

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MAY 4, 2018



PHOTO BY JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Lt. Gen. Steven L. Kwast (right), commander of Air Education and Training Command, and his wife, Joni (far right), join the 2018 Joint Base San Antonio Military Ambassadors on a river barge during the Texas Cavaliers River Parade April 23 in San Antonio.

JBSA members from all branches join in Fiesta *Pages 10-11*



Champion boxer graduates from METC program
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USAF Drill Team Airman returns home for Fiesta
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‘Sextortion’ scams continue to occur

From U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's Computer Crime Investigative Unit, or CCIU, continues to caution the Army community to be on the lookout for all types of "sextortion scams" where criminals will use any dishonest method to make contact with potential victims and then attempt to blackmail them.

"To avoid falling prey to a sextortionist, never send compromising photos or videos of yourself to anyone, whether you know them or think you know them," said Special Agent Daniel Andrews, CCIU director. "Turn off your electronic devices and physically block web cameras when you are not using them."

Officials describe "sextortion scams" as cyber sexual extortion where perpetrators conduct schemes that leverage online sexual acts for financial gain or other forms of blackmail.

In addition, when using a legitimate online dating site, victims are more apt to provide personal information and or participate in online "compromising acts;" however, CID officials are warning the Army community to be very cautious of their online communications activity and not share intimate, personal information with strangers or people you have never met in person.

"These criminals will try to get unsuspecting service members to engage in online sexual activities and then demand money or favors in exchange for not publicizing potentially embarrassing information or turning them over to law enforcement," Andrews said.

Once the Soldier sends a compromising photo or participates in a video chat, the perpetrator threatens to send those images to the Soldier's command, family, and friends

"It is important to also keep in mind that law enforcement, to include Army CID, will never agree to take legal action if you agree to pay ransom money to the alleged victim or to the alleged victim's family. If law enforcement gets involved early on, there are investigative steps that may help identify the perpetrators responsible for victimizing Army personnel."

Daniel Andrews, CCIU director

unless "ransom money" is paid, according to CCIU officials.

One recent scam is where the criminal will claim that the Soldier sent sexual images to a minor, who has now become the alleged victim, and threaten to report the Soldier to law enforcement unless a monetary fee is paid.

"If you meet a person on a legitimate online dating site there is very little chance that you are actually communicating with an underage person," Andrews said. "It is therefore very unlikely that you sent or received child pornography or provided your images/videos to a minor. If you met someone online who later claims to be underage you should immediately cease all communications with that person and notify Army CID.

"It is important to also keep in mind that law enforcement, to include Army CID, will never agree to take legal action if you agree to pay ransom money to the alleged victim or to the alleged victim's family," he said. "If law enforcement gets involved early on, there are investigative steps that may help identify the perpetrators responsible for victimizing Army personnel."

Another way that the criminals attempt to extort money is to claim that they are a lawyer working on behalf of the alleged victim.

The scammer will request payments are made for things

such as counseling for the alleged victim and to replace electronic devices that now contain child pornography. If these demands are not met the person alleging to be the lawyer threatens to report the incident to law enforcement.

Andrews said legitimate organizations will not contact you and ask for money in lieu of reporting you to law enforcement and typically law enforcement will not attempt to make contact with you over the phone. If you are contacted via telephone, always request validating information such as an agency email address and offer to meet in person at a law enforcement facility before proceeding with giving out your personal information.

"Stop communication immediately with these individuals and do not send money because it will not stop the criminal from demanding more money from you," CCIU officials said. "CCIU is aware of instances where scammers threatened to release videos unless a second or even a third payment is made."

Unfortunately, these incidents continue to occur on the Internet across the globe, and sextortion victims are encouraged to seek the assistance of law enforcement. Army CID agents say they can help if you find yourself in any of these types of predicaments.

"Victims are at risk of further exploitation, that can include

demands for additional payments, more sexual images, sensitive military information, or access to U.S. Army systems and facilities, so early notification to law enforcement is important," CID agents emphasized.

For more information on how these scams unfold and how to identify sextortion red flags, see the Joint Service Sextortion brochure at <http://www.cid.army.mil/assets/docs/2can/JointServiceSextortionBrochure.pdf>.

If you have been the victim of sextortion, adhere to the following:

- ▶ Preserve whatever information you have from the scammer(s), such as social networking profile, email accounts used, where money was directed to be sent, etc.
- ▶ Notify CCIU at usarmy.cciuintel@mail.mil to report being a victim if you are a service member or an Army civilian employee.

If you are not associated with the military, report the crime to your local police department, DHS Homeland Security Investigations at Assistance.Victim@ice.dhs.gov, or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://www.ic3.gov>.

Victims can seek information on rights and assistance from:

- ▶ Army Victim/Witness Liaison Program — VWL will assist victim in contacting agencies or individuals responsible for providing necessary services and relief.
- ▶ Command Chaplains.
- ▶ Family Advocacy Center/Army Community Service.
- ▶ If victims are not eligible for military services, or where military services are not available, the VWL can provide liaison assistance in seeking any available nonmilitary services within the civilian community.

