 1-31 and features five categories. For more information on the contest, visit <http://www.myairforcelife.com/Arts/Photo-Contest.aspx>.

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2019 AF Photo Contest now open

By Debbie Aragon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Shutterbugs of all ages and experience, get ready! The 2019 Air Force Photo Contest is now open.

The annual contest, managed by the Air Force Services Activity, highlights and celebrates photography created by Airmen and their families.

This year's event features five categories:

- ▶▶ Adult categories, for those 18 and older at the time of entry: Novice for new photographers; and accomplished for those with knowledge based on training or experience, or those who operate as professional photographers.
- ▶▶ Youth categories, based on the age of the photographer at the time of submission: children for ages 6-8; preteens for ages 9-12; and teens for ages 13-17.

With a theme of "Life in Motion," the program managers at AFSVA hope to top last year's 1,300 entries.

"This year's theme gives our photographers great opportunity to be creative," said Darlene Johnson, AFSVA Community Programs Branch chief. "For example, it can be physically moving like running, walking or riding a bike, or it can be emotionally moving, like when an Airman retires or a child is born. Life is one continual motion of moments and we're excited to see what's submitted!"

Photo experts will evaluate each entry based on impact, creativity and technical characteristics.

The contest, part of the Air Force's Arts and Crafts program, runs May 1-31 and is open to all authorized patrons of Air Force morale, welfare and recreation programs.

Photographers can submit up to two original images in JPEG format at <http://www.myairforcelife.com/Arts/Photo-Contest.aspx>. Images must be between three and eight MB.

Winners will be announced midsummer with the top three photographers in each category winning prizes.

Courts-martial, crime and punishment at JBSA

From 502nd Air Base Wing Legal Office & Army Support Activity Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

During the months of March and April 2019, Joint Base San Antonio Air Force and Army commanders administered a variety of non-judicial punishment actions under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The punishments imposed reflect the commander's determination of an appropriate punishment after considering the circumstances of the offense and the offender's record. Officers may not be reduced in rank as a punishment.

A "suspended" punishment does not take effect unless the offender engages in additional misconduct or fails to satisfy the conditions of the suspension. The suspension period usually lasts six months unless a lesser amount is specified.

Following are some of the non-judicial punishment actions that closed out during March and April:

► **Failure to Report, Disobeying a**

NCO: An Army specialist was found guilty of four specifications of failure to report and one specification of disobeying a noncommissioned officer. The specialist was reduced to private first class; received extra duty for 12 days; and was restricted to the limits of company area, dining/medical facility, and place of worship for 12 days.

► **Driving Under the Influence, Drinking while Underage, Speeding:**

An Army private (E-2) was found guilty of one specification of drunken operation of a vehicle, one specification of drinking while under the age of 21 and one specification of driving at a speed greater than the posted speed limit. The private was reduced to private (E-1); received extra duty for 45 days; was restricted to the limits of company area, dining/medical facility, and place of worship for 45 days; and received an oral reprimand.

► **Failure to Report, Violating a General Regulation:** An Army private (E-2) was found guilty of one specification of failure to report and one specification of violating a general regulation. The private received extra



COURTESY PHOTO

duty for 7 days; was restricted to the limits of company area, dining/medical facility, and place of worship for 7 days; and received an oral reprimand.

► **Violating a General Regulation, Assault:** An Army specialist was found guilty of one specification of violating a general regulation and one specification of assault. The specialist was reduced to private first class; received extra duty for 30 days; was restricted to the limits of company area, dining/medical facility, and place of worship for 45 days; and received an oral reprimand.

► **Failure to Report:** An Army specialist was found guilty of two specifications of failure to report. The specialist was reduced to private first

class and received extra duty for 20 days.

► **Wrongful Use of an Illegal Substance:** An Army specialist was found guilty of one specification wrongful use of an illegal substance and was reduced to private first class.

► **Violating a General Regulation:** An Army private (E-2) was found guilty of one specification of violating a general regulation and was reduced to private (E-1); received extra duty for 30 days; and received an oral reprimand.

► **Violating a General Regulation:** An Army specialist was found guilty of one specification of violating a general regulation and was reduced to private first class; received extra duty for 45 days; and received a written reprimand.

Youth summer camps offer engagement and growth

By Debbie Aragon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It may seem far away, but schools will be out for the summer soon. How are you going to keep your kids engaged and excited during their break and give them opportunities to grow?

The Air Force Services Activity, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, manages many programs designed specifically for kids, including a variety of summer camps — both residential and at home station.

"The camps offer youth the chance to participate in fun activities, establish friendships and grow their knowledge and experience in areas they're excited about," said Patti Mehrens, AFSVA Child and Youth Programs Division chief.

For 2019, online applications aren't available for Air Force Youth Camps. The

application form, located at <https://afimsc.usaf.afpims.mil/Portals/89/Documents/AFSVA/2019%20Residential%20and%20Individual%20Sports%20Camp%20Application%20Final.pdf?ver=2019-05-02-094317-567>, must be completed by an appropriate sponsor and submitted via email at AFFCCSystem.Admin-02@us.af.mil.

Sponsors can visit installation child and youth programs for more information on the camps and application process.

Air Force Youth Programs residential camps for 2019 are:

► **Air Force Teen Aviation Camp** — Application must be submitted by May 30. The camp is June 26-July 2 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

► **Air Force Space Camp** — Application must be submitted by June 10 and two sessions are offered. Session 1 is July 21-26

and session 2 is July 28-Aug. 2 in Huntsville, Alabama.

► **Air Force Teen Leadership Summits** — Application must be submitted by June 10 and three sessions are offered: July 7-12 in Jekyll Island, Georgia; July 21-26 at the Wahsega 4-H Center in Dahlonega, Georgia; and Aug. 5-10 at Cheley Camp in Estes Park, Colorado.

There's also a variety of 2019 Air Force Youth Residential Sports Camps.

Application deadline for the following individual residential sports camps is no later than 30 days prior to the start of each camp:

► **Nike Girls Basketball Camp**, June 16-19, at Wingate University, Wingate, North Carolina.

► **Nike Boys Basketball Camp**, June 23-26 at Wingate University.

► **Nike Co-ed Swim Camp**, June 23-26 at Seattle University, Seattle, Washington.

► **Nike Co-ed Soccer Camp**, June 23-26 at Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia.

► **Nike Girls Softball Camp**, July 7-11 at Curry College, Milton, Massachusetts.

► **Contact Boys Football Camp**, July 7-10 at Curry College.

► **Complete Player Jr. Co-ed Basketball**

Camp, July 15-18 in Spokane, Washington.

