

# JBSA

# LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

NOVEMBER 24, 2017



PHOTO BY SEAN WORRELL

*Lt. Gen. Steven Kwast, commander of Air Education and Training Command, officially addresses the men and women of the First Command as their new commander during a change of command ceremony Nov. 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.*

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# Commentary

## In the wake of tragedy, love triumphs

By Elaine Sanchez  
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

I was shocked and horrified when I heard the news about the Sutherland Springs shooting on the TV screen mounted on the wall at the gym. The initial reports were varied and confusing, but there was no doubt that lives had been lost and many injured.

My cellphone blew up with calls. Still in workout clothes, I raced out of the gym and into work at Brooke Army Medical Center. As one of two hospitals in the city with the highest level of trauma care, I knew patients from the shooting would be on their way.

We received eight of the 20 injured victims that Sunday afternoon — six adults and two minors. The days that followed were filled with a torrential barrage of media calls and



ROBERT A. WHETSTONE

*A Brooke Army Medical Center trauma team examines a patient in the emergency department.*

condition requests. As I fielded calls, my heart broke as I watched the news: 26 people killed, including eight members of a family spanning three generations.

However, as is often the case after tragedy, I was inspired

and uplifted by our nation's outpouring of love and support for the victims and their families. With this tragedy so close to home, I was also privileged to witness an outpouring of support for our community's first responders and the staff

here at BAMC.

Last week, I received a call from a colleague at the Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center. Sunrise was the closest hospital to the Oct. 1 shooting at the Las Vegas Strip that left 58 people dead and 546 injured — the deadliest mass shooting by an individual in the U.S. The hospital received more than 200 victims.

My colleague told me the Sunrise hospital staff wanted to show their support to our hospital in the wake of this tragedy, dissimilar in scope but alike in a pain that can't be measured. She was mailing a banner, she said, signed by the hospital staff and intended for BAMC staff caring for Sutherland Springs victims and their families. I was touched by this thoughtful gift, as were my

LOVE TRIUMPHS continues on 5

## How I developed my leadership tree

By Tech. Sgt. Jaqualene Taylor  
ROBERT D. GAYLOR NCO ACADEMY

As long as I could remember, my father would use analogies to help me understand how to deal with life challenges. As I reflect today, I can hear his voice whispering, "Friends are like slow-growing trees."

At the time, I knew he was ensuring I understood how much time and energy went into building true friendships. As I get older, the meaning becomes clearer to me. This analogy has also benefitted my development of my leadership tree.

To have a strong tree, it needs to be properly nourished to grow. This happens by nurturing its branches, ensuring it has water and ample sunlight. Within my military career, I nurture my leadership



COURTESY PHOTO

*A strong leadership tree needs the five team leader concepts: self-awareness, values and principles, motivation, support, and a balanced life.*

LEADERSHIP continues on 5

### JBSA LEGACY

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# AETC welcomes new commander

By Staff Sgt. Chip Pons  
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of Air Education and Training Command gathered as the guidon was passed from Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson to Lt. Gen. Steven Kwast, signifying the formal transfer of authority and responsibility from one commander to another in a ceremony Nov. 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein presided over the ceremony and shared on his sincere appreciation for the men and women who recruit, train and educate every Airmen in the United States Air Force.

"To the Airmen and families of the First Command, I want to thank you for making it known across the globe that Airpower starts here in Air Education and Training Command," said Goldfein. "I believe we have only one lasting legacy as leaders: those we raise to replace us. If this is true, what an incredible legacy for this command that is responsible for raising the leaders our nation needs to fight and win in the most complex international environment we have seen since World War II.

"And with each passing of the guidon, we cement the historic legacy of an outgoing leader and introduce a new commander who will guide us into the future."

Speaking directly to Roberson, Goldfein praised his tireless efforts here at the First Command and highlighted some of the accomplishments during Roberson's tenure as commander.

In Roberson's farewell remarks, he took a moment to praise the Airmen of AETC.

"To the Airmen of AETC, two and a half years ago when we began this chapter together, we discussed four overarching focus areas: motivational mis-



SEAN WORRELL

*Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein (left), hands the guidon to Lt. Gen. Steven Kwast to officially signify his assumption of command of Air Education and Training Command Nov. 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.*

sion accomplishment, compassionate care of our Airmen and their families, innovation and leadership," Roberson said. "Throughout my command tour, you definitely delivered on all of these. I feel so fortunate to have been able to serve alongside some of the most innovative and bright minds throughout the Air Force. Every single Airmen goes through AETC so thank you for the impact you have had on so many people...this is where Airpower starts!"

Turning his attention to Kwast, who comes to JBSA-Randolph from Maxwell AFB, Alabama, where he was the president and commander of Air University, Goldfein challenged him with a drive for

continued excellence throughout the command.

"When it was time to select the new AETC commander, Gen. Steven Kwast was the obvious choice," Goldfein said. "In Kwast, we have an Airmen whose resume strikes a balance between combat warrior, intellectual and leader. And perhaps most importantly, he exudes humility, credibility and approachability. This is your next commander."

Taking the podium to officially address AETC Airmen for the first time, Kwast proudly announced his excitement for this next chapter in his career.

"The beauty of today and this celebration is that Air Education and Training Com-

mand was designed as the First Command for the Air Force," Kwast said. "Our forefathers recognized what it takes to remain relevant: humility and the desire to learn. And, that's what we do here in AETC. We teach the next generation of Airmen how to learn more rapidly than their adversaries. We teach them how to innovate more broadly across a series of networks to see more ideas. And, we teach them how to network and build trust with other human beings. This is the great promise of this command. This is why it is the First Command. This is why we are the most powerful guardian of our constitution."

Kwast ended the ceremony with a call to action for the

**"As we head into the future, here is your battle cry First Command Airmen: I want you to teach Airmen to be humble, noble, courageous and compassionate. Airmen who can outthink, outlearn, out innovate and out trust any adversary on planet earth."**

**Lt. Gen. Steven Kwast, commander of Air Education and Training Command**

men and women of the First Command.

"As we head into the future, here is your battle cry First Command Airmen: I want you to teach Airmen to be humble, noble, courageous and compassionate. Airmen who can outthink, outlearn, out innovate and out trust any adversary on planet earth."

"Words are cheap," he continued. "Bold, aggressive actions that bring forward productive movement is all that matters."

Kwast, a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, assumes command after spending the previous three years as president and commander of Air University. After completing a master's degree in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, he was assigned to undergraduate pilot training where he earned his pilot wings in June 1989. He has more than 3,300 flying hours, including more than 650 combat hours during operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Allied Force and Enduring Freedom.

# JBSA selected as satellite hub for backlogged security investigations

By Robert Goetz  
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio is at the forefront of a federal government initiative to reduce the number of backlogged personnel security investigations throughout the Air Force.

Starting the first week of December, JBSA will become a temporary National Background Investigations Bureau satellite hub. NBIB is an agency within the Office of Personnel Management that is responsible for performing background checks on federal personnel.

“The program will house approximately 40 NBIB investigators on JBSA for about 30 weeks to take a large step toward mitigating the enormous backlog of PSIs associated with getting a security clearance,” said Maj. Gen. Mark Anthony Brown, Air Education and Training Command deputy commander.

The San Antonio area has the largest number of investigative leads for Air Force members within the United States, Brown said.

“This is due to our training mission here and this location being the early

end of an Air Force experience for so many,” he said. “This presents a unique opportunity to be able to clear out a large number of leads in a short period of time, which will not only benefit AETC, but will benefit the entire Air Force.”

A majority of investigators will be at JBSA-Lackland because of the basic training and technical training missions there, said Michael Allshouse, AETC director of information protection.

“The initial plan is to have 30 investigators at JBSA-Lackland and 10 at JBSA-Randolph, but there will be flexibility to place them where they are needed,” he said.

NBIB investigators are scheduled to begin their work at JBSA-Lackland the first week of December, Allshouse said. Investigations at JBSA-Randolph will start after the holidays.

JBSA is the second installation to become a temporary NBIB hub. The first was Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, on Oct. 31. Other temporary NBIB hubs will be set up on installations with large numbers of backlogged personnel security investigations, esti-

**“This presents a unique opportunity to be able to clear out a large number of leads in a short period of time.”**

**Maj. Gen. Mark Anthony Brown,  
Air Education and Training Command  
deputy commander**

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mated at nearly 90,000 throughout the Air Force.

JBSA is considered the “hottest red spot” for backlogged investigations in the Air Force because of missions such as basic military training and technical training at JBSA-Lackland, Allshouse said.

“There are about 8,000 investigative leads at any given time in the San Antonio area,” he said.

JBSA will provide office space and support items for investigators as well as a pool of people to help schedule interviews, Allshouse said.

Service members and civilians who will be interviewed will be notified via the Education and Training Manage-

ment System to schedule an appointment with an NBIB special agent. When they receive the notification, they will have 48 hours to schedule an appointment in ETMS.

Interviewees are asked to bring their common access card, passport and other items to the interview to expedite the process. The other items are financial information related to financial delinquencies or issues, a cellphone or address book with contact information for personnel contact sources and copies of any of their Standard Form 86 Certifications.

One of the advantages of setting up hubs is that investigators will not have to travel to conduct interviews, Allshouse said.

“The individual will come to the investigator for the interview rather than the investigator going to where the individual is,” he said.

The pilot hub at Wright-Patterson tests the approach of a more deliberate scheduling combined with interviews being performed at a single location, with the goal of reducing the time investigators spend on traveling and tracking down interviewees.

# LOVE TRIUMPHS

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leaders. We plan to display it a week at a time in each ward where patients have been treated.

Another call came from Capts. John Arroyo and Katie Blanchard, who asked to speak with the recovering victims. As survivors of unspeakable violence, both can relate to the journey that lies ahead for these patients and their families.

In 2014, a fellow Soldier walked up to Arroyo in a parking lot at Fort Hood, Texas, and shot him at close range in the neck. The shooter killed three Soldiers and wounded 14 others. Blanchard had been doused in gasoline and her face lit on fire by a former employee at her post in Kansas in 2016.

They are still recovering, and perhaps struggling to understand what led to those attacks, yet both feel compelled to share a message of hope.

