



JANUARY 24, 2014
VOL. 56, NO. 3



**DOD Safe Helpline
877-995-5247**

**JBSA Sexual Assault Hotline
808-SARC (7272)**

**JBSA Domestic Abuse Hotline
367-1213**

**JBSA Duty Chaplain
221-9363**

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



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE GIVES ADVICE PAGE 2



SAILORS HELP CLEAN UP LOCAL PARK PAGE 10



MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM PAGE 11

Army South hosts multi-state National Guard partnership program summit

By Sgt. Mahlet Tesfaye
U.S. Army South Public Affairs

National Guard leaders representing eight U.S. states and territories convened at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 8 to participate in a U.S. Army South State Partnership Program summit.

The State Partnership Program builds a relationship between U.S. states and partner nations around the world in support of mutual interest by using the National Guard as the catalyzing force and means of support.

“The National Guard State Partnership Program is a joint program of record designed to leverage the National Guard in execution of theater security cooperation globally in support of the geographic combatant commanders,” said Col Larry W. Dotson, Army South chief of exercises. “One of the key things the program does is to establish enduring sustained relationships with partner nations



Photo by Sgt. Mahlet Tesfaye

Maj. Gen. Joseph P. DiSalvo (center), Army South commanding general, speaks with adjutant generals representing eight U.S. states and territories during the Army South State Partnership Program summit held at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 8.

throughout the globe.”

The summit opened lines of communication between Army South and the adjutant generals responsible for maintaining partnerships for countries within the

U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility. It also allowed them to discuss how best to achieve unity of effort in the land domain

See ARSOUTH, P5

USAISR helping develop anti-plaque gum

By Steven Galvan
U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research
Public Affairs
and Steve Elliott
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

A study funded by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command is the first of its kind to use a pharmaceutical-grade, anti-plaque chewing gum for humans to test the feasibility

of delivering a drug through chewing gum.

The compound, developed by the Dental and Trauma Research Detachment at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, is known as KSL-W. It is a novel anti-microbial peptide that kills bacteria and is designed to prevent the development of dental plaque and may reduce periodon-

tal disease and cavities.

“The initial gum formulation was done with the School of Pharmacy at the University of Kentucky, in collaboration with Dr. Patrick DeLuca (Professor Emeritus),” said Dr. Kia Leung of the USAISR DTRD. “It took three years to characterize the formulation of the gum, the release and

See GUM, P8

Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing/JBSA

Commander

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta

502nd ABW/JBSA

Public Affairs Director

Todd G. White

JBSA-FSH Public Affairs Chief

Karla L. Gonzalez

Managing Editor

Steve Elliott

Associate Editor

L. A. Shively

Writer/Editor

Lori Newman

Layout Artist

Joe Funtanilla
News Leader office:

 2080 Wilson Way
 Building 247, Suite 211
 Fort Sam Houston
 Texas 78234-5004
 210-221-2030
 DSN 471-2030

News Leader Advertisements:

Prime Time

 Military Newspapers
 P.O. Box 2171
 San Antonio, TX 78297
 210-250-2440

News Leader email:

 usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.
 fsh-news-leader@mail.mil

This Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the News Leader are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or Department of Defense. It is published weekly by the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office, 2080 Wilson Way, Building 247, Suite 211, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-5004; 210-221-2030, DSN 471-2030. Printed circulation is 10,000. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Director of Public Affairs. The News Leader is published by Prime Time, Inc., Military Newspapers, 2203 Hackberry, San Antonio, Texas 78210, (210) 534-8848, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. government, under exclusive written contract with the 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Air Force. Stories and photos for publication consideration may be e-mailed to usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.fsh-news-leader@mail.mil by close of business Friday.

New SecAF to Airmen: With change comes opportunity

 By Staff Sgt. David Salanitri
 Air Force Public Affairs Agency

The Air Force's most senior leader gave insight into her life and shared career advice with Airmen across the Air Force during her first town hall Jan. 9.

Speaking from the Pentagon auditorium, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James spoke about her 32 years of defense experience, passing on lessons she's learned, and encouraging Airmen to view challenges as opportunities.

James, who grew up along the New Jersey shore, originally came to Washington D.C. with her lifelong dream of becoming a diplomat for the State Department.

But that dream job never happened.

"I prepared all these years, and now the dream was busted," James said. "... boy, was it devastating."

With a signed lease, James had to stay in the city and figure out a way to move on with her career.

"You have to pull up your socks and get on with it," James said. "That was when my dream shifted. I had to zig-zag in life."

In 1981, James began her career in the field of defense.

"Now, more than three decades later, that is where I have spent my professional life," James said of her experience, which includes everything from working for the Department of Defense to a related private sector industry.

James said her swear-



Photo by Jim Varhegyi

ing in as the Air Force's 23rd secretary is "the culmination of that pe-

riod," noting that not receiving what she thought was her dream job may

have been a blessing in disguise.

James offered her story as an opportunity to talk to Airmen about how they approach their own career challenges today, particularly in the face of significant personnel cuts, forcing many to reconsider career opportunities.

"The projections are up to 25,000 reductions in personnel and hundreds of aircraft will come down as well," James said.

With these cuts, James encourages commanders and supervisors to go make the first move, and help their Airmen.

"Reach out to them, go on the offense, and give them some advice," said James, who

See SECAF, P17

Air Education and Training Command updates mission, vision statements

 By Tech. Sgt. Beth Anschutz
 Air Education and Training
 Command Public Affairs

The Air Education and Training Command has updated its mission and vision statements, focusing on its roots – recruiting, training, educating and innovation.

The new mission statement, "Recruit, train and educate Airmen to deliver Airpower for America," speaks to the charge of the Air Force's First Command and the vital stake it holds in the future of the U.S. Air Force.

The new vision statement, "Forging innovative Airmen to power the world's greatest Air Force," keeps innovation in the forefront, highlighting the importance of AETC finding effective and efficient ways to ensure Airmen are fully prepared to fly, fight and win.

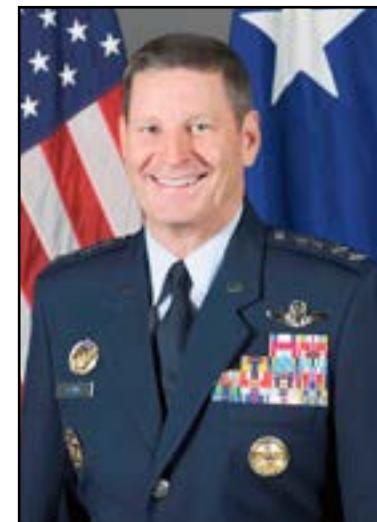
"AETC holds the cherished responsibility of producing the high-



est quality Airmen – strong men and women who adhere to our core values, maintain our standards, value our heritage, and perform at exceptional levels," said Gen. Robin Rand, AETC commander.

"We're part of the world's greatest Air Force, but it's not a birthright. All of us must find innovative and technical solutions to the many challenges our Air Force faces. Therefore, innovative Airmen are our most valuable asset."

The new mission statement brings AETC Airmen – officers, enlisted and civilian members – back to basics while its new vision focuses them on the lofty task of ensuring mission readiness around the globe through total preparation of warfighters.


 U.S. Air Force Gen. Robin Rand
 Air Education and Training Command
 commander

 Joint Base San Antonio
<http://www.facebook.com/JointBaseSanAntonio>
 Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston
<http://www.facebook.com/JBSAFortSamHouston>

 Joint Base San Antonio
http://www.twitter.com/JBSA_Official
 Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston
<http://www.twitter.com/JBSAFSH>

<http://www.jbsa.af.mil>
<http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao>

News Briefs

Former SECDEF Book Signing

Former Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates hosts a book signing from 2-4 p.m. today at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Post Exchange for his book titled "Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War."