For more information, visit the Army CID CCIU website at <http://www.cid.army.mil/cciuadvisories.html>.

JBSA LEGACY

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Hiring Our Heroes holds pair of local career events to benefit military spouses

From U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

A pair of "Hiring Our Heroes" events are coming up this month to help military spouses through intensive career preparation.

AMPLIFY is a free, two-day career intensive workshop May 24-25 at the USAA headquarters at 9800 Fredericksburg Road in San Antonio to provide military spouses with a wide range of career prep tools and resources.

Attendees are guided through resume writing, LinkedIn profiles, elevator speeches, some interviewing techniques and they're offered professional headshots. They're also matched with a mentor and are able to attend breakout sessions that apply to where they are personally on their professional journey.

Attendees will be given the opportunity to work with a mentor in the industry of their choice, as well as participate in interactive sessions on salary negotiations, networking skills, PCS strategies, and starting and moving a business as a military spouse.



COURTESY PHOTO

AMPLIFY is a free, two-day career intensive workshop May 24-25 at the USAA headquarters at 9800 Fredericksburg Road in San Antonio. The event will provide military spouses with a wide range of career prep tools and resources.

Applications are required and cadre size is limited to ensure each attendee gets one-on-one attention. Applicants will be selected based on their answers to the questions in section two

of this application as well as availability of a professional leader in the industry of their choice. Applicants must be able to attend both days of AMPLIFY.

To apply, visit <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/form/amplify-application>. For general questions about AMPLIFY or the Military Spouse Professional Network,

send an email to MSPN@uschamber.com.

Additionally, there is a professional networking event with attendees and other businesses at the USAA Bank lobby at 10750 W. Interstate 10 from 7-9 p.m. May 24.

At the reception, attendees can engage with valuable contacts including recruiters, community leaders, local professionals and senior military spouses, as well as have the opportunity receive resume guidance, plus get a free professional LinkedIn profile image.

This event is free and is open to all military, veterans, and Gold Star spouses, as well as employers and service organizations. Service members and veterans are also welcome.

This is a great opportunity for military spouses to speak directly with local companies who are interested in hiring them.

If a skills-based resume is needed, people can create one at <http://MyCareerSpark.org> to create one. Register for the reception at <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/san-antonio-military-spouse-networking-event>.

Changes in your life may mean changes to TRICARE options

From TRICARE Communications

When life changes for you and your family, your TRICARE options may also change.

With TRICARE, certain life events (like moving due to a permanent change of station, getting married or divorced, adopting or having a baby, becoming Medicare eligible or losing health coverage) are called Qualifying Life Events, or QLEs. QLEs include military and family-related changes.

Depending on your eligibility, a QLE may allow you to enroll in a new TRICARE plan or change your coverage options.

If you want to enroll in or change your plan, you must make the enrollment changes within 90 days following the QLE. No matter when you initiate this change, coverage starts the date of the QLE. You must

pay any enrollment fees or premiums due during that period.

"This is similar to civilian plans, where changes outside the annual enrollment window are only allowed after certain life events," said Ken Canestrini, acting director, TRICARE Health Plan. "This allows families to re-evaluate health plan options and make any changes to have the health plan option that best meets their situation."

If one member in a sponsor's family experiences a QLE, all eligible family members may change their enrollment status during the QLE period.

This is one of several enrollment changes you'll hear more about throughout the year. Learn more about upcoming TRICARE changes at <http://www.tricare.mil/changes> and take command of your health care.

Take 
COMMAND
☆☆☆ Enhance Your TRICARE® Experience

COURTESY GRAPHIC

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Champion boxer graduates from METC program

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Before he became a service member, Spc. Reynaldo Ojeda was a force in the boxing ring who dominated opponents and won titles during his 12-year boxing career.

Instead of preparing and training for fights, Ojeda is now focused on becoming a military radiology technician after graduating from the Medical Education and Training Campus Radiology Program April 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

He will start the second phase of his radiology training at the San Antonio Military Medical Center, at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, in May.

Ojeda, 29, said he decided to join the Army a year ago because he wanted to pursue a career which provided more options for him, including opportunities to provide for his family and to help care for service members.

"I want to provide for my family," Ojeda said. "I want to see the world and go to different countries."

His family includes his wife, Taymara, and a 3-year-old daughter.

Ojeda started his boxing career as an amateur in his native Puerto Rico at the age of 15. After five years fighting as an amateur, he became a professional boxer in 2009. During his professional career, Ojeda went 18-0 in fights he competed in, nine of which he won by knockout, while winning three boxing titles.

He earned the nickname of "El Maestro (The Master) Ojeda" because he taught math at a public high school for one



COURTESY PHOTO

Before he became a service member, Spc. Reynaldo Ojeda was a force in the boxing ring who dominated opponents and won titles during his 12-year boxing career, earning the nickname "El Maestro Ojeda."

year in Puerto Rico during part of his boxing career.

