



AUGUST 1, 2014  
 VOL. 56, NO. 30

**JBSA  
 HOTLINES**



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 808-SARC (7272)**  
**JBSA Domestic Abuse Hotline  
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**JBSA Duty Chaplain  
 221-9363**

A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING — JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON



**QUEST FOR THE BEST**

**PAGE 6**



**5 YEARS FOR 502ND AIR BASE WING**

**PAGES 10-11**



**RAMBLER 120 RACE**

**PAGE 16**

# U.S. Army South completes eighth bilateral staff talks with El Salvador

By Eric Lucero  
 Army South Public Affairs

U.S. Army South, as the Army service component command for U.S. Southern Command and acting on behalf of the Chief of Staff of the Army, conducted staff talks with the Salvadoran army July 12-16 at the Army South headquarters on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The purpose of the talks was to foster a bilateral partnership, discuss ways to counter transnational organized threats and plan mutual training engagements over the coming three years to promote increased interaction between the U.S. Army and Salvadoran army.

“Our staff talks are a fundamental part of our fraternal relationship,” said Maj. Gen. Joseph

**See EL SALVADOR, P15**



Photo by Eric Lucero

Brig. Gen. Armando Mejia (left), the Salvadoran army commander and head of the Salvadoran delegation, shares a laugh with Maj. Gen. Joseph P. Disalvo (right), the U.S. Army South commanding general and head of the U.S. delegation, while Maj. Sergio Trejo (center), the Army South Central American desk officer, translates during the U.S. Army South/Salvadoran Army-to-army staff talks July 15 at the Army South headquarters on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

# Two students earn prestigious award for METC cytotechnology program

By Lisa Braun  
 METC Public Affairs

Sgt. Tamara Cobb and Spc. Jeffrey Wilks have marked their place in military medical education history.

The two Army cytotechnology students at the Medical Education and Training Campus are among just five in the nation to receive the prestigious Geraldine Colby

Zeiler Award. Not only is it the seventh consecutive year that a student in the METC cytotechnology program has been selected for this award, it is the first time two students in the program have been selected at the same time.

The Zeiler Award, established in memory of the late cytotechnologist Geraldine Colby Zeiler, is presented to students of cytotechnology to stimulate and reward high

achievement and promise during their training.

Cytotechnologists screen human cell samples under the microscope to detect early signs of cancer and other diseases. Physicians use the information supplied by the cytotechnologists to make a final diagnosis.

Only the top five students from

**See METC, P14**

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# Commentary: 'Mommy isn't coming home, sweetie'

By Airman 1st Class  
**Madison Sylvester**  
 319th Air Base Wing Public Affairs  
 Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

As a young child, you don't think much if someone doesn't show up when they're supposed to because you have better, more important things to worry about; like bugs and dolls. They're just another shape flashing around you in your own little world.

Occasionally, a child will stop and ask a question about the sky, their toys or where their parent is. The answer always seems to be, "Oh honey, they're right over there," and life goes on without a hitch.

When I stopped playing one night in 1998 and asked the question, "Daddy, when is Mommy coming home?" it brought everyone around to a sudden halt. My father cleared his throat and blinked a few times, obviously taken by surprise that his 3-year-old was asking this question so early. He replied quietly, "Mommy isn't coming home sweetie. She's living with the angels now."

My mother was killed in a head-on collision March 24, 1997, as a result of drinking and driving.

That wasn't the beginning of her relationship with alcohol; however, her decision to drive home after drinking this night was not her first time doing so. It was a regular thing. Consumption of alcohol, or rather the inability to stop consuming it, had ruined my parents'



Photo by Senior Airman Xavier Navarro

Airman 1st Class Madison Sylvester shares the story of how her first scar became her reason for never driving while under the influence of alcohol. Sylvester is a 319th Air Base Wing Public Affairs broadcaster.

relationship. Already in the process of divorce, they had been fighting that particular day over my mother breaking into my grandparents' liquor cabinet.

The attempt to lie was immediately wiped away with the first glance of her. So she decided that she would leave, she tried to bring me along with her but my father was able to wrestle me away.

My dad wasn't worried, he thought she would take a walk down the street to calm down; he thought he had the keys. Little did he know, she had a spare set made.

Judging from the look on his face, he had thought he had some time before any real explanations had to be given. I quickly apologized seeing the distressed look and got up to rush to another room but he stopped me and said, "No, it's okay, I just didn't think I would have to do this so soon ... Your mother had a problem."

A problem. That's what we hear today when someone invites alcohol into their lives for too long. A problem. A mistake. What my mother had was not simply a problem; my mother had a disease. One that nobody cared to diagnose because that would mean their own failure. She would get sad and drink, she would get mad and drink, and soon she had made any emotion an excuse to drink. I grew older with conflicting images of her.

"She was a wonderful mother; she loved you, so full of life and laughter," collided with "Your mother was a liar, a cheater and a drunk."

Yes. I had a woman who married my father, gave me a little sister, and took on the task of taking care of me too.

But there was always a hole that couldn't be filled in me. I had questions that people felt too guilty about to answer. Did I do something so wrong that she needed to drink again? If she really loved me, how could she be so careless? I was grieving years after everyone else had moved on.

Never wanting to upset the woman I now called Mom, I waited until I had my father alone to ask again, "Daddy, what really happened to mommy?"