► **Xcelerate Nike Missouri Boys Lacrosse Camp**, July 8-11 at Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri.

► **Xcelerate Nike Missouri Girls Lacrosse Camp**, July 8-11, at Saint Louis University.

► **Nike Co-ed Volleyball Camp**, July 15-19, at University of California at Santa Cruz in Santa Cruz.

► **Big League Boys Baseball Camp** with two sessions offered, July 21-25 and July 28-Aug. 1 in Lawrenceville, New Jersey

► **Nike Co-ed Peak Performance Swim Camp**, July 22-26, at the University of Washington in Seattle.

► **Nike Co-ed Soccer Camp**, Aug. 4-7, at San Diego State University in San Diego, California.

Additional youth summer camps, offered at each Air Force installation, vary but can include science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), sports, theater, cooking and archery. Parents or guardians should contact their installation youth programs for further information.

Editor's note: No commercial endorsement is intended.

FORT SAM HOUSTON



Airman Grace Dawson practices inserting a breathing tube during training in the Aerospace Medical Service Apprentice program at the Medical Education and Training Campus. Dawson, a student in the Medical Education and Training Campus Aerospace Medical Service Apprentice, or AMSA, program at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, applied her new medical skills in a real scenario when a fellow Airman suffered a medical emergency March 21.

TECH. SGT. KIERRA BAKER



TECH. SGT. HANA WEBB

Maj. Brenda Miazga (left), Medical Education and Training Campus Aerospace Medical Service Apprentice program department chair, presents Airman Grace Dawson with a challenge coin for her actions during a medical emergency.

METC student puts training to use in medical emergency

By Lisa Braun

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
CAMPUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airman Grace Dawson, a student in the Medical Education and Training Campus Aerospace Medical Service Apprentice, or AMSA, program at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, applied her new medical skills in a real scenario when a fellow Airman suffered a medical emergency March 21.

While in the dormitory, an Airman briefly lost consciousness. The Airman's roommate called out for help, prompting Dawson into action.

Without hesitation, Dawson applied the skills she learned in AMSA's emergency medical technician lectures and hands-on demonstrations. She checked the patient's pulse, which was rapid and faint, so she instructed another student

to call for help.

After assessing the patient's level of consciousness by asking a few simple questions, Dawson noted that the patient was exhibiting confusion. The patient also stated her head hurt and was feeling cold.

Dawson immediately began treating for shock. She provided the patient with a blanket and helped her control her breathing. Dawson continued to reassess the patient every minute until the EMS team arrived on scene at which time she provided an in-depth report.

The following school day, Dawson shared her real-world experience with her class. She emphasized the importance of giving 100 percent to the training in order to be prepared, because a medical technician could respond to a medical emergency anywhere and anytime and that a life may depend upon it.

Cole student photographers featured at local exhibit

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Photos of San Antonio places and landmarks taken by Cole High School students at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston are the focus of a special exhibit on display at the University of Texas at San Antonio Institute of Texas Cultures.

The exhibit, titled “San Antonio: Esta es mi Ciudad,” which translates to “This Is My City,” includes 31 images taken by 16 students in the Cole photography program. Photography students, whose works are displayed in the exhibit, and Brenda Marafioti, Cole High School photography/journalism teacher, attended the opening reception of the exhibit March 29.

Exhibit photos include buildings, tourist sites and architectural features of structures across San Antonio, from the historic missions to downtown to the Pearl. The photos taken by the students last fall were part of a class project in which they learned about architecture and elements of art and design in photography.

Marafioti said she and the Institute of Texan Cultures came up with the theme of the exhibit, “San Antonio: Esta es mi Ciudad (This is my City)”, to commemorate the San Antonio Tricentennial — the 300th anniversary of the founding of San Antonio in 1718 — while acknowledging the children of servicemembers who took the photos that make up the exhibit.

“We picked that theme for the exhibit because our kids are from all over,” Marafioti said. “We wanted their perspective on San Antonio.

“What does San Antonio mean to them from the time they are living here as a military child? So we asked them to look at it from different perspectives, different angles and artistic elements that they find in our city,” Marafioti added. “How can they show us this city, in which some of us have lived in forever, from a fresh set of eyes, from a fresh perspective?”

Marafioti said the formation of the exhibit came about after staff members from the Institute of Texan Cultures viewed a gallery of photos done by the students at the Fort Sam Houston Museum last fall.

When the institute contacted

Marafioti, she told them the photography students wanted to do an exhibit focusing on the architecture of buildings and structures, in support of the San Antonio Tricentennial.

Sixty student photographers submitted images for the exhibit at the Institute of Texan Cultures. The final 31 images for the exhibit were chosen by a group of Fort Sam Houston Independent School District administrators and teachers and local photographers.

The number of photos in the exhibit displayed by each of the 16 students selected ranged from one to six.

Raquelle Bennett has six of her photos on display in the exhibit. She said her favorite image is one she took of a downtown parking garage, which has a circular shape. The photo was taken with the camera looking downward at the parking garage as a vehicle moves on one of the levels of the garage.

To add contrast to the photo, Bennett made the background, including the parking garage, black and white, and left the vehicle, which was yellow, in color.

“It was just very pleasing to the eye, it was like super swirly,” Bennett said. “So, I wanted to take a picture looking down for the perspective. It showed a lot of elements of design because the repetition of the pattern of the parking garage goes into a swirl.”

Hannah Cook submitted a photo of the Arneson River Theatre, located on the San Antonio River Walk, for the exhibit. The photo is a collage of several images she took of the outdoor theater.

“There were certain things we were told to create,” Cook said. “So I thought an artistic way to do it was to take tons of different pictures of the Arneson in small portions and just bring them together, make it look like it is a collage. All of the pictures have a meaning to it, every single part of the Arneson is grouped, brought together by each other. Each little tiny detail is important.”

For one of her photos in the exhibit, Julia Alvarez took an image of Mission San José reflected in a glass ball held up by the hand of Marafioti.

“We were on a field trip and we always take different types of props we can use,” Alvarez said. “I just thought it



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from the Cole High School photography program and their teacher, Brenda Marafioti (second from right) attend the opening reception of the “San Antonio: Esta es mi Ciudad” exhibit at the Institute of Texan Cultures on March 29.

would be a cool idea to see how it would look in the image. So I had Mrs. Marafioti hold the ball up towards the building. Working with balancing the focus off and on the ball and trying to focus on the background and then the ball, it was just a really fun experience to do.”

Marafioti is pleased by how the exhibit turned out and the quality of the photos taken by her students.

“I think it was an incredibly unique perspective that highlights the diversity

of our city,” she said. “They showed San Antonio as both a cultural center and an element of art.”

