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# LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JANUARY 12, 2018

## 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW





## YEAR IN REVIEW

# JBSA takes a look back at 2017

### From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Whether participating in annual events such as the city of San Antonio's Fiesta festivities, or gearing up with little notice to facilitate hurricane relief efforts, Joint Base San Antonio personnel were tested throughout the year with a variety of different missions that showed the versatility and uniqueness of the organization.

"2017 was an incredible year for Joint Base San Antonio – from participating in Fiesta, to setting up incident support bases in support of Federal Emergency Management Agency hurricane relief operations, and putting on the massive JBSA Air Show and Open House, JBSA met every challenge head on with the professionalism each mission demands," said Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander. "This joint force fusion really makes JBSA an incredibly unique military installation."

JBSA mission partners, including U.S. Army North, had a busy year – in addition to sustaining their normal



JOHNNY SALDIVAR /

*The Joint Base San Antonio Military Ambassadors play a prominent role during San Antonio's Fiesta celebration in April. The servicemembers from each branch of the military across JBSA represented their respective services at Fiesta events such as parades and visits to schools, nursing homes and retirement facilities.*

day-to-day duties, many mission partners spent a good portion of the year providing emergency support to natural disaster response efforts from three hurricanes and a series of wildfires.

The Hurricane Harvey relief operations efforts kicked off on Labor Day weekend and lasted almost two months. The 502nd Air Base Wing sprang into action. First ensuring base readiness prior to, during and after the storm, and then focusing on aiding FEMA relief efforts across the region. The 502nd Civil Engineers set up

incident support bases at JBSA-Seguin Auxiliary Field, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland's Kelly Field – sustaining the FEMA and the Defense Logistics Agency supply chain that helped those in need in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

The JBSA Air Show in November helped celebrate 100 years of aviation at Kelly, the 75th anniversary of Air Education and Training Command, and the Air Force's 70th birthday. The air show included performances from the U.S. Air Force Aerial Demonstration Squadron "Thunderbirds", the Air Force Wings of Blue parachute team and vintage and civilian aircraft aerial demonstrations.

"This event showcased what we bring to our nation's defense to the San Antonio community so they get the opportunity to see the excellence and professionalism we bring to every mission, every day throughout all of JBSA," Pringle said. "We want to thank

everyone who helped put this event on, including the city of San Antonio, Port San Antonio, and of course all the hard working men and women of JBSA."

The base and surrounding community linked arms to help transitioning service members as they exit the military, in addition to participating in joint training initiatives in the medical and law enforcement arenas, further strengthening the symbiotic relationship JBSA has with the city of San Antonio. This relationship was formally recognized by Air Education and Training Command after the city was awarded the Altus Trophy for its outstanding support to JBSA.

JBSA, together with local businesses and surrounding communities, worked to ensure joint success for both the military and civilian communities through the community initiatives and P4 programs. JBSA commissioned and published new Air Installation Compatible Use Zone studies for JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland, and worked with local business and civic leaders to ensure night-vision-compatible external lighting surrounding JBSA-Camp Bullis and JBSA-Lackland's Medina Training Annex.

At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 2017 noted several major events. U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) led operations in support of Hurricane Harvey relief across the south, in addition to the appointment of Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan to lead

YEAR IN REVIEW continues on 3

## JBSA LEGACY

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Maj. Chase Skully,  
Wings of Blue  
member and 98th  
Flying Training  
Squadron  
assistant director  
of operations,  
greets a 2017  
Joint Base San  
Antonio Air Show  
and Open House  
visitor Nov. 5,  
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SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER /

Joint Base San Antonio  
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## YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 2

the Department of Defense's relief distribution efforts on the ground in Puerto Rico in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

Both the Foulis House and the historic Stillwell House reopened their doors in 2017. The Stillwell House reopened Sept. 26 after a 2015 storm caused heavy damage to the 129-year old facility, while the Foulis House opened Nov. 15 after renovations.

Brooke Army Medical Center, the DOD's only Level I Trauma Center, had an eventful year. BAMC was selected as the Army's first virtual medical center, or MEDCEN, and implemented the Mobile Medic program.

"We are tremendously proud and excited about this opportunity to expand the Army's virtual health capabilities," said BAMC Commander Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson. "This is an amazing opportunity for BAMC to leverage state-of-the-art technology to support military medical facilities and patients around the world and for our medical professionals to benefit from a readi-



SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY D. ARCHER /

902nd Security Forces Squadron members check in Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief trucks Aug. 31, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. FEMA trucks were staged at JBSA-Randolph to deliver aid to Hurricane Harvey disaster areas.

ness standpoint."

BAMC also took a leap forward for military vascular surgical care Oct. 4 when surgeons performed a Trans Carotid Artery Revascularization procedure, marking the first time this procedure to reduce carotid artery stenosis had been used at BAMC. Additionally, BAMC also treated eight victims of the tragic shooting in Sutherland Springs in November.

U.S. Army South welcomed a new commander in October

with the arrival of Maj. Gen. Mark R. Stammer. The organization continues its support of multi-national operations to counter transregional and transnational threat networks and execute rapid response to humanitarian disaster relief operations.

Medical Education and Training Campus Technology Innovation Group, or TIG, hosted the first homegrown technology expo on the METC campus. The expo included interactive displays, computer lifecycle products, briefings and best practice presentations from various group members and was attended by instructors, program service leads and students from throughout METC, to include elements from the Defense Health Agency education and training directorate.

Eight Soldiers from the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research earned the esteemed German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency after a three-day rigorous competition Nov. 3-5, while the USAISR Burn Center welcomed its first civilian director when Dr. Leopoldo Cancio, a retired Army colonel, took the reins Nov. 17.

At JBSA-Lackland, the Inter-American Air Force Academy's (IAAFA) 837th Training Squadron and the 343rd TRS

from the 37th Training Group partnered for the first time to conduct joint military training exercises at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

The 37th Training Wing, which runs the Air Force's basic military training at JBSA-Lackland, graduated more than 38,000 new Airmen from the eight-and-a-half week initial training program.

The DOD's largest outpatient ambulatory surgical center, the 59th Medical Wing moved to its new facility in 2017. The wing also pitched in during hurricane relief operations, deploying 70 personnel to the Houston area and helping house. The wing provided the old Wilford Hall hospital to house U.S. Army Soldiers during hurricane relief operations.

The 433rd Airlift Wing completed five missions in support of Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. The C-5M Super Galaxy aircrews delivered more than 684,000 pounds of supplies and 285 personnel to the Houston area, in addition to supporting Hurricane Maria air operations.

24th Air Force celebrated eight years of being "Cyber" in 2017, while 25th Air Force saw Maj. Gen. Mary F. O'Brien take command.

