

# FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

OCTOBER 3, 2014  
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**JBSA  
HOTLINES**



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877-995-5247**

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

**JBSA Domestic Abuse Hotline  
367-1213**

**JBSA Duty Chaplain  
221-9363**

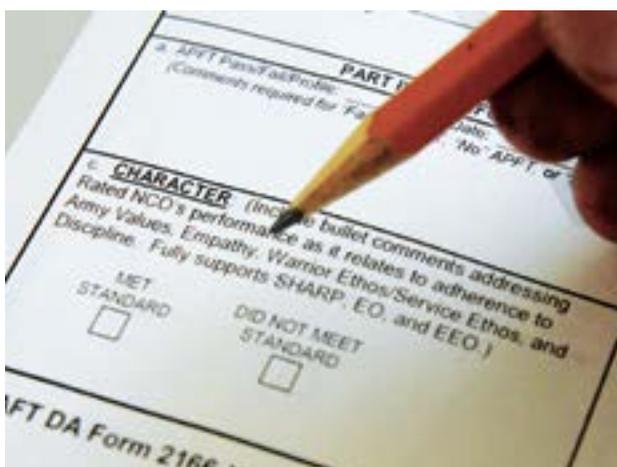
A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING – JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON



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**PURPLE HEART CEREMONY** PAGE 6



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## Astronaut brings spaceflight mementos back to BAMC

By Maria Gallegos  
BAMC Public Affairs

NASA astronaut and Navy Capt. Chris Cassidy returned to Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 22 with gifts from outer space.

Visiting for the third time, Cassidy, a former Navy SEAL, brought back mementos that flew on board the International Space Station to recipients at the Center for the Intrepid. The items returned included a unit patch, a Purple Heart medal, a BAMC T-shirt and a BAMC medallion.

Cassidy first visited BAMC in March 2012 and then made his second visit via teleconference from the ISS in May 2013 while he was orbiting 260 miles above Earth at a speed of 17,000 miles per hour.

“It was amazing to have Cassidy visit us via teleconference last May when he showed us the items he had taken into space for us, to make that trip and to see the weightless environment was pretty amazing,” said Col. Kyle Campbell, BAMC commander, as he spoke of Cassidy’s virtual visit in the auditorium of the hospital.

Campbell also stressed the conversation he had with Cassidy prior to the ceremony that “the key message is not about facilities or about the braces we at the Center for the Intrepid make, but it’s about the men and women we put into those braces that makes the difference.

“These are the men and



Photo by Elaine Sanchez

Retired Staff Sgt. Ben Eberle (center) with his wife, Ashley, and daughter, Halle, receive the unit patch and certificate from Navy Capt. Chris Cassidy, NASA astronaut, Sept. 22 at the Center for Intrepid.

women who represent less than 1 percent of the American public who have stepped forward, raised their right hands and said they will defend our nation,” he said. “I thank our wounded warriors and Chris Cassidy for being here to honor these men and women and taking the time to return the objects from space.”

Cassidy, who is known for his huge support for the wounded warriors, opened the floor with a joke.

“All of your rehab would be a whole lot easier in zero gravity,” he said, chuckling with the warriors and staff. He went on to say that returning to BAMC and seeing the progress of the warriors he met two years ago was exciting and amazing.

“My personal mission is to share the excitement and enthusiasm of my experiences in space with every group I can, particu-

See **ASTRONAUT**, P8

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# Army South leads reintegration mission

By Frederick Hoyt  
Army South Public Affairs

Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's recent release after nearly five years in captivity by Taliban forces in Afghanistan and his subsequent return to active duty marked the ninth successful reintegration mission for U.S. Army South.

The Department of the Army designated Army South as the lead executive agent of Phase III of the reintegration process that occurs stateside for all Army personnel returning from captivity. This final stage in the former detainee's return follows Phase I-initial recovery and Phase II-decompression.

Working diligently behind the scenes at Joint

Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston to ensure reintegration mission success are a group of dedicated Soldiers and civilians that make up Army South's Personnel Recovery Coordination Cell.

"The primary goal is to help Soldiers who have been held captive return to normal behavior so that they can go back to their families, go back to work and integrate with friends," said Col. Gregory Maxton, AR-SOUTH deputy director of operations.

As the Army service component command to U.S. Southern Command, ARSOUTH also conducts this mission, when directed by the Department of Army for contractors and civilians who



Photo by Frederick Hoyt

Maj. Gen. Joseph DiSalvo, U.S. Army South commanding general, (second from left) answers a question during a reintegration press conference about Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl June 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. ARSOUTH is responsible for the third phase of reintegration which helps Soldiers returning from captivity transition smoothly back into society. Also on the panel were (from left) Col. Bradley Poppen, survival, evasion, rescue and escape psychologist; and Col. Ronald Wool, from Brooke Army Medical Center, with ARSOUTH public affairs officer Col. Hans Bush (at podium) facilitating.

agree to participate in the program. The PRCC has executed the mission since 2007.

The first phase of reintegration begins with the recovery or return of a missing or captured

Soldier or civilian to U.S. custody. This is followed

See MISSION, P7

# Everyone has a part in energy conservation

By Jim Butts  
AETC Energy Program specialist

October is Energy Action Month, a time for every service member, civilian and contractor to make a conscious effort to conserve energy.

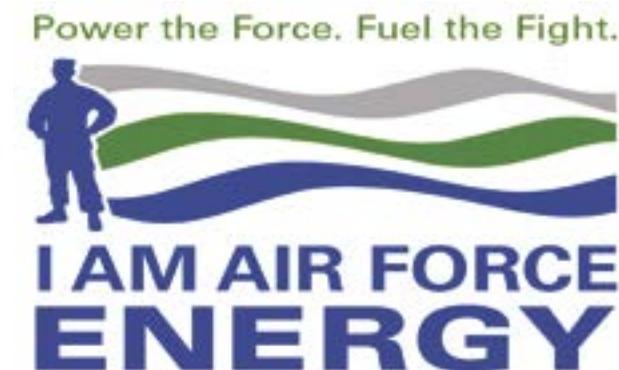
Although there isn't really a "squeaky clean" energy, common sources of green energy such as water, wind and the sun can help to minimize our environmental footprint, and improve the sustainability of our energy supply (and thus, our Air Force mission).

These sources are inexhaustible, and can be converted to usable energy with minimal en-

vironmental damage. By using them instead of the more traditional sources like oil, coal and natural gas, we expect to reduce global warming and greenhouse gas emissions, helping to keep our planet and atmosphere clean.

Unfortunately, no energy source completely eliminates environmental risk. The only truly clean energy is the energy that we avoid using, which provides each Airman a role in energy conservation.

We can all say to ourselves, "I am Air Force Energy" and contribute by making energy a consideration in all that



we do. Besides enhancing our environment, we'll help save dollars, which can then be used to improve our Air Force mission and quality of life.

We've all heard the standard energy savings tips many times: turn off

our computer monitors and lights when not in use, use efficient temperature settings in our offices, minimize our use of personal fans and heaters and reduce our water consumption.

There are many such

tips, and these seemingly small efforts add up to big results. Due to the magnitude of energy consumed by the Air Force, any actions we take to reduce energy consumption are significant in their potential impact.