Project Graduation Talent Show

The Project Graduation committee at Cole High School is sponsoring a baked spaghetti dinner, basket auction, bake sale and talent show at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Cole Middle/High School cafeteria. Cost is \$5 per person, with children 3 years of age and under free. Contact Lori Campbell at lorcampbell489@gmail.com or call 276-0613 to purchase tickets and for more information.

Technology Expos

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Network Enterprise Center hosts a technology exposition from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday at the Sam Houston Community Center. The event is open and free for all military, civilians and contractors. At JBSA-Randolph, the expo is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Parr Officers Club, while the JBSA-Lackland expo is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Arnold Hall Community Center. For a list of exhibiting companies, call 443-561-2412. To preregister, visit <http://www.FederalEvents.com>.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston MLK Day Observance

The U.S. Army Dental Command hosts the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance from noon-1 p.m. Wednesday at the Warrior And Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797. The guest speaker is Col. James A. Lewis, chief counsel for the U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

Basura Bash 2014

The 4th Annual Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Basura Bash will be held at Salado Creek Park from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 22, with volunteer check in at 8 a.m. and a safety briefing at 8:45 a.m. The annual cleanup of Salado Creek is held in conjunction with the city-wide cleanup effort for the tributaries of

BAMC logisticians logged more than 130 years

By Maria Gallegos
Brooke Army Medical Center
Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center's logistics department recently experienced the loss of more than 130 years of combined service, due to the recent retirement of four professionals.

Faye Older, contract management chief (31

years); Gloria Miller, environmental services chief (47 years); David Colton, optical fabrication lab deputy chief (47 years); and Lloyd Sherman, biomedical equipment technician (63 years) all retired from civil service at the end of December 2013 and were recognized in a ceremony Jan. 3.

"It is hard to de-

scribe what will be lost with the retirement of these four individuals," said Army Col. Richard Webb, BAMC Logistics chief. "For a combined 100-plus years, these individuals have been part of the unsung heroes that live by the motto 'Healthcare Starts with Medical Logistics.' The dedication and commitment they have made to

make a difference in the quality of care for our beneficiaries and staff is immeasurable."

Almost 50 years ago, Miller began her career as a secretary in the housekeeping department in the Beach Pavilion on Fort Sam Houston. She has seen many changes during her tenure at BAMC, but her commitment and

dedication still carries on to this day as she remains devoted to the patients, staff and the department.

"Our department provides a service to our patients and staff, there is never a dull moment. Even though I will miss BAMC because it has been a big part of my

See BAMC, P16

TRICARE to end administrative walk-in services April 1

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

TRICARE military health plan service centers will end administrative walk-in services in the United States April 1.

The decision impacts all TRICARE service centers located at military treatment facilities in the San Antonio Military Health System, including those at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and nearby facilities like the San Antonio Military Medical Center on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and the Randolph Clinic on JBSA-Randolph. TRICARE service centers at all three medical

facilities will close March 31.

However, beneficiaries will be able to accomplish any administrative tasks online at <http://www.tricare.mil> or by phone, said Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren.

"The change will not – let me repeat that – will not affect any TRICARE medical benefit or health care service," Warren said.

"What it will do is allow the department to save \$250 million over the next five years, allowing TRICARE to invest in more important services."

Fifty percent of the visits to the centers are for in- and out-



processing and requests to change primary care providers and the rest involve billing-related questions, officials said.

The Defense Department spends roughly \$50 million a year on these services and this type of customer service can be handled more efficiently by phone or online.

TRICARE beneficiaries can manage their benefits online by going to the "I want to ..." section of the TRICARE website. Online services include:

- Enroll in or purchase a plan

- File or check a claim
- View referrals and prior authorizations
- Find a doctor
- Change primary care managers
- See what's covered
- Compare plans
- Manage prescriptions

TRICARE gets about 38,000 hits per day on its website. Officials have run tests to ensure the website and call center can handle the expected increase in volume.

When walk-in service ends April 1, beneficiaries can call HUMANA Military at 800-444-5445 or visit <http://www.tricare.mil> for enrollment and benefit assistance.

Beneficiaries can also contact their regional contractor for inquiries about health care ben-

efits, to get answers to TRICARE questions and for enrollment assistance.

Warren said that although TRICARE service centers have been around since the 1990s, the decision to close them was driven by the fact that technology has improved significantly over the years.

Beneficiaries can make enrollment and primary care manager changes at <http://www.tricare.mil/enrollment>.

All health care, pharmacy, dental and claims contact information is located at <http://www.tricare.mil/contactus>.

Beneficiaries can get more information and sign up for updates at <http://www.tricare.mil/tsc>.

Word on the Street

What is your New Year's resolution?



Sgt. Roy Valenzuela
Company A, 264th Medical Battalion

"Probably the same as everybody else – to lose

weight. I've been going to the gym for the last 14 days and I've lost four pounds so far."



Retired Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Pierce

"To lose 20 pounds, be a better husband

and father and make a little bit more income this year."



Retired Lt. Col. Annette McCliton

"Just to stay healthy. I've been physically challenged, so my goal is

to stay healthy. Right now the (mountain) cedar pollen is not helping."



Lucia Berrera
Military spouse

"To be more patient with my kids."

Air Force Medical Service seeks enlisted commissioning applicants for nurse corps

By **Debbie Gildea**
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

Eligible active-duty enlisted Airmen interested in pursuing a nursing commission have until Feb. 28 to submit their intent to apply, Air Force Personnel Center officials said Jan. 7.

The Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program offers eligible members an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing and an Air Force commission, said Sandra Bruce, of the AFPC non-line officer management division.

"The selection board will convene in mid-May, but there are a variety of requirements

that must be met prior to that, so interested Airmen should act now to ensure they complete their package and interview in time," Bruce said.

Applicants selected for the program must begin classes during the fall 2014 term.

Applicants must be United States citizens with current security clearance, senior airmen or above and able to earn a commission by age 42.

Applicants stationed in the contiguous United States must have one year on station by the board date, and applicants overseas on a short tour must have at least nine months time on station.

Overseas long-tour

Airmen may not apply without prior approval from their AFPC career field functional manager. All applicants must be world-wide qualified.

Applicants must select a school that has an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps detachment on the campus or a school that has a cross-town agreement with an AFROTC detachment.

Schools must be nationally accredited and applicants must be able to complete their program within 24 months.

Tuition and fees are limited to \$15,000 per academic year.

Application suspense dates:

Feb. 28

- Notification of intent

to apply

- Gain release from career field functional manager

March 28

- Complete all prerequisites (prerequisites cannot be waived)

- Submit transcripts for academic evaluation

April 11

- Submit chief nurse interview

April 28

- Submit completed application (applications must be coordinated through the chain of command)

For complete eligibility criteria and application instructions, go to the myPers website (<http://mypers.af.mil>) and enter "Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program" in the search window.