Perhaps the most touching conversation I've had this week was with the charge nurse who was on duty that Sunday afternoon when we received eight of the 20 wounded from the shooting.

Air Force Maj. Belinda Kelley took the initial call that patients from a mass

shooting were on their way. The staff sprang into action, opening up 15 trauma bays to accommodate a larger number of patients.

More than two dozen trauma surgeons heard the news and showed up to work, not to observe, but to assist. This was a number more than matched by nurses, medics, pharmacists and countless other staff members.

Kelley coordinated the teams and ensured everything needed was on hand. Later that evening the gravity of the events struck her.

"As a nurse, this is a very emotional place," she said, her eyes filling with tears, "especially when I pick up the phone and someone is looking for a loved one."

"If I walk out of here and can't cry, then I can't come back," she said, "because that means I don't care anymore. Caring is what I do."

Sadly, there are some who will always seek to cause tremendous harm and pain. But, there are countless others, like the Sunrise Hospital staff, whose abundant acts of love will always triumph over unfathomable hate.

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*Note: BAMC continues to care for five victims of the shooting. Three have been discharged.*

# LEADERSHIP

From page 2

skill set with five team leader concepts: self-awareness, values and principles, motivation, support, and a balanced life. These concepts help me ensure I am able to effectively take care of the mission as well as the people I lead.

As an enlisted professional military educator, I teach a concept termed "team leader." A team leader guides the most productive teams by showing concern for both the mission and relationship built with their teammates, while at the same time fostering a team environment and encouraging them to reach goals.

In class I share my story of how growing up as a military brat of two Marine Corps parents developed my discipline and structure standards. The end result is that personal feelings are not considered when I complete mission requirements.

Just recently I realized my slow growing tree lacked the proper skill sets to turn a group into a team. It was clear just as strong trees need nurturing, sun, and water, my slow growing "leadership" tree needed the five team leader concepts. It was important for me to develop these leadership concepts to

grow as a leader.

First, I had to apply self-awareness to know and understand my own strengths and weaknesses.

Second, I had to display high values and principles to uphold ethical standards.

Third, I had to personally to be motivated to motivate others.

Fourth, I had to be ready to receive support from family, friends, leaders, mentors, peers, and subordinates.

Lastly, I had to balance my life to have equal balance in my personal life and professional career.

As an instructor, my focus is teaching leadership concepts that help Airmen lead in our Air Force. It's important I know how to nourish my own tree before I can teach someone how to grow their own.

Understanding this realization is a lesson in itself. It taught me being a team leader is a lot of work and needs to be managed properly with the five team leader concepts.

Applying my dad's analogy to my current situation did not diminish his intent but refined my perspective. I learned that leadership is like a slow growing tree, and when properly nourished can create a strong and effective leader.

# Federal Benefits Open Season runs through Dec. 11

**By Kat Bailey**  
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

This year's Federal Benefits Open Season runs from Nov. 13 through Dec. 11, 2017, and includes the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program and the Federal Flexible Spending Account program.

Open Season gives federal employees and retirees the opportunity to review the 2018 rates and benefits and enroll in or change their health care coverage within the open season dates on the new Government Retirement Benefits platform. Employees also have the opportunity to select supplemental dental and vision coverage as well as elect to partici-

pate in a tax-deferred Flexible Spending Account for health care and dependent care.

The Office of Personnel Management announced earlier this year that the overall average increase in total premiums for the 2018 FEHB program would rise by an average of four percent.

OPM encouraged all insurance carriers to evaluate their health plan options to find ways to improve affordability, reduce costs and improve the quality of care and the health of the enrolled population.

Negotiations were geared to keep premium increases as low as possible while minimizing changes in out-of-pocket costs, such as for deductibles, co-pays and coinsurance.

OPM encourages all employees to review their coverage



during Open Season to decide what coverage and premiums best suit their needs for the upcoming year.

Enrollment for FSAFEDS does not automatically continue from year to year. Employees need to re-enroll every

year to participate and can submit their enrollments directly through the FSAFEDS website at <https://www.fsafeds.com/>.

Open Season is the only time to enroll, change enrollment or cancel coverage unless

an employee has a qualifying life event. Open Season enrollments or changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2018, for FEDVIP and Jan. 7, 2018 for all other benefits, and will reflect on the pay period ending Jan. 20, 2018.

Detailed information regarding Open Season, including a plan comparison tool, can be found on the OPM website at <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season/>.

Established in 1960, the FEHB Program is the largest employer-sponsored health benefits program in the U.S., providing health care benefits for about 8.3 million employees, retirees and family members. Approximately 85 percent of all Federal employees participate in the program.

# Keep safety in mind in seasonal, holiday plans

**By Darlene Y. Cowser**  
AIR FORCE SAFETY CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Temperature changes, shorter daylight hours, increased travel and emotional overload are hallmarks of the fall, winter and holiday seasons that safety officials say result in preventable mishaps.

"It's as simple as taking the same safety practices and procedures we use on duty and applying them to our off-duty activities," said Maj. Gen. John T. Rauch, Air Force Chief of Safety. Every Airman should maintain a safety culture, he said, from following the fundamentals on duty to using sound risk management and making smart decisions off duty.

"I urge every Airman — uniformed and civilian — to take the time to thoroughly think through your holiday plans and use sound risk management when traveling and participating in the seasonal and holiday activities," Rauch said.

Occupational safety experts at the Air Force Safety Center track mishaps through the fall-winter-holiday period from the Monday preceding Thanksgiving Day to the day after New Year's Day. Mishaps for those periods over the

**"I urge every Airman to take the time to thoroughly think through your holiday plans and use sound risk management."**

**Maj. Gen. John T. Rauch,**  
**Air Force Chief of Safety**

past five fiscal years resulted in 25 serious off-duty mishaps; 20 deaths, one permanent total disability and four permanent partial disabilities. Motor vehicle mishaps made up the majority with 15, followed by sports, recreation and individual fitness with five.

"While we know that one fatal mishap is too many, it's especially disheartening when we see that most of these mishaps were preventable," said Bill Parsons, Air Force chief of occupational safety. "If every Airman commits to making risk management part of every activity — on duty and off duty — I'm convinced there will be more Airmen who return to duty after the holidays with great memories and stories to share."

While most serious off-duty mishaps involve motor vehicle operation, safety experts agree that potential dangers in the home and in recreational activities must also be managed effectively to save lives and reduce serious injuries.

All Airmen and their families can use the following safety checklists to keep seasonal and holiday travels, celebrations and activities safe.

For your home:

- » Supply of flashlights, batteries and blankets
- » Salt or sand for treacherous sidewalks and driveways
- » Safe, radiant space heater (no open coils)
- » Supply of medications and food
- » Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

For your car:

- » Check fluid levels, service belts and hoses
- » Ensure heater and defroster are working
- » Check tire pressure and tread
- » Check brakes within the last 5,000 miles
- » Test turn signals, brake and headlights, and four-way hazard lights
- » Change cracked or worn windshield wiper blades
- » Stock emergency kit (blankets, flash-

lights, water, energy bars, warning triangles, first aid kit, etc.)

While driving:

- » Driving and texting make a lethal combination; don't let your next text be your last
- » Alcohol and driving ... don't do it
- » Plan your outing ... know the area and pack accordingly
- » Slow down ... enjoy the drive
- » Get a good night's sleep and take frequent rest stops

If stranded on the roadway:

- » Stay calm; get your vehicle as far off the road as safely possible; turn on emergency flashers
- » Call or text roadside assistance or 911; keep windows and doors locked until help arrives
- » Make your vehicle visible; open the hood or tie a brightly colored object to the antenna
- » Remain in the vehicle unless help is visible within 100 yards; don't risk exposure
- » Run engine periodically to keep the vehicle warm; ensure car exhaust pipe is clear of snow that could block the discharge; crack a window to avoid carbon monoxide buildup
- » Move fingers, toes and change seated position frequently to avoid frostbite



# Take command: Enroll now for 2018 TRICARE coverage

## From TRICARE Communications

On Jan. 1, 2018, there are a number of changes coming to your TRICARE benefit. This includes a change to the current TRICARE regions. The current three regions (North, South and West) will become two regions (East and West). There will be new regional contractors for the new East and West regions.

Humana Military will manage the East Region and Health Net Federal Services, LLC will manage the West Region. In preparation for this change, enrollments in TRICARE health plans will be delayed while beneficiary files are transferred to the incoming regional contractors.

The delay period, or an enrollment freeze, will begin Dec. 1 and last approximately three weeks, or until the data transfer is complete.

"You'll still have access to care during the enrollment freeze," said Mark Ellis, senior health program analyst for TRICARE at the Defense Health Agency. "However, if you wish to make changes to your TRICARE coverage, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible."

If you would like to switch to a different TRICARE health plan, or enroll in a plan for the first time, take action before Nov. 20, 2017. You can enroll in certain TRICARE plans online, by phone or by mail. Learn about how to enroll in or purchase a health plan on the TRICARE website.

You don't have to enroll in TRICARE Select if you're a TRICARE Standard beneficiary as of Nov. 30, 2017. You'll be automatically converted to TRICARE Select on Jan. 1, 2018, as long as you're registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligi-

**"If you wish to make changes to your TRICARE coverage, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible."**

Mark Ellis, TRICARE senior health program analyst

bility Reporting System (DEERS) and are eligible for TRICARE. Learn more about TRICARE Select, which replaces TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra next year.

Beginning Nov. 20, 2017, you will not be able to use the Beneficiary Web Enrollment (BWE) website to enroll in or disenroll from TRICARE Prime options and select or change primary care managers. Additionally, eligible beneficiaries will not be able to use BWE to enroll in TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) or TRICARE dental options.

While the BWE website is

unavailable, regional contractors will accept enrollment applications through other communications channels (for example, phone and mail). Regional contractors will process these applications once the freeze is complete. Visit [www.tricare.mil/changes/enroll](http://www.tricare.mil/changes/enroll) to find instructions on how to submit TRICARE enrollment forms during the enrollment freeze.

You'll still have access to care during the enrollment freeze. Save your pharmacy and other health care receipts while your enrollment is pending, so that you can get reimbursed for

TRICARE covered expenses once the freeze is complete and your enrollment is processed. If you have a problem accessing care while your enrollment is pending, contact your regional contractor. If you have a problem getting your medications while your enrollment is pending, contact Express Scripts.

