

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MAY 11, 2018



PHOTO BY JERRY WRIGHT

The U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon performs precision movements May 5 at MacArthur Parade Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston during Military Appreciation Weekend.

Thousands attend Military Appreciation Weekend

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59th MDW executes five missions at once
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SAPR challenge makes JBSA members 'Unafraid'
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DOD releases annual report on sexual assault in military

By **Lisa Ferdinando**
DOD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA
ACTIVITY

The Department of Defense released its annual report on sexual assault in the military April 30, which shows an increase in reporting of assaults, but officials stress that more work needs to be done to eliminate the crime from the ranks.

The report for fiscal year 2017 says military services received 6,769 reports of sexual assault involving service members as either victims or subjects of criminal investigation, a 9.7 percent increase over the 6,172 reports made in fiscal 2016.

“Over the last decade, the department has made progress,” Elizabeth P. Van Winkle, the executive director of DOD’s Office of Force Resiliency, said in a Pentagon media briefing May 1.

Fewer service members experience sexual assault than compared to previous years, and more service members than ever are “making the courageous decision to report their experiences and to receive restorative care,” Van Winkle said.

“While the progress we’ve seen provides some comfort, we neither take it for granted nor are we under any illusions that our work is done,” she said.

Of the 6,769 reports of sexual assault in fiscal 2017, 5,864 involved service member victims. The remaining 905 reports involved 868 victims who were U.S. civilians or foreign nationals and 37 victims for whom status data were not

available, according to the report.

“Preventing sexual assault is our moral duty,” Defense Secretary James N. Mattis wrote in an agencywide memo for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. “By its nature, sexual assault is one of the most destructive factors in building a mission-focused military.”

Self-discipline, alert noncommissioned officers and attuned chains of command are essential in setting standards to strengthen military readiness to fight well and increase the ability to recruit and retain the best people, he wrote.

“While casualties on the battlefield are understood to be consistent with our military duties, I accept no casualties due to sexual assault within our ranks,” he said. “Military leaders are to be zealous in ridding our ranks of such illegal, abhorrent behavior.”

The department encourages reporting of sexual assaults so the service member victims can be connected with restorative care and the perpetrators can be held responsible, Navy Rear Adm. Ann M. Burkhardt, the director of the Defense Department’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, told reporters.

“Every sexual assault in the military is a failure to protect the men and women who have entrusted us with their lives,” she said. “We will not rest until we eliminate this crime.”

Of the 5,864 service member victims for fiscal 2017, about 10 percent made a report for incidents that occurred to them

before entering military service, according to the report.

The report says 5,277 service members made a report of sexual assault for an incident that occurred during military service, an increase of 10 percent from the 4,794 reports from service members received in fiscal 2016.

Burkhardt pointed out in fiscal 2018, the department will survey the active duty force to update its estimates of the past-year prevalence of sexual assault and sexual harassment. The prevalence figures will be compared to the figures released today to get the full picture of sexual assault in the military, she explained.

The department will do more to prevent assaults and protect victims, she said.

“We’ll be redoubling our efforts to advance prevention initiatives that create a military free from sexual assault,” she said. “The department will also further actions to prevent and protect service members from retaliation and encourage greater reporting from male service members.”

In the 5,277 service member reports, 4,193 were from women, an increase of 13 percent, while 1,084 were from men, no change from fiscal 2016, according to Nathan W. Galbreath, deputy director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

However, the prevalence numbers are needed to put today’s figures in context, he said.

“We’re seeing a bigger slice of the problems — more people coming forward to get the help that they need and give us a

chance to hold offenders accountable,” he said.

Last year’s survey of active duty members found that the estimated past-year prevalence rate of sexual assault decreased to the lowest levels on record since the department began measuring prevalence rates in 2006, he pointed out.

Reporting of sexual assault also increased in 2016, he said, with increased reporting due to a decade of progress in victim support, military justice and prevention work.

In fiscal year 2017, 4,779 subject case dispositions were reported to the department. Those case dispositions from DOD investigations included service members, U.S. civilians, foreign nationals and cases where the offender could not be identified.

Twenty-five percent, or 1,212, of the 4,779 case dispositions were outside DOD legal authority or involved service member subjects who were prosecuted by civilian or foreign authorities.

In fiscal 2017, 3,567 cases investigated for sexual assault involved service members whom DOD could consider for possible action. DOD authorities had sufficient evidence to take some kind of disciplinary action in 2,218 of those 3,567 cases.

Out of those 2,218 cases, 1,446 received action on a sexual assault charge, including having court-martial charges preferred; 772 received action on some other form of misconduct, such as nonjudicial punishment, administrative discharge or other adverse administrative action.

JBSA LEGACY

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**Joint Base San Antonio
HOTLINES**

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| • Sexual Assault Hotline 210-808-SARC (7272) | • Domestic Abuse Hotline 210-367-1213 |
| • DOD Safe Helpline 877-995-5247 | • Suicide Prevention 800-273-TALK (8255) |
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Military Surgeons General testify on medical readiness of services at Senate hearing

By Terri Moon Cronk
DOD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA
ACTIVITY

The services' surgeons general updated senators on Capitol Hill on April 26 on the needs and priorities of military health programs.

Army Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Nadja Y. West, Navy Vice Adm. (Dr.) C. Forrest Faison III and Air Force Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Mark A. Ediger testified on the posture of the services' medical departments at a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee on the president's fiscal year 2019 funding request for the Defense Department's health program.

Army medicine is focusing on readiness, modernization and its people to support the priorities of the service's leaders, West said.

"Readiness permeates everything we do and has two essential components: an Army that is ready and a medical force within our Army that is ready," she told the senators. "And readiness begins with a fit and healthy Army that serves as the foundation of a strong national defense."

Army medicine has incorporated lessons learned from military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq to modify or create capabilities to better support warfighters' needs, she said.

Such lessons, for example, led to the Army's new expeditionary combat medic program and its expeditionary resuscitation surgery program, which is expected to decrease morbidity and mortality during high-intensity conflict, West said.

"It will also increase our ability to provide prolonged battlefield care in the current and future environments we will be operating in," she added.



MARCY SANCHEZ

Medical personnel from William Beaumont Army Medical Center on March 29 at Fort Bliss, Texas, prepare for treatment of a simulated postpartum hemorrhage using the center's new simulation system, which provides cutting-edge scenarios for training to medical staff. The new simulation system aims to increase communication and improve interdisciplinary and clinical performance of staff when treating obstetrics emergencies.