However, I learned to deal with my own hurt and turned it into understanding and proactivity. My mother was not the only person to ever have alcoholism. I was not the only person ever to lose someone this way, nor would I be the last. I would not allow myself to be a victim, but instead became an advocate.

The one thing that I took away from my own loss was that I never wanted anyone else to go through the same experience. My family brushed her addiction under the rug because addictions are ugly, they're taboo, and deep down inside they didn't want to admit that their daughter, sister and granddaughter wasn't okay. But the truth of the matter is that she wasn't and others aren't either.

I urge you to help your wingmen. If you notice that their weekend fun is turning into everyday fun, say something. If you suspect that they're having hard times, say something. Even better than that, do something. Don't let them get in that car after they've been drinking.

We have so many resources that can help prevent the loss of another brother or sister in arms. Most people are not willing to look at their own reflection and say "I have a problem. I need to stop."

Help them. Love them. Support them.

This disease is long-standing in my lineage. I will be the one to end it. Will you do the same with our Air Force family?

## News Briefs

### Walters Street, Wilson Way Periodic Closures

With construction continuing at the Walters Street Entry Control Point, the intersection of Walters Street and Wilson Way will be closed periodically through Oct. 7. The closures will occur between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. Mondays through Fridays. The Walters Street ECP will remain open throughout this time and detour signs will be posted.

### Scott Visitor Center Temporary Closure

The Scott Visitor Center, located at 3701 Winfield Scott Road, will close at 2 p.m. Tuesday for renovation of the customer counter. It will reopen at 6 a.m. Wednesday. Visitors can process through the Walters Street Visitor Center, located at 2150 Winfield Scott Road, for the duration of the closure. For more information, call 221-2570.

### WHASC Step Saver Cart Drivers Needed

The 59th Medical Wing Volunteer Service Office needs licensed drivers at least 20 years of age to transport patients to and from clinic entrances and parking lots in the vicinity of the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Clinic, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Carts operate from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Training is available. Call 292-6591.

### Temporary Lane Closures On Garden Avenue

Construction on Garden Avenue between Wilson Road and Hardee Road will continue through Sept. 11, which will not allow two-way traffic during that time. Access to driveways along both sides of Garden Avenue will remain open.

### Volunteers Needed As Patients For Medical Readiness Training

The 937th Training Support Squadron's Medical Readiness Training Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis needs volunteers to serve as patients for medical readiness training from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays from Sept. 17-18 and Sept. 24-25. Volunteers can assist for one hour or an entire day. Volunteers will be moulaged to have fake injuries, such as gunshot wounds, stab wounds, etc. Volunteers should wear old civilian clothing as the materials used for simulated injuries may stain. Call 808-3406 or 808-3410.

# U.S. Army Public Health Command tracks new mosquito-borne disease

By Jane Gervasoni and Lyn Kukral  
 USAPHC Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Public Health Command is responding rapidly to an emerging viral infection that is threatening the United States. Although the chikungunya virus is not new, its emergence in the Caribbean makes it a disease of concern to the U.S. mainland.

Chikungunya is spread by two species of mosquitoes that are commonly found in the U.S., according to USAPHC entomologists.

"Chikungunya is most often spread to people by Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes," explained Capt. Heather Ferguson, USAPHC entomologist. "If an infected person is bitten by a mosquito, that mosquito may spread the virus by biting another person."

One way public health experts monitor the spread of chikungunya is by tracking reports from medical providers of the cases that occur in people.

"Isolating human cases from further bites of mosquitoes, if done efficiently and in time, can help stop the spread of the infection," said Farida Mahmood, entomologist at Public Health Command Region-South.

Experts also track the location of mosquitoes that carry the chikungunya virus.

"Installation preventive medicine personnel collect mosquitoes from traps and then send them to USAPHC laboratories where they can be identified, prepared and tested to determine if the virus is present," Ferguson said.

"Surveillance of mosquito populations in and around installations is done with the goal of finding the presences

of the virus before human cases occur," explained Capt. Brian Knott, another USAPHC entomologist. "If the virus is found in the mosquitoes in an area, intensive, focused control efforts can be initiated. By targeting those mosquitoes actively carrying the virus, the Army can maximize its resources and achieve the best possible results. Ongoing surveillance is also our means of evaluating our efforts."

The mosquitoes that carry the virus bite mostly during the daytime," Knott added. "Understanding the behavior of the vector can help in educating Soldiers about prevention."

Most individuals have been taught to expect mosquito bites at dawn and dusk. Mosquitoes that are active during the day require the extension of preventive measures throughout the day, such as wearing insect repellent with DEET and light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

"Educating Soldiers and their families about how to protect themselves from chikungunya is extremely important should the virus continue to spread to the U.S. mainland," Knott said.

Other preventive measures include stopping mosquitoes from reproducing.

"Removal of all container breeding sites is key to prevention of chikungunya," Knott said. "Educating installation preventive medicine personnel and families about the need to empty water from old tires and other outdoor containers that collect water

Chikungunya is spread by two species of mosquitoes that are commonly found in the United States, according to entomologists at the U.S. Army Public Health Command. The Aedes aegypti is one mosquito species that can spread the chikungunya virus.

Europe. Two cases of locally acquired chikungunya were recently reported in Florida, the first in the continental United States.