BAMC COMMEMORATES MLK'S MEMORY

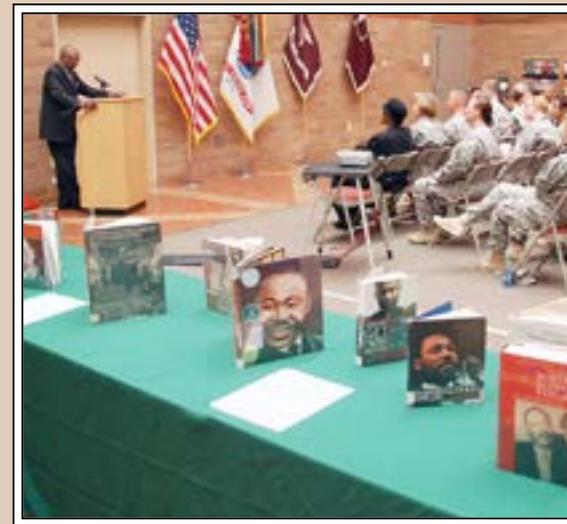


Photo by Robert T. Shields

Oliver W. Hill, San Antonio branch president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, addresses Brooke Army Medical Center leadership, staff and patients during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance Jan. 15 in the San Antonio Military Medical Center's Medical Mall. The event was hosted by BAMC and the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research.

ARSOUTH from P1

for shared theater objectives.

“The conference brings together state partners within the region, so we can have greater collaboration on mutually shared theater objectives in the Western Hemisphere,” Dotson said.

During the summit, the adjutant generals discussed how to improve their ability to work together as a team and support the State Partnership Program’s goal as a unified unit.

“The summit ensures the adjutant generals of each state partner have a clear understanding of the combatant commander’s engagement strategy and Army South’s requirements to support that strategy,” said Col. Anthony Hall, Army National Guard chief of operations.

“Each National Guard

state partner can then build plans and engagements that meet the intent and foster its already existing strong relationships with its partner nation,” Hall added.

According to Dotson, there are state partnerships with 22 countries in the U.S. Southern Command area of operation and this most recent summit focused on eight including Arkansas (Guatemala), Louisiana (Haiti), New Hampshire (El Salvador), Puerto Rico (Dominican Republic), South Carolina (Colombia), Texas (Chile) and West Virginia (Peru).

“The National Guard support combatant command security cooperation goals and objectives by providing a consistent and stabilizing presence abroad, reinforcing deterrence, building capacity of U.S. partner countries for internal and external defense,

strengthening alliances and increasing U.S. influence,” explained Hall.

The program promotes military-to-military ties, builds civil-military relationships and encourages civilian-to-civilian links. Some of the program activities include emergency preparedness and disaster response military exercises and peacekeeping operations; border, port and aviation defense and security; and medical exchanges between the state and its partner country.

“The State Partnership Program keeps the dialogue open. Because it’s a sustained relationship, many of the faces over the years continue to be familiar on both sides of the partnership and so that continuity of face-to-face engagement is probably the greatest value,” Dotson said. “It expands upon that initial relationship and includes

a wider variety of available expertise not only the military, but in state government as well.”

The SPP plays an important role in Army South’s mission to conduct and support multinational operations and security cooperation in the SOUTHCOM AOR in order to counter transnational threats and strengthen regional security in defense of the homeland.

“Anytime we can have a dialogue about security and cooperate on security problems in a positive manner, it’s positive for the region and positive for the Western Hemisphere,” Dotson said.

The Army summit adds to the accomplishment of the command’s vision of becoming the partner of choice for regional armies to advance the common causes of peace, stability and prosperity, he added.

VISIT NEWS LEADER ONLINE: [HTTP://WWW.JBSA.AF.MIL](http://www.jbsa.af.mil) OR
[HTTP://WWW.SAMHOUSTON.ARMY.MIL/PAO](http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao)

News Briefs

Continued from P3

the San Antonio River. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves, hat and sunscreen. People can bring their own cleanup gear, such as waders, trashgrabbers, nets, etc. All participants under 18 must have a parent or guardian onsite and drop-offs will not be allowed. All participants must have a military ID or CAC and sign a waiver to participate. Volunteers can register online at <http://www.basurabash.org>. For more information, call Tray Cooper at 652-0181.

BAMC Behavioral Health Seeks Dog Team

The Department of Behavioral Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center is looking for a qualified and dynamic dog team (dog and owner) to aid in the department's health care mission. They will help provide animal assisted therapy/animal assisted activities to the patients on the inpatient psychiatric ward. Interested owners must be able to present all necessary certification documents at the time of interview. The team's certification must be issued by a licensed evaluator applying a nationally recognized curriculum and must meet several criteria. Contact Charlotte Weiss, BAMC Behavioral Medicine, at 916-1011 or 916-2096 to set up the required interview.

WHASC Pain Clinic Closure

The pain management clinic at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center is closed. All pain management services are rendered at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. For appointments, call 292-7160.

Online Tutoring Available

All kindergarten through grade 12 students in eligible military families can access an official Department of Defense tutoring program at <http://www.tutor.com/military>. The site provides expert tutoring to military families in all core school subjects at no cost. Students work one-on-one with a live tutor online for help from homework to essay writing. A student and tutor work together in a secure and anonymous online classroom that features an interactive whiteboard, file sharing and instant messaging.

Army North hosts San Antonio Country Club members

By Sgt. Lee Ezzell
Army North Public Affairs

The San Antonio Country Club has been a close neighbor to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston for more than 100 years. According to club records many notable Army leaders have been members of the country club including Gens. Dwight D. Eisenhower and John "Black Jack" Pershing.

More than 75 members of the club visited Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 16. They were greeted by several JBSA-FSH senior leaders and taken on a tour of the historic military site.

Many other military leaders who were stationed at the

historic post became members of the club, up until the 1980s when Congress directed all military officers to abstain from membership in private clubs.

However, this has not prevented the Army team from maintaining good relations with the country club and reaching out to its members as they did for this visit.

"Since the events of 9/11, access to the post has diminished," said San Antonio Country Club member Phil Bakke.

"At the same time, there has been a large transformation and many new missions that the general population just isn't aware of."

See ARNORTH, P16



Photo by Sgt. Lee Ezzell

Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, commanding general of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and senior Army commander for Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, greets the visiting members of San Antonio Country Club Jan. 16 at the Fort Sam Houston Theater. Members were able to tour JBSA-FSH and see the work done at the Center for the Intrepid and Warrior and Family Support Center.

METC radiology instructor gives skeletal case new life

By Stefan Green
Medical Education and Training Campus
Radiology Program Director

For more than 25 years, a large display case containing a human skeleton had been a part of the Army radiography program at the Army Medical Department Center and School. When it was brought to the Medical Education and Training Campus, it was in dire need of refurbishment before it could be put on display.

Staff Sgt. Eric Arellano, a METC radiology program instructor, volunteered to take on the project, staining the outer case and painting the inner case. He also installed LED lighting.

The case is now mounted in the foyer of Heroes Hall (Medical Instructional Facility 1) and is an attraction seen by hundreds of students and visitors each month.

Arellano has been with the METC radiology program since 2010 and aside from serving as a radiology instructor, he is the program's subject mat-



Photo by Stewart Clayton

Staff Sgt. Eric Arellano stands with the skeletal display case he refurbished for the Army Medical Department Center and School.

ter expert in physics, which is part of the radiology program curriculum.

CID CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR



Photo by Ed Dixon

Col. Ignatius Dolata (left), 6th Military Police Group commander, presents Peter Vazquez the 2013 U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command Civilian of the Year Award for civilian service in the clerical and support category Jan. 15 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston CID office. "Vazquez' hard work and dedication to this community and CID family is above and beyond what one should ever expect one person to do," Dolata said.

GUM from P1

stability profiles of the peptide.