At JBSA-Randolph, 2017 kicked off with the Air Force

Personnel Center hosting the Air Force's Wounded Warrior CARE event, providing wellness activities for seriously wounded, ill and injured military members, veterans and their caregivers. AFPC also gained a new commander, with Maj. Gen. Brian Kelly taking command June 23.

The 12th Flying Training Wing marked several noteworthy accomplishments in support of the Remotely-Piloted Aircraft (RPA) program in 2017, breaking barriers by seeing the first enlisted RPA pilots, the first female enlisted RPA pilot graduate and finally, the first RPA physician-pilot graduate. They also saw the continuing growth of the training pipeline aided by simulators designed by the 502nd Training Development Squadron. In 2017 alone, nearly 600 pilot and sensor operator students accumulated 16,248 hours in simulators; that is an increase from 330 students and 6,805 hours in 2015.

The wing also stood up a new student squadron, activating the 12th Training Squadron to help support student needs as the wing's RPA mission expands.

Finally, in November, Air Education and Training Command bid a fond retirement to Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson and welcomed Lt. Gen. Steven L. Kwast. The new commander ended the change of command ceremony with a call to action for the 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, outinnovate and out trust any adversary on planet earth."

"2017 was a demanding year for Joint Base San Antonio and our mission partners. Our outstanding team rose to meet every challenge," Pringle said. "We now look forward to 2018 – its challenges and opportunities. We fully expect to learn, grow, and meet those new challenges head on."



SEAN WORRELL /

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson (right), commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Dr. Joe Leverett (left), Altus Trophy selection committee chairman, present the 2016 Altus Trophy to Diane Rath (center), Alamo Area Council of Governments executive director, March 22, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The Altus Trophy is given annually to a community judged to have shown outstanding support to an AETC base.



A Department of Defense policy now requires all DOD personnel who travel as part of their duties to obtain and use a Government Travel Charge Card, including those who travel infrequently.

The policy, implemented in June, also applies to DOD civilian employees who belong to Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard units, said Tracy Kreusler, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron supervisory transportation assistant. Their GTCCs will be issued through their civilian agency, not their reserve or guard unit.

### “Greater use of IBA cards



Starting in January, the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center will actively track CBA usage and report

Among them are increasing data capture, providing business intelligence to improve travel programs, reducing overall travel costs and expanding strategic sourcing opportuni-

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# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## Patients, staff celebrate CFI's 10th anniversary

By Lori Newman  
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 500 people attended the 10th anniversary celebration of the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center Jan. 27, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The stars of the day were the patients and staff members, both past and present. Several former patients, including motivational speaker and author retired Army Staff Sgt. Shilo Harris, retired Staff Sgt. Bobby Henline, now a comedian, and many others were on hand for the event.

"Ten years ago today really makes me feel a bit emotional," Harris said. "I've been struggling for words most of the morning."

"Thank you for being here on this special day to reflect on the accomplishments of the alumni patients, the former and current staff members and the generosity of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund who gifted the Center for the Intrepid to the Army 10 years ago," said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, BAMC commanding general.

Arnold Fisher, honorary chairman of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, reflected on the fact the center was built with 100 percent of the funds donated by 600,000 Americans.

"The work that is being done here is incredible," Fisher said. "The advanc-

es that you have made in helping rehabilitate the men and women who have served our country is fantastic. It is very heartwarming to come back here and see the progress that has been made by the medical profession and the therapists that have worked here."

Fisher said when the center was built; he had hoped that someday it would no longer be needed.

"Apparently that's not going to happen," he said. "It's important for centers like this to stay open and keep abreast of all the current technology."

Fisher highlighted the other Intrepid sites throughout the United States for service members with traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress, which were also built by the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.

"I've been lucky in my life to be an American and living in this country," he said. "You just can't take from this country, you have to give back. That's what I want to do. I want to do it because I'm an American. No word means more to me than that word."

Lt. Col. Joseph Alderete, CFI medical director, recognized the former directors and program managers of the CFI by having them stand so everyone could applaud the work they had done.

"We thank you for your years of service to our country and for your dedication and compas-

sion to our war wounded," he told them. "You truly set the bar."

Alderete said, despite the decline in the number of combat wounded patients, the CFI continues to serve those with limb amputation, limb trauma and complex orthopedic patients.

"Last year we had more than 35,000 patient visits to the Center for the Intrepid," Alderete said. "Our patients continue to challenge us. We take a piece of every patient with us. We are grateful for what they teach us and most importantly, we are honored to participate in every struggle. They help us stand firm in readiness for our next conflict."

Lt. Col. Kathleen Yancosek, CFI director, explained the holistic approach the CFI uses to help their patients rehabilitate.

"We operate under a sports medicine paradigm called POWER, an acronym for performance optimization warrior enhanced rehabilitation," Yancosek said. "This is a place where high expectations are set by our staff and met by our patients. We remain in the business of restoring patients to the highest level of function possible."

Col. David Duplessis, chief of the department of rehabilitation medicine, highlighted the importance of the research being done at the CFI.

"In the past decade, the Center for the Intrepid has accomplished significant

scholarships through 99 research protocols, 82 publications and 175 national and international presentations, in addition to countless awards and accolades," Duplessis said. "We are committed to cutting-edge research efforts, which have shaped prosthetic and orthotic design, surgical intervention and individualized therapy for severely wounded patients over the last decade."

"We are here to celebrate the enormous contributions the Center for the Intrepid has made for our nation's wounded warriors," Johnson said, praising the staff members for creating new and innovative treatments, which advanced the field of rehabilitative medicine.

"Through the established leadership at Brooke Army Medical Center and the Intrepid spirit of past and present patients and the dedication of staff members, the center remains in a steady state of readiness to care for severely wounded patients, both today and in the future," Johnson said.

Johnson closed his remarks by reading a letter from former president George W. Bush praising the CFI staff for the care they provide service members.

Following the formal ceremony, guests were invited to tour the facility. A new logo and mosaic in the lobby were also unveiled.

Karen Johnston, a guest who attended the ceremo-



ROBERT SHIELDS /

The guest speakers for the Center for the Intrepid 10th anniversary celebration Jan. 27, 2017, at Brooke Army Medical Center were (from left) Arnold Fisher, honorary chairman, Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund; Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, BAMC commanding general; Col. David Duplessis, chief, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine; Lt. Col. Joseph Alderete, CFI medical director and Lt. Col. Kathleen Yancosek, CFI director.

ny, said she has seen a video about the CFI but was grateful for the opportunity to tour the building.

"The building itself is impressive, but the state-of-the-art equipment and the innovations for amputees is really impressive,"

she said. "I'm so glad I had the chance to see it first-hand."