"Army preventive medicine personnel are aware of the disease, and USAPHC experts are working with our colleagues in the Department of Defense to provide additional awareness and training and to put reporting mechanisms in place," according to John Ambrose, USAPHC epidemiologist.

"Chikungunya mimics dengue fever, another mosquito-borne illness," Ambrose said. "For public health surveillance purposes, lab testing is needed because it's that testing that distinguishes it from dengue."

While testing patients for the virus is done in hospital laboratories, testing of mosquitoes to see if they carry the virus is done in USAPHC laboratories once they have been collected in surveillance traps.

"Currently, our laboratories can test for chikungunya virus, and capabilities exist for both identification and testing of the virus," Mahmood explained.

"Once an outbreak occurs in our area of operations, the process of collecting information on the location and coordinating it with the locations of infected mosquitoes can begin," Pacha said. "With this information, Army public health professionals are better able to help protect Soldiers and their families from this illness."

Outbreaks of the disease previously occurred in countries in Africa, Asia and



# Fire prevention is everyone's full time job

Fires have become far too frequent at Joint Base San Antonio and a building on JBSA-Lackland was destroyed in a fire July 12. JBSA Fire Emergency Services wants to remind everyone to practice fire safety at home and at work.

- **Every home should have at least one working smoke alarm**

Install a smoke alarm

on every level of the home. Test it monthly, keep it free of dust and replace the battery at least once a year. Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years of service or as recommended by the manufacturer.

- **Prevent electrical fires**

Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords and wires

under rugs, over nails or in high-traffic areas. Immediately shut off and unplug appliances that sputter, spark or emit an unusual smell and have them professionally repaired or replaced.

- **Prevent kitchen fires**

While cooking, be sure to stay by the stove or oven as an unwatched pot or pan could overheat and start smoking. Pans should also be kept with handles pointing toward the back of the stove so no one can knock or pull them over the edge. Always keep a lid nearby to cover a pan if it catches fire. This will smother the fire.

- **Use appliances wisely**

When using appliances, follow the manufacturer's safety precautions. Unplug

appliances when not in use. Use safety caps to cover all unused outlets, especially if there are small children in the home.

- **Keep clothes dryers lint free**

Clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry. Don't forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up. Clean the lint filter with a nylon brush at least every six months, as 34 percent of fires started by clothes dryers come from failure to clean out lint.

- **Smoke outside**

A lit cigarette accidentally dropped onto furniture or hot cigarette ashes and matches tossed away outside before they are completely out can cause a large fire in sec-



Photo by Daniel Hernandez

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland fire fighters work to contain a fire that broke out July 12 in a supply building on JBSA-Lackland.

onds. Putting out a cigarette the right way only takes seconds, too. Smoke outside, use deep sturdy ashtrays and make sure the cigarette and ashes are no longer hot.

- **Have an escape plan**

Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never to open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house. Get out, then

call for help.

To get more information on fire safety, call JBSA-Fire Emergency Services non-emergency phone numbers; JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 221-2727; JBSA-Lackland, 671-2921; and JBSA-Randolph, 652-6915 or visit the JBSA-FES website at <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/library/jbsafireemergency-services/index.asp>

*(Information from U.S. Fire Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency)*

# 'Quest for the Best' interactive trivia contest entertains

By Tim Hipps  
U.S. Army Installation  
Management Command

Patricia Keilberg bested husband Keith to win a trip to Las Vegas in the inaugural "Quest for the Best," a test of trivial knowledge played in an interactive game-show fashion by contestants July 19 at the Fort Sam Houston Theatre.

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command teamed up with Rising Tide Sports and Entertainment Group to present the 90-minute experience to mostly young troops on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Military retirees and Department of Defense ID cardholders were also eligible to compete in the pilot event.

Many in the audience



Photo by Tim Hipps

U.S. Navy retiree Patricia Keilberg (center) celebrates winning "Quest for the Best" to the applause of host Bruce Campbell (right) alongside her husband, Keith, who finished as runner up July 19 at the Fort Sam Houston Theatre.

said they came to see and meet host Bruce Campbell, who stayed well into the night autographing and posing for photos. Campbell is best known for his roles as Ash in "The Evil Dead" trilogy and as Sam Axe

in the television series "Burn Notice." He also wrote the books "If Chins Could Kill" and "Confessions of a B Movie Actor."

"That was the most humbling thing I've done in 20 years of producing live events," said Rising

Tide Sports and Entertainment Chief Operating Officer Matthew King, who added that he got very emotional when he peeked through the curtain from backstage and saw all the uniformed troops in the theater. "It's

an honor that we're able to do what we do because they do what they do. It's as simple as that. It's an honor to be able to bring this to them."

During the "Quest for the Best," the Keilbergs were the last two competitors left on stage.

Patricia retired as a 24-year Navy veteran in 2011 and now works at the Navy Medicine Education and Training Command and Navy Medicine Training Support Center on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Keith is retired Air Force and an avid fan of Campbell.

The finalists were determined by five rounds of five multiple-choice questions, during which everyone in the audience of nearly 600 participated. The highest-scoring member of each team in

the preliminary rounds competed in the finals, during which contestants had to really know the answers.

