

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

DECEMBER 11, 2020



PHOTO BY BETHANY HUFF

Soldiers assigned to U.S. Army North's Task Force 51 and Airmen assigned to the 68th Airlift Squadron load the Sentinel, otherwise known as ARNORTH's mobile command post, during the unit's Level II Deployment Readiness Exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field Annex Nov. 20. This exercise enhances the unit's deployment readiness while maintaining USARNORTH's forward capability in preparation for the 2021 hurricane season.

## ARNORTH's Task Force 51 ensures emergency readiness

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## AETC recognizes weather technician

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## Dorm residents receive life lessons

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# Housing satisfaction survey begins soon

By Defense.gov

W. Jordan Gillis, assistant secretary of defense for sustainment and the Defense Department's chief housing officer, is inviting DOD housing residents to participate in the department's annual housing satisfaction survey, which launches this month.

Each year, DOD, working through the military departments, surveys current residents of government-owned, government-leased, or privatized family housing and current residents of privatized unaccompanied housing. The goal is to obtain feedback regarding their living experience.

Survey participation is voluntary, and Gillis encourages residents to share their views about their current housing, resident services and community amenities.



COURTESY PHOTO

*Department of Defense leaders are inviting DOD housing residents to participate in the department's annual housing satisfaction survey, which launches this month.*

According to Gillis, "Resident feedback is important to help the department improve the quality of housing and customer care available to residents."

A link to the survey will be sent via email to each household by one of the two third-party consulting firms administering the feedback

collection, tabulation and analysis on the department's behalf. Only one person per address will receive the invitation email. All respondent information will be kept confidential. It will not be linked to the overall feedback results shared with DOD or the results that DOD shares with privatized housing companies

or other stakeholders.

The survey results will help inform plans for near-term and future improvements to housing, resident services and community amenities. Gillis emphasized the importance of getting the perspectives of service members and families so the department can provide them with a better quality of life through improved housing and community services.

Each military service will announce the specific date in December when its survey will launch; each survey will remain open for responses for at least 45 days. Residents of DOD government-owned, government-leased or privatized housing should contact their installation's military housing office if they have questions or need technical support, or if their household does not receive an email containing a survey link by Dec. 18.

# How to avoid holiday online shopping scams

By Christina Pullen

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Criminals don't take the holidays off; they are busy gearing up for an active season of their own.

With more people than ever doing their holiday shopping online, the FBI reminds shoppers to look out for scams designed to steal money and personal information.

If a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Scammers may offer too-good-to-be-true deals through phishing emails or advertisements. Some may offer brand name merchandise at extremely low discounts or promise gift cards as an incentive to purchase a product. Others may offer products at a great price, but the products being sold are not the same as the products advertised.

Steer clear of suspicious sites, phishing emails, or ads offering items at unrealistic discounts. Do not open unsolicited emails and do not click on any links attached. You may end up paying for an item, giving away personal information and credit card details, and receive nothing in return except a compromised identity.

When shopping online, do your research. Make sure a site is secure and reputable before providing your credit card number. Don't trust a site just because it claims to be secure and beware purchases or services that require you to pay with a gift card.

Beware of social media posts that appear to offer special vouchers or gift cards. Some may pose as holiday promotions or contests. It may even appear that a friend shared the link. Often, these scams lead you to participate in



COURTESY PHOTO

*'Tis the season for holiday gifting, and many shoppers will go online this time of year to find the best deals on popular items. But the sellers you buy from may not be what they seem.*

an online survey that is actually designed to steal personal information.

Protect yourself by securing your banking and credit accounts with strong passphrases, as well as all other accounts that contain anything of value such as rewards accounts, online accounts that save your payment information, or accounts containing private, personal information.

Check your credit card and bank statements regularly to

make sure no fraudulent charges have been made to your account.

If you suspect you've been victimized:

- ▶▶ Contact your financial institution immediately upon suspecting or discovering a fraudulent transfer.
- ▶▶ Request that your bank reach out to the financial institution where the fraudulent transfer was sent.
- ▶▶ Contact local law enforcement.

## 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](mailto:jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com) using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

**Q. I respectfully request your attention to a well-visited place, the Airmen's Heritage Park at JBSA-Randolph. While my family and I enjoy being outdoors in that area, I dread going to the restroom in building 139. I noticed the building has been ignored since the start of the pandemic.**

While I try to stay healthy, it's hard to see a place not in the best serviceable, clean and neat condition.

I cannot speak for the female restroom but just as you enter the men's restroom, you can see a water fountain that is always filthy, leaking and in desperate need of repair. The urinal/commode itself is clean. All around it is malodorous and dirty. The commode is in disrepair, needing a new toilet seat, and one of the two faucets is unusable.

If one of our goals is to keep our population healthy, why can't we pay attention to this facility? Our families need your help to keep us all in better health. We appreciate your much-needed attention. Thank you very much.

**A.** Thank you for bringing this problem to our attention. Our Civil Engineering team responded and fixed the plumbing leaks and is directing the custodial service to improve the cleaning response. They have also contacted the facility manager and provided information to help change out broken dispensers.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

**Q. I was under the impression that masks were required on base and would like some clarification.**

I have been to the Travel Management Office and Commercial Travel Office at JBSA-Lackland twice in the past few weeks as we are preparing to make our last and final retirement move. I have to go again soon for a mandatory briefing.

Both times I have been in, the staff are not wearing masks when behind the counters unless they are directly talking to customers. I understand close contact is a huge factor in transmission of COVID-19, with aerosolized particles and airflow in rooms a factor as well.

If they are behind the counter talking, breathing, sneezing, etc., the particles are still reaching other staff and customers.

**A.** As an immunocompromised customer that has no choice but to

visit this office, I feel unsafe and like my health is more at risk than necessary. Has the mask mandate been lifted?

**A.** Thank you for the opportunity to address this very timely issue. In accordance with 502d ABW Guidance Memorandum No. 23, personnel at JBSA are required to wear face coverings in common areas where social distancing is not possible.

The desks in the Travel Management Center of the TMO/CTO are spaced sufficiently from each other so the employees are able to socially distance from one another and their customers. When employees go to the counter to wait on customers, they wear appropriate face coverings in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Public Health Emergency Officer guidance.

Clear plastic barriers have also been installed at the customer service counters in these work areas to

protect the employees and their customers.

**Q. Why can't the JBSA Legacy newspaper be folded in half? The first half is offset by an inch which makes some of the second-half articles harder to read.**

**A.** Thank you for the question! According to the newspaper's publisher, they need a 3/4-offset fold that they put on the paper for the inserting machines that insert the various flyers and sale papers.

After they print, these papers go through a machine that will grab the paper on this offset space. Once it grabs this offset space the paper opens up and the inserts fall inside. Without the offset, the machine will grab the entire paper thus not opening up and no inserts will fall inside.

The sale of advertising in the JBSA Legacy ensures that the newspaper is of no cost to the U.S. Air Force.

## JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO LIGHTS UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

*Air Force Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller (left), 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, and Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider (right) 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio command chief, participate in the live streamed tree-lighting ceremony at JBSA-Lackland Dec. 2. The command team also flipped the switch for tree-lighting ceremonies at JBSA-Randolph Dec. 3 and at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 4, as well as taking part in holiday parades. To see more photos from the festivities, visit [flickr.com/photos/jbsapublicaffairs](https://www.flickr.com/photos/jbsapublicaffairs).*



2ND LT. ROBERT H. DABBS

## Special event provides military families with holiday trees

By Rachel Kersey

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio hosted special events last week to help cheer military families. On three area installations, Trees for Troops was welcomed to complete the delivery of hundreds of Christmas trees, which were offered for free to San Antonio military families.

"The purpose of Trees for Troops is to deliver the spirit of Christmas to our military families — one Christmas tree at a time," said Nicole Dean, recreation assistant at JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation. "Giving away free Christmas trees to our active duty members and their families puts a smile on their faces."

According to Rick Dungey, Christmas Spirit Foundation executive director, Trees for Troops has been going on for 16 years. In that time, they have delivered more than 240,000 trees to military families and troops in the U.S. and overseas.

The team at JBSA's Outdoor Recreation facilities began putting together this year's event during summer. Together, with FedEx and the Christmas Spirit Foundation, they procured tree donations from as far away as New Hampshire and Vermont.

Trees are gathered at farms and retail lots, about 55



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

*U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Kevin Yamaguchi, 149th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, helps a military spouse with a Christmas tree during the Trees for Troops event Dec. 3 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.*

total locations, and picked up by FedEx Freight, Dungey said. They route the trees through their distribution centers and move them around in different trailers, depending on the delivery routes or locations, then to military installations, he explained.

Once in San Antonio, the event couldn't happen without the help of the volunteers, and at JBSA-Lackland, the 802nd Security Forces Squadron.

"It is always nice to work hand-in-hand with Security Forces," Dean said. "We give them a heads-up when the truck is expected to be at the gate, and every year it is a quick process on their end to get the truck on base."

After the truck arrives, volunteers unload and arrange the trees on a field. They also assist families with finding the perfect tree and loading the trees into vehicles.

Every year, the number of tree donations fluctuates. This year an estimated 15,000 trees were donated nationwide, delivered to 79 military installations.

"Honestly, I'm just glad we were able to still do the program this year," said Dungey, considering the global pandemic. "When we started contacting bases, nobody knew what was going to happen in December in terms of restrictions and protocols. We've had to make some adjustments to follow guidelines, the bases and the carrier have specific protocols to follow, but the enthusiasm and commitment to the program has never wavered. We're just happy to still be able to provide some Christmas spirit to military members and families."

*Editor's note: The mention of non-federal organizations is simply informational and not intended to imply endorsement by the U.S. Government, the DOD, or the U.S. Air Force.*

# Army now testing recruits for sickle cell trait

By Thomas Brading

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army has started testing recruits for sickle cell trait, or SCT, to identify at-risk Soldiers, as the service plans to screen all Soldiers within a year, according to a U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command medical officer.

Earlier this month, the screening push kicked off to both give Army leaders an idea of how SCT has impacted the ranks, and to help Soldiers combat the lifelong ailment, said Maj. Sean Donohue, command surgeon at TRADOC's Center for Initial Military Training.

"On the enlisted side, recruits at basic combat training are now tested as part of their initial screening exam," Donohue said. The SCT tests are grouped in "with a variety of other blood

samples as part of initial processing."

Since Nov. 2, roughly two percent of recruits have been diagnosed with the blood disorder, he said, a number on par with the national average.

Having SCT is not a deal-breaker for military service, or any military occupational specialty, Donohue stressed. Instead, the diagnosis is the first step in giving Soldiers the care and support they need.

If a recruit's bloodwork is marked for carrying SCT, the next step would be meeting with a health care provider, he said. From there, they would receive additional counseling to educate them on the condition.

By discovering SCT early on, it could help Army officials better distinguish "the difference between someone who may look like

they have a heat-related injury from someone who has SCT," he said.

Along with testing, TRADOC officials are producing preventative health training materials.

"We've been doing this at our Drill Sergeant Academy, in particular, and educating them on what exertional collapse related to sickle cell looks like," Donohue said.

Starting this fiscal year, identifying SCT symptoms will be part of the Army's heat-related illness prevention training that recruits receive when they enter the force. In addition, the testing phase will extend beyond basic training.

"This is an Army-wide operation," Donohue said. "As Soldiers do their annual health assessment, if they don't have a SCT test on their health record they will receive one."

SCT is an inherited gene mutation, passed down from one parent. In most cases, individuals with SCT do not show symptoms associated with sickle cell disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although SCT affects all races and ethnicities, its largest impact is on the African-American community, where one in 10 individuals are identified with SCT, Donohue said. To put that in perspective, according to the CDC, the Hispanic community is roughly one in 180, and in the Caucasian community it's around one in 600.

"It's still important to remember that although there are higher rates in certain ethnic populations, anyone can have the trait," he said.

The testing comes in the wake of multiple SCT-related

military deaths, most notably during fitness tests. In some cases, complications were rooted in extreme exercise caused by physical excursion, he said.

Complications associated with SCT also include low oxygen levels, elevated atmospheric pressure, and dehydration, he said. Symptoms may include fatigue, extreme thirst, headache, confusion, and dizziness.

By understanding and identifying complications early, Donohue believes individuals with SCT will be best equipped to decipher between it and a heat stroke.

As researchers continue to learn more about SCT, the Army will "continue to be proactive and educate the force on what it is and how to respond to it," he said.



# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## U.S. Army North's Task Force 51 ensures hurricane response readiness

By Bethany Huff

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With this year's hurricane season starting to wind down, U.S. Army North's Task Force 51 already began preparations for the next season.

As part of their annual training, the task force completed a week of training called Level II Deployment Readiness Exercise, or DRE. This exercise culminated in a joint air hazardous material and cargo deployment function training with the 433rd Contingency Response Flight and the 68th Airlift Squadron at the Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field Annex.

"One of our primary tasks, as the contingency command post for Army North, is to be completely responsive in an emergency environmental situation," said Lt. Col. Jeremy Gottshall, TF-51 logistical officer in charge. "We have to get out the door as quickly as possible to be the first representatives of the Joint Force Land Component Command in a joint area of operations to establish command and control, and develop situational awareness."

Task Force 51 is a versatile, deployable command post that provides mission command options for routine and contingency operations. This DRE tests the task force's ability to move themselves and their equipment in whatever capacity is asked of them.