“San Antonio: Esta es mi Ciudad” is scheduled to run through July on the first floor of the Institute of Texan Cultures, located at 801 E. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd. in downtown San Antonio.

For more information about the Institute, including hours and admission, visit <http://www.texan-cultures.com/>.

Army Medicine welcomes new appointee to the SES

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CENTER & SCHOOL,
HEALTH READINESS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joseph M. Harmon III, deputy to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Health Readiness Center of Excellence, or HRCoE, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in a ceremony at the Army Medical Department Museum on April 29.

The Senior Executive Service, or SES, leads America's civilian workforce. SES is a civilian service position in the federal government equivalent to the rank of general officer.

According to the Office of Personnel Management, individuals selected for SES have demonstrated several executive core qualifications to include leading change, leading people, being results driven, having business acumen and demonstrating ability to build coalitions.

Harmon exemplifies the SES attributes through more than 40 years of dedicated military and civilian service to Army Medicine. Prior to this appointment, Harmon served in key staff and command positions from platoon to brigade levels.

At the HRCoE, he served as the 187th Medical Battalion commander and HRCoE Chief of Staff, and has been the Director of Strategy and Innovation since July 2009.

Harmon's promotion ceremony was hosted by the HRCoE and officiated by Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army and commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Command, and took place at the Army Medical Department Museum.

The overall purpose of the senior executive service is to ensure the executive management of an organization at the strategic level in response to the needs, policy and goals of the nation, West explained.

With more than 40,000 civilians serving in Army Medicine, the general stressed that the civilian workforce is an essential continuity element of the command, especially as Army Medicine undergoes the largest transformation in over 40 years.

"As we move forward, it is vital to ensure that we continue to train our nation's medical professionals, capture lessons learned and develop and integrate force structure to meet the evolving threat," West said.

In his new role as the deputy to the commanding general, HRCoE, Harmon is responsible for strategic planning and



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army and commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Command, congratulates Joseph M. Harmon III, deputy to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Health Readiness Center of Excellence.

execution of a \$154 million budget and serves as the primary integrator of medical requirements determination, capability development and mission execution across the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities and policy domains and the planning, programing, budgeting and execution process.

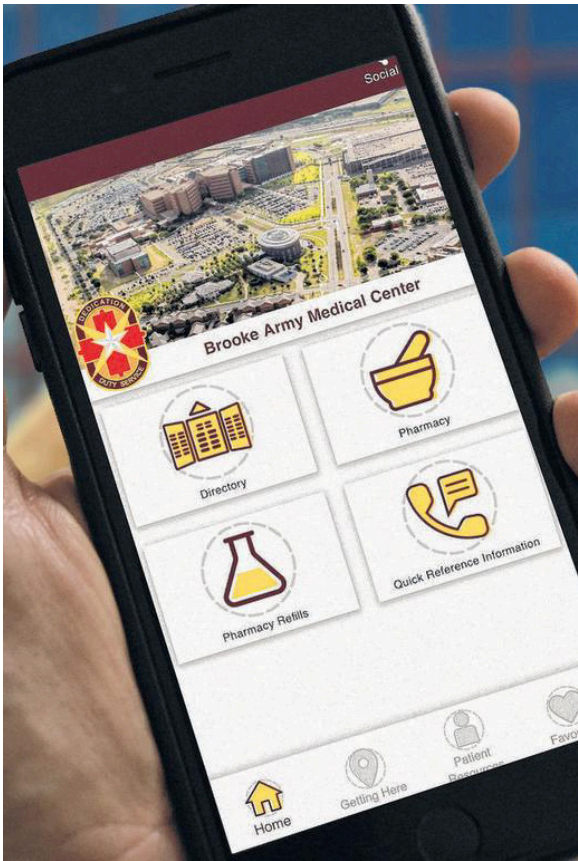
Harmon thanked his wife, Alice, and the many senior leaders and guests who were able to attend the ceremony. He told the crowd of more than 200 attendees that he has set several goals for himself as he begins this new position: to know what is right and to do it; to treat everyone with dignity and respect; and to earn the trust and confidence from those he leads and from his leaders.

"I pledge before you as my witnesses that I will devote all of my knowledge, skill and ability to help improve our Army, ensure its readiness, and care for its people: soldier, civilian and family member," Harmon said.

The AMEDDC&S HRCoE is the Army's largest civilian-accredited service school and trains more than 35,000 students annually through 192 health-related programs of instruction at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The HRCoE is one of nine centers of excellence within the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, each focused on a separate area of expertise within the force; together they are building America's Army.

HRCoE trainees represent soldiers in 104 officer and warrant officer medical areas of concentration and 24 enlisted medical military occupational specialties to include Army nurses, combat medics, doctors, dentists, veterinarians, X-ray technicians and food inspectors.



COREY TOYE

The Brooke Army Medical Center app will allow users to quickly access information such as pharmacy wait times, facility directory and quick reference information from their cellphone.

App now available for BAMC patients, visitors and staff

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center now has an app available for download on any mobile device.

The app, designed by the Defense Health Agency, allows patients, visitor and staff to quickly access information such as pharmacy wait times, facility directory and quick reference information from their cellphone.

"The app is currently in Phase 1 of its launch," said

Bradley Snyder, Information Management Division project manager. "We encourage people to try it out and give us feedback. Once we gather feedback, we will submit the changes for review this summer."

Under the Patient Resources tab, people can find information about dining options, gate information, making appointments, TRICARE resources and more. They can even pay their bill from their mobile device.

Call 210-916-9545 to provide feedback on the app.

Physician Assistants help military medical personnel hone battlefield skills

By Rebecca Westfall

ARMY MEDICINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Tactical Combat Medical Care Course, or TCMC, began in April 2004 when several Physician Assistants noticed that many medical Soldiers were being deployed to combat areas without being properly equipped or trained in medical combat readiness.

The TCMC, presently taught at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, covers a wide variety of areas within a five-day time frame to include trauma and wound care.

“Currently, the program is geared toward doctors, physician assistants, nurses and senior medics to prepare them for combat medical readiness at the point of injury,” said Shon Compton, a founder of the program, as well as an instructor at TCMC.

“The course is presently taught at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis and includes didactic and hands-on field training,” Compton said. “Although other armed services have been through the program, the course is geared towards active-duty Army that can be centrally funded from their units. The priority is to those preparing for deployment.”

Presently, there is a waiting list to get in the course as they are targeting 1,500 to 2,000 students annually. The training is considered a sustainment course.

TCMC prepares the students with skills for medical events they may encounter while deployed, as well as sharpening the skills they already possess.