Ojeda had considered enlisting in the Army after he graduated from high school in his hometown of Canovanas, Puerto Rico, but decided to continue his boxing career. During that time, he also went to college, earning a bachelor's degree in math from the University of Turabo, located in Gurabo, Puerto Rico.

He won his first title the same month he graduated from college, the World Boxing Association Latin American featherweight title in 2013.

After college, Ojeda started his teaching career. His boxing career took off as he would win two additional titles over the next four years: the International Boxing Association Latino lightweight

title in 2014 and the North American Boxing Association (NABA) lightweight title in 2015. NABA is affiliated with the World Boxing Association.

In addition, Ojeda was ranked ninth in the world by the World Boxing Association lightweight class in 2015.

Ojeda said his proudest moment in his boxing career came in May 2015 when the mayor of Canovanas put a big screen television in the middle of the city so the residents in his hometown could watch one of his matches, which was featured on ESPN's Friday Night Fights.

He said having one of his fights televised fulfilled a dream he had since he was a child when he watched boxing matches on television.

"I did something I never

thought I would do," Ojeda said. "That made me feel good."

Ojeda said what inspired him to fight was the support of his family, friends and neighbors in Canovanas, who would organize a party to see him fight on television. He said his father, who also was a boxer in his teen years, has never missed seeing one of Ojeda's boxing matches.

Ojeda saw his boxing career as a way to inspire and set a good example to children in his hometown to set goals and follow their dreams.

"That gave me the motivation because when you fight just for money, it's like that is your job," he said. "But when you can do the sport for something more, you can love that."

He came to San Antonio in March 2017 as a student at the Defense Language Institute

"When I came into the Army, the discipline wasn't hard for me. That was my life for me because in the Army you need to wake up early to be on time for training. The Army is not so different from boxing life."

Spc. Reynaldo Ojeda

English Language Center at JBSA-Lackland. When he completed his lessons there in August 2017, he then did his basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., before arriving at METC in October 2017.

Ojeda said the habits he learned and picked up during his boxing career have helped smooth his transition into the Army.

"When I came into the Army, the discipline wasn't hard for me. That was my life for me because in the Army you need to wake up early to be on time for training," he said. "The Army is not so different from boxing life."

Ojeda's goals are to do 20 years of service in the Army, to work in the military medical field and to become an officer.

He has not given up on his boxing career, though, as he plans to resume it next year after he has completed his radiology training.

"My goal is to make the U.S. Olympic team in 2024," Ojeda said. "I know I can do it."

BAMC Volunteers of the Year announced

By Lori Newman
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center celebrated its more than 440 volunteers during a ceremony held April 16 to name the BAMC Volunteers of the Year. The ceremony was held in conjunction with National Volunteer Week, April 15-21.

Several volunteer groups offer support to BAMC, including the American Red Cross, BAMC Retiree Activities Group, BAMC Fisher House, BAMC Auxiliary and Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care.

Army Col. Traci Crawford, BAMC deputy commanding officer, provided opening remarks for the ceremony saying, "Let me tell you why you guys are so special ... the things that you guys accomplish, and the team accomplishes here is nothing short of phenomenal."

"You volunteer yourself, your commitment, your passion each and every day," Crawford said. "You are here because of the kindness of your hearts and your desire to serve and to give back. That is absolutely tremendous."

"We could not continue to do the exceptional things that we do without your support," she added.

Last year, BAMC volunteers gave more than 82,000 hours of their time to the organization, which equates to a labor cost savings of more than \$2 million.

"Gifted labor, gifted windfall," said Michael Dulevitz, chief of BAMC Volunteer Services. "You are amazing folks."

Dulevitz announced the nominees and winners in the six individual categories, and family and group categories.

Out of four nominees, Linda Comeaux, Medical Mall information desk greeter, was chosen BAMC American Red Cross Volunteer of the Year.

"She knows this facility



ROBERT SHIELDS

Army Col. Traci Crawford (left), Brooke Army Medical Center deputy commanding officer, stands with members of the Ministry Ward Social Team, BAMC Group of the Year, April 16 during the BAMC Volunteer Recognition Ceremony.

inside and out, to include phone numbers," Dulevitz said of Comeaux.

Out of eight nominees, Patrick Spencer, also a Medical Mall information desk greeter, was selected as BAMC Retiree Activities Group Volunteer of the Year.

Dulevitz called Spencer a "fixture" at BAMC because he volunteered 2,145 hours at the Medical Mall information desk in 2017. Spencer, who is also the information desk coordinator, volunteers six days a week.

Sandy Montelongo, Burn Center Intensive Care Unit waiting room greeter, was selected by an impartial three-person panel as the BAMC Office of Volunteer Services Volunteer of the Year.

Montelongo has been a volunteer at BAMC since 2016. Her nomination form said, "It is her heart and her history that makes her so valuable to the Burn ICU because she is a burn survivor herself, so she knows firsthand the physical, mental and emotional scars that burn survivors encounter during their recovery."