"Our end goal for this



PHOTOS BY BETHANY HUFF

*Soldiers assigned to U.S. Army North's Task Force 51 and Airmen assigned to the 68th Airlift Squadron load the Sentinel, otherwise known as ARNORTH's mobile command post, during the unit's Level II Deployment Readiness Exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field Annex Nov. 20.*

training was two-fold," Gottshall said. "We wanted to get our new personnel familiar with how to load our equipment on the aircraft ... as well as validate some of our newer equipment that we hadn't air loaded yet."

The task force can go anywhere in the continental United States at a moment's notice when responding to various incidents that include wildfires, earthquakes, and hurricanes. While responding, the task force can provide a variety of capabilities such as situational awareness or assessment team, a liaison element, or, with augmentation from other services, a deployable joint command post.

"Basically, we push

ourselves out when we get deployed," said Staff Sgt. Whitfield Leach, U.S. Army North's TF-51 aide-de-camp. "It's everybody's mission to do what we need to do to accomplish the mission, and that's the only thing that matters."

With the completion of the DRE, TF-51 is qualified to rapidly deploy with capabilities to establish a contingency command post anywhere emergency responses strike.

"This is a good team-building exercise because no one is standing around with their hands on their heads," Leach said. "We don't do that here, that's not what we do. We get our hands dirty and say let's go."



*Lt. Col. Jeremy Gottshall (right), U.S. Army North's Task Force 51's logistic officer in charge, talks with Air Force Tech Sgt. Matt Legendre (left), a loadmaster assigned to the 68th Airlift Squadron, during the unit's Level II Deployment Readiness Exercise at the Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field Annex Nov. 20.*

# U.S., Colombian armies conclude virtual PISAJ14

By Sgt. 1st Class  
Wendalynn Payne

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army South concluded the first-ever virtual PISAJ 14 (Programa Integral para Suboficiales de Alta Jerarquía), which took place from Nov. 9-20.

PISAJ is a U.S. Army South-hosted engagement between the U.S. and Colombian armies to further develop noncommissioned officers. This year, senior enlisted service members from Brazil and México were also invited to participate.

"This is a great opportunity for Colombian Army sergeants major students to address senior NCO's in regards to competency skills and strategic knowledge from both Air Force and Army sergeants major," said Sgt. Maj. Alejandro Pereyra Alaniz, U.S. Army South PISAJ 14 coordinator.

Members of the Colombian and Brazilian sergeants major academies participated in virtual presentations to support the NCO professional development efforts between armies.



SGT. 1ST CLASS WENDALYNN PAYNE

Sgt. Maj. Alejandro Pereyra Alaniz, U.S. Army South PISAJ 14 coordinator, virtually takes part in PISAJ 14 at Army South Headquarters, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Nov. 12.

"We are fully committed to assisting our partners in designing and developing a course map for the future sergeants major academy that reinforces the Colombian commitment and goal to professionalize their NCO corps," said Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor C. Walker, U.S. Army South command sergeant major. "The U.S. NCO corps is an integral part of what has made the U.S. Army so successful throughout 245 years of service to our nation."

The U.S. Army prioritizes the Colombian Army transformation by increasing Colombia and U.S. interoperability, focusing on human resource reform, human rights, NCO development and gender integration.

The Colombian Army determined NCO development as one of the pillars of their transformation necessary to develop into a strategic combined arms force capable of deploying alongside the U.S. Army worldwide.

Senior non-commissioned officers met at the end of week one to discuss the distinction in roles and responsibilities of first sergeants and sergeants major, being that currently, the Colombian military only supports the rank of first sergeant in their special forces units. The Colombian Army is considering incorporating the rank and position of first sergeant and master sergeant within their regular forces.

"We met the overall objective and will continue to help strengthen NCO leadership and enable a joint, exportable sergeants major course that can be used as a reference for educating all noncommissioned officers in Central and South America," said Walker. "Despite having to execute this joint geo-strategic engagement via Microsoft Teams using a virtual platform, we were still able to educate, give professional courses and collaborate with the COLAR students."

Instructors from Army South, the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, and the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, or WHINSEC, participated

virtually to transmit and generate professional dialogue on essential leadership topics, mission command concepts, critical thinking skills, and concepts in creating and maintaining a soldier recovery unit. Additionally, students interacted with course developers, which assisted them in designing and creating a course map for their future sergeants major academy.

"We facilitated a joint approach of addressing Air Force and Army strategies used to lead units and advise commanders," Pereyra said. "Topics such as how to empower NCO's, talent management, roles, competencies, and responsibilities of command sergeants major were discussed in detail by both services."

PISAJ 14 culminated with a virtual graduation ceremony of forty-five senior enlisted command sergeants major, including two senior enlisted from Brazil and one from México. The PISAJ program is a bi-annual agreed-to-action between U.S. Army South and the Colombian Army through 2023.

## BAMC LEADERS DELIVER THANKSGIVING BASKETS TO INPATIENTS, STAFF

Army Brig. Gen. Shan K Bagby (third from left), Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general, wife Melanie, and daughter Sydney (far left), and Army Command Sgt. Maj. Thurman Reynolds (fourth from left) and his wife Tommi, and daughters Teigen and Alexis (far right), prepare to deliver Thanksgiving baskets to inpatients Nov. 26. Brooke Army Medical Center leaders took to the hospital hallways to hand-deliver Thanksgiving baskets to BAMC inpatients.



ROBERT A. WHETSTONE



# NTAG SA civilian earns commendation medal

By Burrell Farmer

NAVY TALENT ACQUISITION GROUP  
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Juan P. Rodriguez was awarded the Department of the Navy's Civilian Service Commendation Medal Dec. 1 at the Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Rodriguez, who has served as the education services specialist for Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, now NTAG San Antonio, since 2009, received the award for meritorious service for building professional relationships with institutions of learning, Military Entrance Processing Stations, Navy Recruiting Command, and educational services specialists throughout the nation.

"It's always an honor to be recognized," Rodriguez said. "It's certainly a pleasure to be able to continue to serve after retiring from active duty."

According to Capt. Anthony Bayungan, Navy Recruiting Region West commodore, Rodriguez has maintained a zero-discrepancy program for nearly 12 years and has been nationally lauded as the best educational services specialist by the National Assessment and Training Team, scoring 100 percent on three inspections.

"Rodriguez demonstrated superb leadership skills while conducting countless visits to school within NRD San Antonio's area of responsibility," said Bayungan, who visited NTAG San Antonio in November to present the command with the Recruiting Gold "R" Award.

Rodriguez, a graduate of Hanna High School in Brownsville, Texas, joined the Navy in 1985 as a boatswain's mate.

After completing his first assignment onboard the Austin-class amphibious transport dock USS Juneau (LPD-10), he reported to Navy Recruiting Orientation Unit in transition to Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, where he served as a recruiter, recruiter-in-charge, and zone supervisor from 1989 to 1994. During this tour, he was advanced to petty officer first class and selected for the Career Recruiting Force.