Army medicine modernization efforts include partnering with academic institutions and industry to develop innovative solutions and counter measures to protect the force in any environment, she noted.

"The strength of our Army is our people," West said. "The ability to recruit, develop, employ and retain our soldiers who are agile, adaptable, skilled medical professionals is vital for us to accomplish our mission."

Readiness and support

"Our greatest responsibility continues to be the readiness and support of a highly deployed Navy and Marine Corps team," the Navy surgeon general said.

"Much of the success that we saw in saving lives on the battlefield during our most recent conflicts can be directly attributable to the heroic work of our first responders — our

corpsmen, medics and technicians," Faison told the panel.

To address emerging challenges, the Navy surgeon general noted, Navy medicine has launched a comprehensive program targeted at preparing corpsmen to meet their lifesaving responsibilities and missions whether aboard a destroyer at sea or embedded with the Marine Corps in conflict.

Navy medicine continues to conduct worldwide research and development in support of its warfighters and their deployment readiness, he said.

"These efforts range from trials of new malaria vaccine to assessing the threats of the newly discovered viruses in far-reaching corners of the world, he told the panel. "Our researchers are also directly engaged with the naval aviation community in conducting vital research aimed at understanding and mitigating

physiologic episodes affecting air crew in tactical aircraft."

Surgical teams and critical care

Air Force medicine in 2017 revamped its surgical teams by changing their composition, training and equipment to increase independence and agility in coordination with the other services in the military health system, Ediger said.

"They are known as ground surgical teams consisting of only six airmen proven capable of trauma stabilization and damage control surgery in remote settings," he explained. "We are building more ground surgical teams to increase our capacity to respond to the combatant commands."

Critical care during medical air transportation has become transformational for medical support to combat operations, Ediger noted.

"We are responding to a significant increase in

"We are working to implement a framework in close collaboration with the Army, Navy, Joint Staff and Defense Health Agency that will produce meaningful reform to health care delivery while implementing a new approach to sustaining a ready medical force."

Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Mark A. Ediger

operational requirements for critical care air medical transport teams by repurchasing end-strength into critical care skill sets."

And to keep trauma and critical care teams ready, the Air Force implemented in 2017 standards for keeping deployable teams ready, specifying the annual frequency and mix of clinical procedures necessary to sustain readiness, he said.

Air Force medicine also increased its partnerships with premier institutions, which has resulted in highly effective readiness platforms for its trauma and critical care teams, the Air Force surgeon general said.

"We are working to implement a framework in close collaboration with the Army, Navy, Joint Staff and Defense Health Agency that will produce meaningful reform to health care delivery while implementing a new approach to sustaining a ready medical force," Ediger said.

Getting tested for STIs is an ‘important part of sexual health’

From Military Health System
Communications Office

Some may feel itching, burning or pain, while others see physical signs. But more often than not, two of the most common sexually transmitted infections or STIs — chlamydia and gonorrhea — are ignored because of a lack of symptoms. Military Health System experts encourage men and women to take steps to ensure their health and prevent these infections.

“Many sexually transmitted infections do not have any symptoms, so getting tested regularly is an important part of sexual health,” said Rolando C. Diaz, epidemiology technician at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Northern Virginia.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 2 million cases of the most reported STIs — chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis — were reported in the United States in 2016. Those are the highest numbers ever recorded, the CDC said. These three conditions can be spread through vaginal, anal or oral sex with an infected person, and can cause infection in the genitals, rectum and throat.

“If you have had new partners or unprotected intercourse, or develop symptoms, talk to your provider about your concerns and exposures to help them order the correct tests to keep you and your sexual partner(s) healthy and safe,” Diaz said.

Commonly known as sexually transmitted diseases,



JACOB SIPP

Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Robert Hall studies a blood sample with a microscope at Naval Branch Health Clinic Kings Bay's laboratory. Blood tests and pap smears are commonly used ways to diagnose sexually transmitted infections.

most conditions are now referred to as sexually transmitted infections. Catherine A. Gangaas, a public health nurse at Fort Belvoir, said this term helps providers prevent further spread of the STI by looking for the cause of the infection, rather than just treating the disease.

“The change in terms came about when it was recognized that people could be infected and transmit the infection to others without ever developing symptoms or disease,” Gangaas said.

It's now recommended that women get tested every

year during their annual exam rather than waiting for symptoms to appear, she said.

The September 2017 Medical Surveillance Monthly Report, or MSMR, said incidence rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea were highest among service members younger than 25.

The report said STI rates, with the exception of syphilis, were higher among women than men. According to the report, rates of gonorrhea decreased among female service members in 2016, but slightly increased among males. The rates of diagnosis for chlamydia among women were generally three to five times those among men.

The CDC said women can have a greater risk for an infection because the lining of the vagina is thin and delicate, making it vulnerable to bacteria and viruses. Women are also less likely to have symptoms for chlamydia and gonorrhea than men. If symptoms do occur, they can go away even if the infection remains.

Men can experience a burning sensation while urinating; painful or swollen testicles; and white, yellow or green discharge. Symptoms in women, which are similar to those of a yeast infection, include increased vaginal discharge and a painful or burning sensation while urinating. Bleeding between periods can also be an indication of gonorrhea in women.

Gangaas said gonorrhea and chlamydia are often

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Thousands attend Military Appreciation Weekend



JERRY WRIGHT
Members of the Army Fife and Drum Corps perform May 5 at MacArthur Parade Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston during the Military Appreciation Weekend.



STEVE ELLIOTT
Country music star Aaron Watson entertains the crowd May 6 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston during Military Appreciation Weekend.



JERRY WRIGHT
A 1st Cavalry Division re-enactment demonstration was one of the events May 5 at MacArthur Parade Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston during the Military Appreciation Weekend celebration May 5-6.

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Along with more than 500 Tricentennial community partners, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and Joint Base San Antonio commemorated San Antonio's 300th anniversary by opening base access to the public for two days of music, activities, military demonstrations and celebration of San Antonio's unique military history.

Thousands of residents of San Antonio and surrounding communities took advantage of perfect weather to come out for live music, rides, arts and crafts, military demonstration teams, historic tours, a polo match and much more.

"This weekend was an opportunity for the San Antonio community to learn about the history of their military and to hear about the jobs we do today," said Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, commander, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army). "But most importantly, we wanted people to connect on a personal level with our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, and have some fun."