Phil Lewis, on-call chaplain and Post Anesthesia Care Unit

greeter, was chosen the BAMC Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care Volunteer of the Year.

His nomination form said, "He is a selfless servant whose life is built around serving others in direct and meaningful ways by doing God's work."

"I volunteer at BAMC as part of my life effort to assist others in need," Lewis said. "I feel especially grateful that I have been allowed the privilege of serving as a volunteer chaplain at BAMC since 1996."

Aurora Torralva, all-around helper, was selected as the BAMC Fisher House Volunteer of the Year.

"Aurora has been at the Fisher House since December 2009," Dulevitz said. "She has baked her way into the hearts of the residents and staff."

The BAMC Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year is Sue McCarthy, a popcorn popper in the Medical Mall.

McCarthy, a military spouse who has been volunteering for 63 years, started as a Care Mobile driver at BAMC in 1993, now she pops popcorn in the Medical Mall.

Out of three nominees for

BAMC Family of the Year, Ed and Barbara Bowles, Department of Hospital Education Medical Library assistants, walked away with this year's honors.

The Bowles' have volunteered in the BAMC Medical Library for more than 15 years as medical library assistants, donating more than 7,000 hours of their time.

The couple serves as the library's historians Dulevitz joked, "because they have been there longer than any of the paid staff."

Three groups were nominated for BAMC Group of the Year, but the Ministry Ward Social Team, Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care, received the award.

Their nomination form stated, "The contributions of the team are significant, tangible and of great impact to the BAMC and Joint Base San Antonio communities ... They are trained and talented at encouraging patients, offering prayers, serving food and maintaining communication between staff and family members."

Crawford said the volunteers

"You volunteer yourself, your commitment, your passion each and every day. You are here because of the kindness of your hearts and your desire to serve and to give back. That is absolutely tremendous."

Army Col. Traci Crawford,
BAMC deputy commanding
officer

fill in a void by taking the time to simply talk to a patient or family member, help them get to where they need to go or simply sit with them if needed.

"It makes our patient experience better," she said.

Coming to the hospital can be very stressful for patients, but the volunteers help to alleviate their stress, Crawford said.

"Stress is bad on the body ... so the less stress, the better they can heal ... so thank you, thank you, thank you for what you do," she said.

"Our staff appreciates you as well," she added.

Crawford also took part in the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care volunteer recognition luncheon April 13 at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course.

All the BAMC winners also competed for the Joint Base San Antonio Volunteers of the Year awards April 18 at the Warrior and Family Readiness Center on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. They will also be part of the San Antonio United Way Volunteer of the Year awards June 6.

"Volunteers, you all are the reason we are successful," Dulevitz concluded. "You all play your part. You are all heroes in healing."

Salado Park becomes outdoor classroom for FSH students

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Salado Park at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston became an outdoor classroom for approximately 150 kindergarten students from Fort Sam Houston Elementary School during a nature field trip April 26.

The kindergarten students spent half-a-day in the outdoors learning about nature, wildlife and the environment through several interactive activities put on by volunteers from the U.S. Army Environmental Command, located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, and student volunteers from the Cole High School Junior ROTC.

Since 2012, the Army Environmental Command has put on the annual field trip for kindergarteners at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School as part of the Adopt-A-School



DAVID DEKUNDER

Pat Gonser, a member of the Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalists in New Braunfels, teaches kindergarteners from Fort Sam Houston Elementary School about turtles and amphibians during a nature field trip put on by the U.S. Army Environmental Command in Salado Park April 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

program established by U.S. Army North (Fifth Army).

The nature field trip had six stations for children to rotate through in 15-minute intervals, including animals in neighborhoods, predator and

prey, horns, bugs, recycling and leaf rubbing. Each station was manned by a volunteer or volunteers who interacted with the students.

In addition, the children participated in a nature

scavenger hunt which started with students from the Cole High School Junior ROTC leading them in a military march.

Cathy Kropp, U.S. Army Environmental Command environmental public affairs specialist, said the objective of the field trip is to teach children about science and nature.

"It's a part of our community outreach," Kropp said. "We are making them (students) aware of what's in their environment."

Elizabeth Lee, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School community liaison, said the field trip is an extension of what the students are learning in the classroom.

"It is providing them with real-life experiences outside the classroom setting," Lee said. "This is part of their curriculum, learning about animals and nature."

Since kindergarten students are at a young age, Lee said right

now is the time to start emphasizing to them the importance of taking care of the environment, animals and natural resources.

"They will be adults someday," she said. "We need to start them young."

The newest activity to this year's nature field trip was rock painting, in which the students painted rocks from their school.

Andrea Hicks, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School kindergarten teacher, said the rocks that were painted by the students will be placed in a rock bed next to the school to help beautify it, giving the students a sense of pride.

Amy Laney, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School kindergarten teacher, said the students were excited about participating in the nature field trip.

"It's get them outside and engages them in nature and real life experiences," she said.

JBSA members participate in Fiesta 2018

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and members of the Coast Guard from Joint Base San Antonio took part in Fiesta, San Antonio's premiere celebration honoring those who fought and won the battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto.