## This is Your Benefit! Are You Ready?

- ▶ Take command of your health care and prepare for the upcoming changes to TRICARE:
- ▶ Update your personal information in DEERS
- ▶ Make sure you have a current DS Logon
- ▶ Sign up for eCorrespondence in milConnect
- ▶ Sign up for TRICARE benefit updates

For more information, visit [www.tricare.mil/changes](http://www.tricare.mil/changes). And follow TRICARE on Facebook and Twitter.

# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## BAMC trauma chief praises response to tragedy

First responders, partnership within the city led to an effective response

By Elaine Sanchez  
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The community teamwork and medical response the afternoon of the Sutherland Springs shooting was “extremely heartwarming,” noted Army Col. (Dr.) Kurt Edwards, Brooke Army Medical Center’s trauma chief.

“When people heard about the shooting, we didn’t have to do a recall, people came in immediately and pitched in ... not to watch but to help,” he said.

Edwards received patients and directed care that night.

“We ended up with more medical staff in the operating rooms, emergency department and ICUs [intensive care units] than we needed,” he said.

BAMC received eight vic-

tims — six adults and two minors — from the mass shooting Nov. 5 in the small community church in Sutherland Springs, about 30 miles east of San Antonio. One adult patient was discharged last week.

Air Force Maj. Belinda Kelley, the shift leader that night in the ER, received the initial call. “We were told we were possibly getting quite a few patients after a shooting at a church,” Kelley recalled. “We weren’t sure how many were coming here, but were told there were potentially 30 shot.” Kelley later learned that 26 people had been killed and 20 injured that Sunday afternoon.

The situation was well controlled at BAMC, Edwards noted. “We had about a 30-minute warning. We started prepping for any eventuality to ensure adequate coverage. We opened up 15 trauma bays in preparation.”

BAMC received four patients at first, then an additional four not long after. “It was



ROBERT SHIELDS

*Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson (right), Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general, addresses members of the media Nov. 6 during a press conference about the victims of the mass shooting in Sutherland Springs.*

disheartening to see that the injuries were not dissimilar to those in combat,” said Edwards, who has deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan. “To see people who had been sitting in a church having similar injuries to those in a combat zone ... not something you want to see.”

The remaining patients’ conditions range from good to

critical. “They are all getting better,” Edwards noted.

Edwards praised the first responders and the trauma partnership within the city that led to an effective response. BAMC and University Health System are the only Level I trauma centers in the San Antonio region, caring for civilian trauma patients over a 23,000 square-mile radius. On

average, BAMC cares for 3,000 trauma patients each year.

“Both BAMC and University provide the highest level of trauma care together and we do it every day,” he noted. “It’s an amazing partnership, especially when we are working together to care for people after a devastating tragedy.”

“The staff response has been professional, efficient and caring,” said Army Col. Michael Ludwig, Deputy Commander for Inpatient Services. “I could not be more proud of the staff — everyone from housekeeping to the technicians to our senior leaders.”

Kelley said she’s proud to work at the military’s only Level I trauma center.

“As a nurse it’s a very emotional place,” she said, “especially when I pick up the phone and someone is looking for a loved one.

“If I walk out of here and can’t cry then I can’t come back,” she said, “because that means I don’t care anymore. Caring is what I do.”

## Conference of American Armies cycle closes, transfers to DR

By Master Sgt. Christina Bhatti  
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 32nd Cycle of the Conference of American Armies ended Nov. 9 after a three-day conference in Washington, D.C.

The conference was hosted by Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gen. Mark A. Milley and attended by 20 member nations, five observer nations and two international organization members.

This conference was the culmination of a two-year cycle which the U.S., as the executive secretary for this cycle, was in the lead to plan and ensure execution of the five specialized conferences, a communications high-fre-

quency exercise and an interagency exercise, as well as the final conference and transfer of duties to the Dominican Republic.

“The purpose of the organization is to cement the relationships among the armies of the Americas,” said Col. Jose “Tony” Espinosa, executive secretary for the Permanent Executive Secretariat for the Conference of American Armies.

CAA was started in the 1960’s to halt the spread of communism, said Espinosa, but has grown and matured into an organization whose purpose is to conduct analysis, debate and exchange ideas and experience related to matters of mutual interest on the field of de-

fense.

The success of the organization is highlighted in the “absence of large-scale ground conflict in the hemisphere,” said Milley. Milley went on to praise the members of CAA on their ability to maintain peace and tackle issues of mutual interest as a team.

“It’s so important to get heads of militaries together to discuss common issues; to talk openly and earnestly about issues; to work together to cement relationships,” Espinosa said.

This year’s cycle theme was “military support to interagency operations,” and all activities centered around this idea. At the conclusion of the conference, leaders validated the past two year’s

events and prepared the task and order for the next cycle, Espinosa said. The theme will remain the same for the next two years and will be expanded to include a deeper look into the Soldiers’ role in interagency operations.

A unanimous vote punctuated this culminating event to induct two new member nations, Barbados and Jamaica into the nearly 60-year old organization.

Dominican Republic Army deputy commander Brig. Gen. Pedro Pablo Hurtado Cabreja took over as the executive secretary for next year and said he was excited to take on this task and ensure the CAA continues to bring nations together.



# Sailors talk STEM careers to local students

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sailors from Navy Recruiting District San Antonio spoke to schoolchildren about STEM-related careers and put on scientific demonstrations during the 8th Annual San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce CORE4 STEM Expo at the Freeman Expo Hall in San Antonio Nov. 7-8.

NRD San Antonio was one of 38 participants, including government agencies, school districts, higher education institutions, organizations and companies at the expo, which was attended by approximately 2,500 seventh- and eighth-graders from 20-plus school campuses in the San Antonio area.

The objective of the expo was to get schoolchildren interested in exploring future careers in STEM, or science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Petty Officer 1st Class Ian MacKay, NRD San Antonio nuclear field coordinator for South Texas, said he talked to the middle school students about the STEM career fields in the Navy.

"STEM is really the way the nation is moving both in the civilian community and the military community," MacKay said. "Every year we are becoming much more of a professional and technological service. So coming out here and talking to kids at an early age is beneficial for their development and their future plans."

Schoolchildren who visited the NRD San Antonio exhibit area also learned about how nuclear propulsion is used to power Navy aircraft carriers and submarines.

In addition, NRD San Antonio officers put on demonstrations of the launching of a plastic bottle rocket, held outside the expo hall, and of a battery that had magnets and copper wire attached to it, which produced an electromagnetic force that rotated the copper wire around the battery.

"They're a couple of fun demonstrations, very simple ones that show some of the basic principles for physics and engineering," MacKay said.

Martin Lucio, athletic coach and physical education teacher at C.C. Ball



DAVID DEKUNDERZ

*Petty Officer 1st Class Ian MacKay (right), Navy Recruiting District San Antonio nuclear field coordinator for South Texas, conducts an experiment at the 8th Annual San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce CORE4 STEM Expo Nov. 8 at the Freeman Expo Hall.*

Academy, said the Navy officers who spoke to his group of students gave them knowledgeable information about

STEM careers.

"It's great information as far as what direction they want to go with their education," Lucio said.

Julia Renner, a counselor at Lowell Middle School, said she and her students learned new things about STEM-related careers in the Navy and about nuclear propulsion.

"I didn't understand before how much nuclear power was involved in everything that they did and how much energy that it provided for the aircraft carriers and the submarines," Renner said.

MacKay said the students were very engaged in the discussions and demonstrations put on by NRD San Antonio about STEM topics.

"They are asking great questions," MacKay said. "It seems like it's a field that they are interested in, which is good for all of us."

Based at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, the mission of NRD San Antonio is to recruit highly qualified officer candidates and enlisted future Sailors covering an area of 120,000 square miles.

# Foulois House reopens with major renovations

By David DeKunder  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Foulois House at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston has reopened its doors to distinguished visitors and military dignitaries after a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 15 that marked the completion of renovations to the historic building and lodge.

Participating in the ribbon cutting were Col. David Raugh, 502nd Force Support Group commander at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, and representatives from Lendlease, the company that owns the Foulois House and oversaw the house's renovation.

The Foulois House is operated and managed by InterContinental Hotels Group, or IHG, and IHG Army Hotels, both private-sector companies, and provides lodging services for military officers, government travelers and dignitaries visiting JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Renovations to the historic house, which was constructed in 1908 as the Bachelor Officers' Quarters on Fort Sam Houston, include improvements to its 13 guest suites and bathrooms, a new air conditioning and heating system, new electrical wiring, new light fixtures and structural repairs.

The Foulois House was closed to visitors for more than a year while undergoing renovations.

Raugh complemented the work of Lendlease, IHG and IHG Army Hotels for their work in renovating the historic house.

"I love that they have managed to keep so much of the historical woodwork, the glasswork, the flooring and things like that," Raugh said. "They have managed to save all that, restore it fully and then add modern amenities to the whole process. It makes the whole thing look absolutely classy."

The 109-year-old house is

named for Lt. Benjamin Foulois, an Army aviator who completed the first military flight in Army Aircraft No. 1 at Fort Sam Houston on March 2, 1910. Starting in 1968, the house became the Visiting Officer Quarters and in 1977 was designated as the Distinguished Visitor Quarters for touring dignitaries.

On March 2, 1981, the house was dedicated and renamed for Foulois, 71 years to the day after he made history by completing the first military flight at Fort Sam Houston.

The Foulois House is part of the IHG Army Hotel's Historia Collection, which helps to preserve historic structures on Army installations across the U.S., and the Privatization of Army Lodging, or PAL, program, which includes more than 12,000 rooms across 40 Army installations. As part of the PAL program, over \$1 billion will be invested to improve existing hotels and build new hotels.

Raugh said the partnership between the Army and Lendlease and IHG Army Hotels, which began in 2009, has helped to preserve historic structures on Army installations while providing high quality services and amenities for guests.

"IHG has been able to really look out and over several years reinvest in these facilities and installations and do things like modernize," Raugh said.

"What that does is it dramatically decreases the overhead that the Army has to pay for upkeep of these installations and allows them to just come up with some absolutely beautiful facilities that we're looking at right now."