Military demonstrations from all services included the Black Daggers Parachute Demonstration Team, who are the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Parachute Team; the Army's Fife & Drum Corps; and the 1st Cavalry Division's Re-Enactment Group. Also on hand is a Navy working dog demonstration and Corpsman demonstration performance, as well as the USMC Silent Drill Team.

"We worked to make this event worthy of marking San Antonio's Tricentennial while offering people an excellent opportunity to learn more about the military. There were hourly historic tours, military band performances, and demonstrations from the Army's Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the Special Operations Command Parachute Demonstration team, and Air Force military working dog



JERRY WRIGHT
The Biohazard Brass Band, part of the 323rd Army Band "Fort Sam's Own," entertain visitors May 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston during Military Appreciation Weekend.



STEVE ELLIOTT
Visitors get an up-close-and-personal look at a U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Air Demonstration Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft during Military Appreciation Weekend held May 5-6 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.



STEVE ELLIOTT
Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commander, speaks to the large crowd gathered May 6 at MacArthur Parade Field.

teams," Buchanan added. "Even the polo match gives people a chance to learn how that sport served as an important training method for military cavalry units throughout history, including Army and Marine Corps units."

Historical displays included a Civil War field hospital from the Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage, the Bexar County 9th Cavalry



STEVE ELLIOTT
A member of the Black Daggers Parachute Demonstration Team, the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Parachute Team, carries the U.S. flag.

Buffalo Soldiers Association and a Wright B Flyer.

The weekend was capped off May 6 with a free concert from country star Aaron Watson and his band and a fireworks display.

TESTED

From page 4

tested for together as they are often transferred together. These conditions are especially common among teenagers and young adults.

Both conditions are treated with antibiotics prescribed by a health care provider. Patients going through treatment are encouraged to refrain from sex because they can still infect others even during treatment, Diaz said.

“It takes seven days for the medication to treat these infections and only after this time is the chance of infecting others gone,” Diaz said, adding that the treatment won’t work if someone is re-exposed to chlamydia or gonorrhea and reinfected within that time. Using a condom during the treatment period can help lower risk of partners reinfected each other — but there is no guarantee, he said.

People who have completed treatment for chlamydia or gonorrhea can also be reinfected, Gangsaas said. Lifestyle choices, such as not being in a mutually monogamous sexual relationship and not using condoms

correctly 100 percent of the time, can increase risk for having an STI.

“Make sure you complete all medication prescribed by your health care provider, and ensure that your sex partner is both tested and treated,” Gangaas said. “It is important to be retested no sooner than three weeks after completing your medication to ensure that you are clear of the infection.”

If left untreated, gonorrhea and chlamydia can have serious consequences, including infertility or risk of being passed from a mother to a baby during pregnancy and delivery.

While rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea have increased among service members in recent years, the MSMR report found rates of human papillomavirus infections have decreased. If an HPV infection persists, it can cause genital warts or various types of cancer, including cervical cancer. A vaccine is available to help reduce risk of an infection.

“Being informed is essential for a healthy sex life,” Diaz said. “For our patient population, this means knowing what they can do to stay safe and healthy, and how to directly ask their health care provider about testing.”

32ND MEDICAL BRIGADE HOLDS CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY CEREMONY



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Col. Clinton W. Schreckhise (right), 32nd Medical Brigade commander, presides over the change of responsibility ceremony as Command Sgt. Maj. Carlisie Y. Jones (left) receives responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Oates May 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Jones comes to the 32nd Medical Brigade from the Medical Professional Training Brigade. Oates is transitioning to serve as the command sergeant major at Brooke Army Medical Center.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Team provides for burn patients worldwide

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Throughout the year, a unit of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston can be activated at a moment's notice to help care for patients with critical burn injuries around the world.

The USAISR Burn Flight Team is a unit consisting of nurses, surgeons and respiratory therapists with the capability to treat burn patients being transported in military aircraft from anywhere in the world.

Started in 1952, the Burn Flight Team is made up of 15 members who serve at the USAISR Burn Center. The team conducts several missions a year to pick up critical burn patients including active duty service members, veterans, spouses or dependents of military members from all services, and to bring those patients via military aircraft to be treated at the USAISR Burn Center, located at Brooke Army Medical Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Each mission consists of five team members, including a burn surgeon specializing in critical care, two critical care nurses, a licensed vocational nurse and a respiratory therapist.

Capt. Cassandra Bullock, USAISR Burn Flight Team chief flight nurse, said team members have to be ready at any time to go on a mission.

"We're in a demand-status mode," Bullock said. "We are on call 24/7. When we receive notice that there is a pending mission, we have a two-hour recall to be at the burn center to



COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL RESEARCH

Sgt. AliceAnn Meyer (left), U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Flight Team NCO in charge and respiratory therapist, and Capt. Cassandra Bullock (right), U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Flight Team chief flight nurse, inspect equipment used for the treatment and care of critical burn patients being transported on military aircraft from locations around the world en route to San Antonio, home of the USAISR Burn Center located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

pack out for the mission."

Once the Burn Flight Team is assembled, they pack up equipment utilized in the care and treatment of one or more patients, similar to an intensive care unit, or ICU. To get to their mission destination quickly, the team typically takes a civilian flight out of San Antonio International Airport.

"Our goal is to get to that patient as fast as we can," Bullock said. "So with that, we often take civilian aircraft to get there so we can take over treatment of that patient and start stabilizing them."

Flying back to San Antonio, the team and the patient are transported in a C-130 or C-17 military aircraft configured for patient care, courtesy of the Air Force. The medical equipment brought by the Burn Flight Team is then set up to continue

care and treatment of the patient.

"When we go, the great thing is we are not just flying to get to our patient, but we are flying with a full ICU," Bullock said. "With that, we can perform all ICU capabilities and procedures up in the aircraft."

Sgt. AliceAnn Meyer, Burn Flight Team NCO in charge and respiratory therapist, said the team has the resources that enable them to provide care and treatment to patients en route to San Antonio.

"I think we're really lucky that the tools we have from our research side and the equipment that we have gives us the capability to take care of just about any patient in the air," Meyer said. "I don't think we've met any roadblocks we haven't been able to meet yet because of

the tools that we have."

Over the last 10 years, the Burn Flight Team has provided transport and treatment for more than 350 service members critically injured in Afghanistan and Iraq by participating in approximately 100 missions to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where the burn patients were being cared for.