“Our oral cavity produces antimicrobial peptides as part of our innate defense,” Lueng

said. “We modeled the naturally occurring antimicrobial peptides, such as defensins, then developed several synthetic peptides which exhibited similar or more potent antimicrobial activity. The pharmaceutical active, KSL-W peptide, is one of the more potent molecules showing stability in the oral cavity.”

“The peptide is designed to replenish and strengthen the body’s innate defense mechanisms in the oral cavity,” added DTRD commander Col. (Dr.) Robert G. Hale.

“Oral health is essential to warriors on the battlefield and could potentially save the military countless hours and dollars in dental health.”

There were a few challenges associated with infusing an innocuous item like gum with a pharmaceutical-grade drug, Lueng said.

“The first was ensuring

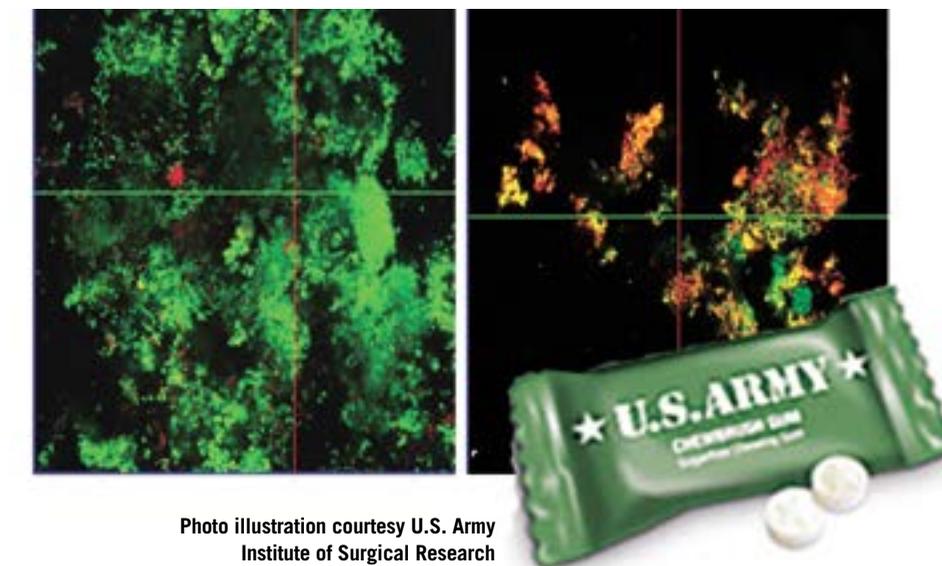


Photo illustration courtesy U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research

An antiplaque chewing gum (inset) to control dental plaque growth has the KSL-W anti-microbial peptide as the active ingredient. These images, taken over 24 hours, show the effect of plain water (left) and the peptide (right) on treated oral biofilms as revealed by live/dead staining, where green equals live bacteria and red/orange shows dead bacteria.

adequate release of the peptide within 20 minutes of chewing,” Lueng said.

“Ideally, we would like to see more than 70 percent of the active ingredient to be released within

that time. At present, we have accomplished this level of release using the current gum formulation developed by Fertin Pharma, the manufacturer of the clinical gum used in the trial. We’re

also concerned about the stability of the peptide in the gum formulations and in saliva.”

Getting the gum approved by the Food and

See GUM, P9

GUM from P8

Drug Agency will be another major step in the evolution of the anti-plaque gum.

“There would be multiple steps including Phase II and III trials for larger scale of safety and efficacy trials to go through with the FDA,” Lueng said.

“We are currently conducting small scale (Phase I) and proof-of-concept efficacy (Phase IIa) trials at the Oral Health Research Institute at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.”

In a year-long clinical study, the OHRI will administer the gum to 137 people between the ages of 18 and 64, focusing on the safety and tolerability of single and multiple doses of the compound. Further studies will be required to determine

the extent to which the gum reduces periodontal disease and cavities.

The institute was chosen to administer the clinical study because it is one of the best oral health research institutes in the nation, Lueng said.

“The staff there has a lot of experience performing trial on oral health products,” he said.

“The selection is through competitive application and selection by the Army Evaluation Board consisting of members from different branches of Medical Research and Materiel Command. The criteria used included technical competence, management, facilities, past performance and others.”

“Service members in the field just don’t spend a lot of time brushing their teeth,” said Dr.

Domenick T. Zero, OHRI director, professor of preventive and community dentistry and principal investigator of the study.

“The hope is that the gum will reduce the amount of plaque buildup that occurs when service members aren’t brushing their teeth, reducing the risk of periodontal disease and dental decay.”

Will the anti-plaque gum ever make it to the public for general consumption and chewing?

“Because the FDA considers this a new drug entity, it will have to market as prescribed drugs initially prior to becoming over-the-counter after collection of more safety data after human use,” Lueng said.

“This would be similar to the situation of nicotine gum.”

Local Sailors raze underbrush, help sustain endangered species, conserve Edwards Aquifer

By L.A. Shively
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
Public Affairs

Spending a day in the park for several Navy Medicine Education and Training Command Sailors did not include relaxing strolls down shaded paths.

Instead, the 14 Navy hospital corpsman spent Jan. 16 negotiating a rocky, unpaved incline and clearing a swath of overgrowth, approximately 12 feet wide and a quarter mile long, removing spiny cacti, thorny brush and small trees so that Government Canyon State Natural Area Ranger Patrick Connor could replace the barbed wire fence separating the park from private land.

The fence keeps tourists from trespassing on private property and farm animals from wandering onto state land.

Connor, Petty Officer 2nd Class Kellen Holcomb and Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Clough dug holes and erected a new gate at the top of the incline.

Holcomb, an instructor with the NMETC at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, organized the two-month long project. He supervises students in between school assignments or who completed training and are waiting for follow-on orders to the fleet.

The Marietta-Temecula, Calif., native said he calls San Antonio home currently and enjoys getting outdoors as often as possible especially when it serves the public. He and a group of Sailors previously cleared a helicopter landing area and hik-

ing trails in Government Canyon.

The area is rugged and clearing the landing pad and trails goes hand-in-hand with his mission as a Corpsman, Holcomb said.

"If someone needs to be taken expeditiously to the hospital, emergency vehicles can get in and out. It's great training – not only do we help the public but it's something that relates to what the students will be doing."

He said he arranged this particular outing because he wanted to get his Sailors more involved with the San Antonio community and show a stronger Navy presence.

"A lot of people still don't know we are here, so I wanted to get our Sailors out there," Holcomb said, "and give them an opportunity to do more."

"It gives us an opportunity to show support for

the city," said Clough, also a NMETC instructor, who hails from Marshall, Texas. "And I'm having fun."

Although the work was challenging and Sailors dodged fire ants, struggled from getting snared on sharp cactus spines and barbed wire, while keeping a look out for snakes, they enjoyed the work and formed new acquaintances.

Seaman Agelique Zapata-Lopez cringed during the safety briefing when Connor warned the group about snakes.

"We don't deal with woods," said Zapata-Lopez. But the Bronx, New York native took it in stride and pitched in hauling tree branches and other brush away from the fence line.

"I wanted to help. It was fun – pretty cool – different," she said.

A friendly competition sprang up between the

group clearing at the top of the incline and those below as to who could remove the largest tree more quickly.

"We're having a tree razing contest," said Seaman Recruit Mason Milito, smiling widely as he hoisted a large branch twice his height above his head while shaking it toward his competitors higher up the incline and hollering that it was heavy.

Teammates raised a loud "HOOAH" rally cry as Milito heaved his branch into a growing pile away from the fence. Milito, like Zapata-Lopez, who claims the Bronx, N.Y., as his hometown.