In March 1994, Rodriguez reported to NRD Seattle, where he served as zone



BURRELL FARMER

*Juan P. Rodriguez was awarded the Department of the Navy's Civilian Service Commendation Medal by Cmdr. Michael Files at the Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 1.*

supervisor for the largest geographical zone in the United States and earned recognition as Region West Zone Supervisor of the Year while advancing to chief petty officer.

From October 1997 to 2000, Rodriguez was selected for Instructor Duty at Navy Recruiting Orientation Unit Pensacola, where he became the first Navy counselor (Recruiting) to earn the Master Training Specialist designation (curriculum writing) and was chosen to be part of the National Inspection Team where he served as a field inspector.

In July 2000, he returned to NRD San Antonio where he served as zone supervisor for Zone 1, command trainer and assistant chief recruiter, receiving recognition as Region West Zone Supervisor of the Year and advanced to senior chief petty officer.

In July 2003, Rodriguez was selected to lead Navy Recruiting Command National Inspection Team and served as senior inspector and chief recruiter being advanced to master chief petty officer in 2005. He returned to NRD San Antonio in October 2005 as the chief recruiter where he retired in 2009 with 30 years of honorable and faithful service.

In February 2016, he was selected by NRC as the National Education Services Specialist's Inspector and trainer.

His academic achievements include a Bachelor of Science Degree from Wayland Baptist University in Business Administration and Master of Business Administration from Webster University.



# Army South Soldiers return from hurricane humanitarian assistance deployment in Central America

By Leanne Thomas

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With two major hurricanes hitting the Central and South American region less than two weeks apart from each other, nations in the area were dealing with the devastation of a humanitarian crisis.

U.S. Southern Command immediately coordinated disaster relief efforts, pushing elements from U.S. Army South to support Joint Task Force-Bravo in responding to the emergency in the aftermath of Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

On Dec. 2, 15 Soldiers assigned to Army South returned from a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief deployment in Honduras after nearly a month on the ground. The element deployed to Honduras Nov. 9, soon after the U.S. government declared a disaster in Honduras, and JTF-Bravo began life-saving search and rescue operations and the delivery of aid at the request of the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID.

"Supporting disaster response efforts in foreign countries led by USAID is one of the missions we train for to assist partners in need," said Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Walrath, Army South commander. "The Army South element was key in carrying out this important mission in support of U.S. Southern Command's JTF-Bravo joint team."

Upon arrival in Honduras, Army South Soldiers quickly integrated within the JTF-Bravo staff and began processing and coordinating aerial humanitarian missions throughout Guatemala, Honduras and Panama.

"One of the most important responsibilities was that the missions were coordinated to account for maximum helicopter time," said Capt. Joaquin Matias, U.S. Army South Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander. "There was also a safety aspect involved with the pilots and with the maintenance of the aircraft. Time wasted in between missions is time that cuts into the pilots' time away from the missions because of maintenance.

"You can't deliver humanitarian aid



MAJ. JOHN TWITTY

*Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Walrath, U.S. Army South commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor C. Walker, U.S. Army South command sergeant major, greet Army South personnel returning from Honduras Dec. 3 in support of the multinational disaster relief efforts following Hurricanes Eta and Iota.*

if you do not have helicopters," Matias added. "So it's a balance that you do between the humanitarian aid and the pilots' flight hours and the maintenance of the helicopters."

A week after the Army South element arrived to Honduras, a second hurricane, Hurricane Iota, passed over Central America, with Category 4 winds.

"We got there to do a job, we did the job, and then we knew the second hurricane was coming; so we toughed it out and were at a tactical pause," said Master Sgt. Arnulfo Nino, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Army South augmentation element during the deployment. "We then reconsolidated, reorganized, and we got back to doing what we were doing with humanitarian assistance missions."

The military support provided by JTF-B was critical to delivering relief supplies to hard-to-reach areas until local authorities, the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations were able to reach the isolated communities.

"We mostly worked to provide

humanitarian aid by coordinating missions, but we also did assist in a few medical evacuation missions," Matias said. "For example, a pregnant female needed to get to a hospital to give birth. There was a female who was Type-I diabetic and she had a laceration on one of her legs — with her medication running low, and with diabetes, there could have been complications ... so through whatever means possible, that rescue operation was coordinated."

Within the Army South augmentation element, two engineers also worked to assess airfields to ensure helicopters could land safely in areas with severe flooding since the roads were severely eroded and impassable.

In addition, the engineers conducted an assessment to the SOUTHCOM commander to determine if the roads were able to support a Forward Arming and Refueling Point, or FARP, in Gracias a Dios, the eastern side of Honduras.

"The first time the engineers conducted the reconnaissance and drove the routes, they determined the

roads were not safe, so they notified the local Honduran government to repair the roads," said Maj. Paola Benson, officer-in-charge of the Army South augmentation element during the disaster response mission. "This assessment was key to operations because it extended our operational reach, our aviation legs. Prior to that, we were only doing one mission a day because it takes a long time, and a lot of fuel, to fly from Soto Cano to Gracias a Dios. With the FARP, we were doing two-to-eight missions a day."

In addition, U.S. Army South Soldiers from the 56th Signal Battalion established tactical communications to the JTF-Bravo Joint Operations Center and for several missions.

As the on-the-ground communications technical experts, the team traveled across the area of operations reinforcing five communication sites and bringing them to full mission capability. The 28 days of continuous communications enabled JTF-Bravo and SOUTHCOM to plan and execute 322 rescue missions and deliver 257 metric tons of food and supplies to the region.

During the course of JTF-B's authorities to conduct foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, the command supported 295 missions, providing medical and casualty evacuations for people in need of urgent care.

JTF-B rescued 810 citizens, transported 163 rescue and aid workers, and delivered nearly 350,000 pounds of food, water, hygiene kits, and other life-saving aid. Additionally, JTF-Bravo transported nearly 564,000 pounds of relief supplies in support of the USAID-led humanitarian response to the region.

"It definitely strengthened our relationships with our Honduran and Guatemalan partners in their mind because they are more confident of our commitment and capabilities to the area," Benson said. "As the chief of operations, I talked to the Honduran military partners daily in Spanish and told them where we were dropping of the supplies, and the Honduran Army would make coordination's for the security and distribution of supplies."

# BAMC Troop Command names Soldier, NCO of the Year

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Eleven Brooke Army Medical Center Troop Command Soldiers competed Nov. 3-5 to be named BAMC's Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

In the end, Army Spc. Pascal Anderson, Company C, was named Soldier of the Year for the second year running, while Army Staff Sgt. Ryan J. Figueroa, Company B, garnered the title of NCO of the Year during a ceremony Nov. 6 at Freedom Park.

Anderson is a radiology specialist and Figueroa is a combat medic at BAMC.

"It feels awesome knowing I am considered among the best NCOs across Brooke Army Medical Center," Figueroa said. "It's a blessing and a privilege and I am thankful to have the opportunity to compete against the best NCOs across the Army."