The Keilbergs said they almost returned home when they saw all the young military students entering the theater, but Keith wanted to meet Campbell. Being crowned "the best" wasn't considered an option, they agreed. Next thing they knew, Patricia, wearing civilian attire, and Keith, sporting a ZZ Top-style beard, were on stage alongside three competitors in military uniforms playing "a game show like no other."

Campbell also visited with service members and their families at the Warrior & Family Support Center.

# Operation Jet gives children a taste of deployment experience

By Lori Newman  
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston  
M&FRC Marketing Specialist

Operation Jet (Junior Expeditionary Team) is a mock deployment event for children age 7 and up held annually at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

This year's event will be held Aug. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Bob Hope Theater.

The intent of the event is to recreate the stressors of a deployment so kids can better understand what their parents go through during a deployment.

"This is not a hot dogs and bouncy castle kind of event," said Master Sgt. Jose Ontiveros, event coordinator. "What we are trying to do is recreate the four phases of deploy-

ment – pre-deployment, deployment, post-deployment and reintegration."

Pre-deployment is simulated when parent's sign their child up for the event. The child receives a tasking letter. The stressor that comes into play at that point is the anxiety of what is going to happen during the Operation Jet event.

"The letter gets the kids thinking about what they will be doing," Ontiveros said. "It seems menial, but it's recreating those stressors like the ones their parents feel before a deployment."

On the day of the event, the child doesn't really know what to expect. They walk into the Bob Hope Theater and receive a pre-deployment briefing, go through a processing

line and are given a mission for the day.

The processing line includes things like mock immunizations, talking to Military Family Life counselors and representatives from Operation Homefront and the USO.

Once that is complete, the children are broken up into groups and go out into the field where they experience the deployment portion.

"We bring all kinds of agencies in from across Joint Base San Antonio," Ontiveros said. "They contribute things like transportation, an obstacle course, equipment demonstrations, working dog demonstrations and an MRE lunch."

From there, the mock service members shift into the post-deployment phase, where they will



File photo

Mya Collins, 11, and legal guardian Senior Airman H. Brooks Viel III, a military training instructor with the 322nd Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, read their "orders" prior to "deploying" to "Camp Bramble, Afghanistan" Aug. 10, 2012. The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland sponsored, Junior Expeditionary Team is a mock deployment, giving military children insight on what their parents experience during actual deployments.

be treated to a hero's welcome similar to what their service member

parent receives upon their return.

The reintegration piece

can't be simulated during the event, explained Ontiveros.

"We encourage the parents to ask questions about the experience on the way home," Ontiveros said. "That recreates reintegration where the kids kind of understand what mom or dad has to go through trying to get situated back into the house."

"There is a lot of thought and planning that goes into this event to give the kids an authentic deployment experience," Ontiveros said.

The event is open to anyone with a Department of Defense ID card. Call the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center at 371-3722 by Aug. 8 to reserve a spot for any child that wants to participate.



# 502nd Air Base Wing marks five years at Joint Base San Antonio

By John Baker  
502nd Air Base Wing Historian

Aug. 1 marks the fifth anniversary of the activation ... or more accurately ... the reactivation of the 502nd Air Base Wing.

On Aug. 1, 2009, then-Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick took command of a skeleton force, which grew over time, charged with bringing the concept of joint basing to fruition in San Antonio.

The joint base concept was an outgrowth of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission decisions with the rationale that efficiencies could be gained by placing support functions for bases in close proximity under a single entity.

Twelve joint bases were created, but none matched the scope, complexity and magnitude of Joint Base San Antonio.

Such a huge endeavor required a calculated, phased approach and Patrick and his staff carefully laid the groundwork for the ensuing activation of the wing's three support groups, first at Lackland and Randolph Jan. 31st, 2010, coinciding with the attainment of Initial Operating Capability. Fort Sam Houston attained IOC April 30 of that year.

Just over one year following the wing's activation, the 502d Air Base Wing was declared to be at Full Operational Capability Oct. 1, 2010.

What you might not know is that the heritage of the 502nd ABW stretches back much farther; to the fledgling days of the newly independent U.S. Air Force.

Originally activated Nov. 17, 1947, just two months after the Air Force gained independence from the U.S. Army, the 502nd Air University Wing was charged with logistics and base services support for the Air University and other units at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., as well as nearby Gunter Annex.

The 502d AEW served in this capacity for a year and a half until changes in the way that the Air Force organized itself led to the inactivation of the wing July 27, 1948, when the 3800th AEW assumed its mission. It would not be the last time that such changes would affect the wing.

The 3800th Air University Wing, which was re-designated as the 3800th Air Base Wing July 21, 1983, continued to provide mission support functions at Maxwell AFB until Oct. 31, 1992 when further changes in the structure of the Air Force led to the consolidation of the 3800th ABW with the inactive 502nd

AUW to create a single unit, now known as the 502nd Air Base Wing.

The effect of this reorganization was that the 502nd ABW now had a continuous history of mission support at Maxwell AFB.

The wing remained active for another two years until Oct. 1, 1994, when the 502nd ABW was inactivated and replaced by the 42nd Air Base Wing, preserving the heritage of that wing which stretched back to World War II and included combat in the Pacific theater.

Bringing us full circle, the 502d ABW remained dormant until its 2009 return. This time, the unit flag would stand up at historic Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, where on March 2, 1910, Lt. Benjamin Foulois flew the first Department of Defense sortie in a Wright Flyer on the grounds of McArthur Parade Field.