Members of the flight team have also provided care for service members who have been injured outside of the battlefield, including last September when they treated four Marines who were critically burned when the amphibious assault vehicle they were in caught on fire during a training exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

In December, the team was called out to pick up a Marine who was critically burned in an accident at home while on leave in Washington state.

The Burn Flight Team has been assigned to missions that involve government civilians, including an instance last year when they transported a U.S. Department of State employee from Colombia.

In 2017, the team participated in 10 missions.

This year, the work of the Burn Flight Team has not let up. In February, the team traveled more than 9,850 miles to Singapore to treat and transport a patient on a 19-hour non-stop flight, setting a distance record for the team and surpassing the previous record by more than 3,000 miles.

"Our flight team motto is anytime, anywhere," Bullock said. "We will be there anytime, we will be anywhere to bring that service member or family

member the best care they can get."

Besides serving on the flight team, Bullock and Meyer work in the intensive care unit at the USAISR Burn Center. They were selected by USAISR to serve on the flight team.

Bullock said there are instances when flight team members have worked long shifts at the burn center when they are notified of a mission they will go on.

"This is an extra duty we do," she said. "I can work here four, 12-hour shifts in a row and I get told I have to be on a flight at 10 p.m. Sometimes I think that is the hardest, you're tired and we are just going, going, going because we want to get that patient to USAISR as quickly and safely as we can."

Meyer said flight team members and the burn surgeon, Maj. Julie Rizzo, Burn Flight Team director, come up with a plan to provide care for the patient being transported in flight. But she said team members need to be able to respond quickly if something happens to the patient during the flight.

"Everybody needs to just to be able to act," Meyer said.

"Like Capt. Bullock said, we are the only ones there. The doctor jumps in, the nurses and the respiratory therapist jump in. We all jump in immediately."

Bullock said team members must work well together to provide care and treatment for the patient that is being transported.

"You need to have extreme competency in your job skill and the reason is you are the only resource up there," Bullock said. "You have to be a real good team player willing to do the best for the patient."

Migration to Defense Health Agency to modernize Army medicine

By Devon L. Suits

ARMY MEDIA PRODUCTION, ARMY
MEDIA ACTIVITY

To help modernize the Department of Defense's medical community, the Army's surgeon general, along with the other services, have been taking the necessary steps to migrate certain authorities and control from the military departments to the Defense Health Agency.

In accordance with the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, the changes to the military departments aim to eliminate duplicative health services functions and maximize efficiencies in the activities carried out by the Defense Health Agency.

"Army Medicine has the opportunity to make significant improvements in healthcare as we implement the 2017 NDAA changes, which will influence how we sustain readiness," said Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, the

Army Surgeon General, and commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, during testimony April 26 before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Eventually, the DHA will be responsible for the administration of each military treatment facility, including budgetary matters, information technology, health care administration and management, administrative policy and procedure, military medical construction, and other appropriate matters, according to the law.

Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley have established a task force, led by Army G-3/5/7, to ensure a successful transition, West said.

Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, N.C., will be the first facility impacted by the change.

"We are working closely with the Defense Health Agency and the rest of the joint health services enterprise to implement these legislative changes, with thorough analysis, deliberate planning and ongoing coordination," West told senators.

In addition to the changes to the Army medical department's organizational structure, the Army medical community has been working to ensure that Soldiers achieve the proper levels of both physical and mental fitness, so that they are always ready to deploy anywhere in the world.

"Medical readiness is a shared Soldier and command team responsibility. However, Army medicine plays a decisive role in monitoring, assessing, and identifying key health-related indicators and outcomes, as well as providing recommendations to mitigate risks," she said.

In addition, Army medicine has implemented its "Medical Readiness Transformation Initiative" to stay in line with the Defense Secretary's priority to decrease the quantity of non-deployable personnel.

As a result, West said, the total force has achieved the lowest non-deployable rate in our history.

Army Medicine has improved their comprehensive pain management program to help reduce a Soldier or dependent's reliance upon opioids or other pain medications, the general added. To accomplish this, Army medicine has implemented a combination of traditional and non-traditional pain management methods to help those suffering from acute and chronic pain.

In addition to pain management mitigation, the Army has made several innovations to improve how healthcare is delivered.

First, the Army's embedded behavioral health program assigns providers to operational units. Overall, the use of behavioral health care increased from about 900,000 encounters in FY 2007 to over 2.25 million in FY 2017, West said.

"It's not that there's more pathology," she said, explaining that people just feel more comfortable using behavioral health practitioners since they are now local.

Second, West said the Army has expanded its virtual health capabilities to span 30 specialties, delivered in 18 time zones, in over 30 countries and territories.

Finally, the Army's Behavioral Health Data Portal provides practitioners the ability to provide quality care by enhancing the service's "ability to monitor clinical outcome metrics and refine behavioral health programs based on their metrics," West said.

ARSOUTH sponsors vector control practices seminar in Chile

By Frederick Hoyt

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military doctors and veterinarians from the Chilean Army, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and the Uruguayan Navy gathered in Santiago, Chile, for a vector control practices seminar April 17-18, hosted by the Chilean Army Health Command and sponsored by U.S. Army South.

The primary focus for this professional military to military engagement is to keep service members and civilians safe from insect- and other vector-borne diseases in a variety of austere environments during wartime, humanitarian disaster response and peace keeping mission.

The importance of identifying vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, Zika and others early plays an important role in military planning and operations.

“The threat of a vector-borne illness is a very serious issue,” said U.S. Army South’s Maj. Alejandro Bonilla, an environmental science officer with the Army Chief of Staff-Medical. “A malaria outbreak can kill more people than any other disease. The Department of Defense is constantly proactive and is always looking for ways to improve in identifying and dealing with vector-borne illnesses before a potential pandemic or outbreak occurs.

“Sharing best practices and lessons learned with



FREDERICK HOYT

From left: Chilean Army Lt. Col. Pablo Larraguibel, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Eric Lombardini and Chilean Army Maj. Claudia Lucar participate an exercise focusing on a vector-borne risk assessment pre-deployment scenario April 17.

our military partners in this type of forum is important because we all bring a wealth of knowledge which strengthens our interoperability,” Bonilla added. “We benefit from these exchanges because each military has different methods and practices. We always learn something new which makes our militaries stronger in the area of force health protection.”