Meanwhile "Tree He-man" Seaman Apprentice Michael Lonan nimbly power-sawed away at the base of one stubborn cedar that finally gave into his energetic efforts.

Beyond getting letters of appreciation from the



Photos by L.A. Shively

(From left) Seaman Apprentice Michael Reece, Seaman Christopher Merrell and Seaman Recruit Mason Milito clear underbrush.

school, Seaman Apprentice Michael Reece said the benefits of volunteering included meeting and befriending other hospital corpsmen and building camaraderie, plus spending a day in the great Texas outdoors.

"I figured chopping trees all day would be work, but we're actually having a lot of fun, joking around out here," Reece said.

The Sailors' efforts are doing more than just clearing an area, they are helping to sustain endangered species and conserve the Edwards Aquifer, explained Connor.

"If I had to do the job myself, I could cover maybe 500 feet of fence per day," said Connor, who is the only ranger maintaining the 12,000 acres.

"These guys can cover 1,000 feet in two hours flat."

Connor said that Government Canyon has an active volunteer program that caters to the public. Park employees endeavor to find out what people enjoy and then design

programs to help them do it.

"We have people that like to mountain bike. So, we have what is called the Trail Patrol where mountain bikers ride for free up and down the trails with a first aid kit, radio, water and a set of bike repair tools while looking for visitors needing help," Connor said.

The ranger said there were volunteer programs for hikers, bird watchers and even a starry night program for astronomers.

Connor explained that volunteers are very important for conservation efforts with endangered species such as the Golden-cheeked Warbler and certain invertebrates known to only live in caverns on Government Canyon State Natural Area.

He also explained that Government Canyon State Natural Area is located along the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and volunteers and visitors who keep the park pristine help maintain the water quality in the aquifer.



(From left) Seaman Drew Buffum, Seaman Recruit Danielle Pluch, Seaman Apprentice Ashley Potter and Seaman Recruit Stephen Rothardt remove a large branch with a hand saw in order to clear an area of fence so it can be repaired.

Reducing battlefield deaths goal of medical fellowship

By David Vergun
Army News Service

A physician who was a former Army Special Forces combat medic has designed a fellowship program, which he hopes will improve the survival chances of battlefield casualties.

The aim of the Military Emergency Medical Services and Disaster Medicine Fellowship Program is to train physicians for the “challenges of pre-hospital care” on the battlefield, in defense of the homeland or wherever else troops may be, according to Lt. Col. (Dr.) Robert Mabry, the fellowship’s program director, at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

“Pre-hospital care” is that critical time between a traumatic event and when care is received at a military treatment facility, or MTF.

Mabry and his colleagues authored a study of service members injured on the battlefield in Iraq and Afghanistan, from 2001 to 2011. The study found that of the 4,596 battlefield fatalities analyzed, 87.3 percent died of their injuries before ever reaching an MTF.

Of those pre-MTF deaths, 75.7 percent were classified as non-survivable, meaning they would have died even had they reached the MTF earlier, and 24.3 percent were deemed potentially survivable.

That study, the first of its kind, was published in the *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*, in 2012.

Although battlefield medicine has vastly improved during every war since World War II, Mabry said that 24.3 percent statistic cited in his study – those who died who might have been salvaged – kept nagging him. “That’s where we can make the biggest difference in improving patient outcomes,” he said.

What Mabry found is that no one “owns” responsibility for battlefield care delivery, meaning that “no single senior mili-

tary medical leader, directorate, division or command is uniquely focused on battlefield care. The diffusion of responsibility is a result of multiple agencies, leaders and units of the service medical departments each claiming bits and pieces with no single entity responsible for patient outcomes forward of the combat hospitals,” he said.

Commanders on the ground do own the assets of battlefield care – medics, battalion physicians, physician assistants, flight medics and all the equipment – but they are “neither experts in, nor do they have the resources to train their medical providers for forward medical care,” he said.

Commanders rely on the medical departments to provide the right personnel, training, equipment and doctrine, he continued, but the medical departments “defer responsibility to line commanders,” Mabry said. “While this division of responsibility may at first glance

seem reasonable, the net negative effect of line commanders lacking expertise and medical leaders lacking operational control is analogous to the axiom ‘when everyone is responsible, no one is responsible.’”

One of the main difficulties in addressing pre-hospital care, Mabry said, is that “we know very little about what care is provided before casualties reach the combat hospital.”

Only one military unit – the Army’s 75th Ranger Regiment – tracks what happens to every casualty during all phases of care, he said.

“Ranger commanders routinely use this data to improve their casualty response systems,” Mabry said, adding that the Rangers “are the only U.S. military unit that can demonstrate no potentially preventable deaths in the pre-hospital setting after more than a decade of combat.”

While only the 75th Rangers did pre-hospital tracking, once

the wounded arrived at a combat support hospital, or CASH, they were met with “robust surgical support and had less than a two percent chance of dying,” he said.

Those who did die at the CASH generally had a severe head injury or were in profound shock due to the loss of blood when they arrived – yet some of these who died in the CASH had conditions that were “potentially salvageable, had they had some aggressive resuscitation in the field,” he added.

But the culture of military medicine is “hospital based,” he reiterated, and “no one owns battlefield medicine.”

The hospital-based mentality has its roots in the Cold War. During Vietnam and later, the idea was to “put as many patients as possible in a helicopter and fly them as fast as you can to get them off the battlefield to the field hospital,” Mabry said.

After Vietnam, those doctors, nurses and medics returned to the U.S., took off their uniforms and “built our civilian trauma systems,” he said, noting that before Vietnam, EMS, trauma surgery and emergency medicine didn’t exist as we know them today.

As a result of the war experience, sick or injured civilians in the U.S. today get transported to a trauma center by helicopter, accompanied by a critical-care flight paramedic and a critical-care flight nurse – both highly trained and very experienced.

“Civilians took the ball, ran with it and significantly evolved their processes to an advanced standard of care,” Mabry said.

“But we stayed with our Vietnam model, focusing on speed,” he said. “So the two models are incredibly different.”

In Afghanistan, speed became a problem, though, he said.

“When I was deployed in 2005, I would have to wait three hours for medevacs sometimes and if it were a host-nation casualty, sometimes even longer,” he explained.

And then, the level of care in-flight was less than premium.

“The medics, through no fault of their own, were still trained at the basic medic level,” Mabry said. “At that time, flight medics had no requirement to provide any hands-on care to an actual patient during their training. For many, their first encounter with a seriously injured casualty was during the first flight of their first deployment.”

What Mabry concluded from his studies and field experience was that the solution to the gap in care cannot be addressed with a single-bandage approach.

A solution, he said, would require “evidence-based improvements in tactical combat



Photo illustration by Peggy Frierson

The Military Emergency Medical Services and Disaster Medicine Fellowship Program is designed to improve the survival chances of battlefield casualties.

TRICARE retiree dental program open for new enrollment

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program offers comprehensive dental coverage to all enrolled members. Available to retired service members and their family, retired National Guard and Reserve members and their family, Medal of Honor recipients, their family and survivors, TRDP is currently open for enrollment.

TRDP covers diagnostic and preventive services, like exams and cleanings at 100 percent. Emergency services and basic restorative services, like fillings, are covered at 80 percent.

The annual deductible is \$50 per person, each benefit year, and \$150 per family per benefit year. The annual maximum benefit is \$1,300 per person per year for

enhanced enrollees; this is an increase of \$100 from last year. The annual maximum for orthodontia increased from \$1500 to \$1750. For more information, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/Dental/TRDP/Costs>.