The bottom line is that money we don't spend on fuel, electricity and water is money we can reinvest into the capability for the warfighter.

Energy Action Month is the time to start putting energy conservation tips into practice and developing them into life-long habits. Make Energy Action Month successful by living the words "I am Air Force Energy."



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## News Briefs

### National Disability Employment Awareness Month Event

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston community is invited to commemorate National Disability Employment Awareness Month from 2-3:30 p.m. Oct. 15 at the Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Guest speaker is Jerry Kerr, president and co-founder of Segs-4Vets. Kerr's group provides veterans with a universally designed mobility device to assist them with mobility issues. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate the public about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme is "Expect. Employ. Empower."

### Tuition Assistance Changes

Effective Wednesday, military tuition assistance no longer pays

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

# Working smoke alarms can save lives

Working smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a fire. That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"

Along with firefighters and safety advocates nationwide, Joint Base San Antonio Fire Emergency Services is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association during Fire Prevention Week, which runs from Monday through Oct. 11, to remind residents about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home and testing them monthly.

According to the

latest NFPA research, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire in half. Meanwhile, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"In a fire, seconds count," said JBSA Fire Chief Mark Ledford. "Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign includes the following smoke alarm

messages:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.

- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.

"Surprisingly, according to recent NFPA reports the death rate was much higher in fires in which a smoke alarm was present but did not operate than it was in fires in which

the homes had no smoke alarms," Ledford said.

During Fire Prevention Week, JBSA Fire Emergency Services will be hosting multiple learning activities.

The main event is the Fire Prevention Week Open House located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Watkins Terrace Community Fire Station 5.

"It is going to be exciting," Ledford said. "We will have Sparky the Fire Dog, fire truck displays, firefighters, the fire safety house, the Jaws of Life and a host of special guest to include Ultimate Fighter Championship fighter Shawn 'The Savage' Jordan promoting 'Working

Smoke Alarms Save Lives!' Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can learn more about the importance of working smoke alarms."

To find out more about JBSA Fire Prevention Week activities, contact JBSA fire prevention offices at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston (221-2727), JBSA-Lackland (671-2921) and JBSA-Randolph (652-6915).

To learn more about the "Working Smoke Alarms Saves Lives" campaign, visit NFPA's website at <http://www.firepreventionweek.org>.

(Source: Joint Base San Antonio Fire Emergency Services)

## JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON BIDS FAREWELL TO RETIRING SOLDIERS, CIVILIAN



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Ten Soldiers and one civilian retired from military service during a retirement ceremony Sept. 25 at the U.S. Army North Quadrangle. The retirees are (from left) Col. William Novakoski, U.S. Army Medical Command; Col. James Chevallier, 502nd Air Base Wing; Col. Debra Spencer, 32nd Medical Brigade; Col. Mark Bower, U.S. Army Medical Command; Col. Jerome Jackson, U.S. Army South; Maj. John Chun, 502nd Support Group; Sgt. Maj. Joe Armstead, U.S. Army South; Sgt. Maj. Brian Hendricks, 5th Recruiting Brigade; Master Sgt. Alysa Burkman, 807th Medical Command, Fort Douglas, Utah; Olga Vasquez, U.S. Army North and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Kohlwes, Warrior Transition Brigade.

## Did you know?

One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service.

It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



## JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Command Sgt. Maj. Jayme D. Johnson, command sergeant major of the Southern Regional Medical Command, cuts the cake to kick off National Hispanic Heritage Month at the Exchange on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. The SRMC-sponsored observance featuring Richard Perez, the president and CEO of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, takes place at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797, on the corner of Stanley and Schofield Roads.



Photo by Erin Perez

# JBSA Domestic Violence Awareness Month events

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

Activities during Domestic Violence Awareness Month at Joint Base San Antonio include:

**Theme:** "Stop the Hurt, Start to Heal"

- **Taj It Purple:** The JBSA-Randolph Taj Mahal will be lit with purple lights throughout the month of October

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Clothesline Project:** T-shirts designed by members of the JBSA community reflecting messages of awareness, support and education about domestic violence will be placed in areas throughout the installation

- **Information Blitz:**

Representatives will be available at various locations around JBSA to provide information and resources about Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- **I Can We Can project:** Individuals will be able to create messages of awareness, education and support on their hands. For more information on this campaign visit <http://www.icanwecan.awbw.org>.

- **Locations and times are:**

- **JBSA-Lackland:** Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center atrium

- **JBSA-Randolph:** Monday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 359th Medical Group atrium

- **5K Run/Walk and Shelter Drive:** In col-

laboration with Oktoberfest on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Oct. 25, 8 a.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, participants will each run or walk in remembrance of a victim of domestic violence.

Participants are asked to wear purple shirts. Donations for local shelters will be collected at the run such as gently used or new towels, sheets, pillow cases and blankets. Donation drop-off will be during the 5K Run/Walk.

- **JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Oktoberfest information blitz:** Oct. 17 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Parade Field parking lot. Stop by the Family Advocacy table during Oktoberfest for a chance to win prizes.



Photo by L.A. Shively

(From left) Craig Hodge, domestic abuse victim advocate; Chandra Peterson, Family Advocacy Outreach manager, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland; Norma Leal, Family Advocacy Outreach manager, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; and James Price, Family Advocacy Outreach manager, JBSA-Lackland; join Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander (center) as he signs a proclamation supporting prevention efforts and bringing awareness of and education about domestic violence prevention to the community.

# Army Veterinary Corps hosts NATO health, food safety experts

By Kirk Frady  
Army Medical Command Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Veterinary Corps at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston hosted meetings Sept. 15-19 with NATO experts in food and water safety, veterinary services and training of military working dogs.

Approximately 40 expert panel members came in from 19 nations, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Finland, United Kingdom and the United States.

The meeting at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston focused on working to standardize public health and food safety and procurement processes amongst participating NATO countries. The group also worked towards standardizing training military working dogs used to counter improvised explosive devices across NATO.

"You have come a long way with standardized agreements for both food and water safety, which were not completed when I deployed," said Army Veterinary Corps chief Brig. Gen. John Poppe. "These agreements have improved operations in Afghanistan, especially with the ever-expanding role of the NATO Support Agency, with contracting services ranging from dining facilities to water bottling facilities.

"On the animal side, consider ways to maxi-



Photo by Kirk Frady

Col. Timothy Stevenson (right), deputy director of the Department of Defense Veterinary Services-South at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, interacts with NATO members at a conference held Sept. 15-19. Approximately 40 members from 19 different nations gathered to standardize public health and food safety and procurement processes amongst participating NATO countries. The group also worked towards standardizing the training of military working dogs across NATO used to counter improvised explosive devices.

mize all medical assets in theater," Poppe continued. "Medical assets, especially in veterinary medicine, are always limited and are considered precious resources on the battlefield. In addition, I applaud your continued efforts to improve medical support for our military working dogs, who depend on us to be their advocate."

"The standardized agreements the panels have worked on are the backbone of NATO interoperability," said Col. Timothy Stevenson, deputy director of the DOD Veterinary Service Activity-South at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. "Ensuring service members have access to safe, healthy, and high quality food is equally as important as ensuring they have the proper weapons and protective equipment.