“The course also covers trauma resuscitations that are geared toward the deploying provider,” said Bret Smith, an instructor and program manager with TCMC. “We like to target those on orders about 180 days out. Over the years, we have realized that Soldiers should come through the course every two to three years to keep their skills up to par.”

While the students are already medically inclined, they are surprised at how much they learn from the program, as they are taken out of their comfort zone of hospitals and put in situations such as working in a battalion aid station where the team works together in groups of four on traumatically injured casualties. The course is designed to force the students to improvise, think on their feet and take the lead in a trauma operation.

“Providers have to realize that during the course, there isn’t always assistance in the field and they



REBECCA WESTFALL

Instructors from the Tactical Combat Medical Care Course reenact a trauma scenario consisting of two segments — Care Under Fire and Tactical Field Care.

“Soldiers should come through the course every two to three years to keep their skills up to par. Providers have to realize that during the course, there isn’t always assistance in the field and they must be able to learn to do a lot of the skills themselves, such as pushing medications, starting IVs or performing a cricothyrotomy.”

Bret Smith,
TCMC instructor and program manager

must be able to learn to do a lot of the skills themselves, such as pushing medications, starting IVs or performing a cricothyrotomy,” Smith added.

Over the past several years, the TCMC program has won several awards and is helping Soldiers achieve readiness in the field.

“TCMC continues to be one of the best training programs in Army Medicine. It teaches our Soldiers about low or high intensity conflict in austere environments in the field of combat medicine,” Smith said.

AMEDD Center and School, Army Health Readiness Center of Excellence host Egyptian generals

From AMEDD Center and School, Army Health Readiness Center of Excellence Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Mohamed Sherif and Brig. Gen. Hala Ahmed of the Egyptian Ministry of Defense, along with members of their staffs, visited the Army Medical Department Center and School, Army Health Readiness Center of Excellence April 26 to learn about the different programs and see first-hand training and detailed briefings by instructors and subject matter experts.

The visitors had the opportunity to see the Tactical Combat Medical Care, U.S. Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing, and the 68C Practical Nursing Specialist Phase 1 programs.

The visit was coordinated by the AMEDDCC&S HRCoE International Military Student Office.

Gens. Sherif and Hala received briefings on post-graduate military medical training courses, military medical specific training into the Egyptian military medical school's curriculum, and Integration of Tactical Combat Casualty Care training with future Egyptian Land Forces and Army Field Training Exercises.

The briefings and discussions enhanced the relationship between U.S. Department of Defense and



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Lt. Col. Steven Kertes (center), Deputy Director of the U.S. Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing, briefs Brig. Gen. Mohamed Sherif and Brig. Gen. Hala Ahmed of the Egyptian Ministry of Defense during a visit to the Army Medical Department Center and School, Army Health Readiness Center of Excellence April 26.

Egyptian Ministry of Defense by sharing knowledge and understanding of medical curriculum development for training medical personnel in the Egyptian Armed Forces.

The visit represents a continuation and successive step from a July 2018 Subject Matter Expert Exchange attended by the U.S. Army Central Command Surgeon.

Before arriving in San Antonio the generals visited the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

Housing executives, Army leaders discuss plan of action

By Kimberly Hanson
U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Three major actions must happen to course correct the state of Army housing, said the four-star general officer responsible for Installation Management during a forum with the presidents of the Residential Community Initiative companies April 26.

During an RCI CEO roundtable at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, to address widespread reports of deficient housing conditions, Army Materiel Command Commander Gen. Gus Perna told the seven executives responsible for privatized housing across the Army to maintain focus on Soldiers and families through the phases.

“The bottom line is that we must win back the trust of our

residents,” Perna said. “It is about action, not words.”

First, the current focus and response to the issues must continue, including timely completion of work orders, proper quality control measures to ensure standards are met, quarterly town halls to keep residents informed and additional oversight and involvement by Garrison Commanders, Perna said.

“The metric is not about quantity — how many work orders are completed or how much we have done,” he said. “It is about quality and our response to the very real and serious issues being reported. Our Soldiers and families need to know we are taking care of them.”

Second, the Army and the partners must improve communication and rebuild confidence with Soldiers and families. Educating residents

on the resources available to them is critical, Perna said.

In addition to Army hotlines established at each installation to report housing issues, each RCI partner has developed a mobile app intended to improve communication flow. Training for Army leaders who manage installations is also now a requirement.

“Previously, many Garrison Commanders didn’t see RCI oversight as one of their key responsibilities,” said Lt. Gen. Brad Becker, commander of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

IMCOM has since instituted a 90-minute block of training for all incoming garrison commanders, and rolled out training for all current garrison commanders, focused on their housing responsibilities, Becker said.

MEDCOM establishes Housing Environmental Health Response Registry

From U.S. Army Medical Command Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Medical Command has established a Housing Environmental Health Response Registry to address Army Family concerns about housing and related health issues.

Information in the registry will enable MEDCOM officials to provide additional information on housing environmental health hazards, assist in seeking medical care for any housing-related illnesses or concerns, and allow MEDCOM to share concerns about housing environmental health hazards with Army leadership.

The registry will remain open indefinitely. Contact the registry with have concerns about housing or related health issues that have not been adequately addressed locally.

Housing Environmental Health Response Registry Contact Care Representatives are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The registry’s telephone numbers are 1-800-984-8523, DSN 421-3700 or 210-295-3700. Call one of these numbers and take advantage of the registry if anyone in your household has experienced unresolved concerns about housing and related health issues.

LACKLAND



Students from Lackland Independent School District march in the PurpleUp! Parade on April 12 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

STAFF SGT. KRYSTAL WRIGHT

Assistant secretary of education views Lackland ISD's PurpleUp! Parade

By Staff Sgt. Krystal Wright
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A representative from the Department of Education attended the Lackland Independent School District's PurpleUp! Parade, held in recognition of the Month of the Military Child, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on April 12.

"We are starting this day by celebrating some of our most important citizens, and those are the sons and daughters of our military families," said Frank T. Brogan, assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education at the

Department of Education. "April is the month of the military child and they are celebrating it in style at JBSA-Lackland."

Brogan cheered the children during the parade and afterward visited a class from each grade level and viewed two of Lackland ISD's award-winning science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, programs. Accompanying him was Lt. Col. Steven Lamb, 502nd Installation Support Group vice commander.

"What we are doing is not only celebrating the children of military families, we are also recognizing some of the

hurdles of being a military child," Brogan said. "It could be the deployments of one or both parents, or it could be the fact that a number of these students have been to multiple schools in a very short period of time. How do you deal with that?"