Although the wing achieved Full Operational Capability in October 2010 and was effective in meeting its mission, it became apparent to Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter, the 502nd ABW/JBSA commander at the time, and her team the wing could better execute its support mission if it was transformed from a traditional to a functional wing structure.

This new structure would allow the wing to be more agile and create more speed in meeting our customers' requirements and provide the group commanders full authority to amass resources at the point of execution.

Accordingly, receiving Air Force approval to implement the new structure, Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta conducted a formal wing transformation ceremony Dec. 4, 2013, ushering in a new era of providing installation support and service to the 200-plus critical mission partners who operate across JBSA.

It's absolutely clear that the 502d Air Base Wing's roots are tied to the incredible annals of both Maxwell AFB and now JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The rich traditions and a military lineage that dates back to the establishment of the U.S. Air Force resonates in the 8,000 members who provide direct service support to the warfighter and 200-plus mission partners who are executing critical operations in the defense of our nation today.

As a member of the 502d Air Base Wing, like my Wingmen and Battle Buddies, I am proud of our noble heritage and am inspired to be carrying on the tradition of those incredible installation support professionals who came before us and paved our path to the future.



The original artist's conception of the 25,733-square-foot 502nd Air base Wing building. The building cost approximately \$7.4 million and has a 5.5-acre footprint.

Courtesy illustration



Photo by Steve Elliott

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta (right), Joint Base San Antonio and 502nd Air Base Wing commander, receives the wing's colors from Army Col. Jim Chevallier, JBSA/502nd ABW vice commander and Chief Master Sgt. Alexander Perry, JBSA/502nd ABW command chief master sergeant, during the 502nd Air Base Wing transformation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 4, 2013.



Photo by Steve Elliott

(Retired) Army Col. Mary Garr (left) receives the colors of the 502nd Mission Support Group from then-Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick during a ceremony at the MacArthur Parade Field to officially stand up the 502nd MSG April 26, 2010. Patrick was commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio at the time.



Photo by L.A. Shively

Air Force Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr. (left) presents the 502nd Air Base Wing guidon to Air Force Brig. GenBob LaBrutta as Command Chief Master Sgt. Juan Lewis (center) and outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter (right) observe during the 502nd ABW/Joint Base San Antonio change of command ceremony at MacArthur Parade Field July 18, 2011.



The 502nd Air Base Wing staff was housed in more humble accommodations in 2010 before the new headquarters building was opened. These trailers now house the 502nd ABW Legal Office.

Courtesy photo



(From left) Dr. Cem Maxwell, Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick and Frank Simas turn dirt July 14, 2010, during the groundbreaking ceremony for the 502nd Air Base Wing headquarters building. Dr. Maxwell is the San Antonio Joint Program Office deputy director, Patrick is the former 502nd Air Base Wing commander and Simas is the deputy of the Joint Project Management Office.

Photo by Steve Elliott

Then-Brig. Gen. Theresa C. Carter (center), 502nd Air Base Wing commander, and Army Lt. Gen. Guy Swan (center right), former Army North commanding general, cut the ribbon to officially open the 502nd ABW headquarters building Aug. 5, 2011, at Fort Sam Houston. Assisting with the ribbon cutting are (from left) Chief Master Sgt. Toby T. Tibbits, 502nd ABW acting command chief, CEM Maxwell, San Antonio Joint Program Office deputy director, and Robert Graves, former 502nd ABW vice commander.



Photo by Steve Elliott



## VIBRANT RESPONSE 14 AT MIDWAY POINT IN INDIANA

Soldiers with 60th Engineer Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, from Fort Benning, Ga., load their equipment into a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle in preparation of Vibrant Response 14, which started July 21 at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Vibrant Response 14, a major field training exercise directed by U.S. Northern Command and executed by U.S. Army North, has reached its midpoint. About 5,500 service members and civilians from the military and other federal and state agencies throughout the country are training to respond to a catastrophic domestic incident. As a component of U.S. Northern Command, Army North coordinates timely federal military response to disasters in the homeland to help people in a time of need.

Photo by Spc. Ryan Hills



Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Koster

Army Spc. Tevin McAfee, from the 60th Engineer Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, Fort Benning, Ga., uses a radiation detector on Marley Bruce, a role player from Madison, Ind., after she exits a decontamination tent July 23 as part of Vibrant Response 14 at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

## METC from PI

30 cytotechnology training programs throughout the United States and Puerto Rico are granted the award each year, along with a \$1,000 prize.

Cobb, a native of Regensburg, Germany and Wilks, from Pasadena, Calif., were selected for two of the coveted slots based on a number of criteria: academic performance, microscopic and diagnostic skills, leadership ability, initiative, acceptance of responsibility, dedication and relationship to colleagues.

METC cytotechnology program director Jorge Franco praised Cobb as an excellent Soldier and an even better student, saying she always displays an eagerness to learn and continues to improve her fund of knowledge in cytopathology.

"Cobb was able to maintain excellence in the classroom while simultaneously completing two web-based courses in 'Molecular Diagnostics' and 'Writing for the Health Sciences' in order to receive a bachelor

of science degree from George Washington University," Franco said. In addition to her heavy school load, Cobb, who served as the class leader, assumed a mentorship and leadership role to the other students in her class.