"No matter how well equipped service mem-

bers may be, if they lack energy and stamina because of insufficient food and water, they cannot fight effectively," Stevenson continued. "These agreements are a critical requirement for militaries to work together more effectively, leverage each other's strengths and share resources to save time, money and lives. In a world of ever tightening financial resources, all members of NATO are increasingly called upon to do more with less."

During the four-day meeting, panel experts toured the Lt. Col. Daniel E. Holland Military Working Dog Hospital and Military Working Dog Training Program at JBSA-Lackland, the Army Medical Center and School Division of Veterinary Services and the Department of Defense Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

## News Briefs

### Continued from P3

fees. Tuition assistance requests must be approved before the start date of the class. Soldiers should request tuition assistance at least 10 days prior to course start date in order to allow approval. Requests submitted less than 10 days prior to course start date may not be funded by GoArmyEd. For more information, contact an Army education counselor at 221-1738.

#### FSHISD Public Meeting

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District has a public meeting scheduled at 11 a.m. Oct. 23 in the Professional Development Center at 1908 Winans Road to discuss the effect of the district's Superior Achievement Rating on the state's financial accountability system.

#### ID Cards/DEERS Office Moves

The ID Cards main office, formerly at building 367, has relocated to the first floor of building 2263, 2484 Stanley Road. Customers are serviced by appointments only, which can be made by visiting <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/hra/idcard.aspx>. Emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. For more information, call 221-0415/2278.

#### Passports, Visas Office Moves

The passports and visas office, formerly at building 367, has relocated to the basement of building 2263, 2484 Stanley Road. For more information, call 221-0347.

#### Army In/Out Processing

All Soldiers and their families arriving and departing Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston must report to building 2263, room 100A at 2484 Stanley Road. The office recently relocated from building 367. For info call 221-2076/0146.

#### Air Force Comptroller For Military, Civilian Pay Moves

Finance personnel services for Air Force military and civilian personnel relocated from building 4196 to building 2263, room 300. For more information, call 221-1415.

# National Guard Soldier honored with Purple Heart

By Robert Shields  
BAMC Public Affairs

Sgt. 1st Class Marc A. Seal, a Texas Army National Guard Soldier, was honored with the Purple Heart during a ceremony Sept. 25 at the Warrior and Family Support Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

After Brooke Army Medical Center Commander Col. Kyle D. Campbell opened the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan, commander of the Southern Regional Medical Command, San Antonio Military Health System market manager and U.S. Army Nurse Corps chief, presented the medal and certificate.

Keenan welcomed the Purple Heart recipient with words of praise for his courage, dedication and sacrifice.

"This award is a long time in coming because this incident happened in 2005. He has since served three additional combat tours; one in Iraq and two in Afghanistan," the general said. "He is a man of honor and a great leader who has provided himself for service and for his country."

Seal was wounded Sept. 5, 2005, when his patrol was ambushed by the enemy while on a mounted patrol in Iraq. He talked about why getting the award on Sept. 25 meant so much to him.

"Getting this award today is very powerful to me because I lost a good friend in Iraq on Sept. 25, 2005," he said. "So today is a good time for me because it's good to be recognized and have my friends show up and support me, but it's also



Photo by Robert Shields

Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan (left), commander of the Southern Regional Medical Command, awards the Purple Heart to Sgt. 1st Class Marc A. Seal during a ceremony Sept. 25 at the Warrior and Family Support Center Seal was on a mounted patrol in Iraq Sept. 5, 2005, when his patrol was ambushed by the enemy, resulting in his combat injuries.

a tough day."

Seal, who is leaving the military, plans on completing his degree in psychology.

The Purple Heart is

awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy

and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

## JBSA celebrates National Night Out with variety of activities

By Robert Goetz  
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

The partnership between law enforcement agencies and community residents will be celebrated from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday as Joint Base San Antonio observes National Night Out with activities at three JBSA locations.

National Night Out, a nationwide crime, drug and violence prevention program that began 30 years ago, will feature block parties with activities such as military working dog demonstrations, appearances by McGruff the Crime Dog and Sparky the Fire Dog, police vehicle and fire truck displays

and games for children. Food and refreshments will be served.

In his proclamation announcing National Night Out, Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, called upon residents of base housing areas to join public safety representatives at the events, which "provide a unique opportunity for JBSA to join forces with thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative police-community crime prevention efforts."

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's National Night Out will commence with a motorcade visiting Watkins Terrace Community

Center, Harris Heights Community Center and the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Resident Center at 407 Dickman Road, the site of the block party.

National Night Out at JBSA-Lackland will feature a block party at the Balfour Beatty Community Center, 2254 Brian McElroy St. Information and materials on crime prevention, drug awareness and privately owned weapons will be available.

The Randolph High School Marching Band will be one of the attractions at the JBSA-Randolph Night Out on the North Park median



Photo by Airman 1st Class Alexis Siekert

Scott Ridenour, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron, teaches Fernando Leal how to use a fire extinguisher during the 2011 National Night Out event at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

See NIGHT OUT, P15

## **MISSION from P2**

by an initial debriefing and a thorough medical examination.

The second phase involves a short period of decompression which usually lasts three to four days. This time allows the individual to begin to realize that he has been released from captivity and is now free.

The length of reintegration is determined on a case-by-case basis. Each captive or missing person's situation is unique and presents a different set of challenges.

While the PRCC team takes the lead, other agencies involved include medical, psychological, family support, public affairs, chaplains, security specialists, the CIA and FBI.

The success of the third phase, according to PRCC Director Doug Sanders, depends on many things.

"We need to make the returning individual the decision maker," Sanders said. "For example, what time he wants to debrief – morning or afternoon. Then we need to try and orchestrate all of the different priorities: command priorities, intelligence priorities, as well as returnee and family priorities. The biggest key to success is being flexible on how you manage the day-to-day activities."

Sanders said one of the most rewarding aspects of this mission is taking a returnee through reintegration and then giving him back to his family again.

"A family who thought that they may never see their loved one again; a returnee who thought that he may never see his family again; and when he makes that very first phone call and they have that first family reunion, that's probably the most rewarding thing that you can see," Sanders said.

Captives or missing persons have undergone an abnormal situation and as a result have developed certain types of behavior related to that stressful event, according to Maxton.

"The mental processes which occur during the first few days of phase three are very important and help the person understand that he is no longer being held by an enemy force," Maxton said. "From the moment a captive is released, the entire process takes approximately six to eight weeks. However, sometimes there are certain circumstances which require a longer period of time."

An important part of the last phase involves a debriefing process which includes the use of "storytelling."

The individual is given the opportunity to talk

about time spent in captivity and explain in his own words exactly what happened and some of the things he experienced. This in-depth storytelling technique is used as a gauge to measure progress and also determine when reintegration is complete.

The Army South PRCC may receive little notice and minimal time to prepare for the arrival of a former captive completing phase two, Maxton said. The challenge the team faces is to stay well trained and to be ready at a moment's notice.

"During my time here at Army South, I've done four reintegrations," Maxton said.