"This is the best facility with the best patients and it's a family," said 1st Lt. John Arroyo, a patient at the CFI. "We just want to say 'thank you' to America."

# Commander relates lessons from hurricane season

By Jim Garamone

DOD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

The hurricane season of 2017 was unprecedented in terms of damage, the commander of U.S. Army North at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston said in a recent interview.

Army Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan said hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria delivered a combination of blows that caused great damage in Texas, Florida, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, and the military learned a great deal about defense support to civil authorities in the process.

Thousands of military personnel from all components mobilized and deployed to help the affected areas, and Buchanan – as the Joint Force Land Component commander – was in the thick of it.

U.S. Army North is the Army component for U.S. Northern

Command. It works hand in glove with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the three storms were the largest domestic incident response in the history of that agency. “It was much larger than Katrina in 2005,” Buchanan said. “It was many more days and from the total response of the government aspect, it was much larger.”

The swath covered by the storms contributed to the response.

## The Storms

Hurricane Harvey – a Category 4 hurricane when it hit the Texas coast – dropped record amounts of rain on Houston. Parts of the fourth largest city in the United States received more than 60 inches of rain.

Hurricane Irma – a Category 5 storm – hit the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Florida and Georgia.

Hurricane Maria – a second



STAFF SGT. ARMANDO VASQUEZ /

*Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, U.S. Army North commander, speaks with civil engineer Airmen from the 85th Engineering Installation Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base, at a communication tower located in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, Nov. 8, 2017.*

Category 5 storm – caused catastrophic damage in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The storms hit close together, with Harvey lasting from Aug. 17 to Sept. 1, Irma lasting from Aug. 30 to Sept. 12, and Maria forming Sept. 16 and finally

dissipating Sept. 30.

Officials said Harvey killed 82 people, Irma claimed 134 and the official death toll from Maria is 52.

The extent of the damage from all three storms was substantial and some officials esti-

mate it could cost up to \$200 billion.

The military response matched the size of the disasters. Thousands of National Guardsmen, Reservists and active-duty personnel took part in search and rescue recovery operations.

## Defining the Problem

There were many lessons learned from the response and defense support of civil authorities, Buchanan said, adding that he is putting them together for next year.

“I believe that at the operational level you have to define the problem,” Buchanan said.

The three storms required different responses. The state emergency management agencies had different capacities, equipment and personnel. Texas and Florida have large emergen-

ARNORTH continues on 8

# Navy Corpsman training revisions coming to JBSA

By Larry Coffey

NAVY MEDICINE EDUCATION,  
TRAINING AND LOGISTICS  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Navy's largest career field, or “rating,” would soon see the most significant training changes since the Hospital Corps “A” School's 2011 moved from Great Lakes, Ill., to Joint Base San Antonio, according to Vice Adm. Forrest Faison, the Navy surgeon general, during congressional testimony in Washington, D.C., March 29, 2017.

Faison spoke before the Senate Appropriations Committee Defense subcommittee during a hearing on defense health programs and military medicine funding, where his focus was on Navy Medicine's most important priority – readiness.

“We are changing and improving the training of our corpsmen at HM “A” school in



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS JACQUELYN CHILDS /

*Tech. Sgt. Rey Meza (right) and Chief Petty Officer Jacklyn Place (second from right), instructors at the Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, teach students during a nursing lab portion of the Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program, or BMTCP, Sept. 20, 2016, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*

San Antonio,” Faison told the subcommittee. “Our curriculum changes are focused on providing ready and relevant training that will prepare them to manage the continuum of care in high-threat or complex environments most

likely to be encountered by our sea-based expeditionary Navy and Marine Corps forces.”

Faison told the subcommittee a primary reason for today's high combat survivability rate is the “heroic work” by

hospital corpsmen.

“You, and the American public, can be justifiably proud of their tremendous contributions,” Faison said. “Corpsmen are responsible for delivering initial care on the battlefield or in an isolated assignment aboard a ship or submarine far from any MTF.”

“This is a total revision of the existing curriculum,” said Chief Petty Officer Renee Byam, the Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command, or NMETLC, skills management leading chief petty officer.

“The revision increases hands-on training by approximately 20 percent,” which was directly identified by key stakeholders, the operational forces, medical treatment facilities and Faison during lifecycle curriculum review studies.

Navy corpsmen and Air Force medical technicians currently train together in a

consolidated training environment at the tri-service Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said Navy Capt. Terri Kinsey, NMETLC academics director.

The newly developed Navy curriculum will also focus on the operational environments to which Navy corpsmen are also assigned. Adding the fleet and expeditionary environments added two areas that require corpsman training to deconsolidate away from common classroom training with the Air Force.

“The surgeon general's readiness, health and partnership priorities are the cornerstone of Navy Medicine's force health protection mission,” said Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, NMETLC commander. “Medical education and training play a major role in that readiness.



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## ARNORTH

From page 7

cy management agencies and large National Guard forces and the capacity to cover large incidents.

"In Texas, we sent a forward command post with about 28 guys, which we beefed up to about 80," he said. With the main headquarters for U.S. Army North at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, this acted as an extension of the command nearer the disaster area.

"In Florida, I had an even smaller footprint," he said. "We sent about 10 guys with a lot of communications capability to link in with the dual-status commander and be essentially a liaison cell."

But Puerto Rico really required something different, Buchanan said, including personal presence. He had to go to San Juan and had a much more robust headquarters.

In Puerto Rico, the island was completely overwhelmed.

"It was overwhelmed first because it had weak infrastructure, it was vulnerable," he said. "There were no underground power cables, for example, it was aboveground and it was old."

The island was overwhelmed because

of its small capacity and because it is isolated, the general said. "You can't drive down I-10 or I-35 to bring in a bunch of stuff or people," he said.

Finally, the power of the storms was extraordinary – two Category 5 hurricanes separated by just 10 days. "Maria was a devastating storm and it didn't just glance off the island," Buchanan said. "It affected literally every part of the island. If we had the same storm in Texas or Florida, the effects would have been the same."

Buchanan said he learned that communicating with the community is an important aspect of the recovery process.

"We were clearing the roads, but we were leaving the debris by the side of the road, and people wondered why," he said. "Hauling the debris away would take time from the clearance operations. Hiring a local firm to haul away the debris is cheaper, and it pumps money into the economy. We had to communicate that."

The work that followed was led by Puerto Rican Governor Ricardo Rossello, who was in charge on the island, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The military worked through those civilian agencies, and Buchanan said he sees no need for that to change.

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# Opportunities expand for METC graduates to further education

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Leaders at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston were seeking ways last year to expand opportunities for METC graduates who want to further their education.