JASON W. EDWARDS

*Spc. Pascal Anderson, Company C, Brooke Army Medical Center Troop Command, was named Soldier of the Year for the second year running. Anderson is a radiology specialist at BAMC.*

Anderson said the competition was strong.

"I am glad that I got to see new faces," he said. "These competitions are good ways to stay in training when it comes to basic military tasks."

To be named the Soldier and NCO of the year, the Soldiers who were named



*Staff Sgt. Ryan J. Figueroa, Company B, Brooke Army Medical Center Troop Command, garnered the title of NCO of the Year. Figueroa is a combat medic at BAMC.*

quarterly winners had to compete in several events including the new Army Combat Fitness Test, an oral board and written test, drill and ceremony, land navigation, an obstacle course, a six-mile ruck march, tactical combat casualty care and warrior tasks, weapons

qualification and 12-mile ruck march.

Staff Sgt. Veronica Sheppard, an operating room technician, was part of the cadre this year. This was her first time helping with the competition, she has previously competed.

"This is my first time being able to watch and see them sweat, instead of being the one to sweat," she said.

"The competition is tough," she said. "Usually you can tell who is in the lead, but these guys aren't playing. It was really hard to determine who was in the lead because everyone was giving it their all."

Staff Sgt. Jarvis Manning helped run the obstacle course during the competition.

"It was good to see some of the personnel go through the course and overcome some of their fears," Manning said.

For Figueroa, the 12-mile ruck march and night land navigation were the toughest events during the three-day

competition.

"My fellow competitors were just as deserving of winning the competition," Figueroa said. "They all performed very well and forced me to push myself to my limits throughout the entire duration of the competition."

Everyone agreed that competitions like this one are good for Soldier readiness.

"Readiness never stops, the Army is not going to stop, so we can't stop," Sheppard said. "We still need to maintain physical and mental discipline, because we still need to meet operational demand."

"The United States Army and the United States military must maintain a ready to fight fit force to continue operations and prepare for any type of movement in a global situation," Manning added.

Figueroa and Anderson will go on to compete in the Regional Medical Command-Central Best Warrior competition.

## Local students receive coats, gifts from JBSA partners

*A student at Wilshire Elementary School, in San Antonio's Northeast Independent School District, receives a coat and gifts from Lisa De La Rosa, a family specialist at the school, during a ceremony Nov. 30.*



COURTESY PHOTO

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Students at Wilshire Elementary School, in San Antonio's Northeast Independent School District, will be a little warmer this winter thanks to volunteers from the 502nd Force Support Group and the 106th Signal Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, who collected coats, socks and toys to give needy children.

The gifts were presented to students as part of the Adopt-a-School program during a ceremony, held virtually due to COVID-19, Nov. 30.

"We were donated 36 coats this year for our amazing children," said Lisa De La Rosa, a family specialist at the school.

The students appreciated the kind gesture as well. Myckael Gordan said he loved his new coat, and Zamyia Long sent her thanks to the volunteers, Soldiers and

civilians for their generosity.

"Thank you," she said. "I am so happy with my new pink coat."

The Wilshire Elementary School family sent warm wishes to the units who participated.

"We would like to especially say, 'Thank you' to Col. Shane Cuellar, Loretta Belz, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Crystal Austin-Wong, and all of the 502nd Force Support Group; to Chap. (Lt. Col.) Douglas Prentice; and to Col. Tia L. Benning, Capt. Benjamin Richards, and all of the 106th Signal Brigade," De La Rosa said. "Thanks to all who supported in this amazingly, wonderful project."

Any JBSA organization interested in adopting a school can contact a JBSA Child and Youth Education Services school liaison by email at: [jbsa.slo@us.af.mil](mailto:jbsa.slo@us.af.mil), or by calling: JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-8388; JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-3112; or JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-2214.



# LACKLAND

## AETC recognizes JBSA technician as Weather Civilian of the Year

By Rachel Kersey  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joshua Darney, a meteorological technician for the 502nd Operations Support Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field, has won the Air Education and Training Command Weather Civilian of the Year Award. He competed against civilians at each AETC installation as well as the weather schoolhouse.

"He is our best technical forecaster," said John Stevens, the chief of Weather Operations and Darney's supervisor. "He had a great year."

In January, Darney made a forecast that he believes was the biggest contributor to him winning the award. Making predictions like that are at the intersection of what makes the job both difficult and rewarding.

That day started off as an ordinary day, but Darney was



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

Joshua Darney, 502nd Operations Support Squadron meteorological technician, was selected as the Air Education and Training Command Weather Civilian of the Year.

the Rio Grande and Texas border, and if storms started firing off, I would issue the warnings for two hours from then, because the storms would be moving at a rapid pace to the northeast," Darney explained. "It ended up being a good call, as storms marched northeast toward San Antonio, becoming severe as they came into town with both large hail and high winds across JBSA."

Predicting the weather can be very challenging, but the rewards for the work Darney does are great as well.

"The most challenging part of my job, besides the changing work hours, is trying to come up with a solution that is close to sensible from a chaotic system," Darney said. "I contribute to the mission of the Air Force by exploiting the weather in such a way that it enables us to 'Fly-Fight-Win.'"

Darney said he plans to continue building his

knowledge to become an even better forecaster.

"I have the opportunity to constantly learn something new every day in a field that is infinite," Darney said. "I may be able to see weather patterns and make a forecast that has positive results for others."

Darney career path and road to recognition by AETC have been a long time coming. He served in the Air Force for six years, then became an Air Force civilian employee. He has been in his current position with 502nd Operations Support Squadron for a little over a decade, spending much of that time improving and perfecting his craft, which Stevens said is exemplary.

"Darney won because he is a great weather technician, like all my forecasters," Stevens said. "A JBSA-Lackland forecaster has won this award five out of the last 11 years. I truly feel we have the best forecasters in Texas."

aware of a synoptic scale storm coming out of the southwest United States. The storm would bring together humidity, upper-level winds and overall instability, which prefigures a thunderstorm, strong winds and large hail later in the evening.

He forecasted that for during

a two-hour period, there would be severe thunderstorms. When the storm actually hit, the error in his timing was only a few minutes.

"Using forecast models, surface, or SFC, observations, and satellite data, I decided early that evening to watch for thunderstorm development near

## 59TH MEDICAL WING SUPPORTS COVID-19 OPERATIONS IN NORTH DAKOTA

Karen Zimmerman, registered nurse and the Chief Nursing Officer at Trinity Hospital, talks with members of the 59th Medical Wing from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland about patient care in the COVID-19 wards, in Minot, North Dakota, Nov. 27. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, remains committed to providing flexible Department of Defense support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in support of the whole-of-America COVID-19 response.



MASTER SGT. HELEN MILLER

# Basic Military Training graduates celebrate first Thanksgiving as Airmen

By Annette Crawford

37TH TRAINING WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 708 Airmen who graduated from Basic Military Training Nov. 25 enjoyed their first Thanksgiving in uniform at the 322nd Training Squadron Dining Facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Nov. 26.