To meet the challenge of staying prepared, Sanders and his PRCC team conduct training twice per year on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston with the family assistance team, transition point team, reception party, Brooke Army Medical Center and JBSA-Lackland. The weeklong seminar concludes with a rehearsal-of-concept exercise when key players complete a mock reintegration.

In addition, Sanders and his team travel to Fort Rucker, Ala., four times a year to conduct reintegration training for Soldiers completing the survival, evasion, resistance and escape course.

## ASTRONAUT from P1

larly for me to be back here at BAMC to share them with you guys," he said.

Retired Army Staff Sgt. Ben Eberle, who met Cassidy in 2012, was the first to receive his item. An avid flight space enthusiast, Eberle was astonished to see his unit patch he gave Cassidy a couple of years ago.

"This is such an honor, it really is," Eberle said as he received his unit patch plaque from Cassidy. "This means so much to me. This is out of this world."

Eberle also gave Cassidy, with his unit's consent, the last unit patch to show him appreciation for the support he gave to his unit when he took the patch with him to space.

"Thank you. Your support is so much appreci-



**Photo courtesy of NASA**

Inside the cupola of the International Space Station, NASA astronaut and Navy Capt. Chris Cassidy, an Expedition 36 flight engineer, eyeballs a point on Earth some 250 miles below him and the ISS before pinpointing a specific photo target of opportunity. He holds a digital still camera, equipped with a 400mm lens. Cassidy was aboard the orbital outpost from March to September 2013.

ated from me and my unit," Eberle said.

Eberle lost his right hand and both legs when he was hit by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan while on a dismounted patrol in November 2011.

The Purple Heart Medal was also returned to the Military Order of the Purple Heart members followed by the returned BAMC T-shirt worn in space and a BAMC medallion, which floated weightless in space.



# New NCO evaluation report expected to more accurately assess Soldier's performance

By David Vergun  
Army News Service

On Aug. 1, the secretary of the Army approved the new Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report. Implementation will be in September 2015.

"The new NCO evaluation report will come out in five phases: inform, educate, train, roll-out and after-action review," said Command Sgt.

Maj. Charles E. Smith, senior enlisted adviser for Human Resources Command, known as HRC. "Human Resources Command is beginning to build the NCOER into the evaluation system now.

"The biggest challenge during the preparation and transition of the new NCOER over the next year will be to ensure NCO leaders at all levels clearly understand the new report and its role in evaluations," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III. "We must ensure the new NCOER is perceived as a tool that delivers the best measures available to review and evaluate performance

"NCO leaders must understand the process on how to effectively manage rating profiles," Chandler continued. "It is very important to the future of the Army that Soldiers view the Army as an institution, which is clearly able to identify premier leaders in a highly competitive environment. Therefore, as we prepare for the system to roll

out around September 2015, I expect all NCOs to take the time to learn and understand how the evaluation system works, and how it supports the selection and promotion processes."

The new NCOER will require insightful narratives instead of what are often nondescript, bulleted lists in the current NCOER and the evaluations themselves will be different for junior and senior NCOs, explained Sgt. Maj. Stephen J. McDermid, with the Human Resources Command's evaluations selections & promotions division, evaluations branch.

The interval between approval and implementation will allow enough time for training on how to use the new NCOER. The months ahead will also ensure that the critical information technology portion of the implementation goes smoothly upon launch, McDermid said.

In the coming weeks and months, regulations and pamphlets will be updated and Soldiers from installations Army-wide will travel to HRC at Fort Knox, Ky., for two weeks of training so they can go back and train their assigned units and personnel, he added.

Besides training at Fort Knox, HRC will send out mobile training teams Army-wide, to include the Active Component, Guard and Reserve," to train the whole force from sergeants through general officers in this process," Smith said.

"If more training is required, we'll send out additional teams, because we've got to make sure the foundation is done properly," he added.

In 2010, the chief of staff of the Army directed a review of the current NCOER, which has been in place since 1987, McDermid said.

The CSA had concerns that it did not reflect current leadership doctrine

and was over-inflated. He also wondered whether or not there needed to be more than one type of NCOER, instead of just one, which is currently used for all ranks.

By 2012, the sergeant major of the Army, his board of directors and NCO working groups had reviewed the process and came up with some recommendations, which were then validated by a CSA-appointed Council of Colonels and General Officer Steering committee.

HRC was then tasked with gathering feedback from the field and reviewing the Department of the Army Centralized Selection Board after-action reviews and also leader engagements with general officers and command sergeants major.

Earlier this year, the new Officer Evaluation Report was implemented. It has some similarities to the new NCOER so feedback and after-action reviews on that were helpful in preparing the launch of the NCOER, McDermid said.

There will actually be three different NCOERs, McDermid said.

The direct level form is for sergeants, and it's pretty straightforward. It will have only two categories: "Met Standard" or "Did Not Meet Standard." Whichever category is selected for this NCOER will require a bullet comment, also called a "task statement," to support the checked category, he said.

The organizational level form is for staff sergeant through first sergeant/master sergeant and it will have four categories. "Far Exceeded Standard" is the highest or best, he said.

The next highest category is "Exceeded Stan-



Photo by David Vergun

The new NCO evaluation report will be implemented in September 2015.

dard." The third category is "Met Standard." The least desirable category is "Did Not Meet Standard."

The strategic-level form is for command sergeant major/sergeant major. It will contain an in-depth narrative on his or her effectiveness to the organization.

Because a narrative style of writing is much different than bulleted lists, training will focus on effective writing and how to write clear, accurate, descriptive and thorough assessments, McDermid said.

There will be "a delineation of rating roles and responsibilities for the raters and senior raters," McDermid said. The current NCOER has both rater and senior rater assessing performance and potential. In the new NCOER, the rater will focus only on "performance" and the senior rater only on "potential."

"Senior raters will provide an assessment of the rated NCO's overall potential compared to NCOs in the same grade, establishing a senior rater profile for senior raters of staff sergeant to command sergeant major," Smith said. "Similar to officer evaluation reports,

each senior rater's profile will limit assessments of Most Qualified to less than 50 percent. The supporting comments from the senior rater must send a clear message through enumeration, performance and potential.

"When properly articulated, this will assist the selection boards in selecting our top athletes to serve in positions of increased responsibilities," Smith added.

A supplementary reviewer will be used in two situations, he added. The first is when there are no uniformed Army advisors or rating officials within the rating chain and second is when the senior rater or someone outside the rating chain directs a relief for cause.

Doctrinally, the new NCOER is expected to benefit the Army by better identifying talent within the Army, moving that talent to the best location and billet, and providing the Army with a better means of identifying which Soldiers should be put in key assignments. The new NCOER will also identify top-notch performers and provide them with educational and professional development

opportunities. The NCOER will also be a useful tool in moving Soldiers around in the Army as they change assignments, McDermid said.

One of the key advantages of the new NCOER, is that it will "ensure depth and experience are met before an individual is promoted," Smith said. "Once a leader is selected for the next grade, that person will be developed and mentored to assume that next highest grade."

Smith said that "in the past, rating officials were not held accountable." The new evaluation and assessment tools will ensure rating officials assess more accurately.

Successful training and IT efforts in the coming months alone will not ensure that the NCOER is a success, Smith cautioned. Leaders have to buy in and take ownership of it.