Throughout the seminar, between presentations and

lectures, soldiers from the Chilean Army Veterinary Service had the opportunity to apply what they learned during several practical pre-deployment risk assessment exercises in which they evaluated potential vector borne diseases. Together, they analyzed a variety of data and developed a list of recommendations for the best course of action to mitigate health risks.

“The course information is very useful, because here in Chile, we have several vectors that we are aware of and it’s important to help us identify and prevent a possible outbreak. It also will help us identify the development of any new disease,” said Maj. Alex Betzhold, a veterinary advisor and planner from the Chilean Army Veterinary Service. “It’s interesting to learn about new field sampling techniques and the process for analyzing that information and then taking appropriate measure to protect our military forces.”

Presenters included U.S. Army veterinarians from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, a medical doctor and infectious disease specialist from the U.S. Air Force’s Defense Institute for Medical Operations, or DIMO, and a medical doctor and infectious disease specialist from the Uruguayan Navy.

As the Army Service Land Component to U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Army South works closely with partner nation armies and defense forces in Central and South America to strengthen security cooperation throughout the western hemisphere.

Army engineers rescue mock disaster victims

By Cpl. Elizabeth Scott

29TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, 22nd Engineer Clearance Company based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., brushed up on their search-and-rescue skills during the Guardian Response 18 exercise held at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind., April 22.

The training scenario features searching for and treating victims in the aftermath of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear disaster.

"It usually takes them about 30 to 90 minutes to set up," said George Nieves, an observer/controller from Fox Division Civil Support Training Facility, U.S. Army North. "The most important part is deciding where you want to put all of your equipment."

Entering the 'Hot Zone'

The first group of soldiers entering the "hot zone" area provides a 360-degree site characterization and situational map to the soldiers in the operations center.

Army Capt. Charles Robitaille described the training scenario.

"These guys come out here to render aid to these civilians who are trapped in a situation that requires rescue capabilities that would exceed what a normal fire department can render," said Robitaille, who's assigned with the 22nd ECC. "So that includes anything that requires technical lifting, heavy lifting, heavy objects, forcible entry into areas with a great deal of concrete or steel, and any scenario that requires the lowering or raising of victims with rope systems."

Nieves said the six-person team walks methodically through the site; they are trying to identify where casualties are, what kind of tools are needed to rescue them, extract victims that are easily moved and provide medical aid.

They then radio back to the soldiers outside of the contaminated area about what equipment the next team will need in order to extract the casualty out of the situation. This team also used chalk to write information on the rubble to communicate to the extraction team.

Searching for Casualties

One soldier writes a large, visible "V" to identify that there is at least one victim in the area. They also write a

number identifying the number of victims and draw an arrow to indicate where the casualty is located.

"My soldiers' responsibilities are to provide technical emergency search and rescue to the American people in order to preserve life and minimize suffering," said Army 1st Sgt. Donald Salladay, 22nd ECC.

The soldiers in the 22nd ECC have all completed a 72-day course at Florida State Fire College to be pro board certified, a nationally accredited certification in fire services and related fields.

For the first 55 days, the soldiers learn about the five major disciplines in technical search and rescue: confined space, vehicle machinery rescue, ropes rescue, technology decontamination and structural collapse. The last two weeks are U.S. Army North-driven external evaluations.

The reconnaissance team returns back to brief the next team about the situation. This second team will enter the "hot zone" with the necessary tools to start the process of rescuing the victims.

Staying Flexible

Even though they have the reconnaissance from their predecessors, these soldiers have to stay flexible and ready to problem solve. When their initial idea does not work, they quickly move on to the next.

Nieves explained that the soldiers also continually monitor the radiation levels to make sure it does not exceed a certain amount of radiation. If it does, they will send in new personnel.

Once the contaminated soldiers depart the area and enter the "cold zone," medical personnel will read and annotate the amount of radiation dose they have received so that it can be tracked how much radiation each soldier has been exposed to. This is tracked in the soldiers' medical records for 20 years.

As the rescue team saves each casualty, two soldiers take the casualty back to the decontamination area. There the soldiers stripped down the casualty, wash them, rinse them, monitor them to make sure all the contamination is gone, wrap them in a blanket, and take them to a casualty collection point. There soldiers call for medical support who then transport the casualty to a facility for further medical care.



CPL. ELIZABETH SCOTT

U.S. Army Pfc. Emanuel Olvera (left) and Sgt. Laththuwahandi De Silva, both from 3rd platoon, 22nd Engineer Clearance Company, exit a structure after identifying two simulated casualties during Guardian Response 18 on April 22 at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind. The soldiers in the 22nd ECC completed a 72-day course at Florida State Fire College in order to be Pro Board certified, a nationally accredited certification in fire services and related fields. The five major disciplines that the soldiers have to learn about are confined space, vehicle machinery rescue, ropes rescue, technology decontamination, and structural collapse. U.S. Army North executes the annual Vibrant Response consequence management exercise at the direction of U.S. Northern Command to confirm command and control elements of the nation's CBRN response forces. U.S. Force Command's linked exercise, Guardian Response, held at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, validates how the subordinate units train to carry out the operations under the direction of a joint task force. GR18 is executed by the U.S. Army Reserve Command.

Navy Band rocks San Antonio during Fiesta

By Burrell Parmer

NAVY RECRUITING DISTRICT
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Through Navy Recruiting Command's Music for Recruiting program, Navy Band Southwest's popular music group, the "Destroyers," traveled to Military City USA to participate in the annual Fiesta celebration April 23-29.

The group's first performance was for students of Winston Churchill High School in the northwest part of the city April 23.

Joined by Sailors of Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, the band's purpose was to spread Navy awareness and provide students the opportunity to interact with recruiters to ascertain information on the numerous opportunities and benefits that the Navy has to offer.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Clifton Murray, a guitar instrumentalist from Corona,



Corona, Calif., native Petty Officer 2nd Class Clifton Murray, a guitar instrumentalist with the "Destroyers", the popular music group of Navy Band Southwest from San Diego, performs for Smithson Valley High School students April 25 during Fiesta San Antonio 2018.

Calif., remarked on why the program is important.

"The reason that I'm in the Navy Band is because my high school jazz ensemble did a clinic with the Pacific Fleet Band during my senior year," Murray said. "Before that, I had no idea at all that the Navy had bands."

After the performance, the Sailors prepared for the Texas Cavaliers River Parade which allowed the band, along with hundreds of other parade entries, to be showcased along the San Antonio River Walk.