Keith Scruggs, Lendlease senior development manager, said the cost of the renovations to the Foulois House is at least \$3 million, all of which were covered by Lendlease.

Scruggs said the renovations to the house took over a year to complete because contrac-



PHOTOS BY NELSON JAMES

Participating in the ribbon cutting were Col. David Raugh (center), 502nd Force Support Group commander at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, and representatives from Lendlease, the company that owns the Foulois House and oversaw the building's renovation.

tors working for Lendlease came upon several structural and environmental issues that needed to be addressed and fixed.

"When you get into these historic renovations, a lot of times you come across things you didn't know where there and you have to correct those," Scruggs said.

Structural work and repairs included replacing and putting in new wood beams in the house's attic, which potentially had termites or had deteriorated, and repairing or replacing rock that was cracked or crumbling on the sides of the front porch.

The new air conditioning and heating system will provide better comfort for guests who are staying at the Foulois House, replacing the old system which was not working properly and was inefficient, Scruggs said.

"It's a high-efficiency system that is going to work very well, plus perform cost efficiently as well," Scruggs said. "By putting a new (air conditioning and heating system) in, it's going to obviously make them (guests) more comfortable."

Upgrades in the bedroom suites include king-sized beds,



The cost of the renovations to the Foulois House is at least \$3 million, all of which was covered by Lendlease.

replacing queen-sized ones, a living room in each suite that has a TV, and redone bathrooms that are user friendly with new fixtures.

Scruggs said a lot of the woodwork in the house was in great shape, but the stain in it had faded over the years. He said workers refinished and spruced up the wood, replaced carpeting, painted walls and took out lead-based paint.

In addition, the walls of the Foulois House are lined with copies of photos and prints of its namesake that were provided by the Fort Sam Houston Museum. The photos and

prints portray moments in Foulois' 37-year military career, including the first military flight at Fort Sam Houston.

"Our goal is to improve the experience of the service members, government travelers and all guests who make their way to Fort Sam Houston," Scruggs said. "In keeping with our goal, we have renovated the Foulois House."

In late November or early December, plans are for renovations to start on the Sam Houston House, another lodging facility operated by IHG Army Hotels at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.





# Joint Base San Antonio FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

## Monthly Events

## December

### Bowling

#### Bowl with the Grinch

The Grinch comes out of seclusion Dec. 9, noon to 2 p.m. at the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center. Children, 18 years and younger, bowl one game, take a photo with the Grinch and get a doughnut and milk. The cost is \$3 per person. For more information, call 210-671-1234.

#### Bowl with Santa and the Grinch

The JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center hosts Santa and the Grinch Dec. 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person and includes two games of bowling with rental shoes and a goodie bag for the children. Photo opportunities are only available 9-10 a.m. for \$6. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

#### Christmas Eve Day bowling special offered

Join JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Dec. 24, noon to 4 p.m. The special bowling rate is \$1.50 per game, per person with \$2.50 shoe rental or take advantage of the "Rent-a-Lane" special. This special includes two hours of bowling, shoe rental, a 20-ounce soda each and a large pizza and costs \$50. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

#### AETC Family Day brings a bowling special

Join JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Dec. 26, 1-8 p.m., for Cosmic Bowling with the special bowling rate of \$2.75 per game, per person with \$2.50 shoe rental or take advantage of the "Rent-a-Lane" special. This special includes two hours of bowling, shoe rental, a 20-ounce soda each and a large pizza and costs \$50. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

#### Military Bowling Championship Tune-Up Tournament

The JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center hosts the Military Bowling Championship Tune-Up Tournament Dec. 27, 6 p.m. The tournament is a four-game scratch singles format on the Las Vegas Military Championship oil pattern. Cost is \$50 and prizes are given based on the number of entries. To sign up, call 210-652-6271.

#### New Year's Eve Celebration

Celebrate the end of the old year and the beginning of the New Year at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Dec. 31, 8 p.m., for an adults'-only party. Patrons enjoy three games of Colorama in Cosmic with cash prizes. The cost is \$35 per person and includes a complimentary glass of Champagne for each person to toast in 2018 with breakfast served afterwards. Reservations are accepted beginning Dec. 1. There is limited space so make reservations early. The Bowling Center is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for cosmic bowling for \$2.75 per person, per game and \$2.50 shoe rental. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

#### Lunch is combined with bowling

Stop by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., for a lunch special and a friendly bowling competition. Games and rental shoes are \$1.50 each. For more information, call 210-221-3683.

### Clubs

#### Holiday Meals to Go

Save some time during the hustle and bustle of the holidays by taking advantage of the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club Holiday Meals-To-Go through Dec. 16. The price for a roast turkey, 12-14 pounds, or glazed Virginia pit ham, 9-11 pounds, is \$50 for members or \$55 for nonmembers. Save even more time by ordering an entire meal. Roast turkey meals are \$80 for members or \$85 for nonmembers and ham meals are \$90 members or \$95 nonmembers. Sides include cornbread dressing, whipped potatoes with gravy, sweet potatoes, corn O'Brien, green beans almandine, cranberry chutney and apple pie. Orders must be placed at least two days in advance. Please add \$15 per order to pick up freshly prepared hot meals specifying at the time of order. The last day to order is Dec. 14 for a Dec. 16 pick up. No coupons accepted. To place orders and arrange for pick up, call 210-645-7034.

#### Sky Lounge hosts live entertainment

Stop by the Sky Lounge in the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club for musical entertainment provided by the Tobias Band Dec. 1, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres 6-7 p.m. Admission is \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

#### Nightlife entertainment offered at the club

Join the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club for entertainment throughout December.

DJs spin favorite tunes at Variety Night, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., in the Lone Star Lounge. DJs include DJ Rock on Dec. 1, DJ Tony Style on Dec. 8 and DJ LJU Dec. 15. Relax in the lounge or enjoy the cooler weather out on the patio with pool tables and big screen televisions.

Sing and enjoy entertainment at Karaoke Night in the Lone Star Lounge featuring DJ Dee Dee Dec. 2, 8 p.m. to midnight. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

#### Club hosts bingo events

Bingo takes place every Sunday at 3 p.m. and Monday through Thursday at 7 p.m., at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club in the ballroom. Participants must be a club member to play.

Join the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club for Bingo Extravaganza Dec. 4 and 18 with \$15,000 in total jackpots,

a complimentary buffet at 5:30 p.m. and Early Bird bingo at 6 p.m. Members receive one ticket to the complimentary buffet with the purchase of a bingo machine.

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club hosts Kiddie Bingo with Santa Dec. 10, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children, 12 years and younger, play for free with door prizes awarded. Five games of bingo are played. There is a complimentary buffet for children, 12 years and younger, with chicken tenders, macaroni and cheese, cookies and fruit punch. The adults can order items from the Gil's Pub Grill menu. This event is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders.

Birthday Bingo is held Dec. 12 at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club. Birthday members receive one free machine, cake and fun. This event is for Randolph club members only and an ID card is required.

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club hosts Bingo Appreciation Dec. 14, 5 p.m., with a complimentary dinner. The dinner consists of roast turkey, honey glazed ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, chef's choice of vegetables and assorted desserts. Come early since this party fills up quickly. Door prizes are drawn throughout the night. Participants must be a club member with an active membership and have proof of bingo packages or cards purchased or a ticket to receive the complimentary meal. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

#### December birthdays are celebrated with a buffet

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club offers a complimentary buffet every month for members with birthdays in that month. Members with December birthdays are honored Dec. 6, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The buffet includes salad, two vegetables, two starches, two entrées, soup and birthday cake. This is free for birthday members. Cost is \$10 for members without a birthday in December, \$5 for members' children, 6-12 years, \$12 for nonmembers and \$6 for nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children 5 years and younger eat for free. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

#### Holiday Lunch Buffet

Join the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club for a holiday lunch buffet Dec. 7, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., for \$11.95 per person. The all-you-can-eat buffet includes roasted turkey with stuffing and cranberry chutney, glazed ham, fried and herb-baked chicken, pork chops Marsala, baked tilapia with lemon dill, whipped potatoes with brown and giblet gravy, four cheese macaroni, yams with marshmallows, green beans with red peppers, glazed baby carrots, Waldorf salad, fresh fruit, holiday slaw, freshly



# JBSA FSS

baked rolls and a soup and salad bar. Desserts include Christmas cakes and cookies, green velvet cake, pumpkin pie, apple cobbler, bread pudding and candy canes. For information, call 210-645-7034.

## Guests fly into the Auger

Join the party at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Auger Inn for "old school" camaraderie, free light refreshments and great music Dec. 15, 5 p.m. Meet neighbors, folks from other squadrons and leadership. There is no cover to join the fun. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

## Brunch with Santa

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club hosts brunch with Santa Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Santa is available for photos and has candy canes for children. All children are invited to enter for prize drawings. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

## Clubs offer New Year's Eve Celebrations

Celebrate New Year's Eve at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club's Lone Star Lounge with DJ DeeDee and karaoke. Hang out with friends and sing favorite tunes. Customers can order from the bar menu from 7 p.m. to midnight. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

Ring in 2018 at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club. Doors to the International Ballroom open at 6:30 p.m. The main dinner buffet is offered from 7:30-9 p.m., followed by a dessert bar from 9-10:30 p.m. and a glass of champagne at midnight to ring in the New Year. This celebration costs \$90 per person for club members or \$100 per person for nonmembers or guests and includes an all-you-can-eat breakfast served at midnight. Cash bars are available throughout the evening. The recommended dress for this event is cocktail attire. Lodging reservations may be made at the same time as party reservations. The cost for lodging is \$60 for a standard room and transportation is provided to and from the club. JBSA-Randolph club members may make reservations now to choose a table and make a payment. All others may make reservations starting Dec. 6. Prepayments are required and refunds are not issued after Dec. 20. Coupons, club bucks or gift certificates are not accepted as payment for this event. This event is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

## Community Programs

### The Harlequin Theatre puts on a show

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Harlequin Theatre shows "Hometown Holidays" by award-winning creator and director Shawn Kjos Dec. 1-23. This holiday season, Kjos invites patrons to join the Harlequin's Yuletide tradition and recapture the Christmas spirit. Bring the entire family and relive memories of Christmas. This show is sponsored by Security Services Federal Credit Union. No Federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Make reservations today. Group rates are available. For more information, call 210-222-9694.