"I recommend the top leader in each formation serve as the master trainer during this critical time," Smith said. "We've got to get this right. Folks' careers are on the line as we write these new evaluation reports. If we do this right, it will lay the foundation for success in the future."

# Army surgeon general focuses on patient harm during TEDMED talk

By Ron Wolf  
Army Medicine

Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, surgeon general of the Army, delivered a live TEDMED talk Sept. 11 titled “Don’t you dare talk about this,” at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Horoho aimed to refocus national attention and provide insights on the problem of preventable harm in U.S. hospitals.

TEDMED – which stands for technology, entertainment and design – talks are the medical and health version of the internationally known and highly regarded TED conferences.

The short talks bring together the most innovative and forward-thinking minds to share “ideas worth spreading” and have been viewed online more than 2 billion times.

Horoho compared the consequences of patient harm to Pearl Harbor and the Sept. 11

attacks. More than 2,300 died at Pearl Harbor and more than 2,900 died on Sept. 11, 2001. However, those were one-day totals, she explained.

Every day, more than 1,100 people die in U.S. hospitals due to preventable harm, which adds up to more than 400,000 each year.

“Preventable harm in our hospitals is much worse than these acts of war,” Horoho said. “We expect harm from acts of war, and we can plan and prepare for it. However, we do not plan or even expect preventable harm to happen in our hospitals. As a result, harm is talked about in metaphors, such as ‘near misses, unintended complications, and close calls.’”

Preventable harm and the deaths associated with it have been mentioned previously in widely known reports. The Institute of Medicine, or IOM, published “To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health

System,” in 1999, in which the IOM estimated that as many as 98,000 deaths occurred each year as a result of medical error.

That figure from the IOM falls far short, however, of the number of deaths estimated in 2013, when the Journal of Patient Safety put the number of deaths each year for preventable harm at closer to 400,000.

Horoho made the point that we have done essentially nothing about this problem. Silence on this topic by the medical community is the main cause that allows preventable harm to continue, she said.

Reducing preventable harm is part of the transformation of healthcare that will reduce costs and improve access. Hospital safety and patient confidence in the safety of care they are receiving is a critical part of promoting health and wellness as well, an important part of the transformation of

Army Medicine.

“We can eliminate preventable harm,” she said. “The problem is not the errors. The problem is that we ignore the errors. But in our U.S. hospitals, we talk about harm in hushed tones. We use metaphors. We talk about near misses, unintended complications, and close calls. To err is human.”

Horoho issued a call to action.

“As individuals, we need the confidence, the integrity and the courage to speak up,” she said. “As leaders, we need to listen to our patients, to our families, and to our staff. If we decide our system isn’t working, we can change it.”

“By addressing the errors, we can prevent harm,” she said. “We can do this, and I believe the time is right. The enemy is our silence; our ambivalence, our complacency, our lack of confidence; silence kills.”



Courtesy photo

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho tackled the difficult issue of medical harm before a live audience at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in Washington D.C., during the TEDMED Talks, Sept. 11. This year’s TEDMED talks were simulcast via livestreaming from San Francisco and Washington, D.C., to more than 130 countries.

# Families can be protected with TRICARE vaccine benefit

To prepare for the fall school year and the holiday season, TRICARE beneficiaries can protect their families by using TRICARE’s vaccine benefit.

Vaccines lower the chances of catching serious diseases and reduce long-term health care costs. That’s why it’s good news that TRICARE is covering more vaccine claims than ever.

One of the most contagious and common viruses during winter is the flu. Getting the flu vaccine protects you and those around you who are at higher risk from the flu, such as children, older adults, and pregnant women.

“Last year during flu season, TRICARE covered flu vaccines for more than 453,000 beneficiaries,” said Dr. George Jones, the Defense Health Agency pharmacy chief. “We expect this number to climb even higher this season, since many

beneficiaries are getting vaccinated earlier.”

Being vaccinated every year is the best way to prevent the flu; TRICARE covers both the flu shot and the flu mist. To learn more about flu basics, treatments and prevention, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>.

Last fall and winter, more than 50,000 adults also received the shingles vaccine and within just the past five months almost 22,000 more beneficiaries were also vaccinated.

“Shingles is a painful but preventable disease,” Jones said. “TRICARE beneficiaries 60 and older can get the shingles vaccine, Zostavax, at no cost from one of our 45,000 network pharmacies.”

TRICARE claims for vaccines have increased almost 11 percent in the past 12 months. In the past six months, TRICARE also helped prepare children

for school by covering about 8,400 vaccines against tetanus,

diphtheria, and whooping cough and more than 400

vaccines for measles, mumps, rubella, and chickenpox at retail pharmacies alone. Overall, TRICARE covered nearly 14,000 vaccines for children 0-18 years old.

Almost any doctor will tell you it’s better to prevent a disease than treat it. TRICARE beneficiaries can keep their families safe by utilizing the no-cost vaccine benefit before vaccine-preventable diseases occur. Beneficiaries can get vaccines at no cost from any TRICARE-authorized pharmacy. The standard copayment for an office visit applies when getting a vaccine in a doctor’s office.

To find a pharmacy or provider that participates in the vaccine program and see a list of covered vaccines, go to <http://www.tricare.mil/vaccines> or call 877-363-1303.



Courtesy photo

One of the best protections against the seasonal flu virus is receiving an annual flu vaccine. To find a pharmacy or provider that participates in the vaccine program and see a list of covered vaccines, go to <http://www.tricare.mil/vaccines> or call 877-363-1303.

(Source: TRICARE)



# Women volunteers needed for Ranger course assessment

By Gary Sheftick  
Army News Service

The Army is asking for female volunteers to possibly attend a Ranger course in the spring.

A final decision will be made in January on whether or not to actually conduct the one-time assessment, Army officials said. Since the Army needs to identify, select and begin training for potential participants, two "All Army Activity" or ALARACT messages are being sent to the field asking for volunteers.

The Ranger assessment course would train men and women together in order to help prepare institutions, schools and leaders for future integration decisions, according to Army G-1 officials at the Pentagon.

The assessment course

would be open to all women in the ranks of specialist to major, if they can meet the physical qualifications and prerequisites.

Female observers would also be needed to serve as advisors to the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade. Staff sergeants to master sergeants would be eligible, along with chief warrant officers 2 and 3, first lieutenants, captains and majors. The deadline to submit selection packets is Oct. 10. Potential students and observers will be identified in December.

Current Ranger course standards will remain the same for all students, said G-1 officials. Prerequisites, phase performance requirements and graduation standards would not change for the assessment.

"We will be prepared to execute the assessment professionally and objectively, if directed," said Maj. Gen. Scott Miller, commanding general of the Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning, Ga.

All female candidates would be required to attend the Army National Guard Ranger Training and Assessment Course, known as RTAC, conducted at Fort Benning, prior to the assessment course.

Women who volunteer to serve as observers for the Ranger course must also undergo a selection process that includes a fitness test, land navigation, a combat water survival assessment, an operations order test, 12-mile road march with 35-pound rucksack and review boards.

The women will not be

Ranger instructors during the assessment, but as observers, they will need to be able to keep up to the students and instructors.

Women who complete the Ranger assessment course as students will be awarded the Ranger tab to wear, but will not be awarded associated Ranger skill identifiers due to restrictions in Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 652.