Eligible beneficiaries can enroll online through the Beneficiary Web Enrollment website at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe> or go to <http://www.trdp.org> to print, complete and mail in a TRDP enrollment application.

To enroll on the BWE, beneficiaries will need a DS logon, CAC or DFAS login. Enrollees may be asked to enter information to establish an electronic funds transfer method for payment of their monthly premiums, but EFT is not an option for the TRDP so enrollees should not enter

anything in that section.

Federal law requires that TRDP premiums be deducted automatically through a monthly allotment from retirement pay. EFT is available only as an alternative method of payment for beneficiaries who do not receive retired pay or whose retired pay is insufficient to cover the allotment amount. For those eligible to pay TRDP monthly premiums by EFT, visit <http://www.trdp.org> to download the EFT authorization form.

There is a 12-month commitment for initial enrollments. After a year, beneficiaries can decide to continue on a month to month basis as long as they haven't added additional family members to the plan. If a beneficiary and spouse are already enrolled, adding a child or

any other family member resets the 12-month period.

Retirees who enroll in TRDP within four months of their retirement date have immediate access to the full benefit package. If they miss that four-month window, there is a 12-month waiting period for coverage of more advanced services such as crowns, bridges and implants.

Delta Dental of California manages the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. Beneficiaries can register at <http://www.trdp.org> to access several online features such tracking claims, and adding or removing family members. For information, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/TRDP>.

(Courtesy Air Force News Service)

VISIT NEWS LEADER ONLINE: [HTTP://WWW.JBSA.AF.MIL](http://www.jbsa.af.mil) OR
[HTTP://WWW.SAMHOUSTON.ARMY.MIL/PAO](http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao)

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Tax Center opens Jan. 31

By Brian J. Novak
502nd Force Support Group
Military Tax Assistance Center

With the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military Tax Assistance Center opening Jan. 31, it is important to understand who the MTAC serves and the scope of the services provided.

First, the MTAC serves all active duty military members, military retirees and their dependents.

Unless otherwise authorized services as an active duty military member, retired military or their family members, the MTAC cannot prepare returns for civilian personnel,

military contractors and the general civilian population.

The center also does not provide services for Reservists and Guardsmen, unless they are on Title 10 orders for 30 days or more or just came off of extended active duty.

The tax assistance center does not provide services for “gray-area” retired Reservists. If a retired Reservist or Guardsman is receiving retirement pay, they are eligible for services.

If you are not sure if you authorized to have your taxes completed at the MTAC, a good rule of thumb is if you can obtain medical treatment from the San Antonio



Military Medical Center, then you are eligible to utilize MTAC services.

If you are not sure, contact the MTAC at 295-1040 to clarify your authorization.

Second, if you are authorized to have your taxes completed at the MTAC, then the next question is what type of services does the MTAC provide?

The tax center can

prepare most personal income tax returns and the staff is certified by the IRS to complete advance and military tax returns.

The MTAC can complete tax returns covering wages, interest, dividend, capital gains with basis, residential rental real estate, IRA distributions, pension, unemployment and social security incomes and also complete Schedule C-EZ business income returns for Child Development Center daycare providers.

The MTAC can complete tax returns that require Schedule A itemized deductions and education, residential energy, dependent care,

retirement savings, child tax, additional child tax and earned income credits.

The staff at the tax center is specifically trained to prepare tax returns for military members with combat zone excluded pay and other military unique tax situations.

There are certain services that are outside the scope of the MTAC.

For example, the tax center does not provide tax services for day traders, capital gains without basis, people with three or more rental properties, sale of rental property, returns requiring K-1s beyond interest and royalties, farm income,

foreign tax credits greater than \$600 and other returns deemed outside the scope by the MTAC director.

The staff of the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military Tax Assistance Center looks forward to providing those eligible with outstanding personal income tax preparation services in the weeks and months ahead.

Appointments can be made beginning Jan. 28 at 295-1040 for the main tax site. Appointments for the SAMMC tax site can be made beginning Jan. 30 at 916-1040. Appointments will not actually take place until the tax centers open Jan 31.

Internal Revenue Service offers multitude of instructional videos

By Lea Crusberg
Internal Revenue Service

The Internal Revenue Service is offering taxpayers a number of instructional YouTube videos to help prepare their taxes for the upcoming filing season, which begins on Jan. 31.

Several options are available to help taxpayers prepare for the 2014 tax season and get their refunds as easily as possible.

Many software companies are expected to begin accepting tax returns in January and hold those returns until the IRS systems open on Jan. 31.

This includes the Free File partners that offer access to their software for free at

<http://www.irs.gov>. Click on the “Free File” link.

The IRS will not process any tax returns before Jan. 31, so there is no advantage to filing on paper before the opening date.

Taxpayers will receive their tax refunds much faster by using e-file or Free File with the direct deposit option.

In addition, the IRS has short and informative YouTube videos on a number of tax-related topics in English, Spanish and American Sign Language. The channels have received nearly 6.5 million views:

IRS Videos — <http://www.youtube.com/irs-videos>

ASL Videos — <http://www.youtube.com/IRS-videosASL>

Multilingual Videos — <http://www.youtube.com/IRSVideosMultilingua>

The IRS uses social media tools and platforms to share the latest information on tax changes, initiatives, products and services.

These social media platforms include the IRS2Go phone application, YouTube, Tumblr, Twitter and Facebook.

To protect taxpayer privacy, the IRS only uses social media tools to share public information, not to answer personal tax or account questions.

The IRS advises taxpayers to never post confidential information, like a Social Security number, on social media sites. A listing is available on <http://www.irs.gov>.

AMEDD display highlights Army Medicine during Civil War era

By Andy Watson
Army Medical Department
Center of History and Heritage

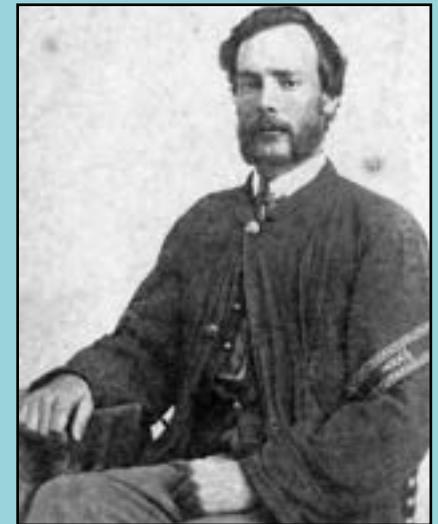
Soldiers and visitors on the second floor of the U.S. Army Medical Command headquarters at building 2792 have the opportunity to see something different.

A recently renovated display, located near Wood Auditorium, focuses on the Army Medical Department during the Civil War, with a prominent section devoted to the hospital steward.

The hospital steward was the predecessor of today's AMEDD non-commissioned officer and performed numerous important tasks during the war.

For this specialized occupation, literacy and other forms of training were often required. They could be called upon to aid in surgical matters, bandage patients, dispense medicine, provide various forms of care, or to perform clerical and administrative duties and organize medicinal items.

“As a general rule, three hospital



Courtesy photo

This 19th century print of a Civil War-era Army hospital steward is part of a display at the U.S. Army Medical Command headquarters at building 2792.

stewards will be found quite sufficient for hospitals of five hundred patients,” according to the *The Hospital Steward's Manual*, circa 1862.

FELLOWSHIP from P11

casualty care guidelines, data-driven research, remediation of gaps in care and updated training and equipment.”