More institutions are expressing an interest in joining the METC degree partnership program, in which colleges and universities who participate in the program agree to give METC graduates credit for portions of the training they received at METC, said Lt. Col. Melanie Ellis, METC Chief of Strategic Planning and Partnerships.

METC has agreements with 60 colleges and universities in its degree partnership program

throughout the U.S., which include 1,000 degree pathways for former METC students who want to continue their education.

Ellis said there is a need for more partnerships between METC and institutions that can provide degree pathways for METC graduates. Since METC, the world's largest enlisted medical training campus, was established in 2010 over 100,000 students have completed training at the campus.

"There are more than 100,000 alumni of METC out there, and a third of them are National Guard and Reserve," Ellis said. "That's a lot of folks looking for educational opportunities."

By going through a degree pathway program, Ellis said servicemembers or veterans can earn a degree or get certification in a medical field that will make them employable in

the civilian sector without having to retake courses they took at METC.

"It gives them credit for what they've already trained in," Ellis said. "And it is going to get them to degree completion or credentialing sooner."

Colleges and universities who are interested in joining the degree partnership program can tour the facilities at METC and get a firsthand look at the resources the training campus offers to its students. METC also shares its curriculum with institutions, who review it to see if it meets requirements for their degree programs.

Once colleges and universities are informed about METC and what it offers, Ellis said they are convinced to join the degree partnership program.

Any institution that becomes a part of the degree partnership program is listed on the METC

website, which includes a map of the U.S. that shows the location of the college or university with a pin. The programs offered by the institution that are compatible for METC graduates are also listed.

"Once educational institutions learn how METC delivers training and see the quality of our instructors, the quality of our facilities and the resources we have," said Ellis, "they are excited to become a part of it and want to get their pin on the map."

Ellis stressed to METC graduates who go through the degree pathway programs to visit the education support office at their duty station to explore the options for how they can go about obtaining their degree or certification.

The degree partnership program provides potential savings to taxpayers because a former

METC student who takes advantage of the program will not need to expend Tuition Assistance or G.I. Bill dollars for college credits they have already been granted, Ellis said. Also they are able to utilize their professional skills in the community.

METC includes 48 medical training programs and trains Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard medics, corpsmen and technicians. An average of 20,000 students per year graduate from the medical campus, which is the largest consolidation of the military training in Department of Defense history. Ninety-five percent of enlisted medical technical education in the armed forces occurs at METC.

For more information on the degree pathway programs, visit <http://www.metc.mil/degreebridge>.



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# U.S. Army South welcomes new commander

By Maj. Jamelle A. Garner  
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Clarence K.K. Chinn relinquished command of U.S. Army South to the incoming commander, Maj. Gen. Mark R. Stammer, on the historic MacArthur Parade Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Oct. 3, 2017.

After 36 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Army, Chinn affectionately informed the audience that he will now fall under the new command of his wife, Val.

The ceremony included the traditional military pomp and circumstance associated with military change of command ceremonies. The 323rd Army Band, "Fort Sam's Own" led the way with historical military musical selections that guided the troops in formation. The Salute Battery from Army North Headquarters Support Company, commanded by Capt. Jung Son, added an extra touch with their battery salute.

Admiral Kurt W. Tidd, com-

mander of United States Southern Command, served as the reviewing officer for the historic occasion.

Chinn assumed command of U.S. Army South June 4, 2015, and since then has cemented the organization's reputation as the reliable partner of choice.

Of his many contributions, Chinn has ensured the organization continues its support of multinational operations to counter transregional and transnational threat networks and execute rapid response to humanitarian disaster relief operations.

Most recently, he oversaw support operations in the wake of hurricanes Irma and Maria.

"K.K. worked tirelessly to gain additional resources so that our Soldiers can spend more time with their counterparts to improve interoperability and partner nation capacity," Tidd said as he praised the numerous efforts and improvements gained during Chinn's tenure.

"From start to finish this

operation is perfectly focused and flawlessly executed," Tidd concluded.

During his final remarks, Chinn thanked several Soldiers, civilians, civic leaders and partner nation allies in attendance, but he took a moment to especially recognize and honor former Army Senior leaders in the crowd like retired Maj. Gens. Simeon Trombitas, Lawson Magruder and Alfred Valenzuela.

"We honor them for what they have done for Army South and for the nation, ensuring we remained the strongest and most powerful nation in the world during their watch. Please stand up so we can thank you for your selfless service and honoring us today with your presence and ensuring we do not forget whose shoulders we stand upon today," Chinn said.

In a previous assignment, Stammer served as the commanding general of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa in Djibouti, Africa. As a native Texan, he looks forward to



MAJ. JAMELLE GARNER /

From left: Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn; Adm. Kurt Tidd and incoming Army South commander Maj. Gen. Mark R. Stammer salute the colors as the National Anthem is played during ARSOUTH's change of command ceremony Oct. 3, 2017.

being back in his home state.

"It's a great day to be a part of U.S. Southern Command and Army South," Stammer said.

"Admiral Tidd, sir, thank you very much for the opportunity

to serve with this tremendous organization and alongside our great partners, Donna and I are ready to pick up the mission and carry on," concluded Stammer.

## USAISR Burn Center appoints new director

By Dr. Steven Galvan  
USAISR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For the first time in six decades, the director of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is a federal government civilian employee. Dr. Leopoldo "Lee" Cancio, M.D., FACS, a retired Army colonel assigned to the USAISR Burn Center in 1995 until he retired in 2014, was appointed as director Nov. 17, 2017.

"I'm very grateful to be in this position," Cancio said. "I've made this organization my life's work, my life's vocation. I'm very happy to do this type of work and take care of patients with people whose company I enjoy and who share the same vision that I do."

Cancio joined the Burn Cen-

ter as a major and had several titles including surgeon, chief of burn study branch, chief of clinical division (renamed burn center director), and deputy for medical operations and development.

Before his assignment to the Burn Center, Cancio was the regimental surgeon during combat operations with the 82nd Airborne Division in Panama in 1989 and during Operation Desert Storm in 1990. Cancio also deployed to Iraq three times while assigned to the Burn Center, and after his second deployment was selected for a fellowship in surgical critical care in 2006 at Brooke Army Medical Center.

"Then I started a new task area called Combat Critical Care Engineering," Cancio added.

During that time, Cancio also served as acting director – twice



DR. STEVEN GALVAN /

Dr. Leopoldo "Lee" Cancio was appointed the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center director Nov. 17, 2017.

while on active duty and during the last few months while the director, Col. (Dr.) Booker King was on deployment. King is scheduled to transfer in the spring or early summer 2018 to

Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, N.C., to create a surgical program where he'll serve as the subject matter expert in trauma critical care.