The decision to change that or not is scheduled to be made by the secretary of Defense no later than Jan. 1, 2016, when he determines if women will be permitted to become Infantry Soldiers and serve in other closed military occupational specialties.

The Secretary of Defense revoked the direct

**See RANGER, P16**

# Crimes and punishment: actions have consequences

By Col. Mark T. Allison  
Staff Judge Advocate  
502nd Air Base Wing

During August 2014, Joint Base San Antonio had one Air Force court martial. All courts martial are open to the public and upcoming courts-martial can be viewed at the United States Air Force Judge Advocate Generals website at <http://www.afjag.af.mil/docket/index.asp>.

Tech. Sgt. Katherine Thomas, with the 344th Training Squadron, was tried by a special court-martial Aug. 11-14 at JBSA-Lackland. She was charged with one charge and 29 specifications of unauthorized debit card purchases in violation of Article 121, Uniform Code of Military Justice, regarding allegations that she used for personal purposes the debit card of an organization dedicated to providing services for the benefit of training students.

Thomas pled not guilty to all specifications but was found guilty of 26 of the specifications and not guilty of the remaining three. She was sentenced by a panel consisting of officer and enlisted members to confinement for 4 months, to a reduction to the grade of E-3, and forfeiture of \$400 of her pay per month for 10 months.

During August, Air Force commanders throughout JBSA administered 30 non-judicial punishment actions under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The punishments imposed reflect the commander's determination of an appropriate

punishment after considering the circumstances of the offense and the offender's record.

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

## JBSA-LACKLAND (22):

**Dereliction of duty and assault and battery** – An airman basic pointed at and struck another airman in the chin with his weapon and received 60 days restriction to base, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

**Altering an ID** – An airman first class scratched his date of birth off of his Common Access Card in an attempt to appear 21 years of age and received a reduction to airman, a suspended forfeiture of \$858 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

**Violation of a regulation** – An airman basic in technical training entered the dormitory room of an airman of the opposite sex and received 10 days restriction to base, 10 days extra duty forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**Violation of a regulation** – An airman basic was discovered possessing alcohol in the dormitory and received 30 days restriction to base, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months with one month



suspended and a reprimand.

**Absent without leave** – A senior airman was absent from their duty station on multiple occasions without authorization and received a reduction to airman first class and a reprimand.

**Failure to obey a lawful order** – An airman basic was intoxicated and was instructed to sit down during questioning by Security Forces members. Instead of complying, the airman decided to run out of the Security Forces building. The member received 45 days restriction to base, 45 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

**Assault and battery** – An airman first class grabbed another airman by the waist/rib area and made inappropriate remarks to her. The member received a reduction to airman basic, 60 days restriction to base, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation** – An airman basic in technical training allowed an airman of the opposite sex access into his dorm room and received 10 days restriction to base, 10 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**Use of hydrocodone**

– An Airman tested positive for hydrocodone during a random urinalysis and received 45 days extra duty and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation and underage drinking** – An airman basic violated curfew and consumed alcohol while being under the legal drinking age of 21 and received 45 days restriction to base, forfeiture of \$708 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

**Assault and battery** – An airman basic pressed his genitals and/or hip thrust against multiple airmen in the dining facility and received forfeiture of \$765 pay and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation** – An airman first class allowed another airman of the opposite sex access into his dorm room and received 10 days restriction to base, 10 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$902 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation** – An airman first class possessed alcohol in the dormitory and received a reduction to airman, a suspended reduction to airman basic, 30 days restriction and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation** – An airman first class in violated curfew and received 10 days restriction to

base, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation** – An airman first class entered the dorm room of a member of the opposite sex and received 10 days restriction to base, 10 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**Dereliction of duty** – An airman basic refused to continue training his career field training course and received 45 days restriction to base, 45 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation and false official statement** – An airman basic allowed a member of the opposite into his dorm room and when questioned by leadership, lied by stating there was no one else in his room. The member received 45 days restriction to base, 15 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation** – An airman first class was discovered drinking alcohol while in the dormitory and received a reduction to airman, a suspended reduction to airman basic, 30 days restriction to base and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation** – An airman first class was discovered possessing alcohol concealed in a plastic bottle in the dormitory. The member received a suspended reduction to

airman basic, 15 days restriction to base and a reprimand.

**Underage drinking** – An underage airman basic consumed alcohol at the base pool and received 30 days restriction, forfeiture of \$708 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation** – An airman first class violated curfew and received a reduction to airman, a suspended reduction to Airman basic, 45 days restriction to base, 45 days extra duty and a reprimand.

**Dereliction of duty and underage drinking** – An airman possessed and consumed alcohol in the dormitory while underage. The member received a reduction to airman basic, 45 days restriction to base, 45 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**Dereliction of duty** – An airman first class was discovered cheating on a block test and received 60 days restriction to base, forfeiture of \$902 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation** – An airman basic possessed alcohol in the dormitory and received 30 days restriction to base, forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand. The member's suspended punishment of forfeiture of \$765 pay was later vacated due to additional

See CRIME, P15

**CRIME from P14**

misconduct.

**Failure to obey a lawful order** – An airman first class left base while on base restriction and received a reduction to airman basic, 45 days restriction to base and a reprimand.

**Violation of a general regulation** – An airman basic entered the dorm room of a member of the opposite sex and received 60 days restriction to base, forfeiture of \$708 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**Dereliction of duty, failure to obey a lawful order, fraternization, and adultery** – A captain fraternized and committed adultery with a staff sergeant, violated a no-contact order with a staff sergeant and violated the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act by researching personal medical information of another member. The

captain received forfeiture of \$2,583 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

**Larceny** – An airman first class stole clothing merchandise from the base exchange and received a reduction to airman basic, 45 days restriction to base, 45 days extra duty, suspended forfeiture of \$765 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

**Dereliction of duty** – An airman basic was discovered cheating on a block test and received 60 days restriction to base, forfeiture of \$708 pay per month for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

**JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON (7):**

**Larceny** – An airman basic was observed and detained after stealing a bottle of perfume at an Army and Air Force Exchange Service facility and received restriction for 25 days, extra duty

for 20 days, forfeiture of \$765 pay for two months and a reprimand.

**Underage drinking** – An airman basic was caught drinking alcohol while underage and received a forfeiture of \$765 pay and a reprimand.

**Failure to go** – An airman basic was late for morning remedial training formation and received restriction for 30 days, extra duty for 15 days and a reprimand.

**Dereliction of duty** – An airman basic was late for weekend accountability and received restriction for 60 days, forfeiture of \$765 pay for two months and a reprimand.

**Dereliction of duty** – An airman basic left the dormitory after final weekend night accountability and received extra duty for 14 days, forfei-

ture of \$500 pay and a reprimand.

**Use of marijuana** – A senior airman tested positive for marijuana during a random urinalysis and received a reduction to airman first class, a suspended reduction to airman and a reprimand.

**Use of marijuana** – A senior airman tested positive for marijuana during a random urinalysis and received a reduction to airman first class, extra duty for 30 days, a suspended forfeiture of \$765 pay for two months and a reprimand.