"San Antonio has a long legacy of military service and we were met with enthusiastic support from spectators and the local community," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Steve Pendel, who serves as the band's keyboard instrumentalist. "As Navy musicians, it was our privilege to perform at such a spectacular venue."

According to Pendel, the band is a valuable tool used to pique students' interest in America's Navy and ease the process of engaging with recruiters.

On April 24-25, the Destroyers performed at Sam Houston High School and Smithson Valley High School located in Spring Branch.

"My favorite part was engaging with the students and inspiring them to go after what they are passionate about," said lead vocalist Petty Officer 2nd Class Rachel Vennel of Ledyard, Conn. "They are usually surprised that we are all full-time, active duty Sailors whose primary job is performing as musicians."

Additionally, during Fiesta, the Destroyers performed at Navy Day at the Alamo, the Fiesta Flambeau Night Parade and were featured live on Great Day SA, a local morning television show.

"The Fiesta Flambeau Night Parade was tons of fun," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua Smith, a percussionist from



PHOTOS BY BURRELL PARMER

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brianna Crayton of San Antonio (right), assigned to Navy Recruiting Station Northeast, speaks with Sam Houston High School students regarding careers in America's Navy after a performance of the "Destroyers", the popular music group of Navy Band Southwest from San Diego.

Clarksville, Tenn. "All the lights and all the people cheering and dancing enlightened me to the pride and culture that the people have in San Antonio. I hope that we are able to do it again in the future."

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO SENIOR CHAPLAIN PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Col. Leslie Janovec (center), Joint Base San Antonio senior chaplain, leads a prayer May 3 during the National Day of Prayer observance on the steps of San Antonio City Hall. Congress established the National Day of Prayer as an annual event by a joint resolution of Congress, signed into law by President Harry Truman in 1952. President Ronald Reagan, in 1988, designated the NDP to be the first Thursday of every May.



JOHNNY SALDIVAR

LACKLAND



59th Medical Wing Critical Care Air Transport Team members, in conjunction with mission partners, transition from their aircraft to an ambulance April 19 during an infant patient transport mission from Germany to Walter Reed National Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN KEIFER BOWES

59th MDW executes five missions at once

By Staff Sgt.
William Blankenship
59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 59th Medical Wing orchestrated five air transport missions simultaneously during the week of April 16-20.

The Air Force's premier health care, medical education and research, and readiness wing flexed global capability by delivering expert health care to patients in multiple regions of the globe.

"We maintain a 24/7 worldwide response for the Department of Defense," said Col. Scott Suckow, 59th MDW administrator. "We are the only place that has this capability, specifically for Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation transfers.

"These missions not only provide us reps needed for readiness currency, but are critical to our medical training mission," Suckow added. "We have the rare opportunity to



59th Medical Wing Critical Care Air Transport Team members, along with the patient's father, entertain the infant during the air transport mission.

not only teach our emergency transport personnel what they need to know to execute their task, but can merge the operational mission with real-world training and send them as a medical force multiplier."

The 59th MDW has the largest medical mobility commitment in the U.S. Air

Force and maintains approximately 1,250 mobility positions. At any one time, there are about 100 medics deployed worldwide, executing a joint U.S. mission in support of global operations.

"Continuous coordination and communication are key to mission success, especially multiple simultaneous

missions," said Maj. Mark Hassett, 59th Medical Support Group administrator. "Additionally, our people know their jobs and they execute. The truly amazing thing about all of the people involved in these types of missions is they make the extraordinary look routine. There is no complacency, no resting on our laurels. They treat each and every mission with the utmost urgency and importance and it shows."

All 59th MDW teams began at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, which serves as the wing headquarters. Missions included a Critical Care Air Transport Team Pediatric Intensive Care Unit move from San Antonio Military Medical Center to Florida, a CCATT PICU move from Germany to Walter Reed National Medical Center, a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit move from Walter Reed to Boston, Mass., an

Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation move from South Korea to SAMMC, and an Aeromedical Evacuation patient redistribution mission.

These missions provide invaluable training opportunities for the 59th MDW specialty team providers and has tremendous readiness implications in preparation for theatre operations downrange.

"For these critical care transport missions, particularly ECMO, the patients our teams are caring for are often clinging to life," Hassett said. "We are proud to accomplish these types of delicate missions and feel strongly that if not us, then who? Leading the charge in critical care patient movement provides the 59th Medical Wing with the awesome responsibility of answering our nation's call; and we are honored to do it."

Intel Airmen proficient in German fitness test

By Staff Sgt.
Alexandre Montes

70TH INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE
AND RECONNAISSANCE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Bi-annually, American service members are given the opportunity to show their determination and fitness by completing the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany's extreme military fitness test, the Bundeswehr.

This year, eight 70th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing Airmen passed the test and were honored for accomplishing the feat.

To complete the test, service members did not travel to Germany, but German Armed Forces members traveled to San Antonio to test each participant over three days.

Unlike the current Air Force physical training test of a 1½-mile run, push-ups and sit-ups in an allotted amount of time, and depending on age and gender, the German military test has seven tasks and no bias.

Airmen were notified of the opportunity to test several months ago, giving them time to prepare.

"Most of us were briefed by Capt. William 93rd Intelligence Squadron on the opportunity to compete back in February," Senior Airman Shea, 93rd IS, said. "The majority of us met twice a week for specialized training sessions where we would focus on speed-work and muscular endurance, along with rucking and swimming."

The task at hand was completing a 10-meter sprint in

under 60 seconds, a 1,000 meter run in less than six and a half minutes and a chin-up hang test. All tasks had to be completed within 90 minutes.

If that wasn't enough, there was also a 100-meter swim while wearing the service-specific uniform, a first aid test, the nuclear, biological and chemical mission oriented protective posture test, pistol qualification and a rucksack road march with at least 3.75 miles completed within two hours.

Sounds easy right?

On "game day" the participants were up early and ready. The Airmen said it was not a warm and cozy morning either. Wearing only physical training shorts and short sleeve shirts, they waited almost three hours, in mid-40 degree weather and with 30 MPH winds.

To properly prepare for this type challenge, Airmen have to know their strengths and weaknesses, and pre-test themselves prior to test day so

they have a benchmark for improvements as they train, said Staff Sgt. Michael, 93rd IS.

Once Airmen know their weaknesses, they can design their workouts around preparing for the testable events, he said.