"As a lifetime educator, I can tell you just some movement in a child's education can be disruptive not only to the child but to the families in general," he continued. "I met one young man today who is a senior and has moved 13 times during his educational process. That can be extraordinarily disruptive, but the military has done a marvelous job over the years helping families. One of the

things I hear regularly from military families is that it is a challenge, but if handled appropriately, it can also give those sons and daughters an inherent discipline and independence that other children sometimes don't have."

When Brogan went to the classrooms, he took the time to talk to the children, asking them questions such as where they lived before and how long they attended Lackland ISD. He even read the book "Hero Dad," by Melinda Hardin.

"I got to visit both the elementary school and the junior-senior high school and see wonderful young people

who are the product of amazing military families," Brogan said.

After visiting the classrooms, Brogan visited Virginia Allred Stacey Junior/Senior High School's Bots in Blue and CyberPatriot teams, where he drove a robot and learned about the technologies the students are utilizing. The Bots in Blue is a FIRST Tech Challenge team, which designs, builds and programs robots to compete against other teams on a special playing field.

The CyberPatriots is a national youth cyber education program that the Air Force Association created to promote cybersecurity and other STEM careers.



Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 433rd Airlift Wing and 960th Cyberspace Wing wave to paradegoers on Broadway in downtown San Antonio during the 71st annual Fiesta Flambeau Parade April 27.

TECH. SGT. CARLOS J. TREVIÑO

JBSA AF wings participate in Fiesta parade

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

With the Texas sunset serving as the backdrop, San Antonio's Alamo mission in the background and the University of Texas Longhorn Band lined up in front of the historical site, the 433rd Airlift Wing's massive C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft came in low from the north, opening the 71st Annual Fiesta Flambeau Parade with an impressive flyover.

This year, the Air Force Reserve Command's 433rd AW and 960th Cyberspace Wing came together to continue a tradition of participating in the city of San Antonio's Fiesta Flambeau Parade. The theme of the 2019 parade on April 27 was "Reflections of Music Past."

Linda Skop, Fiesta Flambeau Parade Association Inc. program coordinator, spoke about the flyover, saying it was a big hit.

"Everyone was so excited, so much

so, the committee would like to do it every year," Skop said.

For six of the past seven years, the wing has participated in what is the "largest illuminated night parade in the world," according to San Antonio Fiesta Flambeau Parade Association's website.

This year, the wings' float featured a model C-5M Super Galaxy mounted on the front, and in following in with the theme of the parade, "Reflections of Music Past," some members were dressed in 1940s-era garments, including Col. David A. Scott, 433rd AW vice commander, who was outfitted as a WWII pilot.

Col. Lori C. Jones, 960th CW commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Shana C. Cullum, 433rd AW command chief, and other Reserve Citizen Airmen accompanied him on the float.

Spectators cheered and exchanged high-fives with the Reserve Citizen Airmen as they walked alongside the decorated "Alamo Wing" truck and float. Wing members absorbed the

adoration from the more than 750,000 spectators who lined the 2.6 mile parade route, with another estimated 1.5 million television and online viewers.

"It's a very exciting time," Scott said. "There's a lot of energy out here, and tons of spirit. The crowd was going nuts, the clapping and the music. It was great."

Parade goers got an extra treat when the 433rd AW's C-5M Super Galaxy swooped in and flew over the festivities.

"It was exciting," said local preschool teacher Scarlet Lopez. Lopez, along with her sister Nikki and their boyfriends, was sitting directly under the flyover by the Alamo. "It was super low."

This was the first Fiesta parade for Tech. Sgt. Nelida Balderas, 433rd Operational Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment technician.

Balderas, one of the Airmen who worked to build the float in the few short days before the parade, had some advice for volunteers who work on the next year's float who aren't sure if they

want to walk the 2.6 mile parade route.

"Don't let that opportunity pass, because you should want to see it through until the end, which means walking with the float in the parade and representing the wing," she said.

"I love the parade, and I figured I might as well come and walk in it," Balderas said. "The people, the high-fives that we get, and the cheering has been awesome. I wasn't expecting so many people to be standing up as the Air Force walks by."

The float was worked on up until the night before the parade by a dozen volunteers from the two wings.

"Kudos to all the members who put the float together," Scott said. "They did an awesome job in putting the float together, and it looks fabulous."

Scott, who retires next month, expressed his thoughts on this, his last time to ride the float.

"It's always fun to come together and represent the Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and the 433rd," he said.

433rd AW Citizen Airman organ donor for sister

By Staff Sgt. Lauren M. Snyder

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When one 433rd Airlift Wing Reserve Citizen Airman learned there was a way to help her sick sister through a living organ donor program, she didn't hesitate to volunteer.

Senior Master Sgt. Carol A. Allen, 433rd Force Support Squadron Sustainment Flight superintendent at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, is dedicated to her family and her role as an Airman.

"I'm really close to my family," Allen said. "My whole family is here — that's one of the reasons I joined the Reserve. I briefly thought about joining the regular Air Force, but I was a homebody and didn't want to move away from my family — that's a personal choice. I've gotten to travel quite a bit, but I always got to come home."

When her sister, Yvonne Hernandez, started getting sick, it jeopardized the stability of one of her dearest relationships.

Their birthdays are only 11 months apart. They live only a 15-minute drive away from one another, and neither can picture life without the other.

"We've always been close; she's what brings us together," Allen said. "My sister had an immune type of liver disease. She lost a lot of weight and was looking very, very sick. Every time I saw her it was sad to see her like that. She had always been the pillar in our family, and to see her sick and not her old self was hard."

However, Allen realized she had a chance to help when her sister told her about needing a new liver.

"If I wouldn't have been there and a match, I could have lost her," Allen said. "When my sister started talking to me about the living organ donor opportunity, I was surprised to hear that livers grow back. It's pretty awesome that you can help someone like that, and it's only a temporary setback."

Allen's healthy lifestyle, encouraged by the Air Force, was essential in her ability to become a living organ donor.

"I was on the high cusp for age limit, but what helps me is that I keep healthy, keep busy, keep active ... of course, you have to do that being in the military, but that helped me a lot," she said.

A large part of that active life is her hobby of cycling — she was a member of the Air Force Cycling Team for several



STAFF SGT. LAUREN M. SNYDER

Senior Master Sgt. Carol A. Allen (right), 433rd Force Support Squadron Sustainment Flight superintendent, takes a moment with her sister, Yvonne Hernandez, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 26.

years and still rides with several other local groups.

"I'm a cyclist — that's what makes me happy," she said. "So, I was healthy enough to be able to do this; even at this age, I was able to help her out. It was a blessing to be able to say, 'Yes, I can do this!' There was never an issue of me saying 'I can't' or 'I'm scared'; the option was not seeing her anymore and not growing old with her."