"Cobb also provided microscopic peer support and advice to fellow students willingly and cheerfully. A well deserved recognition," Franco added.

Franco also commended Wilks, the class distinguished honor graduate for having the highest overall grade-point average in his class, on his desire for knowledge by extensively reviewing reference study sets after hours without instructor prompting.

"Wilks demonstrated excellent academic leadership by studying extra hours and self-teaching histology principles and techniques," Franco stated.

In April 2014, Wilks took and passed the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification exam as a histotechnician. He will be graduating as

a certified cytotechnologist and histotechnician.

"A student's ability to produce exceptional grades does not alone make them an exceptional cytotechnologist," Franco explained. "As a dual-certified anatomic pathology professional, he is at the cutting edge of Department of Defense pathology and across the nation."

"I'll do anything within my power to bring them both back as instructors," Franco said of the Soldiers.

Throughout the 50-week course, Cobb and Wilks demonstrated consistent outstanding performance by exceeding the minimum standards in every area. They and their classmates successfully completed a total of 2,000 hours of didactic and hands-on based instruction that included preparing for and taking 37 exams, participating in 24 microscopic workshops and listening to more than 80 lectures.

In addition to quizzes and homework Cobb and Wilks, like all of their classmates, must also maintain a strenuous



Photo by Lisa Braun

Sgt. Tamara Cobb and Spc. Jeffrey Wilks, students in the Medical Education and Training Campus cytotechnology program, examine cells through a microscope while in the program laboratory. Cobb and Wilks are among just five cytotechnology students in the nation to be selected by the American Society of Cytopathology for the coveted Geraldine Colby Zeiler Award.

physical training regimen and find time to study.

Upon graduation, all students receive a bachelor of science degree in health science from the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

"I'm very honored to get selected for this

makes the program look good."

Wilks, who has aspirations to become a surgical pathologist and hopes being a cytotechnologist will help him reach that goal, was fairly certain he was on the right track for the award.

"The instructors seemed confident in me and provided positive feedback since early on in the program," Wilks said. "I'm honored to be recognized for everything I've been working so hard for all year."

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and involves intense, comprehensive training covering such topics as microscopic evaluation of various normal cellular components, benign and inflammatory abnormalities and malignancies from all body sites, as well as techniques such as fine needle aspiration.

The program consists of 25 weeks of didactic instruction and 25 weeks of supervised clinical training in a military health care facility.

## EL SALVADOR from PI

P. DiSalvo, the U.S. Army South commanding general and the head of the U.S. delegation. "The discussions and agreements that we reach in these talks, will define our meetings and expert exchanges for the next three years. Our officers, non-commissioned officers, and Soldiers are proud to work beside the Army of El Salvador."

For the past year, staff officers from each army have met in steering sessions to plan all future engagements. During the senior engagement, the heads of each delegation meet to sign memorandums of understanding outlining those Agreed to Actions (subject matter expert and educational engagements).

In previous staff talks, the goal was to formalize the next year's engagements between the two armies. However, during this year's meeting, the two sides planned out three years' worth of activities that will take them into 2017.

"We've gone from planning out the next year's engagements, to planning three years in advance," said Maj. Sergio Trejo, the Army South Central American desk officer. "This demonstrates our commitment toward each other as partner nations."

During the three days of talks, the

two delegations drafted a list of 31 ATAs that covered a wide range of professional exchanges designed to improve capabilities and the working relationship between the two armies.

The staff talks focused on a major theme – emerging threats. The two armies discussed and identified ways to counter access to weapons of mass destruction, illegal armed groups within state territories, drug and human trafficking, transnational organized delinquency, trafficking of ammunition and explosives and the illegal migratory process.

One way both armies hope to make progress against these threats is through the development of a Regional Training Center for Counter Transnational Crime. This institution, located in El Salvador, will serve as a base of instruction and training and be available to all Central American countries to improve their capabilities to counter these threats.

The goal is to have this center operational by 2016. Under the current guidelines, El Salvador will facilitate the infrastructure with Army South support, while the U.S. will support El Salvador in developing the program of instruction and by conducting instructor exchanges.

Other themes discussed included humanitarian assistance/disaster relief and

mutual development of institutions.

Capitalizing on the lessons learned earlier this year during Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias 2014, the Salvadoran and U.S. armies plan on conducting a training exchange on a collapsed structure response situation in order to assist the Salvadoran Humanitarian Rescue Unit in responding to urban incidents.

"The bilateral talks are important for both armies because they allow us to outline engagements that are attainable and within the resources of both armies," said Salvadoran Brig. Gen. Armando Mejia, the Salvadoran army commander and head of the Salvadoran delegation.

"Our main objective for this round of staff talks is to lay a solid foundation of activities that enhance our ability to partner with the Salvadoran army," DiSalvo said. "This will allow us to increase our ability to fight transnational organized crime and the threats to regional security."

This year's meeting marks the eighth time the two armies have come together to re-affirm their regional partnership, which has become beneficial not only to El Salvador and the United States, but to the rest of the region as well.

"Our relation is not a new relation. Every year we have these talks, we



Photo by Jose Saez

Brig. Gen. Armando Mejia, the Salvadoran army commander and head of the Salvadoran delegation, gives a presentation to the U.S. And Salvadoran delegations during the U.S. Army South/Salvadoran army-to-army staff talks July 14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

strengthen that relationship," Mejia said. "These talks help us become a more efficient and more defined army with the assistance of Army South. This allows us to also support U.N. peacekeeping missions and other multinational missions in our area."