And to supervise those medics, their training and the medevac equipment and procedures, there would need to be a specially trained and qualified physician in charge of that pre-hospital phase, he said.

Mabry's own experience includes 11 years as an enlisted Soldier, starting out in the infantry and then becoming a Special Forces medic with a tour in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993, during the battle made famous in the book and movie “Black Hawk Down.”

He said those experiences had a profound impact on him and shaped

his desire to become an Army doctor, which he did.

He later returned to Special Forces as a battalion surgeon and served tours in Afghanistan, in 2005 and 2010.

Mabry illustrated the power of patient outcome data and how it can drive changes in military medicine – something he hopes to do with his fellowship program.

His team tracked down a National Guard medevac unit from California whose members were mostly all critical-care trained paramedics in their day jobs – working for the California Highway Patrol and other stateside EMS agencies.

They deployed to Afghanistan about four years ago, taking their civilian EMS model with them, he said.

“I compared their patient outcomes to the standard medevac



“We want to train physician leaders who can look at problems or opportunities for improvements in the field, who have the ability to articulate how to improve systems, give medics better training, better tools and so to improve patient outcomes.”

*Lt. Col. (Dr.) Robert Mabry
San Antonio Military Medical Center*

outcomes and found a 66 percent reduction in mortality using the civilian medic system,” he said.

As a result of that outcome, the Army revamped its training of flight medics.

Another example of how patient outcome data can drive procedural changes is in airway treatment. He explained, “If you get an airway injury in the field, you’re usually shot in the neck or in the face and have a traumatic disruption

of the airway. We did a study showing that when medics perform a cricothyrotomy” – cutting an incision in the neck so patients can breathe – “we found they failed at that procedure about 30 percent of the time.”

It’s a very high-risk, high-stress, yet ultimately life-saving procedure, he continued. “So, armed with that data we went back and figured out a way to make the procedure smoother and simpler,” he explained.

And now medics have a tool that will make them more proficient at doing cricothyrotomies.

“We want to train physician leaders who can look at problems or opportunities for improvements in the field, who have the ability to articulate how to improve systems, give medics better training, better tools and so to improve patient outcomes,” Mabry explained. “We want doctors who can look at the data and training and protocols,

and use research to solve those battlefield pre-hospital problems.”

Examples of what those physicians might do include understanding the injury patterns for a particular unit and locality, analyzing the trauma transfer system, and seeing where the medics might need more training, Mabry said.

The physician could also look across the medical research environment and determine which new therapies to incorporate for patient outcome improvements.

The sort of system Mabry said he’s describing is similar to what civilian EMS directors do stateside.

This summer, the first fellow will graduate from the two-year curriculum.

The first year is the civilian EMS fellowship,

See FELLOWSHIP, P17



Army Pride

Monday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Fort Sam Houston Elementary School. Call 221-0349

Federal Resume Writing

Monday, 9 a.m. to noon, Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0427.

Family Readiness Group Leadership Academy

Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Military and

Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0946.

H.U.G.S. Playgroup

Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., Middle School Teen Center, building 2515. Call 221-0349.

Community Extravaganza Fair

Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., Fort Sam Houston Golf Club, 1050 Harry Wurzbach. Visit with representatives from post agencies and local businesses to learn about Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and the San Antonio area. Call 221-2307.

Army Family Advocate Unit Training

Wednesday, 2-4 p.m., Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0349.

Army Family Advocate Unit Training

Thursday, 8-10 a.m., Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0349.

CARE Team Training

Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-0946.

Publisher Level 1

Jan. 31, 9-11 a.m., Military and Family Readiness, building 2515. Call 221-2517.

Career Employment Event

The Department of the Navy Office of Civilian Human Resources will hold a career employment event for wounded service members 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 19 at

the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, building 3639. Register at the SFAC or call 916-9252 for more information.

Black History Month Celebration

The Joint Base San Antonio Collect Protestant Gospel Service will host a Black History Month celebration 1-3 p.m., Feb. 23 at the Evans Theater, building 1396. Call 488-1639.

New Squadron Commanders and First Sergeants

JBSA Family Advocacy Program is required to provide new squadron commanders and first sergeants a desk side briefing within 90 days of their arrival or assumption of command per DD 6400.1, even if temporary or as an

additional duty. The briefing includes information on FAP services/classes to assist them in promoting mission and family readiness. Call 292-5967 for an appointment or for more information.

Computer Lab

The computer lab is available 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday at Military and Family Readiness, building 2797. Call 221-2705 or 221-2418.

How We Roll

Monday through Friday, 9-11 a.m. at Fitness Center on the Medical Education and Training Campus, the "How We Roll" program provides parents and strollers use of the indoor track. Mondays from 9-10 a.m., a fitness trainer

is available for assistance and instruction. Call 808-5709.

Fitness on Request Kiosk

The Fitness Center on the Medical Education and Training Campus hosts an innovative group fitness system including free virtual classes ranging from 20 to 60 minutes. Call 808-5709.

Belly Dancing Class

Learn the art of belly dancing 6 p.m. Wednesdays at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The class is free and open to all DOD ID cardholders. Call 221-1234.

World Climb Tower Challenge

Sign up at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center for the World Climb Tower Challenge. Call 221-1234.

BAMC from P3

life, I know it's was the right time to retire," she said.

"We have great staff here that show we care for our wounded warriors. I've witnessed this when we were at Beach Pavilion during the Vietnam era in the orthopedics ward and the burn ward at the main hospital. Medical care has come a long way for the betterment of our soldiers, along with housekeeping procedures and techniques. As one of my co-workers stated one day, housekeeping is not just pushing a mop and broom."

She was responsible for the environmental services for the medical center that covers over 2.3 million square feet. Last year, her department

laundered more than 3,200,000 pounds of hospital linen, disposed over 49,000 regulated medical wastes, and recycled more than 59,000 pounds of recyclable products.

Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Sherman served 22 years in the military before he began his career as a biomedical equipment technician 41 years ago.

At age 87, he is ready to relax and enjoy life after retirement.

"I used to work at Wilford Hall Medical Center when it first opened in 1941. Shortly after that, I transferred over to BAMC and have been here since," he said. "During my tenure here, I have seen a lot of changes especially the huge construction we had a couple years ago and I have repaired thousands

pieces of respiratory equipment."

Older, who oversees the medical supplies and specialty contracts, said she will miss seeing everyone, including the wounded warriors in the medical center.

"There are two things that have brought such heartfelt pleasure for me at BAMC," she said. "Seeing the difference in Soldiers who were treated here with burns and missing limbs and how we helped them recover with new tissues for skin grafts is amazing. We also provide prostheses to amputee Soldiers. It is truly remarkable to see the change in Soldiers as they heal and rehabilitate, like JR on dancing with the stars, he was one of ours. My heart just melts."

Working in an optical



Photo by Kelly Schaefer

Col. Richard Webb, Brooke Army Medical Center's logistics chief, recognizes four of his staff members with more than 130 years of combined service during their retirement ceremony Jan. 3. Those recognized include (from left) Lloyd Sherman, biomedical equipment technician; Faye Older, contract management chief; Gloria Miller, environmental services chief; and David Colton, optical fabrication lab deputy chief.

laboratory that operates and fabricates 1,600 to 2,000 eyeglasses a day for 27 years, Colton, a retired master sergeant, is ready to travel the world and spend more time with his family.

"I remember when military eye glasses

we use to make were called the "birth control" glasses. We came a long way and now we have multiple styles to choose from," he said. "I really enjoy my making them, especially when I see active duty service members or retired veterans

wearing glasses around town," Colton said.