"You couldn't be in better hands," King said. "His contributions to the USAISR have been tremendous. He has the experience, wisdom and judgment to take this burn center to the next level."

Cancio chose to come back to the Burn Center as a civilian because he wanted to continue working in a high-volume burn center such as this one.

"This burn center is somewhat unusual in the number of patients we admit annually – it's on the high side," Cancio said. "This work is not easy, and I want to take care of the people who take care of our patients."

Cancio is aware that he has some challenges ahead, but said that he's going to do his best to make the burn center a rewarding place to work.

"First of all, we need to ensure that we have adequate staff, particularly, but not exclusively, in the area of nursing," he said. "We need to promote the idea that working in the burn center requires a unique resiliency. We need to make this a fulfilling place to work so that people feel supported in their efforts."

As a physician and researcher, Cancio wants to ensure that the research and clinical staff are better integrated and communicate more among themselves. He believes that this is the "magic" that will advance burn care.

"When clinicians are able to take their problems to the lab, so that the lab can work out solutions to those problems and the lab can take those solutions back to the bedside to implement them, then that's the surest way to rapid advancement in medical care," Cancio added.

BURN CENTER continues on 12



# MICC realigns organizational structure

By Daniel P. Elkins

MICC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A handful of contracting offices subordinate to the Mission and Installation Contracting Command were realigned beginning this past October as the command transformed itself to be more responsive to its mission partners.

“The MICC is committed to providing supported customers, the joint force and our international partners the right equipment, at the right time, at the most efficient cost,” said Col. Bill Boruff, MICC commander, emphasizing that the extent of this organizational change only encompasses a new reporting chain. “Aligning our organizational structure to optimize that support is a constant in doing business.”

Headquartered at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the MICC consists of about 1,500 military and civilian members who are responsible for contracting goods and services in support of Soldiers as well as readying trained contracting units for



MASTER SGT. MICHEL SAURET /

*Implementation of a new Mission and Installation Contracting Command alignment is designed to better support the training and readiness needs of organizations throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, which are supported by the command.*

the operating force and contingency environment when called upon.

The contracting office at Fort Belvoir, Va., previously subordinate to the 419th Contracting Support Brigade at Fort Bragg, N.C., is being aligned under the MICC Field Directorate Office at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. MICC-Fort Belvoir is responsible for contracting support to the Fort Belvoir Garri-

son and its tenant organizations, nearby Fort Meade, Fort Detrick, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall and Fort A.P. Hill as well as the Military District of Washington and non-medical procurements for Walter Reed Army Medical Center

The 419th CSB's contracting office at Fort Polk, La., is being aligned under the 418th CSB at Fort Hood, Texas. MICC-Fort Polk supports the training needs of the Joint

Readiness Training Center, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Installation Management Command, Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital, Network Enterprise Center, Logistics Readiness Center-Army Material Command, 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade as well as other tenant units.

Two installation-level contracting offices that fell under JBSA-Fort Sam Houston are being realigned as divisions subordinate to two 419th CSB contracting offices. The contracting office at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, will become a division of the MICC contracting office at Fort Jackson, S.C. MICC-Moffett Field will be a subordinate division of the MICC contracting office at Fort McCoy, Wis. Both divisions will continue to support the contracting needs of their respective installations.

“The purpose of this new alignment is to best support our customers,” Boruff added. “The MICC must be postured to deliver acquisition excellence and the highest quality of materiel readiness to Sol-

diers and the Army.”

Contracting offices subordinate to the command's two brigades and field directorate offices are structured by tier. Tier 1 offices are responsible for executing contract actions below the simplified acquisition threshold of \$150,000. Tier 2 offices perform post-award functions at greater dollar and complexity levels. Tier 3 offices execute larger dollar value contract actions.

The change in organizational structure included considerations by officials from human resources and resource management at the MICC headquarters and will result in no job losses by civilian employees.

MICC contracts are vital in feeding more than 200,000 Soldiers every day, providing many daily base operations support services at installations, preparing more than 100,000 conventional force members annually, training more than 500,000 students each year, and maintaining more than 14.4 million acres of land and 170,000 structures.

## IMCOM'S TAP helps Army save \$900 million

By Leslie Hargett

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION  
MANAGEMENT COMMAND

Unemployment compensation for Soldiers leaving the Army during fiscal year 2016 dropped to the lowest amount recorded in 13 years.

The Army ended the year at \$172.8 million, according to the Department of Labor's unemployment compensation report. Army expenditures had peaked in 2011 at \$515 million. This is the first time expenditures dropped below \$200 million since 2003.

In the last four years, the Army has saved more than \$900 million in cost avoidance for unemployment compensation expenditures through programs

like the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program, which prepares Soldiers for finding employment in the civilian sector when they leave active service.

“The significant reduction in the Army's bill for unemployment compensation, along with the reduction in the national veteran unemployment rate, can be attributed to the diligence of the team of teams at IMCOM's SFL-TAP centers who are selfless, passionate and dedicated to this important mission,” said IMCOM Command Sgt. Major Melissa Judkins.

IMCOM executes SFL-TAP by providing resources, guidance and support to 73 centers

world-wide. The command markets the program to Soldiers, provides direct funding and manpower, develops standardized training and monitors the execution of the program.

When Soldiers receive unemployment compensation from a state agency, the Department of Labor bills the Army for reimbursement. Reducing the number of Soldiers receiving compensation by assisting them in their transition to the civilian sector benefits both the Army and the Federal Government in cost avoidance savings.

In 2016 alone, over 117,000 Soldiers successfully transitioned into the civilian community using SFL-TAP services.

“We are excited to see that

more Army Veterans are finding careers after they transition off of active duty service, and fewer are having to file for unemployment compensation,” said retired Col. Walter Herd, director of the Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program, based out of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

Although experience shows veterans generally enjoy a favorable employment rate in the nation's job market, many veterans initially find it difficult to compete successfully in the civilian labor market. SFL-TAP Centers help Soldiers alleviate many employment-related difficulties and prepare them for success.

IMCOM SFL-TAP Centers have partnered with the Department of Labor, DOD, the Small Business Administration, and Veterans Affairs to provide employment and training information to Soldiers and their eligible spouses within one year of their separation or two years of their retirement from the military.

“This is a positive step for our Soldiers and our nation as we continue to support and provide the assistance Soldiers need as they transition off of active duty service,” Judkins said.

“However, as we transition 90-thousand-plus Soldiers per year for the next 3-5 years, it's imperative for the Army to maintain the momentum to keep Veteran unemployment low and continue to reduce UCX for the Army,” she concluded.



## BURN CENTER

From page 10

"Although it may be magical, it doesn't happen by accident. It requires effort, hard work, time and understanding for people to achieve working together."