# Rambler 120 race returns with new division for individuals

By Robert Goetz  
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs



(From left) X-treme Team Road Divas members Kimberly Felty, Carolina Marin Solo, Johanna House and Jennifer Mitchell row during the two-mile rafting course as part of the Rambler 120 competition Oct. 20, 2012, at the Joint Base San Antonio Recreation Park at Canyon Lake.

After a one-year hiatus, Joint Base San Antonio's adventure race, the Rambler 120 Team Challenge, will return Sept. 20 to the JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake.

The Rambler 120, which is hosted by the 502nd Force Support Squadron, features four- and eight-person teams that engage in a friendly, but hard-fought, competition that challenges participants with a 22-mile bike race, 6-mile run, 2-mile raft race and a mystery event.

One of the improvements was adding a division for recreational racers, Knechtel said. The "Just4Fun" division joins the four-person Xtreme and eight-person relay team divisions that have served as the backbone of the event. Xtreme and relay teams compete in three categories: all-male, all-female and coed.

The Rambler 120 also includes a youth biathlon, the "Iron Kid," for family members 5 to 12 years old.

Other changes to the event are the employment of a race management company, Athlete Guild, to handle registration

government civilians and contractors 18 years of age and older.

Knechtel said the event often has repeat participants. Maj. Peter Springirth, 433rd Logistics Readiness Squadron director of operations, said he is competing again this year – and actively recruiting team members – after participating in the Rambler 120 in 2010 and 2012. The 433rd LRS coed relay team he belonged to placed first in the 2012 event.

"I love the idea of triathlons, but can't swim long distances without drowning, so this event is absolutely perfect," he said. "It's in a picturesque location, with a great barbecue lunch as well, so we love competing."

Staff Sgt. Flavio Marroquin, 690th Cyberspace Operations Group Maintenance Operation Center operations controller, said he and his team, "The Poindexters," were ready to go last year until the competition was canceled, and they're poised again for this year's Rambler 120.

"Our team will be participating in the Xtreme



(From left) Team Kick Rx members Kimberly Ortmeyer, Carlos Martinez, Oriana Davila and Justin Lusk competed in 2012 with 36 other teams in the 22-mile bike race portion.

challenge and we plan on having a top finish," he said. "The biggest challenge will be the raft. Most of us have never done anything like it, and there is no practical or frequent way for us to practice it."

Deadline to register for the Rambler 120 is Sept. 6. Entry fees are \$150 for relay teams and \$100 for Xtreme teams if they sign up before Aug. 2; after Aug. 2, fees are \$180 for relay teams and \$120 for Xtreme teams. Other fees are \$25 for individu-

als and \$10 for children. Entry fees entitle participants to a commemorative T-shirt, a barbecue lunch and refreshments.

Military teams and individuals may also qualify to have their registration fee paid through the Air Force RecOn program, but limited funds are available, Knechtel said.

Awards will be presented to the top three teams in each division and category. For more information, call 652-3125 or 267-7358.

Photos by Melissa Peterson

## Eligibility criteria detailed for JBSA Child Development and School Age Programs

By Michelle Lafferty  
502nd Force Support Squadron

Priority 1: Children of single or dual active duty military personnel assigned to, or living at a JBSA location and children of wounded warrior members enrolled in a service-sponsored wounded warrior program. Specific orders are required to register for full-time care.

Priority 2: Children of active duty military or Department of Defense civilians with spouse working or attending school full-time, or single/dual DOD civilians assigned to or living at a JBSA location.

Priority 3: Children of Reservists on active duty or during inactive duty training assigned to JBSA and DOD contractors with spouse working or attending school full-time assigned to or living at a JBSA location.

Priority 4: Children of active duty military, DOD civilians, reservists on active duty/during inactive duty training assigned to JBSA and DOD contractors where the spouse is actively seeking employment. Once verification of employment is provided, child will be changed to specific eligible priority 2 or 3 per initial DD Form 2606 date.

After meeting the needs of parents in the above priorities, any space-available slots will be open for eligible patrons who do not fully meet the above policy criteria, to include Federal employees from non-DOD agencies and military retirees may be considered for placement.

A DD Form 2606 may be submitted for unborn children to be placed on the "unborn" waiting list beginning in the sixth month of pregnancy. The waiting list form will be activated, based on the initial date of the DD Form 2606, when

the patron notifies the waiting list office of the child's birth/name.

The DD Form 2606 may be submitted for inbound members, once official orders are received. The form will be activated once member notifies the waiting list office that they have arrived on JBSA and still require care.

For more information about childcare priorities for JBSA, call 652-5941.



### Better Business Bureau Home Buying Workshop

Friday, 1-3 p.m., the Better Business Bureau presents a home-buying workshop at the Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Call 221-2418 or 2705.

### Warriors invited to scramble

Friday, golfers are invited

to play in the monthly "Warrior Four-Person Scramble" August 1, 12:30 p.m. shotgun start time. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. The cost for the scramble includes 18 holes of golf, green fees, golf cart, dinner, gift certificates for the winners of the longest drive and the closest to the pin and for first, second and third place. For more information, call 222-9386.