Allen describes the two-month screening process to becoming a donor as very thorough.

"They did a lot of tests on me, all kinds of tests, all kinds of blood, to make sure I was healthy enough; there were no issues for me," she said. "It wasn't just for my sister — they do look out for the donor to make sure they don't let you do something that will put you at risk — it's not just, 'Hey, I need a liver' and not worry about you after ... they were very thorough in making sure I was healthy enough to do this, which is great."

When it came time for surgery Allen was ready, but the liver donation still

wasn't a sure thing.

"I was nervous only in that I wouldn't be compatible and a match — I didn't want that to happen because I wanted to help my sister," she said. "They took me back first, and of course she saw me off; I bawled, and she bawled. Even at that point, it's still kind of iffy because when they open you up, and they see your liver, there might be issues there. The most you can donate of your liver is 65%, which is what they gave her."

It will be a full year post-surgery this month, and Allen and her sister are both back to good health.

"My sister is doing great and looks so healthy," Allen said. "She is so grateful to me, and she doesn't know that I am so grateful that she is here, because I cannot imagine this life without her. She's been there for me, and I've been there for her. I want her to be there for her kids and husband; it would be horrible for her to not be there for them, too."

Allen had a sense of peace about being a living organ donor for her sister.

"It was a great joy to know that I was

able to help her and she was going to be OK," she said. "I would do it all over again. There is some pain associated with it and the things that go through your head, but as long as you are healthy, it wasn't bad getting back to normal life. The bottom line is that God put it on my heart to do it, and the outcome is that my sister gets another chance."

Allen said one of the hardest parts of the process was waiting to heal.

"Within two months, I was already back on my bike," Allen said. "I wanted to get back to normal and just pedaled around ... nothing more than 10 miles. It was hard for me to sit there and heal; I'm always moving and doing something. I'm back to normal now, though, and am planning on a 60-mile ride this weekend."

Living life fully is a family trait; Hernandez told her sister she's going to live the best life she can because of the gift Allen gave her.

"She's my little sister, but I've always looked up to her," Hernandez said. "Carol has always been a strong woman and set a really good example for my family, for my kids — she's their second mom. The fact that she did this for me says a lot about her as a person. She's just very giving."

Hernandez knows her sister is both generous and dedicated, seeing the proof in her ties to family and military service.

"The Air Force has been her life, and she loves it," Hernandez said. "She's very proud of that, and we're very proud of that for her."

Allen has served in the Air Force Reserve for more than three decades, having transitioned from traditional reserves duty to a full-time position five years ago after working for the local grocery chain H-E-B for 21 years.

"I've been happy here — why go changing it?" Allen said. "When you do something you love, you look back and think, 'Wow, where have the years gone?'"

The sisters plan on sharing their golden years, both echoing their plans to be old ladies together.

"I'm so happy that I have her," Hernandez said. "I'll always be grateful to her, and all I can do is cherish the gift that she's given and take care of it. We want to grow old together and we will, God willing. I'm just blessed and I'm honored and she's my hero — I wouldn't be here without her."

JBSA marks National Police Week with events

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

In recognition of National Police Week, Joint Base San Antonio will be hosting tributes and other activities honoring fallen law enforcement officers May 12-17.

The observance was established in 1962 and takes place the week of May 15 to pay tribute to law enforcement officers.

This year, 23 different area municipalities will be involved in various events, with representatives from law enforcement from local, state and national levels attending.

"It is great to unite all these officers from all these various departments because anything can happen tomorrow, in which case we all have each other's back," said Tech. Sgt. Shane Kinman,

802nd Security Forces Squadron officer.

Several slated activities are open to anyone with base access:

► **May 12**

• 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Opening ceremonies and barbecue at Stapleton Park at JBSA-Lackland

► **May 13**

• 7 a.m. — Ruck March at JBSA-Camp Bullis

► **May 14**

• 9 a.m. — Obstacle Course Competition at JBSA-Medina Annex

► **May 15**

• 8:30 a.m. — Golf tournament at JBSA-Randolph Golf Course

• Noon — 24-hour candlelight vigil begins at Security Forces Museum at JBSA-Lackland

► **May 16**

• 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Law enforcement demonstration and exhibit located across from Mitchell Hall at JBSA-Lackland

► **May 17**

• 9:30 a.m. — Kickball tournament at JBSA-Lackland baseball field

• 4 p.m. — Closing ceremonies, Security Forces Museum at JBSA-Lackland

There will be additional activities exclusively for law enforcement officers.



STEVE ELLIOTT

U.S. Marshal Marc Seguin (left) talks about some of the equipment he uses to Security Forces members at the opening of National Police Week last year at the Quadrangle at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Security forces members will be competing against police and sheriff departments in a military working dog competition May 14 and a shooting

competition May 16.

For more information or to make a reservation for one of the events, call 210-671-3528 or 210-383-1768.

JBSA libraries offer more than shelves of books

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The library of decades ago has evolved into a special place where service members, veterans and families can do more than check out a book.

Joint Base San Antonio libraries offer free events that provide educational hands-on experiences to those with base access.

The JBSA-Lackland library features special theme events, including Legos, and Craft: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) on Thursday nights.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston library offers a weekly Tuesday Construction Chaos Club with Lego blocks from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

There is also children's story time Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at JBSA-Lackland, Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at JBSA-Randolph, and Thursdays at 10 a.m. at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

In addition, JBSA libraries will sometimes conduct special events, like the Sala Showdown that was May 1-3 or Escape Room: Nuclear Countdown that



COURTESY PHOTO

The JBSA-Lackland library features theme events, including Craft: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), on Thursday nights, as well as story time for children.

was March 20-22, both of which were held at JBSA-Lackland.

"There is so much out there that's available to kids now that I didn't have, and I want them to find the things that they like," said April Cottrell, 502nd Force Support Squadron library technician.

The Thursday events at JBSA-Lackland are held from 5-6:30 p.m. An example of what participants will find themselves front and center

with is programmable robots, which are aimed toward giving users a chance to learn about science and technology.

Participants use a piece of white paper and special markers to draw on the paper, which will determine which direction the robot will go.

"It's teaching kids programming," said Diana Lisenbee, 502nd Force Support Squadron supervisory librarian. "They get to teach the little robot something new: You can make it dance and you can make it go in circles — it's really fun.

On Lego night, patrons are encouraged to assemble colorful toys, and their creations are sometimes put on display at the library for a week. As for craft night, participants can find themselves using paint supplies to create a freestyle picture, finger-painting or even making gifts for loved ones.