This year's celebration marks the 127th anniversary of Fiesta San Antonio and coincides with the city's Tricentennial observance.

Fiesta San Antonio boasts many different events held throughout the city during its 11-day run.

The Texas Cavalier River Parade is one of the key events during Fiesta San Antonio and

dates to 1941.

Capt. William Bindel, officer-in-charge, Navy Element, Joint Information Operations Warfare Center, located on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, served as the keynote speaker for Navy Day at the Alamo on April 26.

"Many of the military operations conducted at Joint Base San Antonio are both unique and essential. Every year, more than 132,000 service men and women from all branches of the military train at multiple JBSA installations," Bindel, a native of El Paso, said.

Each branch of the service participates, providing a strong military presence for "Military City, U.S.A."



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

The 2018 Joint Base San Antonio Ambassadors participate in the Texas Cavaliers River Parade April 23 during Fiesta in San Antonio.



JOSHUA FORD

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan (center), U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commander, talks to veterans before he delivers his speech at Army Day at the Alamo April 24 in San Antonio.



SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER

Marines take part in the Texas Cavaliers River Parade April 23 in San Antonio. The parade, representing all branches of the military, veterans, military support groups and more, traveled along the River Walk in downtown San Antonio during Fiesta San Antonio, an annual event honoring those who fought in the battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto.



JOSHUA FORD

The U.S. Army Drill Team performs a drill exhibition with amazing displays of discipline through unified movement in formation and catches of bayonet-tipped 1903 Springfield Rifles on April 24 during Army Day at the Alamo. The Soldiers are assigned to 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment "The Old Guard" at Fort Myer, Va.



BURRELL FARMER

Capt. William Bindel (right), officer-in-charge, Navy Element, Joint Information Operations Warfare Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, administers the oath of enlistment to 20 future Sailors of Navy Recruiting District San Antonio on April 26 during Navy Day at the Alamo. Bindel, a native of El Paso, also served as the keynote speaker during the event.

Airmen represent the AF to Fiesta attendees

By Capt. Jennifer Nentwig
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force senior leaders and representatives from across Joint Base San Antonio participated in Fiesta 2018, April 18-29, honoring San Antonio's rich military history, strengthening relationships with community members, and representing the Air Force and its mission to Fiesta's 2.5 million attendees.

Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, stressed the importance of JBSA's involvement in the historic festivities.

"We look forward to taking part in Fiesta celebrations and sharing in the rich heritage and history of the Alamo region ... and on behalf of all the military serving at Joint Base San Antonio, we are grateful for your incredible support and for strengthening our partnership with Military City USA," Pringle said.

Fiesta is an annual San Antonio celebration that originated in 1891 as a parade honoring the history of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto, which has evolved into 11 days of parades, ceremonies and other festivities.

The Air Force's involvement in Fiesta dates to 1921, when, according to historical records from Kelly Field, a formation flew each day over the Alamo Plaza — a tradition that is celebrated today by the continued connection between the Air Force and the local community in 'Military City USA.'

This year, the Air Force played a leading role as Lt. Gen. Steven Kwast, commander of Air Education and Training Command, served as the Fiesta military coordinator representing San Antonio's robust military community and continuing a legacy of military involvement in Fiesta.

"On behalf of those who serve

— the 140,000 active duty, government civilians, veterans, and military family members who call San Antonio home — thank you [San Antonio] for your overwhelming abrazo of friendship," Kwast said. "Famous military leaders — Pershing, MacArthur and Eisenhower — have been associated with Fiesta, and I am proud to join those ranks."

The Air Force kicked off Fiesta with an April 18 event at JBSA-Randolph. AETC hosted Fiesta royalty, military ambassadors and civic leaders in an aircraft hangar where attendees and Air Force leaders watched a performance by the U.S. Air Force Drill Team, listened to music by the U.S. Air Force Band of the West, and took photos with aircraft on display.

Fiesta celebrations continued with the Basic Military Graduation Parade at JBSA-Lackland, April 20. Kwast served as the presiding officer, and Col. Roy Collins, 37th Training Wing commander, presented medals of appreciation to Fiesta San Antonio Commission president, Bill Mitchell; King Antonio, Richard Sparr; and El Rey Feyo, Ken Flores.

"Here at JBSA we support all of the parades and the events, and we get an opportunity to engage with the community throughout the two weeks of Fiesta," Collins said. "We get an opportunity to continue to build relationships and strengthen the partnership we have with the city of San Antonio."

Air Force at the Alamo, held at the historic Alamo Plaza April 23, stood out among the many other events the Air Force participated in during Fiesta. The event featured demonstrations and performances of various Air Force units, including the 321st Training Squadron's Drum and Bugle Corps; the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team from Washington, D.C.; military working dogs and handlers



SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER

Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle (far left), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, and other JBSA leaders join Lt. Gen. Steven Kwast (center left), commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Juliet C. Gudgel (center right), AETC command chief master sergeant, as they carry a wreath during the annual Pilgrimage to the Alamo April 23 in San Antonio.

from the 802nd and 902nd Security Forces Squadrons; explosive ordnance disposal robots and technicians from the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron; and hand-to-hand combative techniques from the 343rd Training Squadron.