**JBSA-RANDOLPH (1):**

**Indecent Exposure** – A chief master sergeant intentionally exposed himself in a vehicle at a public park and received a suspended reduction to the grade of senior master sergeant and a reprimand.

**NIGHT OUT from P6**

adjacent to the Parr Club. A demonstration by a martial-arts life skills school and musical entertainment are also planned.

Steven Dews, 502nd SFS crime prevention manager, said National Night Out is a worthwhile event for law enforcement officers and housing residents alike.

“We are just like ordinary citizens who have family and friends that we care about,” he said.

“This is an outstanding occasion to meet and greet the people we serve and protect. We also have the chance to let people know they are not being taken for granted; every police service or 911 call is top priority.”

National Night Out gives residents an opportunity to see police officers and firefighters relaxing and sharing their knowledge, Dews said.

“They will receive literature and get to see and handle specialized equipment unique only to first responders,” he said.

Staff Sgt. Larry Holmes, 902nd SFS NCO in charge of police services, said attendance at the JBSA-Randolph event continues to rise.

“It’s one of those community outreach events,” he said. “People get a chance to meet with local law enforcement agency officers to see what they do every day, and we get a chance to meet the people we are protecting every day.”

# 25th Air Force: new chapter in a storied legacy

By Wayne Amann  
25th Air Force Public Affairs

As the Air Force's premier intelligence organization approaches its 66th anniversary, it will mark the occasion under a new unit name and structure.

The Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency is now 25th Air Force, following a re-designation ceremony Monday at the headquarters' Ardisana Courtyard on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Security Hill.

It's the sixth iteration of the organization which was activated as the U.S. Air Force Security Service in October 1948.

This latest re-designation allows 25th AF, realigned under Air Combat Command, to focus on ISR, electronic warfare, airborne national command and control, nuclear detection and treaty monitoring, targeting

and analysis operations. The newest numbered air force will provide decision advantage from those operations, through ACC, to joint commanders, national leaders and coalition partners.

"Placing 25th Air Force under ACC is all about operations effectiveness," said Gen. Mike Hostage, Air Combat Command commander, who officiated the ceremony. "It'll be the one-stop shop for operational ISR within the Air Force, which will streamline program accuracy and presentation by the Air Force."

As the ISR force provider, ACC can ensure consistent presentation of ISR resources to warfighters.

Maj. Gen. John Shanahan, Air Force ISR Agency commander, assumed command of 25th AF and presided over the re-alignment of the 55th Wing, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., and the 9th

Reconnaissance Wing, Beale AFB, Calif., from 12th AF to 25th AF.

"As we begin to write the next chapter of Air Force ISR, titled 25th Air Force, our legacy will become even richer and even more storied," Shanahan said. "For the first time in Air Force history, ISR will have a four-star leader with the mandate, force structure and resources to truly maximize the entirety of the vast Air Force ISR enterprise."

The 25th AF will create an opportunity for greater operational synchronization and greater integration of Air Force ISR products and analysis for the national intelligence community.

"The men and women of 25th Air Force have a tremendous opportunity to shape Air Force ISR in ways I and other AFISRA commanders could only have dreamed of," said Lt. Gen. Robert



Photo by William Belcher

Gen. Mike Hostage (left), commander of Air Combat Command, passes the guidon of 25th Air Force to Maj. Gen. John Shanahan who assumed command of the newest numbered air force during a re-designation ceremony of the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency to 25th AF Monday on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Security Hill.

ert Otto, Headquarters United States Air Force deputy chief of staff, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and former commander of the Air Force ISR Agency. "I know it's your hard

and selfless work that has gotten us to this day. Your leadership, innovation and commitment will deliver success. It's in your DNA."

The newest NAF will also provide an organiza-

tional link to strengthen full-spectrum targeting and threat warning to Air Force and Joint Force commanders through ACC.

During the ceremony, Otto and Shanahan teamed with AF ISR Agency Command Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman to furl the AFISRA flag which is now a permanent part of the unit's storied heritage. It joined predecessor flags representing the USAF Security Service, the Electronic Security Command, Air Force Intelligence Command and Air Intelligence Agency, the many iterations that met growing mission requirements.

Through nearly seven decades, its silent warriors have analyzed and exploited near real-time intelligence to provide decision advantage for combatant commanders on the ground and the nation's leadership.

## 19th Air Force activates under AETC

The Air Education and Training Command re-activated a streamlined 19th Air Force Wednesday, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Gen. Robin Rand, the AETC commander, appointed Maj. Gen. Michael Keltz as the commander of the newly re-activated numbered air force.

"Activating 19th (Air Force) under AETC will allow for appropriate command and control, efficient management of limited resources, consistency across installations and will clarify

responsibilities between the major command and subordinate units," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James.

The 19th Air Force was inactivated in 2012 in the hopes of gaining efficiencies. However, a review of mission oversight and execution, directed by Rand, showed a need for realigning responsibilities to reinforce proper command relationships and training oversight.

"This restructuring within AETC will move all formal aircrew flying training missions under

General Keltz's command," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. "AETC has a wide range of responsibility when it comes to training and educating Airmen. Our flying training mission requires a significant level of coordinated oversight to ensure our Airmen in the skies remain the best in the world and 19th Air Force will take on that responsibility."

The 19th Air Force will include 19 training locations, 10 regular Air Force wings supported by six Guard and Reserve wings, approxi-

mately 32,000 personnel and more than 1,350 aircraft of 29 different models. No new positions or authorizations, including the commander's, will be created as a result of the new NAF.

The infrastructure and manpower of 19th Air Force will be drawn from previously existing resources. The major general command position will shift from AETC's directorate of intelligence, operations and nuclear integration.

*(Information courtesy of the Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs)*

### RANGER from P13

ground combat rule Jan. 24, 2013, following a unanimous recommendation by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Army and other services were given until January 2016 to implement changes and submit requests to exclude specific military occupational specialties from the ban being lifted.

In May 2012, the Army announced it would open six military occupational specialties, or MOSSs, that were previously closed to women. This opened combat-related jobs in 37 battalions across nine brigade combat teams.

The six MOSSs opened were 13M Multiple Launch Rocket System

crewmember, 13P MLRS operations/fire direction specialist, 13R Field Artillery Firefinder Radar operator specialist, 91A M1 Abrams tank system maintainer, 91M Bradley Fighting Vehicle system maintainer and 91P Artillery mechanic.

Over the past year, the Army Training and Doctrine Command has been conducting a physical demands study to develop gender-neutral standards for tasks performed by combat MOSSs.

The study is part of Soldier 2020, the Army's initiative to look at integrating women into previously-closed MOSSs such as infantry, combat engineer, field artillery and armor.

# INSIDE THE GATE

## Take Aim At Sportsman's Range

From Saturday through Nov. 31, hours at the Sportsman's Range at JBSA-Camp Bullis change to 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting. The cost to shoot is \$10 per Department of Defense ID cardholder and \$15 per non-DOD ID cardholder. DOD ID cardholders can purchase an annual pass for \$60. All DOD ID cardholders are allowed to sponsor two non-DOD ID cardholder guests. For more information, call 295-7577.