During one recent STEM night, children learned about science when they put some ingredients in a bowl and created a squishy substance.

"They may not like science at school, but they might find out that they like doing these fun, weird experiments like making corn-starch slime," Cottrell said.

"The kids absolutely loved it so much, I ran out of supplies."

In addition to the weekly story time program for prekindergarten through age 5 children, the JBSA libraries team up for the annual summer reading program.

This year, it is slated to kick off June 1 with a joint mission Disney story time at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Library. Library organizers are also planning a planetarium mobile educational event at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston June 19.

Because libraries are evolving with what they have to offer to the patrons, Lisenbee says that preconceived notions about libraries no longer apply.

"I really think of libraries as community centers where lots of different things can happen, lots of people can come in and engage in different activities," Lisenbee said. "We try to provide a comfortable space, a welcoming, peaceful space where people can just come in to sit down and read a book if they want to or get work done."

For more information, visit the JBSA Library Facebook page or call 210-671-3610.



Lt. Col. (Dr.) Trevor Lim, 59th Medical Wing Radiation Oncology chief, stands for a photo after completing the 2019 Boston Marathon, April 15. Lim completed the race in the top 28 percent of overall finishers with a run time of 3:24:49.

COURTESY PHOTO

59th MDW radiation oncologist completes Boston Marathon

From 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Trevor Lim, 59th Medical Wing Radiation Oncology chief, pinned on bib number 10874 to race among 27,355 other runners in the 2019 Boston Marathon on April 15.

Accomplishing one of his biggest bucket list items, Lim completed the race in the top 28 percent of overall finishers with a run time of 3:24:49.

“This was my second best marathon time of five marathons I have ran,” Lim said. “I probably could have pushed a little harder, but I purposely saved energy during the first half of the race as miles 16-21 are known to be brutal because of the Newton Hills, including the infamous ‘Heartbreak Hill.’ ”

In 1997, Lim ran his first marathon in New York City and 14 years later he ran his second, a shadow Boston Marathon, while deployed at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

“The shadow run reignited my passion for running marathons and made me

want to come back stateside and seriously train for a marathon to qualify for the real Boston Marathon,” Lim said.

The Boston Marathon requires a person to run a qualifying time in order to participate. Historically, runners must have run approximately two to three minutes faster than the qualifying time to be accepted into the race.

Lim applied for the marathon in September and obtained a bib after running his personal best in the San Antonio Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon with a time of more than eight minutes below the qualifying time.

“The Boston Marathon is the granddaddy of all U.S. marathons and one of the six major marathons held in the world— including New York, Chicago, London, Berlin and Tokyo,” Lim said. “With the lively crowd of supporters who lined all 26.2 miles of the course and the other runners who were there with me in the beautiful and historic backdrop of Boston, this marathon will be a memory I cherish for a long time.”

JBSA Single Parent Support Group offers resources and help

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502D AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sometimes families face changes that affect the dynamic of the household. Parents may separate or divorce, or a spouse can pass away and the remaining provider has to navigate alone.

As life’s events evolve into a new chapter, the Military and Family Readiness Center steps in to offer single parents a road map to what happens next.

The Single Parent Support Group’s mission is to be a resource and education program for single parents, said Melissa Schmidt, 802nd Force Support Squadron community readiness consultant. The group was formed in November 2013 in response to requests from the JBSA-Lackland community.

“We were looking to develop a community of folks that could share resources, ways that we could communicate sources to them, identify what problems there were so we could figure out where we could go out and

find some solutions,” said Kevin Keith, 802nd FSS community readiness consultant.

Many of the single parents are new to JBSA-Lackland and arrive with no networks in place, Keith added.

“We educate members on agencies with specific programs designed to meet the unique challenges of single parenting,” Schmidt said. “The group enhances resiliency by connecting members to a single parent network with a wide range of knowledge and experiences.”

Any single parent with base access can join the group. A variety of activities are offered based on the needs of the group and any requests the members have.

“They often feel alone, but there are other people, just like them, that have those same struggles and have those same issues,” Keith said.

Some of the challenges single parents deal with include co-parenting, child care, access to community resources, base resources, financial changes and the everyday struggles being a single



CYNTHIA GRIGGS

The Single Parent Support Group’s mission is to be a resource and education program for single parents. The group was formed in November 2013 in response to requests from the JBSA-Lackland community.

parent brings.

Outside experts are sometimes brought in to assist with topics that fall outside the staff’s expertise. An expert recently spoke with group members about tax changes that can occur when single parents file returns with or without dependents.

“We didn’t want to make it our meeting; we wanted to make it their meeting so they could take it over and identify the topics or issues and we could be more in a support role to find

those answers to help them,” Keith said.

The group meets once a month at the JBSA-Lackland Youth Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the exception of the three summer months when children are out of school and families are taking vacations.

“This group has been a great source of help, understanding and love for all of the parents who have come to our meetings,” Schmidt said.

For more information, call 210-671-3722.

RANDOLPH

INNOVATION IN THE CLOUD(S)

Inside AETC's push for mobile applications in the cockpit

By 2nd Lt. Austen Jarboe

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pilots across the Air Force manage flight information with ease using mobile devices known as Electronic Flight Bags, or EFBs. These tablet computers minimize cockpit clutter and allow aviators to access critical data and publications in seconds, reducing their "heads-down" time in the air and increasing their situational awareness.

The success of these devices in the operational Air Force has encouraged Air Education and Training Command to find a way to integrate the technology earlier in an aviator's career, enhancing training through digital efficiency. Developed as the Pathfinder program in 2018, the 12th Operations Group has been the lead organization for developing the EFB program at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, with the goal of expanding the initiative across AETC.

The first major rollout of the EFB has been overseen by a small team within the 12th Training Squadron, beginning with an initial delivery of 1,020 iPad tablets in October.

"We opened every iPad individually, installed screen protectors and cases, barcoded, inventoried and prepared for configuration," said 2nd Lt. Sascha Newberry, 12th student pilot and EFB technician.

Since the first delivery, the inventory has grown to 1,300 iPad tablets worth more than \$500,000. One of the initial challenges the team faced was how to accurately account for valuable assets issued to



Erickson digitally issues an iPad tablet, used as an EFB by aircrew flying out of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

multiple organizations across the base.

"We developed a web application called NEXUS to inventory the devices, utilizing the user's Common Access Card to track who each tablet was issued to," said Maj. Vince Giacomino, 12th assistant director of operations and EFB program manager.

Forgoing the physical collection and storage of inventory data, moving NEXUS into the online "cloud" allows the program to become "location neutral" and extremely flexible for future development.

"With cloud computing, you only pay for the amount of computing power that you need," Newberry said. "It is very scalable and reduces our investment in infrastructure."