Tech Sgt. Melissa Bennett, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center force support deployment manager, and Tech Sgt. Cristofer Mercado-Wallace, Inter-American Air Forces Academy non-commissioned officer in charge of training and evaluations, served as official Air Force ambassadors for Fiesta 2018 and attended more than 20 events April 18-29, alongside military ambassadors from each of the other service branches.

While Bennett and Mercado-Wallace were honored to be recognized, the most important part of Fiesta to them was showing their appreciation for the local community.

"As much as our civilian counterparts care about us, I think it's important for us to show how we appreciate them as well," Mercado-Wallace said.



ISMAEL ORTEGA

U.S. Air Force Honor Guard members execute drill movements April 23 at the Alamo in San Antonio. The performance was part of Fiesta's Air Force at the Alamo event.

LACKLAND

USAF Drill Team Airman returns home for Fiesta

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

The U.S. Air Force Drill Team's trip to San Antonio, April 19-23, where they performed 11 drills was a special homecoming for one member, Airman 1st Class Blake Adler.

"I grew up going to all of these events," Adler said. "Actually, being in them was a dream come true and I'm so grateful for the opportunity. Fiesta is really big and just a lot of fun."

Adler said it all became possible during a U.S. Air Force Honor Guard recruiting trip to basic military training where Adler was drawn to the sharpness and professionalism of the casket bearers.

"Seeing what the Honor Guard does for the families of our fallen instantly drew me in," Adler said. "I knew I had to be a part of it when I saw the opportunity."

After being a casket bearer for more than a year and a half, Adler decided the next step in his journey would be joining the U.S. Air Force Drill Team.



Airman 1st Class Blake Adler, a U.S. Air Force Drill Team member, tosses his rifle during a drill team demonstration at Judson High School April 23 in San Antonio.

Airmen in the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard are eligible to apply to the drill team, which is the traveling component of the Honor Guard whose mission is to recruit, retain and inspire Airmen.

"I was just hungry to get better,"

Adler said. "The drill team is fun and different and a great way to continue getting better."

Master Sgt. Jason Evans, U.S. Air Force Drill Team commander, said Adler is a perfect fit for the drill team.

"Adler is one of the most hardworking Airmen I've ever met," Evans said. "People make fun of him for how hard he works. He comes to work early and stays late; his work ethic is really what sets him apart."

Not only is Adler a hard worker, he also cares for the people around him, Evans said.

"His combination of caring and hard work make him a great fit for the drill team," Evans said. "He's always trying to get better and help the people around him. It's very important we have mature and hard-working Airmen like him on the drill team, because we interact with the American public in a less formal manner than the rest of the honor guard."

The trip not only had an effect on Adler, but also the rest of the team, Evans said.

"The atmosphere at Fiesta week here in San Antonio was amazing," Evans said. "It's awesome to see a city with such patriotism and love for their military and country. It felt great to be a part of it."

Multi-domain 25th Air Force innovation discovers tactical edge

By Lori A. Bultman
25TH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

New technology brings with it opportunities to embrace and challenges to overcome. In finding solutions to the latest operational challenges, Airmen may not be successful on their first attempt, and that's OK.

"Lessons learned from failure often lead to success," said Brian Cook, Multi-Domain Innovation Division Chief, 25th Air Force. "What seems like a failure at the time, could actually result in future success. The goal is to learn from the failure, not repeat it."

Innovation is crucial to current and future operations, in relation to intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, electronic warfare and cyberspace.

"The primary objective of our multi-domain innovation effort is to facilitate the rapid delivery of multi-domain, cross-functional capabilities that provide effects to air component commanders as quickly, efficiently and cost effectively as possible," Cook said.

To do that, Airmen must be innovative and willing to try several options before finding the ideal solution to satisfy mission requirements.

"We at 25th Air Force have put the architecture in place so capabilities are positioned for the needed effects in the battlespace, kinetic or non-kinetic," Cook said. "When there is a less than optimal result, we troubleshoot and enable the support needed to ensure we have optimal results the next time."

Post-mission, Cook said, it is important that Airmen share information, good and bad, so negative results are not repeated.

"We don't want others to walk the same path," he said. "The intent is to succeed quickly."

But, Cook said, if failure is inevitable, get it over with. "If less than optimal results are expected, if there will be failures on some level, then we shoot for quick failure," he said. "No one sets out to fail, but if failure is inevitable, learn and move on."

It is important that Airmen are encouraged, even when innovations miss the mark.

"When Airmen are afraid of failing, it can create a barrier to innovation and success," Cook said. "If organizations are risk averse, Airmen fear failure. This may prevent mission improvements and advancements from being made. Sometimes you have to take risks."

There are times when risk and failure acceptance is not wise, Cook said.

"When lives are on the line, you don't take unnecessary risks," he said.