Cancio firmly believes that a cohesive team like the multidisciplinary team at the Burn Center is the key to providing patients with the best care.

"We have a non-standard way of delivering health care in our burn center. You won't find a team like this on rounds in

many other places," Cancio said. "First of all, we need to celebrate that, and we need to understand how to make it better."

"We need to understand our communication styles, we need to improve our coaching styles, we need to increase our emotional intelligence, we need to build not just competent individuals, but effective teams. If we're going to lead the way in patient care, if we're going to develop new technologies, then teamwork has got to be one of them."

Cancio's path to the Burn Center started after he earned a

degree in international relations from Amherst College in Massachusetts. He realized that it was difficult to find a job in that field, even though he grew up in Washington, D.C. His father, an attorney, encouraged him to attend law school. That wasn't the case. He applied for and got accepted to attend graduate school to earn a master's degree in political science from the Catholic University of America. While working on his masters, Cancio had a talk with his high school principal and asked for advice on a career.

"I really had no idea what I to

do with myself, and I asked the principal for some help," he said.

Attending medical school took some adjusting. Earlier in life, he had convinced himself that he was not good in science or math—he had to change that. He also realized that medical school was a big commitment and that could interfere with other things that he wanted to do.

Cancio attended Georgetown University of School of Medicine with a Health Professions Scholarship Program scholarship. After completing medi-

cal school in 1987, Cancio completed his internship at Brooke Army Medical Center before his tour with the 82nd Airborne Division. He then returned back to BAMC to complete his residency in general surgery, before being transferred to the USAISR Burn Center.

"I feel at home in this organization," Cancio said. "Taking care of service members and civilians is one of the things that I care most about. I'm passionate about that, and it's what drives me to pursue excellence in what I do and in my work with others."

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# LACKLAND

## 59 MDW cares for the warfighter

From 59th Medical Wing  
Public Affairs

"This is our purpose and my motivation for what we do," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Ketu Lincoln, 59th Medical Wing oral maxillofacial prosthodontic fellow, describing the patient that inspired her. "He's given so much, so we wanted to do whatever possible as a way of giving back to him."

In mid-November, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Kenneth Dwyer, a Special Forces officer assigned to U.S. Army 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, traveled to San Antonio for a week for a follow-up appointment. Within that short time, he left with more than he expected and was able to get one of his long-



STAFF SGT. MICHAEL ELLIS

*Lt. Col. Kenneth Dwyer receives a new prosthetic eye at the Air Force Postgraduate Dental School Nov. 17, 2016, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Dwyer wanted the iris of his prosthetic eye to be his unit's crest as a way of paying tribute to his unit and the service members who never made it back home.*

time wishes fulfilled thanks to the specialists here at the wing.

"I appreciate all the things the staff has done," said Dwyer. "The staff has been

incredible in helping get me to be the best me that I can be."

In 2006, Dwyer was 29 years old and had only been in the Army for eight years. During a deployment to Afghanistan, he

sustained near-fatal injuries from an enemy rocket-propelled grenade.

"After I got hurt, I remember my first thoughts when they pulled me out of sedation and I

talked to my battalion commander," said Dwyer. "I told him to send me back in. I wanted to know what I needed to do to get back in the fight because I didn't want to let my guys down."

After a long road to recovery, Dwyer managed to not only recover but excel at life, and he now commands an elite unit of Army Green Berets and Rangers.

"I have been in the Army now longer with one hand and one eye than when I had two hands and two eyes," said Dwyer. I want the people around me — my soldiers, peers, and family — to realize it's not acceptable to quit doing what you love just because it gets a little bit harder or you get hurt," said Dwyer. "You just got to find a creative way to do it and make it happen."

59TH MDW continues on 14

## New Wilford Hall welcomes its first patient with ribbon-cutting

By Jeremy Gerlach

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After nearly a decade of planning, development and construction, the new Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland welcomed its first scheduled patient with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 7, 2017.

The 59th Medical Wing, which hosted the ceremony to commemorate the occasion, also welcomed several active and retired generals, many of whom were instrumental in the development of the new facility.

The facility's first patient, Master Sgt. Karrin Hatcher, 344th Training Squadron logistics writer, pregnant with her



STAFF SGT. KEVIN IINUMA

WILFORD HALL continues on 14

*The 59th Medical Wing's new \$418 million, 682,000-square-foot Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center officially opened June 7.*



## 59TH MDW

From page 13

For years Dwyer has wanted to honor the men and women he has served with and had a thought of reproducing his unit's crest on his prosthetic eye. Lincoln consulted with the wing's medical illustrators at the public affairs office to construct the crest.

Robert Shelley, 59th MDW medical illustrator, gladly accepted the task and coined the experience working with Dwyer as rewarding.

"Guys get tattoos and things they're proud of such as their kids' or

family's name, symbols or whatever," said Dwyer. "For me it's my tribute to the unit and the guys who never had a chance to come home. And how boring would it be if I just had a regular eye...now I can show off my unit and how proud I am."

Dwyer described how the wing is a convenient location because there are so many assets here.

"It's amazing what I was able to get done in a week and it was way more than I expected," he said. "I didn't think I was going to be able to get the surgery completed. I expected to have the initial consult, and

thought I would have to come back for more treatment."

Occasionally Dwyer's previous prosthetic eye would slip out of position due to the degeneration of muscles around the eye socket. Lincoln contacted Dr. Brett Davies, 59th MDW director of orbit and oculoplastics, and within two days they were able to perform a surgery to tighten up Dwyer's lower eyelid. He also received an oral examination for the evaluation of the dental implants placed following his injury. In addition, Dwyer had the opportunity to get his prosthetic arm worked on at the Center for the Intrepid at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

"Overall the customer service, level of training and expertise, and professionalism of every

single Airman, officer and doctor I have talked to here has been tremendous," Dwyer said.

"They get you in and take care of your needs. Everyone has jumped through hoops to make things happen."

Every service member, regardless of branch or specialty, have their part to play in the greater construct of the military," he said.

Lincoln described how she simply wanted to do her part as a way of giving back and contributing to the mission.

"As a dental specialist, I more than likely will never find myself in actual combat," said Lincoln. "He's the one that's directly contributing to the war effort. By taking care of the warfighter and getting him back to the fight, we are doing our part in trying to save lives."

## WILFORD HALL

From page 13

fifth child, was there for her 8 a.m. examination appointment. In keeping with the center's "patient-centered" philosophy, Hatcher even got to cut the ribbon for the facility as all the generals looked on.

"I'm kind of nervous but also excited," Hatcher said of her medical appointment. "This is the first time I've seen this place, but it's very, very beautiful."