### Harlequin theatre hosts casting calls

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Harlequin Theatre always welcomes new talent either behind the stage or on it. Actors

are asked to do a brief monologue, one to three minutes, as well as a cold read from the current script. Anyone with knowledge of lighting or sound is welcome to join. The Harlequin relies on the talents of volunteers. Please call to schedule a date and time. For more information, call 210-222-9694.

## Equestrian Center

### Horseback riding lessons offered

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers horseback riding lessons for beginners and advance riders in both English and Western-style riding. Therapeutic riding lessons are also available and taught by certified instructors. Horses, saddles and tack for lessons are provided if needed. Patrons must be at least 7 years old. The cost is \$60 per hour for a private lesson, \$175 for five group lessons, \$225 for five semi-private lessons and \$250 for five private lessons. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

### Trail Rides are for all ages

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers trail rides for patrons 7 years and older for \$30. Departures are at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays by appointment only. No experience is required. Adults must accompany children under 13 years. Riders must be at least 4 feet, 6 inches tall and weigh no more than 200 pounds. Call to make reservations. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

### Pony rides available

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers parent-led pony rides Saturdays and Sundays for patrons 6 years and younger for \$10. Adults must accompany children and availability is on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

## Fitness

### Participants join Spin-A-Thon

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center hosts a Spin-A-Thon Dec. 2, 9 a.m. During this two-hour event, participants focus on endurance and strength through intervals of high intensity and recovery on a stationary exercise bicycle. This is a free event open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. Seating is limited. For more information, call 210-221-1234.

### Indoor Marathon

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center hosts an Indoor Marathon Dec. 4-8. This marathon, where participants try to complete 26.2 miles running or walking within one week, is a self-monitored program based on the honor system. Participants can pick up cards to log mileage at the front desk. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Fitness Center events are open to all valid Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 210-652-7263.

### Holiday 10-Mile Bike Ride

Join the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center for a Holiday 10-mile bike ride Dec. 16, 8 a.m., at Eberle Park. All bikers are welcomed to come and cycle those holiday calories away and challenge themselves to stay in shape. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Fitness Center events are open to all valid Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 210-652-7263.

### Participants run in ugly holiday sweaters

The Fitness Center on the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Medical Education and Training Campus hosts an Ugly



**Holiday Sweater Run** Dec. 16, 9 a.m., at the Aquatic Center parking lot. Participants wear their best ugly holiday sweater and enter a drawing to win prizes. This event is free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders, family and guests. Pets are also invited. For more information, call 210-808-5709.

#### Alpha Warrior Rig

The Alpha Warrior Rig is set up at the JBSA-Lackland Medina Fitness Center in the basketball court area. This is a state-of-the-art fitness apparatus called Battle Rigs and Stations and provides a new and exciting way to work out and build unit cohesion. The multi-station devices enhance functional fitness training in individuals and teams. The Air Force Alpha Warrior Program incorporates the four pillars of Comprehensive Airmen Fitness to achieve resiliency at home and down range. The rig is open to individuals who are seeking an advanced level of fitness and confidence. For more information, call 210-671-4525.

#### Golf

##### Golfers compete in a scramble

Golfers are invited to play in the monthly JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Warrior Four-Person Scramble Dec. 1, with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$25 for active duty, retired military and members and \$35 for guests. The fee includes green fee, golf cart, prize money and a social after the round. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

##### Holiday sale offered

Stop by the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course Dec. 16-17, to get 10 percent off all in stock merchandise. Some exclusions apply. Spend \$150 and get entered to win free annual green fees from April 1, 2018 to March 3, 2019. For more information, call 210-671-3466.

#### Information, Tickets and Travel

##### Ninth Annual Hill Country Holiday Lighting Tour

The JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel is selling tickets for their ninth annual Hill Country Holiday Lighting Tour Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The tour starts with shopping or dining in Fredericksburg. In Burnet, walk through the village of "Bethlehem" and afterwards walk a block to Burnet's town square for "Christmas On Main." In Marble Falls, stroll through the "Walk Way of Lights" featuring over two million holiday lights. The day winds up back at JBSA-Lackland around 11 p.m. The cost is \$37 per person and covers transportation only. There is no additional fee for Bethlehem or Walkway of Lights. This tour sells out every year, so buy seats now. For more information, call 210-671-3059.

##### Moscow Ballet tickets available

The Majestic Theatre hosts the annual Moscow Ballet performing the Russian Nutcracker Dec. 26-27. Enjoy this show with discounted tickets from JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel. Prices range from \$30.25 to \$82.75 with no extra fees or hidden costs. For more information, call 210-671-3059.

##### Kinder Casino trips

Travel to the Grand Casino Coshatta in Kinder, La., with the JBSA-Randolph Information, Tickets and Travel. The trip includes round-trip motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, a \$23 voucher from the casino and friendly service from the bus driver. The bus departs at 7:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 9 p.m. the next day. Cost is \$65 for double occupancy or \$130 for single occupancy. The 2018 trip schedule is Jan. 9-10, March 20-21, May 8-9, July 10-11, Sept. 11-12 and Nov. 6-7. For more information, call 210-652-5142.



##### Discounted tickets for Texas attractions available

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Information, Tickets and Travel has discounted tickets to Texas attractions in Houston or Corpus Christi. Purchase discounted tickets to the Houston Space Center, Texas State Aquarium, U.S.S. Lexington or the Aransas Queen Casino Boat before heading out to the destination. For more information, call 210-808-1378.

##### Discounted sports tickets available

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Information, Tickets and Travel office offers discounted Spurs, Rampage and Stars tickets. Discounted tickets are also available online by going to <http://spurs.com/fortsamhoustiti> and using the discount code: FORTSAM. For more information, call 210-808-1378.

#### Military & Family Readiness

##### Patrons learn holiday stress management

The Holiday Stress Management Workshop aims to alleviate stress and the holiday blues through stress management techniques and strategies Dec. 4, 2-3:30 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. To register, call 210-221-2418.

##### Car buyers purchase with confidence

The JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center hosts a car buying workshop Dec. 7, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., to inform consumers about sales traps, dealer scams, predatory lending and more. To register, call 210-671-3722.

##### Helping children with Dyslexia

The Exceptional Family Member Program at JBSA-Lackland hosts a guest speaker to discuss dyslexia Dec. 7, noon to 1:30 p.m., at the Children's Association for Maximum Potential facility, building 3850. Parents receive resources and tips to help become advocates for their child at school and home. To register, call 210-671-3722.

##### Mandatory financial training for new Officers

Officers assigned to their first permanent duty station attend a mandatory financial training Dec. 12, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center. This training reviews all aspects of finances to include pay, entitlements, Thrift Savings Plan, and more. To register, call 210-652-5321.

##### Workshop helps nominate volunteers for awards

Learn how to prepare and submit an effective nomination package identifying a volunteer for recognition during the 2018 JBSA Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Workshops are held Dec. 13, 9-11 a.m. and Dec. 20, 1-3 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center and Dec. 19, 10-11 a.m., at the JBSA-Lackland M&FRC. To register, call JBSA-Fort Sam at 210-221-2705 or JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3722.

##### Service members review new retirement benefits

Service members learn about the new Blended Retirement System Dec. 13, 9-11 a.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, and Dec. 20, 1-2 p.m., at the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC. To register, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-2705 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-5321.

##### Mock interview helps jobseekers get a leg up

Jobseekers attend a hands-on interviewing skills workshop Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to noon, at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center, to review types of interviews, attire and more. To register, call 210-652-5321.

##### Preparing for Social Security changes

Participants review changes to social security benefits and how it may affect retirement Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to noon, at the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center. To register, call 210-671-3722.

##### Family moviegoers enjoy a free show

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center features a sensory friendly showing of "Sing" Dec. 18, 1-3 p.m., followed by a discussion about the characters and the lessons they learned. For more information, call 210-221-2705.

#### Outdoor Recreation

##### Winter Boat Special

If spending time on the open water suits holiday preferences, all weekend boat rentals are half off regular



rates now through February 2018 at JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation. Rentals can be picked up on Friday between 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and returned Monday between the same times. This offer does not include canoe or kayak rentals. For more information, call 210-925-5532.

**Concealed handgun license class offered**

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center offers concealed handgun license classes Dec. 2 and 9, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Successful completion of this class is required for a Texas CHL. To register for a class, visit <http://www.chlregistration.com>. Once on the website, select "register for class." Then select "Dan Willis-Leatherneck Arms." For more information, call 210-295-7577.

**Trees for Troops**

The JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation hosts Trees for Troops beginning Dec. 7, noon to 5 p.m. This program supplies free Christmas trees to military members and their families each December. Spouses of deployed military members may come starting at noon. Active duty, reserves and guard members may start choosing trees at 12:30 p.m. and all Department of Defense ID cardholders may come at 2:30 p.m. Trees are given out on a first come, first-served basis. Once trees are gone, there are no more for this year. For more information, call 210-925-5533.

**Half Price Bunkhouses and Bungalows**

Rent one of the bunkhouses or bungalows for half price at JBSA-Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake. The cost is \$12.50 for the bunkhouse or \$17.50 for the bungalows per night during December. The bunkhouse is equipped with a refrigerator, sink, microwave, a full-size bed, bunk beds and sleeps four, air conditioning, heating and a bathroom with a hot shower. The bunkhouse is equipped with air conditioning, heating, a refrigerator and sleeps four. Customers must bring their own linen for both accommodations. JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake is a popular place in the fall and winter month so make reservations early. For more information, call 1-830-226-5357.

**Half price boat special**

Rent any boat at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake for half price in December. Cost includes all required safety equipment such as life vests, but does not include fuel. The rentals are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participants must have taken the Boater's Safety Course through the State of Texas. JBSA offers the course at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake or the Outdoor Recreation locations on JBSA installations. For more information call 1-830-226-5357.

**Youth and Children**

**Holiday workshops for youth offered**

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center hosts Holiday Workshops Dec. 4 and 9, 1-3 p.m., for youth, 9-18 years, at the Youth Center, building 1630. This is an opportunity for children or youth to make Holiday gifts for their parents, grandparents or any other special person in their life. The cost is \$3 per session and advanced sign up

is required. Come celebrate the holidays with fun and gifts. For more information, call 210-221-3502 or 210-221-4492.