Brig. Gen. James Cluff, vice commander, 25th Air Force, agrees that Airmen should be given the opportunity to innovate and advance capabilities.

"Across the Air Force, our young Airmen are embracing innovation, and they recognize quickly when an effort isn't producing the desired effects. But, they can't be afraid to step up and say, 'This isn't working... we need to go in a different direction,' Cluff said. "The challenge is for those of us in command to establish a culture that empowers these innovators to push the envelope and not let initial failures disrupt what could ultimately be a viable combat capability."

Air Force takes three DOD environmental awards

By Shannon Carabajal

AFIMSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force took home three top honors in the 2018 Secretary of Defense environmental awards program.

“Congratulations to the winners of the 2018 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards. The winners’ achievements reflect the Department’s commitment to protect national security by supporting U.S. military forces through

dynamic environmental stewardship that increases military readiness and enhances efficiencies,” said Ellen Lord, undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment, in an announcement April 16.

The Department of Defense selected the following Air Force winners:
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, TEAM/INDIVIDUAL: Frederick Javier, 1st Special Operations Civil Engineer

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2018 Secretary of Defense

Environmental Awards

Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition

Large Program, Individual/Team

Combat Rescue Helicopter Program ESOH Team

COURTESY GRAPHIC

AWARDS

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Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla. Javier provided outstanding leadership by training installation staff on environmental management and engaging with the local community to promote DoD mission and science education.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE IN WEAPON SYSTEM ACQUISITION, LARGE PROGRAM: Combat Rescue Helicopter Program Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Team, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The team implemented programs to eliminate or reduce exposure to hazardous materials like hexavalent chromium.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, INSTALLATION: Vandenberg Air

Force Base, Calif. The installation completed a ten-year performance-based restoration initiative resulting in response complete or site closure for 44 environmental restoration sites ahead of schedule, and maintained accelerated or on-time closure for 55 additional sites.

The awards, established in 1962, honor individuals, teams and installations for their outstanding achievements and innovative environmental practices, according to the award program website. They promote the use of secure and renewable energy sources; development and implementation of innovative technologies that eliminate waste; reclamation of key water resources; and protection of our nation's irreplaceable natural and cultural heritage.

RANDOLPH

Admin professionals are 12th FTW's bedrock

By Tech. Sgt. Ave I. Young
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 25 was Administrative Professionals Day, the one day out of the year to pay tribute to the administrative assistants, secretaries and other office professionals who work tirelessly to ensure the success of their organizations.

At Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's 12th Flying Training Wing, administrative professionals perform duties that are critical to mission success — from managing commanders' schedules and booking travel arrangements to coordinating daily operations and handling in-processing and out-processing for squadron members.

Lt. Col. Gabriel Arrington, 12th Operations Support Squadron commander, commended the devotion and expertise of Veronica Parks, 12th OSS office management assistant.

"With over 100 civilians operating in 16 different offices, three runways, and supporting AETC's 'Pilot Training Next' in Austin, Ms. Parks is an invaluable team member that enables each OSS specialty to succeed," he said. "We couldn't do our jobs without her."

Arrington said Parks, with her broad background of experience, her vision and her clarity, "is the glue that holds our daily operations together."

Administrative professionals throughout the 12th FTW are the "glue" that provides continuity in everyday operations.

"For myself and all the civilian staff that are in a similar position, what we do adds to the well-rounded culture and



character of our respective offices," said Margie Castle, 12th FTW commander support staff administrative assistant. "What we do gives continuity to an environment that is ever-changing and that overall is pretty significant in running these offices efficiently and effectively."

For Castle, working at the 12th FTW brings back childhood memories.

"I grew up around airplanes and talk of airplanes, flew with my dad in his little Cessna and spent a lot of time at airports," she said.

"When I was real young —

"For myself and all the civilian staff that are in a similar position, what we do adds to the well-rounded culture and character of our respective offices. What we do gives continuity to an environment that is ever-changing and that overall is pretty significant in running these offices efficiently and effectively."

Margie Castle, 12th FTW commander support staff administrative assistant

maybe in elementary school," Castle continued, "I used to sit at the old typewriter outside my dad's office at the airport and pretend I was the secretary. Maybe this career path took ahold of me early on and it just stuck with me. My dad passed last November; working here and seeing all the aircraft always reminds me of him and his appreciation of flying."

Maricris Reyes, secretary to the 12th Operations Group commander, was influenced to serve through the service of her husband, whose military career spanned 24 years.

"When I married my husband more than two decades

ago, I fell in love with the Air Force way of living, so much so that even if I didn't serve as an active-duty military, I made sure that I would take up work as an Air Force civilian," she said. "This is the environment I thrive in. It gives me joy to serve those who serve."

Marvin Strange, 559th Flying Training Squadron executive assistant, also sees the joy in his job.

"Working in a flying unit has always been a lot of fun," he said. "My favorite part of the job is the flexibility and/or autonomy to utilize the necessary resources to accomplish a variety of duties

on any given day. It's satisfying being part of a team and being able to help accomplish the mission."