The facility opens into a three-story foyer replete with cushioned chairs, reception areas and other amenities, designed to provide a welcoming environment to patients such as Hatcher.

Although Hatcher didn't know where her examination appointment was located, she turned to find a massive touchscreen directory as soon as she stepped inside the building, along with a handful of medical personnel eager to assist. "This is incredible," she said.

The new Wilford Hall, costing \$418 million, is a 682,000-square-foot marvel that has been in the works since the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Act directed the original Wilford Hall inpatient services be moved to the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

The new facility, just across the street from the original facility, is meant to provide more efficient, patient-centered care for its next generation of beneficiaries.

Maj. Gen. Bart Iddins, 59th MDW commander, is leading the wing into that next generation.

"The Warrior Medics of the 59th Medical Wing are

committed to always being ready for war, contingencies and disasters," said Iddins. "This high level of readiness is enabled by the delivery of patient-centered health care and underpinned on the dedication of our Airmen."

After overseeing the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Iddins announced, "The new Wilford Hall is officially open!"

Iddins then led a tour of the facility spanning from waiting rooms and spacious conference facilities to emergency and operating rooms already humming and beeping with brand-new medical technology.

The center's main proponent during his service, retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Travis, followed Iddins closely on the tour. A former Surgeon General of the Air Force and commander of the 59th MDW from 2007 to 2010, Travis fought to secure funding for the project during a time of economic uncertainty and overhead transitions in Congress and the Department of Defense.

Passing from room to room, Travis inundated Iddins and his fellow dignitaries with questions about the new facility.

"It's very rewarding and exciting to see this come out of nothing," Travis said. "Ten years ago we were just starting to get the money to build this, and here we are, standing inside."

The new Wilford Hall will be tasked with carrying on the legacy of the old one, Travis noted.

Patients and visitors wanting to check the location and operational status of relevant clinics and departments can go on [www.WilfordHallMove.com](http://www.WilfordHallMove.com), the 59th MDW Facebook page or call the information desk at 210-292-7412.

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## AIR FORCE MTI NAMED MILITARY TIMES' AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



ANDREW C. PATTERSON /

Tech. Sgt. Megan Harper, 326th Training Squadron military training instructor facilitator, was selected as the Military Times' 2017 Airmen of the Year for her exceptional service over the course of a 15-year Air Force career. Tech. Sgt. Megan Harper, who became an MTI in March 2013 and Airmen's Week facilitator in August 2016, received her honor July 12, 2017, at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. As a facilitator, Harper's job is to facilitate classes during Airmen's Week, a transitional character development period between basic military training and technical school when Airmen have the opportunity to apply and internalize the Air Force creed and core values taught during BMT.

## 59TH MDW AIRMAN NAMED OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEFAN ALVAREZ

Senior Airman Nicole Moore, 59th Medical Wing medical technician, was recognized as one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2017, July 7, 2017. The award recognizes Moore's personal commitment, hard work and dedication to her unit's success. Opting to forgo a partial academic scholarship, Moore became the first member of her family to wear the Air Force uniform and serve her country. Moore enlisted as a medic. After basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, she remained in San Antonio for technical training. As her first duty assignment, Moore currently works at the 59th MDW urgent care department.

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# RANDOLPH

## Air Force reaches EPIC milestone

(Editor's note: Due to Air Force security regulations, only first names are used to identify RPA pilots and sensor operators.)

By Randy Martin

12TH FLYING TRAINING WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The first three noncommissioned officers in the Enlisted Pilot Initial Class completed Undergraduate Remotely Piloted Aircraft Training on May 5, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Their accomplishment is exceptional because the Air Force has relied almost exclusively on commissioned officers as its pilots in the seventy years it has been a separate military service.

The Air Force announced the EPIC initiative Dec. 17, 2015. Its first four of twelve enlisted pilot candidates were integrated with 20 newly commissioned officers Oct. 12, 2016, at



TECH. SGT. AVE YOUNG /

Master Sgt. Alex (last name withheld for security purposes), one of the first Enlisted Pilot Initial Class students, operates the controls of a simulator during the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Fundamentals Course April 19, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Initial Flight Training near Pueblo Memorial Airport, Pueblo, Colorado.

As part of IFT, each student soloed a DA-20 Katana aircraft

just like all the other students that train to be pilots and combat systems officers. When they enlisted more than ten years ago this opportunity was not

available.

"If you would have asked me if I was going to be a pilot when I was an Airman 1st class, I would have told you no," said Master Sgt. Alex, the second of the three EPIC students to solo and later complete IFT.

They continued the RPA pipeline on Jan. 6, 2017, at JBSA-Randolph in the second and third phases of URT. Here students learn RPA instrument qualification and fundamentals.

"For me, the hardest part going through this course was learning instrument flying and applying those skills," said Tech. Sgt. Mike. He was the third EPIC student to solo at IFT.

"Just like most Air Force courses, there's a lot of information to take in at once, but once that information was organized, it leveled out," said Mike.

After URT, formal training

continues with Air Combat Command at Beale Air Force Base in California during a Basic Qualification Course. While there the pilots will qualify on the RQ-4 Global Hawk, a long-duration intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance weapon system that supports missions worldwide.

The remaining EPIC pilot candidates are in URT classes that started earlier in 2017 and graduation was scheduled later in 2017 and 2018. The Air Force Personnel Command continues to plan for the training and assignment of enlisted RPA pilots.

"There are a lot of opportunities that could become available to enlisted Airmen," said Master Sgt. Mike. Master Sgt. Mike had extensive private pilot training before joining EPIC. He was the first to solo at IFT and he was confident that fellow enlisted Airmen can succeed in URT.

"If there is something you really want, it's achievable. You just have to put in the effort."

## Freedom Flyer tradition reaches 44 years with annual reunion

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A 44-year tradition continued in March 2017 when the 560th Flying Training Squadron hosted a band of brothers who endured the horrors of prisoner-of-war camps during the Vietnam War.

The Freedom Flyer Reunion and Symposium, which took place March 31, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, honored the sacrifices of the Air Force pilots who were shot down and imprisoned by the North Vietnamese but were subsequently retrained by the 560th FTS to fly again in the Air Force or given the opportunity to experience their fini flight.

"The 560th Chargin' Cheetahs have been truly blessed to have the honor of hosting this unique and longstanding Air Force tradition that has meant so much to so many people over the past 44 years," said Maj. Erik Lugo-Escobar, 560th FTS assistant director of operations and 44th annual Freedom Flyer Reunion director. "We pour the heart and soul of our



TECH SGT. SAMUEL BENDET /

T-38 Talons fly over Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

squadron into the planning and execution of all the Freedom Flyer Reunion events every year because these American heroes deserve to be celebrated."