"If your shuttle-run time needs to decrease, work on sprint intervals; if your chin-up hang time needs to increase, work on pull-up/chin-up endurance. Many members underestimate the difficulty of the physical challenges this badge requires of them and fail as a result."

Michael said the experience is not for everyone, and may be difficult for those who normally work in an office environment.

"The GAFFB (German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge) is a great experience overall," he said. "It is a challenge that not everyone even wants to try for, especially in the field of intelligence, where a sedentary lifestyle is more common. Our

desire to compete ... sets us apart from the start."

In addition to the personal challenge, 70th ISRW team members also appreciated the camaraderie they felt during the competition, not only with each other but with joint-service members as well.

"Committing to the challenge and pushing for that next level badge was genuinely competitive fun, which was only made better by the fact that we completed the competition together," Michael said.

"I really enjoyed the camaraderie I felt with the other Airmen from the 70 ISRW," said Capt. William. "Getting up from our desks and experiencing some of the things that much of the rest of the military has to do helped to shine a light on what we are supporting every day."

For more information on participating in the GAFFB, visit <http://www.benning.army.mil/mcoe/gfno/>

COUNCILMAN SALDAÑA SPEAKS TO JBSA-LACKLAND'S AIRMAN'S VOICE



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

Rey Saldaña, councilman for San Antonio District 4, speaks to junior enlisted Airmen at a monthly Airman's Voice meeting May 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The Airman's Voice is a non-profit base organization geared toward Airman in the ranks of Airman Basic to Senior Airman. Through their motto of "Investing in our peers, developing our tier," the organization aims to boost base and community involvement. During his communication with the organizations members, Councilman Saldaña emphasized the importance of partnership between young Airman and the teenage community in San Antonio. The Airman's Voice hopes to build a partnership with local representatives to form a community Airman-to-Teen mentorship program.

RANDOLPH

Annual SAPR Challenge makes JBSA ‘Unafraid’

By Senior Airman Stormy Archer
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Personnel from across Joint Base San Antonio gathered to compete in the second annual JBSA Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Survivor Challenge April 27 at JBSA-Randolph.

The SAPR Survivor Challenge is an annual event that incorporates the physical and mental challenges a survivor of sexual assault might go through in order to raise awareness and prevent sexual assault.

“The theme this year is unafraid,” said Allen Blair, 502nd Air Base Wing SAPR Program coordinator. “Not unafraid to report, but unafraid to step in and do the right thing when we see something happening.”

The event began with a mental challenge requiring contestants to visit organizations at JBSA-Randolph that help survivors of sexual assault and answer questions about the resources available to them.

After the mental portion of the event, teams gathered at the Rambler Fitness Center track and field to compete in a relay obstacle course that included carrying sandbags, dragging a weight on a rope, flipping a “tire,” pushing a sled and running a lap around a quarter-mile track while wearing body armor.

“This is a great way to get the JBSA community together and show our united strength, and support for victims of sexual assault, said Col. Kristen Beals, 359th Medical Group commander. “Everyone here has been able to learn something and bond together. Some of the challenges presented here today have been able to give a glimpse of some of the mental challenges and resiliency techniques victims have to use.”



PHOTOS BY SEAN WORRELL

Teams line up to participate in the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response scramble challenge during the “Survivor’s Challenge” April 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Survivor’s Challenge is a JBSA competition where teams compete in mental and physical challenges to help raise awareness and prevent sexual assault within the military and federal service.



The 902nd Security Forces Squadron “Survivor’s Challenge” team gather for a photo after winning first place during the competition April 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



JBSA-Randolph main gate dedicated to Airman

By Danielle Knight

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph officials renamed the main gate in memory of Airman 1st Class Charles T. Lindsey, a former 12th Security Police Squadron law enforcement security specialist, at a dedication ceremony on May 4.

The gate was dedicated to Lindsey to honor his sacrifice, service to his country, and his role in the 12th Security Police Squadron. The ceremony was attended by leadership and members of the 902nd Security Forces Squadron, former leadership of the 12th Security Police Squadron and Lindsey's family.

"Charles was under me on the day shift up until the time he deployed," said retired Master Sgt. Jay Whiston, former flight chief 12th Security Police Squadron. "This honor is well earned. He was one of a kind and was very instrumental with morale within the flight and the squadron at that time."

Lt. Col. Brandon Edge, 902nd SFS commander, noted the importance of dedicating this gate to Lindsey.

"Our Airmen can



COURTESY PHOTO

Airman 1st Class Charles T. Lindsey is photographed while on patrol with the 12th Security Police Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph in 1994.

relate," he said. "He was an Airman like them, doing exactly what they do on a daily basis — protecting our people and resources on the installation and downrange."

Lindsey grew up in a military family and followed in his father's footsteps as a defender. Lindsey entered the Air Force in 1993, and graduated Law Enforcement Technical Training at JBSA-Lackland in 1994. He was assigned to the 12th Security Police Squadron at JBSA-Randolph before it became the 902nd Security Forces Squadron. Lindsey was killed in a noncombat incident during deployment in Bahrain on Nov. 1, 1995.

Lindsey's father, Charles E. Lindsey; his stepmother, Diane A. Lindsey; and his sister Jordan L. Lindsey were present for the ceremony.

"It's a tremendous honor to have my son remembered," Lindsey said. "It's an inspiration for those here in the 902nd Security Forces Squadron because he was proud of his unit. We can't thank the Air Force, the wing commander and Lt. Col. Edge enough for honoring our son."

Lindsey's awards include the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with device, and Air Force Training Ribbon.



SHELBY PRUITT

Charles E. Lindsey (right), father of Airman 1st Class Charles T. Lindsey, standing with Lt. Col. Brandon Edge (left), 902nd Security Forces Squadron commander, speaks about his late son May 4 during the dedication ceremony of the main gate at JBSA-Randolph.

Heart Link provides spouses with resources

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A spouse orientation program designed to strengthen military families and enhance mission readiness will be offered twice this month at Joint Base San Antonio.

Heart Link, which was first developed in 1999 to help first-time Air Force spouses learn more about the service and their installation, will be presented from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 11 at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center, 555 F Street West, and from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 16 at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club, 1650 Kenly Ave.

Subsequent sessions this year at JBSA-Randolph are planned for Sept. 14 and Nov. 2. Another session at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club is scheduled Sept. 12.