It was also their first meal during their 7 1/2 weeks at JBSA-Lackland in which they were allowed to talk, relax and have more than 15 minutes to eat. As several members of the leadership team in attendance noted, they were a group of "very happy Airmen."

Col. Michael Newsom, commander of the 737th Training Group, which encompasses all of BMT, was on hand to greet and congratulate the Airmen in the very same DFAC he ate in when he was a trainee in 1982. He received his commission through Officer Training School in 1996.

Lt. Col. Shamekia Toliver, commander of the 322nd TRS, greeted Airmen as they came through the line. Several stopped to thank Toliver for her leadership and to excitedly share their career plans. Toliver was joined by her superintendent, Chief Master Sgt. Roberto Arteaga; the first sergeant, Master Sgt. Michael Brennan; and nearly all of her Military Training Instructors.

"I asked my MTIs what they were doing here on their day off and they told me, 'Ma'am, these are my Airmen. I have to be here.' They are so dedicated," Toliver said.

The newly graduated Airmen shipped out to their respective technical training schools Nov. 27.



Col. Michael Newsom (standing), 737th Training Group commander, which encompasses all of Air Force Basic Military Training, speaks with two Airmen eating their Thanksgiving meal at the 322nd Training Squadron Dining Facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Nov. 26. The Airmen graduated from BMT on Nov. 25, and enjoyed their Thanksgiving meal before shipping out to their respective technical training bases on Nov. 27.

PHOTOS BY ANNETTE CRAWFORD



Lt. Col. Shamekia Toliver (right), 322nd Training Squadron commander, speaks with two Airmen at the 322nd TRS Dining Facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland 26. The Airmen graduated from BMT on Nov. 25, and enjoyed their Thanksgiving meal before shipping out to their respective technical training bases on Nov. 27. Toliver and several members of her staff were on hand to greet and congratulate the newly graduated Airmen.



Airmen from the 322nd Training Squadron work the drink line at their Dining Facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Nov. 26. Two Airmen from each flight assist with drinks as their flights go through the line. This was one of the changes made due to COVID-19, and cuts down on the number of contact points in the line.



# Cyber Airmen train in weapons competition, increase cyber security

By 1st Lt. Michael Hardy

SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE (AIR FORCES CYBER)

Members of the 688th Cyberspace Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland participated in the annual Weapons Cyber Competition Nov. 16-20.

The competition provided an opportunity to hone and sharpen technical skills by providing a realistic, competitive environment to demonstrate and practice cyber tactics, techniques and procedures, or TTPs, against a thinking/reactive adversary, without attribution or risk to live networks.

The event was geared towards securing and educating participants in cloud resources and defending against attacks.

Taking precautions against COVID-19, the competition was entirely virtual to minimize contact with over 60 participants from nine squadrons across the wings.

Members of the 67th Cyberspace Wing and 960th Cyberspace Wing participated in the competition.

"This is a great opportunity to train in a space where we get repetition and valuable feedback," said Col. Richard Erredge, 960th Cyberspace Wing commander.

Participants were broken into teams and worked together on time sensitive



BRANDAN NEAL

*Members of the 688th Operations Support Squadron gather for a photo during the annual Weapons Cyber Competition at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Nov. 19. From left are: Steven Garcia, Brandon Neal, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Breslau, Michael Levesque, William Lopez, U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. David Lewandowski and Corey Mateo Morrison.*

tasks to counter adversary attacks in real-time to create a hands-on experience.

Select members of the 688th Operational Support Squadron took the role of adversaries called the Red Team. Their focus was to conduct research and create challenges that would test cyber teams' ability to detect various activities.

Activities included downloading and extracting information, while scanning networks utilizing compromised

computer systems and servers to trigger security events for teams to research, analyze, and report their findings.

Challenges were performed and created over different periods of time to make problems difficult to solve before the end of the competition.

By the end of the competition participants learned how to assess defensive capabilities, and test the ability to identify and recommend innovative solutions to improve the

network security posture.

"Hopefully you will be inspired from what you learned this week and share what you learned with your peers," said Col. Jeffrey Blankenship, 688th Cyberspace Wing vice commander, during his closing remarks. "Look for ways you can implement what you learned and make us more effective and efficient at our job."

The 688th Cyberspace Wing, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, is aligned under Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber), Air Combat Command. The wing is the Air Force's premier cyberspace warfighting organization dedicated to delivering actionable intelligence and tactics, techniques, and procedures, deployable warfighter communications, engineering and installation capabilities, defensive cyber operations, and network security operations across the Air Force Information Network enterprise.

The 960th Cyberspace Wing, also headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, is aligned under Tenth Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command and has total force associations with units under Sixteenth Air Force. The 960th CW is Air Reserve Command's only Cyberspace Wing and the only Air Force Cyberspace Wing that operates all Air Force Defensive Cyber Operations weapons systems.

## FIGHTING FALCONS RECEIVE CARE FROM 149TH FIGHTER WING



*Tech. Sgt. Joseph Ramos, 149th Fighter Wing aircraft armament systems technician, removes a panel from an F-16 Fighting Falcon undergoing maintenance Nov. 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Behind every flight is a team of people who make it happen. The F-16 Fighting Falcons of the 149th Fighter Wing remain an example of mission dominance through uncompromised excellence because of Gunfighters like Tech. Sgt. Joseph Ramos, an aircraft armament systems technician. The 149th Fighter Wing has trained combat ready F-16 pilots for active duty, Air Guard and Reserve units around the globe.*

SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN MANCUSO

# Mental health during COVID-19: ‘You’re not in this alone’

**By Airman 1st Class  
Melody Bordeaux**

59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Since the beginning of this year, many have experienced an intense amount of change. There is no question of the emotional toll the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on people.

As important as washing your hands, socially distancing, and wearing a mask is, your mental health is also important.

San Antonio Military Health System mental health professionals guide patients through stressful times to include any adverse feelings from the pandemic both in-person or via telehealth.

With holidays drawing close, some people will be spending it away from their families. For those apart or living alone, there are a plethora of tools to connect with family and friends.

Using virtual video call apps and

planning activities to do at the same time, simulating as if you are together, can be fun. Reach out to your family and friends, ask them how they're feeling. Communicate with them and try to come up with ideas for new activities you can do safely related to things you enjoy.

Additionally, practicing gratitude daily and continuous open communication will help friends and family stay connected and eliminate the possibility of pent up stress. It can be as simple as being grateful to speak with your family, or cooking your favorite food. Text or call family and friends, or ask to talk about things on your mind with your significant other.

If leaving your home is not an option or you have recently moved and have no family or friends nearby, Capt. Isaiah Jones, 59th Medical Wing licensed clinical social worker, suggests people can search for virtual trade groups, alumni associations, social media



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MELODY BORDEAUX

*Air Force Capt. Isaiah Jones, 59th Medical Wing licensed clinical social worker, speaks with a patient Nov. 24 at the Mental Health Clinic at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.*

groups, and self-interest groups.