The military way of life has always been a constant in the life of Mechelle Pelletier, 558th Flying Training Squadron unit program coordinator. She was a military brat, went on to serve her country as a military member and is a spouse to a Wounded Warrior.

"The military has been an essential part of my life and even when I separated, I decided to return to work by working for a federal agency so I can help active-duty members and veterans," she said.



PHOTOS BY RANDY MARTIN
Maricris Reyes, secretary to the 12th Operations Group commander, looks up from her work April 24 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



Margie Castle, 12th Flying Training Wing commander support staff administrative assistant, pauses from her daily assignments April 24 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

BAND OF THE WEST PERFORMS AT FIESTA IN BLUE 2018

The Air Force Band of the West performs as part of Fiesta in Blue at the Edgewood Theatre of Performing Arts in San Antonio April 24. The act was dedicated to the 300th Anniversary of San Antonio and honors the city's military heritage. Since 1891, Fiesta has grown into an annual celebration that includes civic and military observances, exhibits, sports, music and food representing the spirit, diversity and vitality of San Antonio.



ISMAEL ORTEGA

New process puts patients on ‘fast track’

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Patients with acute issues such as sore throat, fever and chest pains now have faster access to care at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Medical Clinic.

The 359th Medical Group has instituted the Randolph Independent Fast Track, or RIFT, to accommodate patients at an average rate of 50 to 60 per day.

“The RIFT was instituted to attempt to meet patient same-day needs, create patient access and to reduce the outpour of acute needs to civilian urgent care centers and emergency rooms,” said Maj. (Dr.) David Dy, 359th MDG Family Health Clinic medical director.

The RIFT’s current staffing is

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STAFF SGT. KEVIN IINUMA

Senior Airman Jherico Guerrero, 559th Medical Group Public Health Technician, checks a patient's ear prior to administering a hearing test at the Deployment Related Health Clinic, part of the 59th Medical Wing Base Operational Medicine Clinic Feb. 24 at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Air Force announces changes

**From Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

Effective immediately, Air Force officials have removed the requirement to complete Courses 14 and 15 for all Airmen serving in the active component. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen will have the option to complete their enlisted professional military education through distance learning or in-residence attendance.

Airmen will no longer be required to complete distance learning prior to in-residence attendance at the noncommissioned officer and senior NCO academy. Active component Airmen will complete EPME in-residence, while Guard and Reserve Airmen can complete through DL or in-residence.

"Ultimately, Airmen are always encouraged to focus on their own self-improvement and lifelong learning," said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, deputy chief

of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services.

All active component Airmen currently enrolled in Courses 14 or 15 may continue the course or disenroll. Guard and Reserve Airmen currently enrolled are encouraged to complete the course unless they are currently scheduled to attend in-residence.

"We want to ensure each level of EPME is meaningful to our Airmen and works to further develop them as professionals, warfighters and leaders," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright.

If Airmen choose to remain enrolled and complete the course, completion will be reflected in their personnel records along with the appropriate Community College of the Air Force credits awarded.

Additionally, the enlisted promotion policy remains the same and is not affected by this revision.

CLINIC

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two providers who rotate from each of the three medical home teams at the Family Health Clinic, said Capt. Brenda Robinson, 359th MDG family nurse practitioner. Each of the providers sees 26 patients per day.

However, starting in May, the RIFT staff will have three providers each day, one from each medical home team, allowing for patients to be seen by someone from their own team, she said.

The RIFT staff comprises physicians, physician assistants, registered and licensed vocational nurses, and medical technicians. The acute issues they see include sore throats, urinary tract infections, asthma attacks, chest pains, colds and the flu – anything that needs to be addressed within 24 hours.

"We see patients for acute issues that have been going on for less than

seven days," Robinson said.

RIFT appointments are required – except for active-duty members, who are accepted as walk-in patients – and can be booked through the central appointment line, 210-916-9900.

Patients are seen the same day they book an appointment, but they are encouraged to call the appointment line as early in the day as possible, Robinson said. Some patients prefer to book an appointment the day before they go to the RIFT clinic.

The RIFT's hours are 7:15 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Friday. Appointments last 15 minutes and only address the pertinent health concern.

Patients should arrive 15 minutes prior to their appointment time and should understand that a follow-up appointment will be booked with their primary care team if multiple or chronic issues

need to be addressed.

The RIFT is not meant for emergency care, Robinson said.

"Patients who need immediate care should go to an emergency room," she said. "Sometimes we have to refer a patient at the RIFT clinic to an emergency room."

The RIFT is advantageous to patients and staff, Dy said.

"One of the greatest benefits to the clinic is being able to address single, urgent-care needs for our patients on the same day," he said. "Additionally, it has allowed our medical technicians and nursing staff to engage in more clinical care."

It also receives positive reviews from patients, Dy said.

"Patients seemingly love the clinic as they are able to get in and get simple issues addressed in a timely manner," he said. "The clinic continues to progress effectively and should become more efficient as we continue."