**Winter Craftapalooza**

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs invites youth, 5 years and older, to create gifts or decorations for the holidays at the Winter Craftapalooza Dec. 7, 5-6 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person. Sign up by Dec. 1. For more information, call 210-652-3298.

**Lock-in for youth held**

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston hosts a lock-in Dec. 8, 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., for youth 11-13 years. The night includes a field trip, playing archery tag and learning how to make healthy snacks. The cost is \$10 per person. Sign up by Dec. 1. For more information, call 210-221-3502.

**FCC provider candidate orientation class offered**

The JBSA-Lackland Family Child Care is looking for individuals interested in caring for children. The FCC office is providing start-up materials and training Dec. 12-15, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The FCC program is looking for individuals who can care for children of all ages and children with special needs during evenings, weekends, swing and midnight shifts, extended duty hours and for the Subsidy and Expanded Child Care programs. Advance enrollment is required. Come by building 8210 to pick up an application. For more information, call 210-671-3376.

**USO hosts teen night**

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs Dec. 15, 6-11 p.m., for a United Services Organization Teen Night. Enjoy a great partnership with the downtown USO. The evening includes activities from computer games and movies to cooking class and more. Please contact the Youth Program Advisor for a registration form. For more information, call 210-221-3530.

**Parents offered a break**

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs gives parents a much needed break through the Give Parents a Break or Parents' Night Out program Dec. 8, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Children, 5 years and in kindergarten, to 12 years, are provided snacks and entertained with activities and games. The cost is \$25 per child with a multiple child discount or free with a GPAB referral. Late pickup is subject to \$5 for the first five minutes, then \$3 for every minute after that. A minimum number of participants is required. Call 210-671-2388 to register children 5-12 years and to register children 6 weeks to 4 years call 210-671-3675.

**Basketball is played until midnight**

Youth, 11 years and older, are invited to participate in Midnight Madness Dec. 16, 7 p.m. to midnight, at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center. Youth, 11-13 years, play 7-9 p.m. Youth, 14-18 years, play 9 p.m. to midnight. Healthy snacks are served during games. For more information call, 210-221-3502.

**Youth participate for free**

In celebration of the holidays, the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs is offering a membership free week Dec. 18-22. There is no membership needed to participate in clubs, activities or open recreation this week. Stop by Youth

Programs for a monthly calendar or check out [www.myjbbsa-fss-mwr.com](http://www.myjbbsa-fss-mwr.com) to see what is available. Membership is only \$36 per year for youth that would like to join. For more information, call 210-652-3298.

**Register for Holiday Camps**

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center offers a Winter Holiday Camp Dec. 18-22, Dec. 27-29 and Jan. 2, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., for youth 11-15 years. Cost for the camp is \$130 for Dec. 18-22, \$104 for Dec. 27 through Jan. 2 or \$30 per day. Registration for the camp at the Youth Center, building 1630. The Youth Center is closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1. For more information, call 210-221-3502.

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs offers a holiday camp Dec. 21-22 and 26-29, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Request of care is required for all holiday camps for children, 5 years, and in kindergarten, to 12 years. Cost varies by household income. School Age Care school year paperwork must be completed and on file prior to registration. Parents can also register kids, 9-18 years, for Archery Camp Dec. 21-22, Creative Cooking Dec. 27-29, Ecosystem STEM Camp Jan. 2-5 and Weird Art Jan 2-5. For more information, call 210-671-2388.

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs hosts school-age program holiday camps. Registration for these camps is handled through [www.militarychildcare.com](http://www.militarychildcare.com). Requests are taken on a priority basis. Fees are based on total family income and all required paperwork must be on file. Registration is open 30 days prior to the start of camp. For more information, call 210-652-2088 or visit Youth Programs, building 585.

**First Steps Basketball Registration**

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs Sports offers all Department of Defense children, 3-5 years, First Steps Basketball where they can learn basic fundamentals of basketball in harmony with gross motor movements of pre-school and early school-aged children. Parent participation is required as an extension of the instructor so that the element of fear is eliminated. Current immunization records are required at the time of registration. The cost is \$35 for six weeks of instruction for one hour a week. Parent's orientation is Jan. 4, 6 p.m. Instructional sessions are on Saturdays from Jan. 6 to Feb. 10, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 210-671-3675.

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<http://www.myjbbsa-fss-mwr.com>







DANIEL P. ELKINS

More than 100 representatives from small and large industry take part in an acquisition forecast open house conducted by the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston earlier this year.

# MICC exceeds small business goals

By Daniel P. Elkins  
MICC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The award of approximately \$2.1 billion in contracts to small businesses in fiscal 2017 drove the Mission and Installation Contracting Command to achieve all five of its socioeconomic goals for the third consecutive year.

Helping lead that success is a group of small business specialists advocating on behalf of American small businesses across the country as the command executed 31,312 contract actions overall valued at more than \$4.8 billion during the fiscal year.

"It's truly an outstanding effort," said Mark Massie, assistant director of small business programs for the MICC at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. "We could not have reached the numbers that we reached without that team effort ... and dedication each and every day by all of the contracting and small business professionals."

As a command, the MICC achieved \$2.56 percent against a small business goal of 45 per-

cent. That included 31.34 percent against 24-percent goal for small disadvantaged businesses; 11.98 percent against a goal of 9 percent for service disabled veteran-owned small businesses; 10.86 percent against a 9-percent goal for woman-owned small businesses; and 9.27 percent against a goal of 6 percent for historically underutilized business zone small businesses.

Massie, as well as deputy assistant directors at the command's two brigades and two field directorate offices, monitors each small business category throughout the fiscal year to ensure contracts are awarded in each.

Massie explained dollars awarded to small-business contractors support statutory goals implemented at the federal level by Congress and carried out through the Small Business Administration.

The SBA negotiates with the 24 federal agencies possessing procurement authority including the DOD. Subordinate to the Army Contracting Command, the MICC's small business efforts contribute not only to goals

**"It's important that small business professionals are involved early as part of the acquisition team. That gives us an opportunity to assist with the market research and truly advocate for small businesses."**

Mark Massie, MICC assistant director of small business programs

by higher headquarters but also to the Army's overall objective.

Massie said the command's success in reaching its small business goals is rooted in the acquisition planning process.

"It's important that small business professionals are involved early as part of the acquisition team," he said. "That gives us an opportunity to assist with the market research and truly advocate for small businesses."

He also cites the use of acquisition management systems and small business outreach as effective tools in exceeding goals. Through acquisition management systems, small business specialists gain greater insight on forthcoming acquisitions and support contracting officers and

contract specialists. MICC small business specialist and contracting personnel began hosting open house acquisition forecast events a little more than two years ago to inform small and large businesses about opportunities to compete for federal contracts.

Luis Trinidad is the deputy assistant director for the 48th Contracting Support Brigade Small Business Programs at Fort Hood. He said open house events illustrate the command's commitment to reinforcing a ready, transparent and accountable organization that is built on trust and respect. Following the success of MICC-Fort Hood during fiscal 2017, the contracting office hosted an outreach

event for 25 small businesses as fiscal year was coming to an end to set it up for success in this new fiscal year.

"This event supports small businesses with limited resources in identifying small business opportunities within the Mission and Installation Contracting Command," Trinidad said. "Small businesses are the backbone of this country's economy and have helped achieve small business goals over the years."

Wolf Jouett, the MICC-Fort Hood business operations division chief, added that it is important for small businesses to understand the different programs on which the Army places extra emphasis on setting aside opportunities to meet the service's small business goals. Small business outreach events throughout the country can be found on the Federal Business Opportunities website at <http://www.fbo.gov>.

*(Editor's note: Contributing to this article was Capt. Naleya Scott, a contract specialist with the 901st Contracting Battalion at Fort Hood.)*

# LACKLAND

## Air Force Alpha Warriors prove their mettle

By Steve Warns

AFIMSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A new era of Comprehensive Airman Fitness reached a milestone Nov. 11 with the first Air Force Alpha Warrior "Final Battle."

The competition was the culmination of an Air Force program that featured 15 regional competitions across the Air Force. The top male and female qualifiers from each region, along with the 10 men and women with the fastest times, advanced to compete over a grueling 32-obstacle course at Retama Park's Alpha Warrior Proving Ground in Selma, Texas.

The event also was a celebration of Air Force tradition on Veterans Day. Maj. Gen. Brad Spacy, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center commander, delivered opening remarks; the Air Force Band of the West performed; the Joint Base San Antonio Color Guard presented the colors; and Col. Donna Turner, Air Force Services Activity commander, swore in 30 new Air Force recruits.

"(Air Force Alpha Warrior) is especially exciting for me because I have seen this grow and evolve throughout the Air Force," Spacy said. "This is the next level of athletic competition. It makes you run, it makes you climb, it makes you think, it makes you worry, and it tests your core."

"This is what we are all about. It tests your commitment."

And the 43 athletes who competed showed their commitment and resilience.

Some of the obstacles were omitted because of slick conditions caused by overnight rain,



ANDREW C. PATTERSON

*Top row from left: April Fohey finished second in the women's division; Cale Simmons finished second in the men's division; Nicole Mitchell won the women's division; Jeff Schaefer won the men's division; Rachel Schaefer was third in the women's division; and Trevor Puerile was third in the men's. Bottom row from left: Alpha Warrior strength coach Bennie Wylie; Alpha Warrior athlete Karsten Williams; Col. Donna Turner, Air Force Services Activity commander; Kevin Klein, Alpha Warrior athlete; Kacy Catanzaro, Alpha Warrior athlete; Maj. Gen. Brad Spacy, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center commander; Chief Master Sgt. Brion Blais, AFIMSC command chief; and Brent Steffensen, Alpha Warrior athlete.*

but that didn't stop Air Force Alpha Warriors from proving themselves. If competitors fell while trying to complete an obstacle, they had to complete 15 burpee exercises before continuing.

2nd Lt. Nicole Mitchell, a former track and field athlete at the University of La Verne, Calif., won the women's division in 12:11.3.

Mitchell, officer in charge of directory services for the 83rd Network Operations Squadron at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., had a simple approach to conquering the course.