“Engage in organizations or meet-up groups that use virtual platforms,” Jones said. “Connecting people from different parts of the country, or even world, and forging bonds through a shared or mutual interest.”

Jones also suggests taking time to learn something new, through an online class or by listening to podcasts to give yourself a mental break and take your mind off the current situation.

“Find things to do in the home to break up the boredom,” Jones said. “Sometimes we all need an escape, and that could be getting lost in a novel even if it's just for an hour.”

Between teleworking and social distancing, some may find it difficult to adjust their balance of work and family time. Jones recommends establishing a designated work area and amount of time to accomplish the mission and prioritizing time for your family and yourself both spiritually and physically.

“While using guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or local health officials, get outside, and walk or exercise,” Jones said. “Any kind of

physical activity will help because physical well-being and mental health are intertwined and impact one another. Getting fresh air and sunlight will help relieve stress and anxiety.”

Jones recommends bike riding, going for a run, or activities with the family in the backyard as another way to stay active and connected. Also, doing arts and crafts, listening to music, or playing an instrument can help relieve stress and anxiety.

Remember through these upcoming holidays your mental health is important and impacts your overall health. Reach out and communicate with your family, friends, coworkers, and community.

To make an appointment at the 59th MDW Mental Health Clinic, call 210-292-7361.

If you prefer to speak with the Chaplain instead call 210-292-7373 or the emergency pager at 210-266-3905.

If you need any help with family resources, contact Family Advocacy at 210-292-5967.

Outside of duty hours, or any time of day, service members can call the Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255.

## BAMC COMMANDING GENERAL VISITS 59TH MDW FOR IMMERSION TOUR



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MELODY BORDEAUX / 59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*Air Force Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes (right), 59th Medical Wing commander, speaks with U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Shan K. Bagby (left), Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general, about medical simulation training Nov. 23 in the 59th Medical Wing Medical Simulation Center, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. DeGoes elaborated the necessity for balance between clinical operations and training to strengthen readiness during the BAMC commander's immersion tour. During the tour, Bagby also got to see firsthand how the 59th Medical Wing is helping Air Force Basic Military Training fight through COVID-19 and tour a Critical Care Air Transport simulation room in the 59th MDW's Medical Simulation Center, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The room represents a real-world CCAT mission response.*



# RANDOLPH

## Dorm residents receive lesson in cooking, resilience

By Airman 1st Class  
Tyler McQuiston  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph dormitory residents were treated to an in-person cooking lesson, which was also presented virtually, during a resiliency event Nov. 20.

Taught by Tonya Lee, JBSA-Randolph violence prevention integrator, the cooking lesson was part of a series of weekly resiliency events for dorm residents hosted by Aaron Moffett, JBSA-Randolph Community Action Team and Randolph Community Support coordinator.

“Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Fleming was concerned with social distancing regulations during COVID-19 and teleworking having a negative impact on the dorm residents’ resiliency,” Moffett said. “The hosts of our events are either a part of the JBSA-Randolph Community Action Team or colleagues of mine that conduct similar training around the country.”

The events are meant to build resiliency and keep morale high during the pandemic by allowing dorm residents to participate in activities. Each event is hosted by a different instructor and usually lasts from one to two hours.

Lee, a colleague of Moffett’s, volunteered to host the cooking event because she wanted to offer dorm residents an easy, fun and affordable meal to make during the holiday season. She expressed how being away from home, especially during the pandemic, can be troublesome, and said



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TYLER MCQUISTON

*Tonya Lee, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph violence prevention integrator, provides a cooking lesson to Airmen in the dorm at JBSA-Randolph Nov. 20. Lee and Dr. Aaron Moffett, JBSA-Randolph Community Action Team and Randolph Community Support coordinator, worked together to host the session for the JBSA-Randolph dormitory residents.*

she uses cooking, a passion she took up during her formative years, as a distraction.

For the event, Lee brought a pre-made meal to save time during the virtual presentation and talked Airmen through each step of preparing the seasonal meal of barbecue ribs, macaroni and green beans.

She began by preparing the ribs, applying seasoning and salt. After placing the ribs in the oven, she started cooking the macaroni and green beans. Throughout the cooking process, she took the ribs out

and added barbecue sauce to enhance the flavor.

After Lee finished cooking the meal, she let the in-person participants sample the food. She and Moffett then wrapped up the session by thanking the virtual participants and providing information on three more events scheduled before the end of the year, including sessions on Mindful Practices, Dec. 4; Improv to Improve, Dec. 11; and Rock to Recovery, Dec. 18.

“Supporting events like this gives me so much joy,” Lee said.

“I was once the Airman living in the dorms, thousands of miles away from home and feeling homesick during the holidays. Resilience helps us create coping mechanisms, and this is something we can rely on when we face a struggle and need to overcome an obstacle. Having events like this connect our Airmen with agencies that can help, and it shows them they have support.”

Moffett hopes to coordinate more events in the coming year.

“We are hoping to do more programming, as long as there

is interest,” he said. “We have also extended the invite for the virtual events to dorm residents at JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

“Coordinating these events and serving our service members that have dedicated so much to me is the reason why I jump, not crawl, out of bed in the morning,” he said. “It gives me extreme pleasure to serve, and thank those who serve. It is just a small way for me to give back.”

For information on upcoming events, call 210-652-0187.

# AF safety experts look to increase successful job performance with new training mindset

By Jessie Perkins  
AIR FORCE SAFETY CENTER

The Air Education and Training Command's occupational competencies branch hosted this effort as part of a process to restructure force development across all Air Force career enterprises, forging a new training mindset to assist career field managers with the development of competency-based learning models for all Air Force military career fields.

The study focuses on combining task-based knowledge and skills with other behaviors and soft skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, self-control, resiliency, leadership and stress management intended to create behavior-based outcomes.

AETC has developed the competencies through a comprehensive study and research process over the past three years and categorizes them into four major groups: Developing Self, Developing Others, Developing Ideas and Developing Organizations.

Dr. Jeffrey Richardson, competency program developer for AETC, facilitated the four-day session and is heading up the Air Force-wide initiative. He said that he was impressed with the team and their eagerness to participate despite a location change from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, to JBSA due to the pandemic.

"This is a change, a paradigm shift, in individuals," Richardson said. "Instead of it being just a task-driven competency, this study recognizes the difference in a top performing Airman versus an average performer. This benefits everyone in the Air Force, because now we will be able to see self-empowered and self-driven behaviors in a



SENIOR MASTER SGT. LUCAS SHAY  
Senior Master Sgt. Bilma L. Romero, 16th Air Force, participates in active learning during an Occupational Competency Model Study at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Nov. 17.

competency model framework with outcome based results."

The team for this study is working to develop an occupational competency model for the tSo safety community and is one of the first 25 career fields to participate.