With access to the system through a standard internet connection, asset managers anywhere in the world can account for their specific EFBs with the click of a button.



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG

Second Lt. Lucas Erickson, 12th Training Squadron student pilot and electronic flight bag technician, organizes iPad tablets in a specialized charging and upload cabinet on May 3 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Once the EFBs were accounted for, the next challenge was properly configuring them for the needs of multiple squadrons with different mission sets.

"We use a system called MaaS 360 that allows us to monitor, configure and manage our tablets remotely," Newberry said.

MaaS 360 stands for Mobility as a Service 360 and is a mobile device management solution developed by IBM. From their web-based platform, all connected tablets can be accessed and configured no matter where they are

physically located. Any function you can physically perform with the tablet in your hand can be done remotely through the program.

"MaaS 360 allows us to load application and flight publication profiles specific to each individual squadron's mission," Newberry said.

With just under 1,000 EFBs currently issued, the program has had a significant impact on flight operations at JBSA-Randolph. The goal is to further expand the program to flight training bases across AETC.

"The EFB program is

designed to be scalable, either to transplant the program to another location or directly support non-local units through the cloud," Giacomino said.

The team at 12th TRS has worked hard to serve as the test bed for future functionality, finding and solving the challenges associated with digital inventory and content management.

"I think we've done a good job of building a blueprint and laying the foundation for it to be exported across AETC, so EFB programs can flourish everywhere," Newberry said.

Prevent eye injury with the proper protective gear

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Eye injuries are an all-too-common occurrence in the United States, affecting more than 20,000 workers each year, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics.

These injuries impact the military as well.

During the fourth quarter of 2018 alone, the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps reported 2,916 eye injuries.

However, most of these injuries are preventable: All it takes is one important piece of safety equipment.

“An estimated 90% of these injuries could be avoided if proper eyewear was being used,” said Vernon Vinson, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph occupational safety and health specialist.

The Air Force uses 91-series Air Force Instructions, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, American National Standards Institute publications and host nation requirements to determine the need for eye protection, said Tech. Sgt. Thomas Powell, JBSA-Randolph safety specialist.

“The Air Force requires involvement at all levels regarding eye protection,” he said. “From commanders to individual workers, there are key responsibilities that must be met in order to maintain effective mishap prevention. Commanders must ensure the procurement of eyewear is available.”

Supervisors play an important role by analyzing job tasks and all related AFIs, technical orders and manufacturer instructions to determine the type of

protection required, Powell said.

“Supervisors must also ensure personnel are trained on the use, inspection and maintenance of the eye protection they will be using,” he said.

Service members and civilians in certain career fields — such as aircraft maintenance and civil engineering — are more susceptible to eye injuries, but people in any career field could need eye protection at some point, Powell said.

“Even administrative jobs may need eye protection for certain tasks or self-help projects around the office,” he said. “It’s important that supervisors use a job hazard analysis worksheet to determine whether or not eye protection will be needed for tasks that may not be common to their employees. Regardless of the career field, any employee that is exposed to a potential eye-injuring hazard is required to wear eye protection while that hazard is present.”

The type of protective eyewear used depends on the situation, Vinson said.

“Nonprescription and prescription safety glasses provide eye protection for general working conditions where there may be dust, chips or flying particles,” he said. “Side shields and wraparound-style safety glasses can provide additional side protection.”

Goggles provide protection from impact, dust and chemical splash, and, like safety glasses, are highly impact-resistant, Vinson said.

“They also provide a secure shield around the entire eye and protect against hazards coming from any direction,” he said.

Other types of protective eyewear are face shields and helmets, which provide protection against exposure to chemicals, heat or bloodborne pathogens, Vinson said. Helmets are



TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG

Frank Callahan, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron heavy equipment mechanic, performs maintenance on a government vehicle while wearing proper safety gear at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

used for welding or working with molten materials.

“However, face shields and helmets need to be used in conjunction with safety glasses or goggles so the eyes are protected when the shield is lifted,” he said.

Although eye injuries at JBSA-Randolph are rare, those that do occur usually happen in industrial work areas such as flightline maintenance, vehicle maintenance and the civil engineering shops, said Tech. Sgt. Dominick Fugazzi, JBSA-Randolph safety specialist.

“In certain cases, personnel have exposed their eyes to various debris, fuel, oil and solvents as a result of not wearing any eye protection,” he said.

Desk jobs do not require protective eyewear, but computer use can cause eye problems, Vinson said.

“Looking at monitors for hours at a time when working on computers, tablets and even cellphones can cause your eyes to become dried out, red and, in some cases, can cause headaches,” he said. “Some simple ways to reduce the risk of this happening are to place the monitor at an arm’s length away from your face; follow the 20-20-20 rule and take a break every 20 minutes by looking at an object 20 feet away for 20 seconds; and reduce the glare on your smartphone and digital screen by adjusting the low light filter setting to lower screen brightness or use a matte filter to reduce eye strain.”

The workplace is not the only place where protective eyewear is essential, Vinson said.

“At home if you participate in any hobbies, yard work, vehicle maintenance or other home maintenance tasks, you should have at least one pair of ANSI-approved protective eyewear available for use,” he said. “You should use eye protection if an activity involves hazardous chemicals or other substances that could damage your eyes upon contact, flying debris or other small particles that could hit participants or bystanders, or projectiles or objects that could become projectiles and fly into the eyes unexpectedly.”

Using the right protection for the possible hazard involved is exercising sound judgment regardless of the location, Vinson said.

OTS beta courses test shortened commissioning program

By Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command officials at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph are reimagining how Airmen are developed and have proposed two beta course tests that would shorten the officer commissioning program for senior noncommissioned officers.

The proposed beta tests, called Officer Training School-Accelerated Commissioning Program, shortens

the program from 40 training days to 14 training days and takes place at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

The first test is scheduled to begin in August and includes 36 candidates: 26 active duty Air Force, five Reserve and five Guard officer candidates in the ranks of master sergeant to chief master sergeant.

To be eligible, candidates must have completed the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy course via in-residence or distance learning (Course 14) and been selected for OTS via the normal board process.

The shortened training capitalizes on AETC’s Continuum of Learning initiative, which integrates

education, training and experience in developing Airmen.

Further, this concept may be expanded to include competency credit for education, training and experience throughout the enterprise.

Ultimately, the aim is to drive agility and flexibility in Air Force processes and programs to more efficiently and effectively deliver qualified, trained, educated and experienced Airmen to meet mission requirements.

Following the completion of the beta tests, the program will be evaluated to determine the value provided the Air Force and the Department of Defense.