### Thrift Shop Reopens Saturday

The Thrift Shop at Fort Sam

Houston, operated by The Spouses' Club of the FSH Area, is located at 3100 Zinn Road, one block south of Outdoor Recreation equipment rental and re-opens Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The shop celebrates the beginning of its third year with refreshments Thursday. It is open Wednesday, Thursday and the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for consignment by military ID card holders and from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for shopping by all who have access to post. Donations also accepted. Call 221-5794/4537

or visit <http://www.scfsh.com>.

### New Fitness Center Hours

As of Aug. 10, two fitness centers on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston will extend their hours. At the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, the new hours are: 5 a.m. to midnight Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, Sunday and federal holidays. At the Fitness Center on the Medical Education Training Campus, the hours are: 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays.

## Air Force military ambassador program accepting applications

Air Force military ambassador program accepting applications

Two articulate, self-confident Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members are needed to serve as military ambassadors at community events to represent Joint Base San Antonio in 2015.

One male and one female ambassador are chosen each year to represent the Air Force at many community events and promote the military's commitment and relationship with the local communities around South Texas.

"The program strengthens Joint Base San Antonio's relationship with the local community while educating the public about the Air Force," said Bill Gaines, 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston civic outreach chief. "The ambassadors are given the opportunity to showcase the professionalism and skills of the Air Force while fostering a positive rapport in the community."

All E-4 to E-7 Air Force members, who are 21 years old and older and assigned to Joint Base San Antonio are eligible to apply to be

a military ambassador. Nomination packages will be distributed to public affairs offices across JBSA Sept. 1.

Once nominated, candidates appear before a selection panel of chief master sergeants and former Air Force ambassadors. The selection panel reviews applications, conducts interviews and selects the ambassadors.

Nomination deadline is Oct. 15. For more information, call 808-0002.

## U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND SOUTH WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

Col. Robert von Tersch (left) accepts the U.S. Army Public Health Command Region-South colors from Maj. Gen. Dean Sienko (center), the U.S. Army Public Health Command commanding general, during a ceremony held July 24 at MacArthur Parade Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Von Tersch takes over for Col. Timothy Stevenson (right). Stevenson moves on to become the assistant chief of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. The Public Health Command Region South is responsible for promoting health and preventing disease, injury and disability in Soldiers, military retirees and the families as well as providing veterinary services for Army and Defense Department veterinary missions in 11 southeastern states, Puerto Rico, Guantanamo and Honduras. Von Tersch said that the chance to lead Public Health Command South is an especially satisfying opportunity as a scientist and epidemiologist, with a chance to improve lives and the environment to prevent disease and improve public health.



Photo by Mike O'Rear

## 5TH RECRUITING BRIGADE GAINS NEW LEADERSHIP



Photo by Jim Frost

Col. Cedrick A. Farris (left) took charge of the U.S. Army 5th Recruiting Brigade during a change of command ceremony July 22 on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston at the Quadrangle, which was officiated by Maj. Gen. Allen W. Batschelet, commanding general of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command (center), who passed the unit colors to Farris, giving him the authority and charging him with the duties and responsibilities as the new brigade commander. Farris assumed command from Col. L. Wayne Magee Jr. (right), whose next assignment is in New Orleans, La.

## CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>PROTESTANT SERVICES</b>	11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>Main Post (Gift) Chapel</b>	<b>Main Post (Gift) Chapel</b>
Building 2200, 1605 Wilson Way	4:45 p.m. – Reconciliation
8 and 11 a.m. – Traditional	5:30 p.m. – Evening Mass
<b>Dodd Field Chapel</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Building 1721, 3600 Dodd Blvd.	8 a.m. – Morning Mass, AMEDD
8:30 a.m. – Samoan	8:30 a.m. – Morning Mass, BAMC
10:30 a.m. – Gospel	9:30 a.m. – Morning Mass, MPC
<b>Army Medical Department</b>	11:30 a.m. – Morning Mass, BAMC
<b>Regimental Chapel</b>	12:30 p.m. – Morning Mass, DFC
Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.	
9:20 a.m. – 32nd Medical Brigade	<b>JEWISH SERVICES</b>
Collective Service	8 p.m. – Jewish Worship,
11:01 – Contemporary "Crossroads"	Friday, MPC
<b>Brooke Army Medical</b>	8:30 p.m. – Oneg Shabbat,
<b>Center Chapel</b>	Friday, MPC
Building 3600,	
3851 Roger Brooke Rd.	<b>ISLAMIC SERVICE</b>
10 a.m. – Traditional	1:15 p.m. – Jummah, Friday,
	AMEDD
<b>CATHOLIC SERVICES</b>	
<b>Daily Mass</b>	<b>LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES</b>
Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel	1 p.m. – LDS Worship, Sunday,
Building 3600,	AMEDD
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.	
11:05 a.m., Monday through Friday	<b>BUDDHIST SERVICES</b>
<b>Main Post (Gift) Chapel</b>	1 p.m. – Buddhist Services,
Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way	Sunday, AMEDD
<i>For worship opportunities of faith groups not listed here, please visit the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Chaplain's website at <a href="http://www.jbsa.af.mil/jbsachapel/samhouston.asp">http://www.jbsa.af.mil/jbsachapel/samhouston.asp</a>.</i>	

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