"This team of safety professionals will also be developing strategies for actively applying the occupational competencies gained during the study into actionable behaviors needed to ensure successful performance on the job and mission execution" said Chief Master Sgt. Kevin James, the Air Force safety career field manager.

"A big benefit of the study will be seen when we update our technical school training curriculum at the Utilization and Training workshop in 2021 with improved career development competencies," James said.

The Utilization and Training Workshop's primary purpose is for career field functional leaders to determine and present training requirements to the AETC Training Pipeline Manager and Training Manager of the career field. James expects to start implementing the skills learned in the study throughout the career field immediately.

Senior Master Sgt. Lucas Shay, superintendent of the Air Combat Command Safety Directorate at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, led the diverse team of safety professionals, which hailed from various major commands and locations throughout the Air Force.

"We had an incredible team working on this project," Shay said. "Going forward it's going to pave the way for how we develop our Airmen and how we focus our training on the things that really matter."

## AFRS hosts 'Pathway to Wings' briefing Dec. 21

By Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

Air Force Recruiting Service hosts a "Pathway to Wings" interactive career briefing at 6 p.m. Dec. 21 for potential future Air Force officers interested in learning more about accessions and rated boards.

The Pathway to Wings brief, hosted by AFRS Det. 1, will give participants an overview of Air Force aviation careers, as well as information about different types of service, missions, aircraft and military lifestyle. Current Air Force aviators will be on the call to answer questions.

Visit [https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_k1pkvf2REWtQcVSiLLiCw](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_k1pkvf2REWtQcVSiLLiCw) to register for the event via ZoomGov.

## PATHWAY TO WINGS

### CAREER BRIEF

Do you want to learn more about the Air Force?  
Do you want to talk to Air Force aviators?  
Do you want to learn how to fly for free?

**Next Brief**  
**21 Dec 2020 at 6 PM Central Time**  
Register at:  
<https://bit.ly/pathwaytowingsdecember2020>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE FOLLOWING:**

Facebook: AFRS Detachment 1  
Instagram: @usaf\_inspire  
Twitter: @usaf\_inspire

COURTESY GRAPHIC



# JBSA launches professional development course for first-term Air Force officers

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

While the First Term Airmen Course has long served young enlisted members at Joint Base San Antonio, now a course dedicated specifically to officers will help fill a void in their professional development.

Eighty officers ranging from second lieutenants to lieutenant colonels signed up for JBSA's initial First Term Officer's Onboarding Course, or FTOOC, which was presented Dec. 1-3 through an online video conferencing platform.

The course, which is undergoing beta testing, is being pushed as a major professional development initiative by Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller, 502d Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider following a research effort spearheaded by the installation's career assistance advisors, or CAAs.

"The course is developed for all officers within their first term of military service, regardless of rank," Snider said. "The topics chosen for the course are to bridge the gap of an officer's knowledge and capabilities upon being assigned to their first unit in JBSA and their selection to attend Officer Professional Military Education."

JBSA's CAAs, who manage the largest professional development program in the Air Force, provided the impetus for the initiative, said Senior Master Sgt. Jermaine King, JBSA-Randolph CAA.

"Over the course of the last two years, the CAAs noticed there was a significant gap in deliberate professional development between the time an officer is assigned to Joint Base San Antonio and is selected to attend Officer Professional Military Education," he said.

King and Master Sgt. Dylan Bowman, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston CAA, led a team consisting of officers, senior NCOs and junior NCOs to bring the course to fruition after conducting research for about a year. King, who is a Six Sigma Black Belt, said the team utilized organizational development principles from Six Sigma during their research effort.

King also said Snider and several field grade officers mentored him on the



COURTESY GRAPHIC

*A course dedicated specifically to officers will help fill a void in their professional development. Eighty officers ranging from second lieutenants to lieutenant colonels signed up for JBSA's initial First Term Officer's Onboarding Course, or FTOOC, which was presented Dec. 1-3 through an online video conferencing platform.*

direction of the course and provided guidance.

Unlike FTAC, which serves young Airmen, FTOOC meets the developmental needs of both lieutenants and officers with more advanced rank.

During their research, the team learned the Air Force will waive rank requirements based on the needs of the service to bring in officers with special expertise and experience in certain career fields, such as the medical and legal professions, King said.

"The CAAs brought in subject-matter experts to build a curriculum to give deliberate development to officers within their first term of service, regardless of rank, in order to provide training development to officers prior to their selection to attend PME," he said.

What also separates FTOOC from FTAC is that it is designed to provide officers with the "why," King said.

"First-term Airmen are seeking information on how to do their jobs and understand how networking and working as a team is vital to success," he said. "The First Term Officer's

Onboarding Course will allow officers to enhance their leadership abilities.

"As an example, many courses teach bullet writing courses; however, in FTOOC the officers will learn the enlisted force structure. This is important as it allows officers to understand 'how' to review enlisted performance reports and 'why' enlisted personnel are documenting leadership concepts on the EPR."

King said this knowledge will help officers further evaluate the personnel they supervise in order to understand if personnel are exceeding standards commensurate with their rank and will provide officers with hands-on experience reviewing EPRs to further their understanding of the enlisted force structure.

FTOOC does not seek to duplicate courses that are already available and tie them together, King said.

"The team analyzed topics based on what the leaders of today needed to know prior to reaching PME," he said. "Subject-matter experts were instructed to take the topic and to speak to areas that needed to go more in-depth. The

facilitators are told that the information presented is not to be simply instructed, but ensure that the students understand the 'why' concerning the material presented. What was delivered were topics that would enable leaders based on the current state of units, and how the topics could make subordinates better under these leaders for a better future."

The course curriculum was designed based on feedback given by enlisted, officer and civilian personnel from other professional development courses that have been offered at JBSA, King said.

The curriculum addresses numerous topics, including Personnel Programs, Air Force Personnel Center Promotion Board, EPR Knowledge and Culture, Emotional Intelligence, Diversity and Inclusion, Executive Assistant Training and First Sergeant/Superintendent/Commanders Panel.

An after-action report based on student feedback will be provided to JBSA leaders, including Miller and Snider, and CAAs will update the course based on feedback from leaders, students and facilitators.

Prior to becoming a mandatory course for JBSA, the CAAs' chain of command will have to approve the course, King said. The hope is that FTOOC will become a permanent course through policy.

"The CAAs would provide the course one time per quarter," he said. "Newly assigned officers to JBSA in their first term of service would be able to choose which FTOOC to attend within their first year of service."

Snider sees the course benefiting officers and the mission.

"The course will advance force development by growing solution-minded, bold and courageous military leaders ready to overcome today's and tomorrow's challenges," he said.

Snider also commended King and his team for their dedication to the initiative.

"The American warfighters are extremely talented," he said. "I praise Senior Master Sgt. King for his vision to incorporate FTOOC as well as the other professionals who helped get this course off the ground."