"Just try not to fall, and try not to do burpees," Mitchell said. "It was more of a mental game because I was second-guessing myself. So I tried not to think about falling and psyching myself out."

Capt. Jeff Schaefer, a civil engineering instructor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., conquered the course in a blistering 6 minutes, 58.3 seconds.

"I just ran, and I didn't stop running," Schaefer said with a smile and a laugh. "It's just

fun."

Schaefer's brother-in-law, Capt. Cale Simmons, finished second with 7:25.2. Simmons raced through the course and paid the price with scraped and bruised legs. But the former participant in the Air Force World Class Athlete Program smiled and shrugged it off.

"I sacrificed my body for this course," said Simmons, a contracts manager for the Air Force Space and Missile Center at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Simmons, who competed in the pole vault in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, had a unique perspective on how Alpha Warrior can translate into his training regimen.

"What helps is that it makes you agile, and it challenges your body," said Simmons, who aspires to compete in the 2020 Games in Tokyo. "That's something I need to work on in track and field is knowing my body, knowing my limits and knowing how to push myself past different things."

"It all goes back to resiliency.

If I know how to bounce back after a tough day, or if I fall off an obstacle, it's the same thing. You keep going," Simmons said.

Rounding out the Final Battle family affair was Capt. Rachel Schaefer, Jeff's wife and Cale's sister, who placed third in the women's division in 12:27.4.

The Schaefers weren't the only couple competing together. Capt. Noah Palicia and Capt. Lesly Palicia, former track and field teammates of Simmons at the Air Force Academy, were the top qualifiers in the Pacific Air Forces main regional at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Noah, a C-130J instructor pilot with the 36th Airlift Squadron at Yokota, finished seventh in 9:04.4. Lesly, bilateral cyberengagement chief with 5th Air Force at Yokota AB, finished 14th in 22:09.4.

"To get a group of people this athletic together at one time is the coolest thing you could ever imagine, especially with people you're brothers and sisters in arms with," said Noah, a former decathlete and obstacle-

course race aficionado.

Perhaps the most impressive display of resiliency came from Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Olson of the 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron at Aviano AB, Italy.

Olson, 39, was the oldest competitor in the field. She placed second in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa qualifier at Ramstein AB, Germany, and her time placed her in the top 10 females within the Air Force.

Olson, who finished 15th with a time of 22:09.4, said she was "smoked" afterward.

"It definitely tests those physical, mental, social and spiritual pillars," said Olson, who said she heard of Alpha Warrior after she came off leave and someone suggested she tried it.

Now that she conquered the course, Olson said she can't wait to return to Aviano AB and incorporate Alpha Warrior's functional fitness into her training regimen of Crossfit and running.

"When you think you have it all, and then you go out and do something like this, it's definitely not everything you have tried," Olson said. "I'd recommend this, especially to the younger Airmen."

Other placers were Airman 1st Class Trevor Puerile, an installation entry controller with the 633rd Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., and Special Agent April Fohey of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Puerile finished third in the men's division in 8:22.3, and Fohey was second in 12:26.0.

For more information, visit <http://www.airforcelife.com/Fitness/alpha-warrior.aspx>.

# Legal office to host Retiree Appreciation Day on Dec. 4

**By Capt. Adrian Williford**  
502ND INSTALLATION SUPPORT GROUP  
JUDGE ADVOCATE OFFICE

The 502nd Installation Support Group Legal Office is scheduled to host Retiree Appreciation Day Dec. 4 at 1701 Kenly Ave., building 2484, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

During this time, retirees and their dependents can update the following documents: Last Will and Testament, General Power of Attorney, Special Power of Attorney, Medical Power of Attorney, Directive to Physicians and Disposition of Remains, according to Capt. Adrian Williford, 502nd ISG attorney.

“Usually, obtaining these documents re-

quires an appointment; however, there is no appointment required Dec. 4 for retirees or their dependents,” Williford said. “There will also be light snacks provided during your visit.”

While retired members are able to access estate planning services during the week, it may be difficult to get an appointment because active duty service members take precedence. To make the estate planning services easier to access, Dec. 4 is reserved exclusively for retirees to complete estate planning documents.

“Pre-planning for death and/or disability

can be a large benefit to you and your family,” Williford said. “Having estate planning documents can provide you peace of mind and save your family members time, stress and money. Without estate planning documents, your family members will have to guess how you want your estate to be handled. Additionally, they may incur thousands of dollars in legal fees that could have been avoided by advanced planning.”

The 502nd ISG Legal Office encourages retirees and active duty and reserve component members to ensure their documents are in order, should anything unforeseen happen to help their surviving family members easily carry out

their last wishes and avoid added stress.

To help expedite the process, members are asked to complete an estate planning worksheet prior to the Retiree Appreciation Day. The worksheet can be accessed by visiting the Air Force legal assistance website at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/> and clicking the “Legal Worksheets” tab at the top of the screen to download the document. If you are unable to access the site, worksheets will be provided when you come in at the legal office.

For questions about this event and any legal matters, contact the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Legal Assistance Office at 210-671-3362.



COURTESY GRAPHIC



# CORBT summit provides joint insights on recruit basic training

**By Airman 1st Class  
Dillon Parker**  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Representatives from all five branches of the U.S. armed forces, members from British Armed Forces and Australian Defence Force, held a Council on Recruit Basic Training summit Nov. 8-10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

CORBT was formed to address common issues across the joint services in recruit basic military training and technical training with the goal of sharing ideas, lessons learned and procedures to improve entry-level service enlisted training programs.

"We want to look at how we're doing training across all services," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Leahy, Second Air Force commander. "We want to see what kind of lessons learned we can share with each other to make us all better, or determine that we're all seeing a similar problem or concern and come up with a solution."

Some of the major topics discussed were baselining combat readiness tests, physical fitness, attrition rates and sexual assault prevention and response.

Along with collaborating ideas for general im-



*U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Malcolm B. Frost, commander of the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training, speaks during the Council on Recruit Basic Training summit, Nov. 8-10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.*

provement, another important aspect of having all the services together is figuring out how to prepare all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen to cooperate on worldwide operations said Leahy.

"The U.S. Air Force doesn't go to war alone," said Leahy. "We fight as a joint force across the globe, so the ability to interoperate and mesh as we engage in combat operations, humanitarian support operations or any other operations our nation asks us to do, is invaluable."

As a part of improving recruit basic military training, improving the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Centers' processes was also discussed.

"It really helped us to have a touch point with our customer base in the joint services," said U.S. Army Col. Chris Beveridge, commander of the Eastern Sector of United States Military Entrance

Processing Command. "It's important that we know what kind of improvements need to be made to the entrance processing so training can start earlier and we know what kind of tests the

services need us to run."

Leahy echoed Beveridge's sentiment, "One of the big things we're seeing is some commonalities on tests we want MEPs to run," said Leahy. "We need to be aware of some issues and concerns as recruits are stepping off the bus that will allow us to take proper precautions to ensure we're training people effectively and not putting anyone at risk."

During his closing remarks, Leahy emphasized how crucial it is to have the joint perspective.

"Anytime you get a chance to sit down with leaders from across the sister services and partner nations you walk away better," said Leahy. "More often than not we're all looking at the same problem set through slightly different

cultures. That allows us all to see a problem from a different perspective. Sharing that is invaluable."

# All-Air Force men finish second, women third in 2017 Armed Forces Basketball Championship

By Steve Warns

AFIMSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The All-Air Force men's basketball team advanced to the Armed Forces Tournament championship game at Chaparral Fitness Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, the hard way.

The Air Force lost 95-85 to the U.S. Army for the second consecutive year, but coach Capt. Scott Stucky was pleased how his team rebounded from three straight losses — including the loss of star player Capt. Michael Lyons to a broken hand in a loss to the U.S. Navy — to earn a spot in the final.

"Our guys did a good job of overcoming the initial shock of losing Lyons, and we had other players come forward to carry the scoring," said Stucky, an education flight commander with Air Force ROTC Detachment 665 at the University of Cincinnati. "You can't replace Lyons, but we did a dang good job."

The tournament featured a double round-robin format, where teams played each other twice. The teams with the best record after six games advanced to the championship game. Air Force finished 3-3 in the round-robin.

Lyons' prowess was evident early in the tournament in victories against the U.S. Navy and Army. In a 113-97 victory against Navy, Lyons scored 28 points. In an 88-85 win over Army, he scored 30 points.

Even in a 77-65 loss to the U.S. Marine Corps, he led with 18 points despite playing in only one half. In a 103-98 loss to Navy, Lyons broke a bone between his middle and ring finger early in the first half while contesting a shot.

He was fouled, made a foul shot and finished with three points before exiting as the tournament's leading scorer, averaging 19.8 points per game

in four games.

"It was definitely frustrating not to be out there," said Lyons, a project manager for the Air Force Satellite Control Network at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., who played for the U.S. Air Force Academy and the Erie Bayhawks of the NBA's Developmental League. "But I'm also a big believer in praying about things and not worrying about things I can't control. I couldn't change the injury, but I could change it going forward and having a positive effect on my teammates."

Perhaps most impressively, Lyons was playing with a torn right labrum before he broke his hand. He will have shoulder surgery next month and anticipates he'll be playing basketball in about six months.

Filling the void left by Lyons were 1st Lt. Justin Hammonds and Senior Airman Darian Donald.

Hammonds' duties as an intelligence officer at March Air Reserve Base, California, and as a high school basketball coach in Riverside, almost kept him from committing to play in the tournament. A call from Stucky, a former teammate at the Academy, convinced him to join the team. The move paid off as Hammonds was named to the Armed Forces Tournament team and will represent the Armed Forces at the SHAPE International Basketball Tournament in Belgium.

"I didn't know what to expect, but it was a lot of fun," said Hammonds, who averaged 16.9 points and 9.1 rebounds in his first time playing in the tournament. "It's a great group of guys and great competition."

Donald, playing in his second tournament, praised the veteran leadership of this year's team.

"We fell short, but they led us," said Donald, who averaged 14.9 points throughout the tournament.