## Pre-Deployment Planning

Monday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Training identifies techniques, challenges and pitfalls associated with preparing for a deployment and maintaining communication before and during deployments. Call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

## Positive Parenting

Monday, Oct. 20 and 27, 1:30-3 p.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Three-part class will discuss what to expect from an infant and toddler and will help parents learn about the stages of child development. Call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

## Couple's Enrichment

Monday, Oct. 20 and 27, 4-6 p.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Three-part class centers on reconnecting with partners. Part one is about gender differences and communicating effectively, part two focuses on commitment and part three strives to enhance intimacy. Call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

## Pre-Deployment Resilience

Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Training focuses on the effects of military deployments and separations on the family and actions

people can take to manage the impact of those deployments. Call 221-2418 or 221-2705.

## Pre-Separation Counseling

Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Airmen separating or retiring must attend this mandatory briefing and can schedule their pre-separation appointment up to 24 months before their retirement date or up to 12 months prior to their separation date. Call 221-2705 or 221-2418.

## Anger Awareness

Tuesday, 1-3 p.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military and Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Learn to identify triggers, expressions of anger and techniques to effectively control anger. Call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

## Post-Deployment Resilience

Wednesday, 9-10:30 a.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. For service members, family members and civilians to assist in reunions, reintegration and transitioning after deployments. Training provides the skills to identify common areas of deployment-related concerns/conflicts and strategies, tools and resources to enhance resiliency during the reintegration process. Call 221-2705 or 221-2418.

## Bringing Baby Home

Wednesday and Oct. 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Two-part class teaches new parents how to care for their newborn babies. Dads are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call 221-0349 or 221-2705.

## EFMP Sensory Reading

Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library. Sensory stories give individuals the opportunity to share in the journey of a story by appealing to senses beyond language alone. Call 221-1033 or 221-2962.

## Volunteer Advisory Council

Wednesday, 10-11:30 a.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. The council is comprised

of representatives from agencies having volunteers, appropriate command spouses and community representatives. Call 221-2336.

## Energy Management Army Resiliency Training

Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Training assists with identifying effects stress has on performance and how to utilize energy management tools to minimize negative effects of stress and maximize performance. Call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

## Overseas Relocation Briefs

Wednesday, 10-11 a.m. or 2-3 p.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Topics include entitlements, reimbursements, household goods shipments, recognizing and dealing with the emotional stress of relocation, employment and education. Call 221-2705 or 221-2418.

## Basic Budget Management

Thursday, 2-3 p.m., JBSA Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This class is designed to provide information to get started on a budget/plan and know what information you need to have to put together the best plan for your money. This class is a prerequisite for future financial classes and one-on-one budget counseling unless referred by your command. Bring your leave and earnings statement with you to class. Call 221-2418 or 221-2705.

## Couponing

Thursday, 3-3:30 p.m. at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This class is designed to provide an introduction to the couponing concept, along with information on websites, apps for smart phones and more. Call 221-2418 or 221-2705.

## METC Student Intramural Flag Football

The flag football league for students on the Medical Education and Training Campus is accepting letters of intent for teams interested in league play. Team entry requires a letter of intent from

the unit or organization signed by the Sports Advisory Representative and must be received by Monday. A coaches/rules meeting will be held at noon Thursday at the Fitness Center on the METC. League play begins Oct. 14 at the Pershing Park fields. Game time will be determined by the number of teams which sign up. Units may have more than one team and no player roster is required. Cadre must be present at all games. For more information, call 808-5707 or 808-5709.

## HOOptoberfest 3-On-3 Basketball Classic

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center hosts a HOOptoberfest 3-on-3 Basketball Classic at 9 a.m. Oct. 18. The tournament entry requires a registration form that must be received by Oct. 14. Teams may turn in their registration form at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center or the Fitness Center on the Medical Education and Training Campus. This is a free event and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders 18 and over. A player roster is required and players may not play on more than one team. Rules will be emailed to the team captains. For more information, call 808-5709 or 221-1234.

## Oktoberfest/Domestic Violence Awareness Month 5K Fun Run

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center is partnering with the Family Advocacy Outreach Program to host a fun run at 8 a.m. Oct. 25. All participants can show their awareness of domestic violence by wearing purple. If possible, everyone is asked to bring some gently used linen (sheets, pillow cases, towels, blankets) as a donation for the Battered Women and Children's Shelter. This event is open to all Joint Base San Antonio Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 221-1234.

## Helping Us Grow Securely Playgroup

This interactive playgroup for parents and children up to age 5 meets 9-11 a.m. each Tuesday at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Middle School Teen Center. No registration is required. Call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

## CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### PROTESTANT SERVICES

#### Sundays

**Main Post (Gift) Chapel**  
Building 2200, 1605 Wilson Way  
8 and 11 a.m. - Traditional

**Dodd Field Chapel**  
Building 1721, 5584 Dodd Blvd.  
8:30 a.m. - Samoan  
10:30 a.m. - Gospel

**Army Medical Department Regimental Chapel**  
Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.

9:20 a.m. - 32nd Medical Brigade Contemporary Service  
11:01 - Contemporary "Crossroads"

**Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel**

Building 3600,  
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.  
10 a.m. - Traditional

### CATHOLIC SERVICES

#### Daily Mass

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel  
Building 3600,  
3551 Roger Brooke Rd.

11:05 a.m., Monday through Friday

**Main Post (Gift) Chapel**

Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way

*For worship opportunities of faith groups not listed here, please visit the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Chaplain's website at <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/jbsachapel/samhouston.asp>.*

11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday

#### Saturday

**Main Post (Gift) Chapel**  
4:45 p.m. - Reconciliation  
5:30 p.m. - Evening Mass

#### Sunday

8 a.m. - Morning Mass, AMEDD  
8:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC  
9:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, MPC  
11:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC  
12:30 p.m. - Afternoon Mass, DFC

### JEWISH SERVICES

8 p.m. - Jewish Worship,  
Friday, MPC  
8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat,  
Friday, MPC

### ISLAMIC SERVICE

1:15 p.m. - Jummah, Friday,  
AMEDD

### LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES

1 p.m. - LDS Worship, Sunday,  
AMEDD

### BUDDHIST SERVICES

1 p.m. - Buddhist Services,  
Sunday, AMEDD

## FORT SAM HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

### FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Scholastic Book Fair, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School library, 4351 Nursery Road.

11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. - Early release for parent conferences, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School, 4351 Nursery Road.

### SATURDAY

Boys' cross country meet, Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, Texas.

Girls' cross country meet, Comfort High School, 143 U.S. Highway 87, Comfort, Texas.

### MONDAY

8:30-11:30 a.m. - Fire Prevention Week, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School, 4351 Nursery Road.

3-4:30 p.m. - Fifth-grade science club, Room 32, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School, 4351 Nursery Road.

### TUESDAY

6-7:30 p.m. - Varsity Greg Tang Math Night, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School, 4351 Nursery Road.

### WEDNESDAY

10:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. - Hispanic Heritage Lunch, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School, 4351 Nursery Road.

### THURSDAY

5 p.m. - Seventh-grade football vs. Ingram Middle School, 510 Highway 39, Ingram, Texas.

6:30 p.m. - Eighth-grade football vs. Ingram Middle School, at Cole High School, 1900 Winans Road.