Highlights of the reunion included two events that

were open to the public.

A wreath-laying ceremony took place from 10:15-11 a.m. March 31 at the JBSA-Randolph Missing Man Monument in Washington Circle. This event featured a flyover involving a V-22 Osprey, an F-16 and four trainer aircraft.

Stories of hope and survival were told by five former prisoners-of-war during the 20th annual POW Symposium from 1-4 p.m. that same day.

The Freedom Flyer program, which was born in 1973, initially involved the retraining of former POWs to fly again as Air Force pilots. Over the last 37 years, the 560th FTS has returned 196 ex-POWs to the skies on their freedom flight, ensuring their last flight in an Air Force aircraft would not be the one that ended in their capture.

"The Freedom Flyer Reunion is part of our squadron identity, heritage and legacy," Lugo-Escobar said. "We hope to continue this tradition even after these heroes have been long gone so we will never forget their tremendous sacrifice."



# AETC celebrates 75th anniversary with extravaganza

By Airman 1st Class

Lauren Parsons

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Education and Training Command celebrated its heritage Jan. 23, 2017, with a 75th Anniversary Extravaganza at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

AETC was founded as the U.S. Air Corps Flying Training Command Jan. 23, 1942, prior to the birth of the Air Force. Since then, the first command has taken America's sons and daughters and forged them into professional Airmen.

"The legacy of AETC is a proud one, a story of men and women of genius and of innovation," said Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander.

"We are the first command and the foundation of airpower for America," Roberson continued. "Airpower truly does start right here."



SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY D. ARCHER

Members of the John Jay High School Drill Team perform during Air Education and Training Command's 75th Anniversary Extravaganza Jan. 23, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Delaine Mathieu, News 4 San Antonio co-anchor and master of ceremonies, gave opening remarks to kick off the extravaganza.

"Today, AETC continues to build on its incredible heritage and on the sacrifices of early

aviation pioneers, like the Airmen who flew balloons and gliders, the seat-of-the-pants pilots who learned to fly before there was an AETC, the innovators who championed new processes like blind pilot flying before there were navigation

**"We are the first command and the foundation of airpower for America. Airpower truly does start right here."**

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander at the time

instruments and aerial refueling, and the leaders who helped develop and implement airpower doctrine," said Mathieu.

Gen. (Ret.) Hal Hornburg, 27th commander of AETC; Gen. (Ret.) Donald Cook, 28th commander of AETC; Gen. (Ret.) Edward Rice Jr., 30th commander of AETC; and Chief Master Sgt. David Staton, AETC command chief, were also in attendance and gave speeches during the ceremony.

"The very foundation of a professional force is training, and education is required to make the training relevant, to give it purpose, to give it structure, to give it vision," said Rice

Jr. "Those two things that this command does, training and education, are the very foundation of every great professional military force that has ever existed and will exist. What you do is timeless and will continue to endure."

Also in attendance was honored guest Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dick Cole, World War II veteran and Doolittle Raider.

The event included performances from Air Force Band of the West, the Randolph High School band and choir, the John Jay High School Drill Team and the posting of the colors by the Heritage Ceremonial Guard.

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SEAN WORRELL

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson (right), commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Dr. Joe Leverett (left), Altus Trophy selection committee chairman, present the 2016 Altus Trophy to Diane Rath (center), Alamo Area Council of Governments executive director, March 22, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The Altus Trophy is given annually to a community judged to have shown outstanding support to an AETC base.

## AETC's 2016 Altus Trophy awarded to San Antonio

By 1st Lt. Beau Downey

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, then commander of Air Education and Training Command, announced the community of San Antonio as the winner of the 2016 Altus Trophy during a brief ceremony with AETC's Civic Leader Group on March 22, 2017 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

"This is our way of recognizing the community's impact and relationship with our bases in AETC," Roberson said. "You'll notice that it is the communities that were named, not the bases."

The trophy, which is presented in partnership with the Altus Chamber of Commerce, is given to the AETC community that provides the best support to its local military installation.

This year, there were seven applications, which were narrowed down by members of the Altus Military Affairs Committee to three finalists: Biloxi, Mis-

issippi; Little Rock, Arkansas; and San Antonio, Texas; said Joe Leverett, Altus Trophy Selection Committee chairman.

The final decision was made by a panel of former AETC commanders. The community of San Antonio, which was also recognized this year as a Great American Defense Community by the Association of Defense Communities, took the top honor after partnering with military members at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Randolph, Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis.

One area identified in the nomination application for the San Antonio community was the partnership formed to address water access. Expanding population raised concerns about maintaining sources of water for JBSA. The Alamo Area Council of Governments teamed up with the City of San Antonio to secure \$5 million from the State of Texas to address new water connections for Joint Base San Antonio.

ALTUS TROPHY continues on 19

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## CSAF VISITS JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO



JOHNNY SALDIVAR /

*Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright speak with Battlefield Airmen in training during a tour of BA training facilities June 15, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. During the first day of his visit, Goldfein met many Battlefield Airmen and toured the physical training pad and classrooms as well as Chaparral Pool facility. Goldfein then spoke to BA TG senior leaders on future upgrades and improvements on training and facilities within the group. Goldfein also had the opportunity to participate in BMT graduation. As the reviewing official for 526 graduates, Goldfein led the oath of enlistment for the Air Force's newest Airmen.*

## CMSAF UNDERSCORES ROLE OF LEADERSHIP



SEAN WORRELL /

*Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright (right) discusses recent changes to enlisted professional development education during a senior non-commissioned officers call on July 31, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The Air Force's senior enlisted leader was at the base for an immersion with Air Education and Training Command headquarters and missions.*

## ALTUS TROPHY

From page 18

"We were able to partner with the community and with the state to put in place a process and a plan," Roberson said. "We couldn't have done it on our own."

Expanding population results in another issue that was important to JBASA: encroachment.

The community provided continuous advocacy for solutions to encroachment at JBASA-Randolph, citing identification of mission-critical gaps where private and public business can support military installations. On Jan. 26, 2016, Bexar County unanimously passed a resolution giving its recommendations regarding encroachment.

The application also identified that

AACOG partnered with the City of San Antonio, JBASA and the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District to supplement road construction. FSHISD will contribute \$150,000 toward the design of a road that will serve as an emergency egress that will benefit JBASA members.

As the representatives of the San Antonio community posed for a photo with the Altus trophy, Leverett explained the symbolism of the award itself.

"The trophy sits on a base that is a solid sheet of granite," Leverett said. "This symbolizes the rock-solid support the communities give."

"We work very hard as a community to support our military," said Diane Rath, AACOG executive director. "I think it's important for everyone to recognize that it is not just one community that supports JBASA. In this area, it is truly a regional effort."

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