PHOTOS BY STEVE WARNS

*The All-Air Force men's basketball team finished second in the 2017 Armed Forces Tournament.*



*The All-Air Force women's basketball team finished third in the 2017 Armed Forces Tournament.*

In the championship game against Army, Air Force led midway through the first half, but Army's depth was too much to overcome. Senior Airman Daveon Allen of the 99th Medical Group at Nellis AFB, Nev., led Air Force with a game-high 24 points.

The men finished second for the second year in a row, a fact

that motivates Stucky to regain the title for the first time since 2015.

"I would love to coach the team next year, depending on leadership and if they'll have me back," Stucky said.

Joining Hammonds and Donald on the Armed Forces team are Tech Sgt. Corey Rucker of F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., and

Airman 1st Class Charles Jeans of Barksdale AFB, Louisiana.

## Women's basketball

While third place might not have been the desired outcome for the women's team, Senior Master Sgt. Tashon Taylor, Food and Beverage Superin-

# RANDOLPH

## Thrift Savings Plan provides investment options for service members, civilians

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A government-sponsored retirement plan that allows participants to contribute as much as \$18,000 per year will be the subject of a class from 1-2:30 p.m. Nov. 27 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center.

The Thrift Savings Plan offers uniformed service members and Department of Defense civilians a savings and investment plan similar to a 401(k), but with a few more advantages, said Courtney Waggoner, JBSA-Randolph M&FRC personal financial counselor.

"The cost of the plan is 38 cents for every \$1,000 invested, while the cost of the average 401(k) is much higher," she said. "In addition, there are no fees associated with the TSP."

The class will cover topics such as how to enroll and make contributions, investment funds and options, pre-tax and tax-deferred options, and withdrawals and loans.

TSP investors have five funds to choose from, ranging from the low-risk

G Fund, or government securities fund, to the I Fund, international stocks of developed countries, which carries a moderate to high risk. The L Fund, or Lifecycle Fund, is a professionally determined investment mix.

"The Lifecycle Fund is the most diversified, covering all five funds," Waggoner said. "The G Fund is the default fund — it's mostly securities with little risk."

During the class, attendees will also learn how their money will grow with regular contributions to the TSP.

Someone who contributes as little as \$30 per month will see their investment grow to nearly \$14,000 in 20 years and nearly \$60,000 in 40 years, assuming a 6 percent annual rate of return compounded monthly.

Someone whose budget allows a greater contribution will see even more dramatic gains — nearly \$500,000 in 40 years for a monthly contribution of \$240.

Currently, the maximum amount a TSP investor can contribute is \$18,000, but that amount will increase to \$18,500 next year.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Service members may also contribute bonus pay, incentive pay and hazardous-duty pay to their TSP.

A big advantage of the TSP is that service members who are enrolled in it will have a retirement nest egg even if they separate from the service prior to 20 years, Waggoner said.

"If you decide not to serve 20 years and don't participate in TSP, you leave with nothing," she said. "If you participate, you take that balance with you and it will continue to grow."

After their military service ends, members can keep their funds in the TSP, transfer their funds to an individual retirement account or other eligible plan or withdraw their funds.

DOD civilians who contribute to the TSP are entitled to a government match, Waggoner said.

"For the first 3 percent an investor contributes, the government will match it dollar for dollar," she said. "For the next 2 percent, the government will contribute 50 cents to the dollar."

When the DOD's Blended Retirement System takes effect in January, new service members will automatically be enrolled in the TSP, Waggoner said. They will have to opt out to cease participation.

Service members will also be entitled to a DOD match, she said.

"They will receive a 1 percent DOD contribution automatically," Waggoner said. "They will also receive a dollar for dollar match for the 3 percent default. In order to max the matching benefit, they will have to contribute 5 percent."

For more information on the TSP class, call the M&FRC at 652-5321.

## AFPC offers follow-on option to Airmen taking short tours

By Kat Bailey and 2nd Lt. Stephen Warren

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen selected for a dependent-restricted short tour for their second or later assignments can voluntarily apply to participate in the Follow-On Assignment Program, providing them greater flexibility in the assignment process and greater stability for their families.

The Department of Defense designed the Follow-On Assignment Program to provide all service members, officers and

enlisted, with family stability, as well as to decrease permanent change of station costs. The application is a voluntary agreement with the Airman not to use PCS allowances in exchange for advance assignment consideration of a stateside assignment, before they leave on a dependent-restricted, short-tour assignment. The Air Force processes follow-on assignments to overseas locations as an excep-

tion to policy.

"The Air Force has a placement rate of 70.8 percent for follow-on assignments for the enlisted force in 2017," said Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer Holton, Superintendent of the Support Career Management branch at the Air Force's Personnel Center. "As long as Airmen are putting down realistic location choices based on authorizations that exist at the desired follow-on locations, we've been successful at giving them what they want."

If an Airman chooses a follow-on, the family can stay at the current stateside location or elect to move to the location of their follow-on assignment, providing it, too, is stateside. The program provides stability to the family for work, residence and schooling, with the option to stay in place for another year or be in place at the new location a year or more early, prior to the end of the short tour.

"Instead of moving a family from say, Shaw to Mom's place in Boston for a year, and then to

Tinker and paying for two moves, the family can stay at Shaw or go early to Tinker while the Airman is away on the short tour," said Bill Houston, AFPC Assignments Policy and Procedures branch.

However, moving the family to any other location other than the follow-on location at the expense of the Air Force invalidates the follow-on assignment. Airmen agree upfront not to use PCS allowances to relocate

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## AFPC

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dependents and household goods temporarily to a place other than the follow-on location, or to store household goods at government expense.

Houston says if participating in the Follow-On Program would cause a financial or personal hardship, Airmen are encouraged to use their PCS allowances and not apply for the Follow-On Program.

“The advantage of applying for a follow-on and thus not waiting for a “normal” assignment is that the Airman’s next assignment would be forecast 14-18 months before their reporting date for their follow-on rather than much later in their short tour, which could increase flexibility or stability for the family,” Houston said.

Follow-on assignments are also available and highly encouraged for rated officers.

“As we face a fighter pilot absorption challenge, the Follow-On program encourages experienced pilots to volunteer for what has proven to be hard-to-fill short, remote tours,” said Maj. Craig Cude, Fighter Assignments chief at the

Air Force’s Personnel Center. “We project increases in retention and reductions in the number of pilots who decline such tours and are then required to separate from the Air Force.”

According to the fighter assignment team, the follow-on assignment option is available for all fighter pilots, with the exception of new pilots on their way to their first operational assignment or pilots wishing to compete for crossflow to the F-35. AFPC will consider follow-ons to formal training units on a case-by-case basis due to formal training availability and qualification requirements.

“For new pilots, the losing commander’s input, based on the pilot’s performance and potential, is vital in determining where an inexperienced pilot goes after their first year in an operational assignment,” Cude said.

During each Vulnerable to Move List cycle, the fighter assignment team will provide a realistic outlook of locations available to select following the remote assignment. Cude says eligible pilots should base their follow-on preferences from that list.

“There must be a balance between flexibility for the assignment matching process and our Airmen’s family stability,” Cude said. “To help with pilot re-



COURTESY GRAPHIC

tention, we are adding more weight to the latter.”

In order to apply for follow-on consideration, Airmen need to submit their applications on the virtual Military Personnel Flight webpage within 15 days of receiving their assignment notification and more than 150 days prior to their departure date.

Cude encourages all Airmen to weigh the merits of the program in order to

decide what works best for them and their families.

“We want to give Airmen a choice to take the follow-on, or not, but to at least understand their options and have a greater voice in their own assignment process,” he said.

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*Find additional information on myPers. Select “Any” from the dropdown menu and search “Follow-On.”*

# BASKETBALL

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tendent for the Air Force Services Activity, was pleased with the team's attitude and resiliency.

The Air Force finished third after beating the U.S. Marine Corps 60-48.

"Even though it's not the gold medal, it's still our gold medal," said Taylor, in her first year coaching the All-Air Force women's team after serving as an assistant last year. "Having that team camaraderie, having that ability to talk to these ladies every day, it helped us realize that no matter if it's not the desired outcome, it is our outcome, and we're going to make the best out of it."

The Air Force lost the tournament's first two games against the Navy (91-63) and Army (72-63), but bounced back with a resounding victory over the Marines (75-47) and avenged its loss to Navy (69-64).

"One thing I can say is that all of the ladies listened and were open to any changes," Taylor said. "My assistant coach (Terrance Dunkley) and I studied Navy, and we studied everything about our game — the pluses and minuses, where we went wrong and what we could change up. We realized without hesitation our girls have what it takes to beat Navy. We switched up our defense, and we opened up our offense. That's how we were able to win."

Leading the way in the Navy

victory were forwards Airman 1st Class Apiphany Woods of Moody AFB, Ga., and Staff Sgt. Charmaine Clark of Robins AFB, Ga. Woods finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Clark finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Air Force's loss to Army (70-49) on Nov. 5 knocked it into the consolation bracket, where it fell to the Marines on the final day of the round-robin format. The team's resiliency was further tested when Woods suffered a lower left leg injury and didn't play the rest of the tournament.

"I just wanted to go out there and work hard for my teammates," said Woods, who played at Idaho State University. "I'm happy that I was a member of the team."

Woods' injury was reminiscent of Clark tearing her right Achilles tendon during last year's tournament. Clark, playing in her second Armed Forces tournament, averaged 13.3 points and 10.4 rebounds, and emerged as the team's leader.

"Clark brings energy, motivation and experience," Taylor said. "She's a very experienced and knowledgeable player on the court, and her basketball IQ is tremendous."

Clark also was playing with a heavy heart. Her father died in August and playing in this year's Armed Forces tournament was more meaningful.

"To really represent the Air Force in the Armed Forces tournament means a lot, and I kept thinking about if my dad could be here," said Clark, who

played at the University of Miami.

Taylor stressed the four pillars of Comprehensive Airman Fitness and weaved in their importance during the tournament.

"We may be 12 individuals, but we are one Air Force team," Taylor said. "It's like the metaphor for CAF, the four legs of the chair: We continue to pray for each other and for our safety. We continue to keep each other in a social connectedness. We continue to mentally stimulate each other, and we continue to stay physically ready by conditioning."

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*To learn more about Air Force sports or to become an athlete, visit [MyAirForceLife.com](http://MyAirForceLife.com) and fill out Form 303.*