Heart Link's overall objective is to "increase retention of members in the military by increasing spouse awareness of the mission, customs, traditions, protocol and support resources and services available to them."

"Heart Link is a great program," said Brandy Wright, JBSA-Randolph M&FRC community readiness consultant. "We want spouses to know they are the heart of the team. We want them to

know they are important to the mission and to learn about all the resources that we have to offer."

The Heart Link sessions at JBSA-Randolph typically include briefings on finances and resiliency as well as a tour of the Taj Mahal. The May 11 session will also feature a tour of the east flightline's control tower.

"In addition, we have presentations by the protocol office and introduce a lot of the resources available, including the Military & Family Readiness Center, Military & Family Life Counselors and all the helping agencies," Wright said. "There are so many things out there that we don't take advantage of, so we want them to know all the military resources we have to offer."

Heart Link also provides spouses with an opportunity to meet other spouses who face the same challenges unique to the military lifestyle, Wright said.

"Many of these spouses are new to the military lifestyle, and they may be away from home for the first time," she said. "At Heart Link, you have other spouses you can connect with."

Connie Eberhart, an Air Force spouse who attended the Heart Link session in November at JBSA-Randolph, said her favorite part of the program is meeting other spouses who are new to the area and going



COURTESY GRAPHIC

through the same challenges she faces.

"No matter how long you have been a military spouse, each new assignment brings the challenge of finding those people who become your support system and ultimately lifelong friends," she said.

Although Heart Link is geared to spouses who have experienced the military lifestyle for less than five years, spouses with more experience are also welcome, including those who are newly assigned to JBSA.

Eberhart, who has experienced the military lifestyle for more than a decade as the wife of Master Sgt. Michael Eberhart, 19th Air Force CV-22 command evaluator, has attended Heart Link at each of her husband's assigned bases and was part of the planning process for the program as Exceptional Family Member Program family support coordinator at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England.

"Even though I now consider myself a relatively seasoned spouse, each installation brings

new information and JBSA-Randolph was no exception," said Eberhart, whose current position is EFMP manager at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. "It was such an amazing opportunity to hear about the history of the installation and be able to tour the Taj. I also love that all the base agencies I want and need to know about come to talk with everyone. I can get TRICARE questions answered, find out about volunteer opportunities, learn about the youth programs on the installation and keep up with current events all in one place."

The resources military spouses learn about during a Heart Link session can help them achieve resiliency as they face deployments, frequent moves and other stresses of the military lifestyle with their other family members, said Wright, who is also an Air Force spouse.

"When military members deploy, their spouses are holding down the fort at home," she said. "It's so important for those military members to have supportive spouses. It makes it a lot easier for members to accomplish the mission."

Heart Link is open to all service branches. To register, call the JBSA-Lackland M&FRC at 210-671-3722 or the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC at 210-652-5321.

Airman's dream becomes reality through Air Force program

By Kat Bailey

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Former Tech. Sgt. Travis Barrino didn't let that stop him. He followed his heart and enrolled in a Master of Divinity program at a local seminary while stationed at Royal Air Force Menwith Hill, England, taking one to two courses per semester.

States Air Force.

Barrino didn't let that stop him. He followed his heart and enrolled in a Master of Divinity program at a local seminary while stationed at Royal Air Force Menwith Hill, England, taking one to two courses per semester.

Then in 2014, an email announcing a new Air Force program caught his eye—a program designed to allow

Airmen the flexibility to manage short-term conflicts between service responsibilities and life priorities. The Air Force was accepting applications for the Career Intermission Program, or CIP.

"Here, God, was the answer to my prayers," he recounted.

CIP offers Airmen the opportunity for a one-time temporary transition from active duty to the Individual

Ready Reserve. The participation period is a minimum of one year, not to exceed three years, and provides a mechanism for seamless return to pre-CIP active-duty status. CIP also provides an effective means to enhance retention of Airmen by preserving their valuable experience and training that might otherwise be lost by permanent separation.

"I came home and told my wife and she said, 'You're crazy!' " he recalled. "But I said, 'No, I think we can do this!'"

Barrino was one of the first Airmen to apply and be selected to participate in the program, and was able to attend seminary as a full-time student.

"It wasn't just the schooling I

PROGRAM continues on 23

PROGRAM

From page 22

needed,” he said. “I also needed the experience to be a chaplain and taking the time off active duty allowed me to become a pastor of a local church in Virginia to get that knowledge.”

An Airman's potential to serve the Air Force in the future, including leadership, duty performance, professional development, depth and breadth of experience and achievements are all factors in evaluating applications. The Air Force also considers manning and mission requirements when evaluating

applications for approval or disapproval.

Open to regular Air Force and career-status Active Guard and Reserve Airmen who meet the eligibility requirements, 113 Airmen have been selected to participate in the program since its inception in 2014. This work-life flexibility initiative enables the Air Force to retain talent, which reduces cost and adverse impacts on its mission.

After just two of the three years he requested in the program, the driven Airman had completed all the requirements for accession as an active-duty chaplain.

“I requested to return to active duty as soon as possible,

since I had met my goals,” Barrino explained. “Once I was back, then I could apply to be a chaplain, so I really wanted to cut my CIP short.”

Program participants sign an agreement that says they will return to active duty in the same component from which they separated and serve two months of active duty for every month of CIP participation.

“The return to active duty was a little crazier for me than most because I was coming back and shortly after that transitioning from enlisted to officer,” Barrino said. “But overall, the process was so easy! The CIP management team at AFPC walked me

clearly through everything to provide a successful transition back to active duty.”

Barrino attended Commissioned Officer Training in October 2017, followed by Chaplain training, and is now a fully qualified Air Force Chaplain who was recently selected for promotion to captain.

“The greatest thing about this CIP program is the Air Force allowed me to pursue my dream and now that dream is a reality,” he said.

First Lt. Barrino's advice to those interested in CIP?

“Make sure you line up your ducks before you get out,” he said emphatically. “I didn’t, and

it was only by God's grace that everything came together.”

The application window for Cycle A is open each year from April 1 to May 13. Cycle B opens Aug. 1 to Sept. 12 and Cycle C runs from Dec. 1 to Jan. 12. Airmen with humanitarian circumstances may submit out-of-cycle CIP applications as well as dual-military married Airmen when a join spouse assignment cannot be supported, provided they meet CIP eligibility criteria.

Find additional information and eligibility requirements on the Career Intermission Program page of the Air Force's Personnel Center public website under the Career tab.