Humble and always working behind the scene, these professionals are greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten for their selfless service they gave to our patients, our department and the medical center, Webb said.

"Countless doctors, surgeons, nurses, medics and other clinical staff relied upon them to provide the medical equipment, supplies, facilities, optical fabrication and environment of care necessary to provide world class health care," Webb said. "There are no words to describe the gratitude we have for their professionalism, dedication, and sacrifice. They will all be sorely missed."

ARNORTH from P6

Bakke also feels that the tour will have a far-reaching impact to the greater San Antonio community as many of club's members have regular interaction with local civic and business leaders.

The tour started off

in the Fort Sam Houston Theater, where the visitors were greeted by Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, commanding general, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and senior Army commander, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis.

Wiggins welcomed the

group and spoke briefly about the interesting things he had recently read in a history book covering the San Antonio Country Club, including that the club was once considered the "mother-in-law of the Army" due to the large amount of Soldiers who met their

future wives at club functions.

Wiggins also offered an open invitation to the group to come back to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston for a deeper look.

"If you see something today that interests you, you are always welcome to come back and get a

closer look at anything," Wiggins added. "You are family to us."

Following briefs from some of the many commands located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the group journeyed to the Quadrangle for a photo and the opportunity to climb up the historic

clock tower.

The group then received a windshield tour of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston as they made their way to Brooke Army Medical Center where they toured the Center for the Intrepid, as well as the Warrior and Family Support Center.

OUTSIDE THE GATE

Women's Survivor Group

A women's survivor group has been created for women who have experienced sexual trauma. The goal is to increase survivors' understanding to their response to victimization and the impact on

their lives. The group offers a safe, open atmosphere for discussion and support to facilitate understanding of sexual victimization and the healing process. The group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays at the Rape Crisis Center group room at 7500 U.S. Highway 90 West, Building 2, Suite 201. Call 521-7273 for more information.

Teen Survivors Group

A teen survivors' group has been created for teens who have

been victims of sexual trauma. The group's goal is to help teens learn and talk about sexual abuse in a safe environment and help survivors connect to others who have been in similar situations. Females from 13 to 17 years of age who are currently attending individual psychotherapy are encouraged to attend. A therapist's recommendation is required. The group meets from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Rape Crisis Center group room at 7500 U.S. Highway 90 West, Build-

ing 2, Suite 201. Call 521-7273 for more information.

Foster a Puppy

The Department of Defense dog breeding program needs families to foster puppies for three months. Potential foster families need time and patience to raise a puppy age 12 weeks to six months, a stimulating and safe home environment and a desire to help raise a military working dog. Call 671-3686.

FELLOWSHIP from P15

accredited by the American Council on Graduate Medical Education and the American Board of Emergency Medicine.

"We're one of the first EMS programs in the U.S. to be accredited, so we're excited about that," he said. The program was accredited in October 2012.

During that first year, the docs work at a big-city EMS agency, learning the system of systems of EMS. By system of systems, Mabry refers to the overall EMS system which is composed of other systems – ambulances, helicopters, personnel, training, protocols, trauma destinations, communications, medical equipment and so on.

This enables them to be able to direct a military EMS system, he explained.

The second year is the military portion which is non-accredited. Each service has its own unique requirements, he said.

In the Army, for example, the doc would work with the battalion medical officers at the Tactical Combat Medical Care course, participate in medic training at the combat medic school house, and see

how this all works at the strategic level at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and Joint Trauma System in San Antonio.

Additionally, the fellows will learn about homeland security medical procedures and integrate with local, regional and national disaster planners, Mabry said.

They learn about international disaster support – things like earthquakes and tsunamis that the services might be called upon to support.

As if that weren't enough, during this entire two-year period the fellows are studying for a Masters of Public Health degree in the evenings.

The Masters of Public Health degree "gives them the ability to use epidemiology, statistics and a public health model to go in and say 'hey, look, here's the challenge we have in this particular area.'

They can then articulate from a policy level how this affects the population or health problem, conduct an analysis and then (know) how to make a case for resources, policy changes and things like that," he said.

As for the fellow who graduates this summer, his curriculum looked

like this, Mabry explained:

His first year was with the San Antonio Fire Department Emergency Medical Services. For his second year, he attended the National Park Service Search and Rescue course, and did his public health practicum with the Joint Trauma System. He also has worked with the Army Medical Department Center and School, as well as participating in a number of policy and research projects.

He's now at Johns Hopkins University attending the Health Emergencies in Large Populations Course, designed primarily for international disaster relief work. He's working with some of the world's leading experts in the field, Mabry added.

Then he goes to the flight surgeon course. Upon completion of his fellowship June 30, he's projected to go to Afghanistan for six months to work in the Joint Trauma System as the pre-hospital director.

His follow-on assignment will be in the Army's Critical Care Flight Paramedic Training Program in San Antonio.

Other than Mabry, there are currently three fellows going through their first year: one Air Force and two

Army doctors.

For next year, Mabry said he hopes to get a Navy doctor in the fellowship – the Navy currently is not providing the funding for the fellowship. So the idea is to get three fellows a year, representing each of the services, he said.

Once the physicians complete their fellowships, Mabry said the goal is to get them in positions where their training will make a difference: division surgeons, brigade surgeons, Special Forces group surgeons, directors of trauma systems, training programs and so on.

While military doctors are already highly trained and motivated, Mabry said he's looking for those who think outside the box, see problems from unique perspectives and perform at all levels: leadership, research, training, problem solving.

Eventually, Mabry hopes to build a cadre who collaborate across the services to "shed light on that battlefield blind spot" of pre-hospital care and change the mindset from hospital-centric care to one that provides state-of-the-art care across the entire chain of survival, starting in the pre-hospital setting at the point of injury.

SECAF from P2

encouraged mentorship throughout her address.

A theme in James' short tenure as secretary has been opportunity. Opportunity is what set James on the path of working for the Department of Defense.

"One door closes, another door opens," James said.

For Airmen who are looking to retire early or separate, or are worried they may be selected for involuntary separation, James encourages them to be proactive in their career, and to "own it."

"If you don't have enough information about your specialty and what is likely to happen in your career field, go on the offensive and ask questions until you get answers," James said.

Although budget uncertainty means the numbers remain fluid right now, James

pledged that senior leaders will strive to be as open with information as possible. Her goal is to disclose as much information as possible, as quickly as possible.

"We're going to be transparent," James said. "That's our job. And get you as much information as possible so you can make those career decisions."

James, who was formally sworn in Dec. 20, 2013, implores Airmen to own their careers, whether that's as a member of the Air Force, or outside of the service.

"Manage your own career and take the reins so you can make a good judgment and proceed in your career," James said. "Seize the opportunity. Don't be afraid of the opportunity. You'll be better off for it."

Weekly Weather Watch

	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29
San Antonio Texas	44° AM Light Winty Mix	67° Partly Cloudy	73° AM Clouds PM Sun	62° Mostly Sunny	56° Mostly Sunny	61° AM Clouds PM Sun
Kabul Afghanistan	48° Mostly Sunny	50° Partly Cloudy	52° Partly Cloudy	53° Partly Cloudy	56° Partly Cloudy	56° Partly Cloudy

(Source: The Weather Channel at www.weather.com)

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your plants.
2. If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a potted houseplant instead.
3. To save time and water, consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while taking a shower.
4. While staying at a hotel or even at home, consider reusing your bath towels.
5. For hanging baskets, planters and flowerpots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow

(Compiled by 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron)