

JBSA

LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JUNE 15, 2018



PHOTO BY BURRELL FARMER

Navy Counselor 1st Class Milton Duarte (right), a recruiter assigned to Navy Recruiting Station De Zavala, Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, and Diego Rodriguez, a future Sailor from Del Rio, volunteer at the San Antonio Food Bank June 6.

S.A. recruiters, future Sailors give back to community

Page 9



IAAFA hosts annual PREPLAN conference

Page 16



2018 Warrior Games wrap up in Colorado Springs

Page 22

Big changes to Army recruit training

By Dayton Ward

NCO JOURNAL

Basic Combat Training or the “Ten-Week Journey from Civilian to Soldier” is the foundation upon which the Army builds professional, principled warriors. More than 100,000 men and women undertake this training each year.

As our nation faces evolving and more complex challenges, it is vital to turn a critical eye toward the processes affecting this most fundamental aspect of military training. Recognizing this need, the Army is in the midst of evaluating and improving how it creates Soldiers and ensuring recruits who graduate basic training are ready to tackle the responsibilities the Army will soon place upon them.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Mitchell, Center for Initial Military Training, Fort Eustis, Virginia, the Army takes an assessment of its basic training curriculum every three years per U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command policies.

“With these normal assessments and discussions with key leaders, we are getting after the ‘Soldierization’ process,” Mitchell said.

Beginning in 2015, the Army surveyed more than 27,000 Soldiers across the officer and noncommissioned officer ranks, asking them to identify the most common deficiencies in recent BCT and Advanced Individual Training graduates. Topping the list was a lack of discipline among new Soldiers, such as arriving late for duty assignments or failing to wear uniforms correctly. Also highlighted was a failure to show respect to senior-ranking Soldiers and failure to follow orders.

The second most identified concern was Soldier fitness. This perception stems from standards designed to help recruits complete BCT, with the idea that Soldiers continue to progress toward passing the Army Physical Fitness Test in AIT. Survey respondents described a pattern of Soldiers arriving at their first units of assignment unable to pass the APFT.

Armed with this information, senior leaders and NCOs convened at the BCT Program of Instruction workshop at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, from October 31 to November 3, 2017. They identified specific areas of required improvement in both BCT and AIT. Led by Maj. Gen. Malcolm Frost, commanding general of CIMT, the workshop spotlighted BCT’s need to focus on the goals of producing disciplined, physically fit Soldiers ready for advancement to their next stages of training.

“I equate this to baseball or football because I played sports. You want [Soldiers] ‘in the game.’ You don’t want them on the sidelines,” Mitchell said. “The changes we’re making are what the Army wants and needs, and that’s a better Soldier on the field.”

Reviewing and updating the initial training Program of Instruction is a result of the Army facing changes on multiple fronts. Army recruiters face the formidable task of recruiting up to 80,000 viable candidates during FY 2018 in response to expected personnel turnover as well as the National Defense Authorization Act, which called for an increase to the Army’s total force strength by 7,500 Soldiers before the end of 2018.

However, according to DOD statistics, seven out of 10 people in the 17-24 age demographic are ineligible for military service. Primary disqualifiers for potential recruits include obesity, criminal record, past drug use, or failure to meet minimum educational requirements.

Once recruits begin training, the Army wants to ensure efforts focus on developing and preparing Soldiers for more advanced training, so they arrive at their first units ready to serve at a high level.

“Get back to the basics of what we teach Soldiers,” Frost said while speaking to workshop participants. These fundamentals, including physical fitness and proficiency in numerous skills such as weapons and communication, are at the heart of this push to streamline and improve BCT.

Also included is a renewed emphasis on battlefield first aid as well as enhanced training requirements to better match U.S. Army Medical Command guidelines.

“The MedCom POIs have changed,” Mitchell said, motivating BCT changes to keep standards consistent. The expanded training covers battlefield first aid techniques such as treating for shock and dealing with open wounds or fractures.

Another inclusion is renewed attention to Modern Army Combatives Program concepts, which is already a requirement for training in all units per Army Regulation 350-1: Army Training and Leader Development. According to Mitchell, recruits who demonstrate aptitude during combatives training can compete for Level 1 certification, the lowest of four possible skill levels, before graduating BCT. Soldiers holding this certification are qualified to teach MACP’s core hand-to-hand combat techniques.

Instilling these concepts at the earliest

possible training stages makes for better-prepared Soldiers, regardless of their military occupational specialty.

“It doesn’t matter what MOS you are. Your entire life and career can come down to just 60 seconds, five minutes, or 15 minutes in intensive combat,” Frost said. “It can happen to any of us who deploy at any time, and to any Soldier who comes out of Basic Combat Training.”

A “pilot program” conducted by training leaders at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, features drill sergeants testing the revised BCT curriculum.

As part of the increased focus on discipline, the updated basic training program devotes more time to educating recruits about Army values, more close order drill and ceremony competitions, Army history, and barracks and bunk inspections. These subjects received less attention in recent years, as the need to train new Soldiers for rapid deployment saw those hours of instruction shifted toward combat skills.

The modified program incorporates additional drill and ceremony training. For example, drill sergeants have an opportunity to use platoon movements to and from the barracks to reinforce aspects of close order drill, and competitions between platoons offer opportunities to show off recruits’ new skills. The Army hopes this renewed emphasis on discipline, knowledge, and increased competition will build esprit de corps as recruits learn and work together.

Bolstered standards, designed to address the physical fitness issues, require recruits to score a least 60 points in each Army Physical Fitness Test event. The previous standard called for a minimum score of 50 points in each event. These changes bring graduated recruits closer to the desired fitness standard at the start of AIT and prepare them for their first assignment.

“If you graduate basic training on Friday and go to AIT on Monday, you’re at 60 points on Monday at AIT,” Frost said. “Would we send a Soldier to their first unit assignment who wasn’t qualified on their weapon? No, we wouldn’t.”

Finally, the knowledge and skills recruits acquire during BCT will be brought to bear during three distinct phases of training, each culminating in a field exercise: the Hammer, the Anvil, and the Forge. Each test compels recruits to incorporate everything learned in each phase of training, and the grueling, 81-hour Forge exercise brings together all the knowledge absorbed during BCT.

JBSA LEGACY

**Joint Base San Antonio
Editorial Staff**

**502nd Air Base Wing
and JBSA Commander**
BRIG. GEN.

LAURA L. LENDERMAN

**502nd ABW/JBSA
Public Affairs Director**
TODD G. WHITE

**502nd ABW/JBSA
Chief of Command
Information**
ED PRINCE

Editor
STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff

SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER

DAVID DEKUNDER

ROBERT GOETZ

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

TECH. SGT. AVE YOUNG

**JBSA LEGACY
ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE
EN COMMUNITIES
P.O. BOX 2171
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78297
210-250-2052**

This newspaper is published by EN Communities, a private firm in no way connected with the United States Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the United States military services. Content of the publication is not necessarily the official view of, or endorsement by the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in the publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or EN Communities, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonment factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, provided, and/or approved by the JBSA Public Affairs Offices within the 502nd Air Base Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Employment workshop open for transitioning service members

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Transitioning service members preparing for a career outside the military can learn about skills and tips to help them get a job at the "Confidence Outside the Uniform" workshop at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 20.

The workshop is open to all active-duty members transitioning out of the military, military spouses, veterans and Department of Defense civilians within JBSA, including JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Camp Bullis. The JBSA M&FRC Employment Readiness Program and the Texas Veterans Commission are conducting the workshop.

Alma Guivas, JBSA community readiness specialist, said the workshop helps JBSA members learn or relearn skills that give them a competitive edge in their job search and on employment opportunities available for transitioning servicemembers, veterans, military spouses and DoD civilians.

Skills and topics that will be covered at the workshop include effective interview techniques, developing a resume, proper attire to wear to an interview, online job searching, tips about job applications, tips on



translating military skills to the private job sector, utilizing networking in getting a job and job training referrals.

"Essentially what the workshop instructors are bringing is sound job coaching," Guivas said. "The workshop will assist in boosting their confidence by brushing up on the essentials needed to secure a new job and readjust to civilian life. These resources are great tools for the transitioning servicemember to have to be able to organize their job search."

Guivas said the workshop is an enhancement of the career resources already provided by the JBSA M&FRC Employment Readiness Program, which include the Employment Readiness Orientation held every Monday from 9-11 a.m. at the JBSA-Fort

Sam Houston M&FRC.

The orientation includes information on employment resources and services offered by the JBSA M&FRC Employment Readiness Program, the Texas Veterans Commission and USO Pathfinder, a USO program for transitioning servicemembers, as well as opportunities to sign up for a job bank database in which recipients are sent daily job posting announcements.

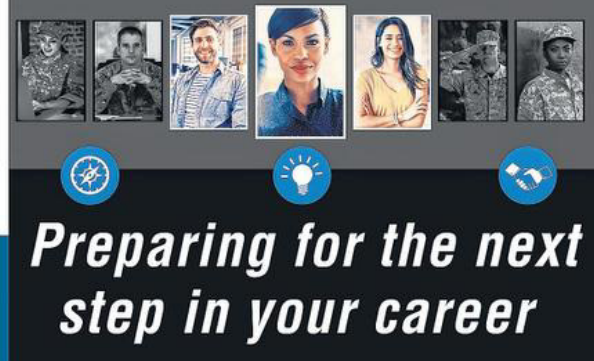
Rodney Gaither, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC team leader, said the JBSA M&FRC Employment Readiness Program has the resources to link transitioning servicemembers and JBSA members to programs that help them with employment opportunities, going to school, or accessing benefits.

"Our role is to make sure we can link

people to resources throughout the transition process," Gaither said.

For information and to register for "Confidence Outside the Uniform," contact JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC at 210-221-2418 or at tiny.cc/20june2018. The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC is located at 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797.

To find out more about employment and career workshops and programs offered at all JBSA M&FRCs, including JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph, go to <http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness>. A schedule of programs and workshops is located on the right hand side of the page under "Events Calendar" and by clicking on the "June-July 2018" link.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Vote from anywhere when you're in the military

From Federal Voting Assistance Program

Voting is one of our most fundamental rights as U.S. citizens and the Federal Voting Assistance Program, or FVAP, works to ensure members of the Uniformed Services, Merchant Marines, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, their eligible family members, and U.S. citizens residing outside the United States understand their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so from

anywhere in the world.

The Joint Base San Antonio FVAP is located within the Military & Family Readiness Centers at all three JBSA locations and provides accurate, nonpartisan voting information and assistance to ensure voters understand their voting rights.

In 2016, a survey from state election officials found the best way to guarantee protections for all active duty military is through the use of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF-76) versus state registration forms as each state may treat their respective voters differently.

The FVAP continues to reinforce use of the FPCA for applying or registering to vote, requesting absentee ballots, and updating contact information. The FPCA is the primary communication between you and your election official and is your avenue to make your voice heard.

During the 2018 Armed Forces Voters Week, which runs June 27-July 5, the JBSA Military & Family Readiness Centers will host voter information tables at various locations to provide patrons with the Federal Post Card Applications, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots

(SF-186), along with other resource materials.

The JBSA voting assistance officers provide service members, their families, retirees and other U.S. civilian Department of Defense employees with help in registering to vote and answering other voting-related questions:

At the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, call 210-221-8683 or send an email to usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-fss-votingassistance@mail.mil. At the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center, call

210-671-3722 or email lackland.vote@us.af.mil. At the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center, call 210-652-5321 or email randolph.vote@us.af.mil.

Regardless of the method you choose to register, it's important to follow-up with your election officials to ensure your registration was received.

Voters have the option of visiting FVAP.gov to obtain online assistance with completing the various voting forms and will be provided guidance on submitting the forms to their local election office.

FVAP can also be reached by phone at 1-800-438-VOTE or by email at vote@fvap.gov.

Retired Air Force rated officers urged to return to active duty

By Kat Bailey

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Retired Air Force rated officers with Air Force specialty codes 11X-pilot, 12X-combat systems officer or 13B-air battle manager are encouraged to apply for the Voluntary Retired Return to Active Duty, or VRRAD, program to help alleviate manning shortages within the Air Force rated community.

Also eligible to apply are current Air Force rated officers in those specialty codes with an approved retirement order. Officers currently serving on active duty under the 2017 VRRAD program whose tour lengths are limited to 12 months may apply for tour extensions under this program.

The secretary of the Air Force approved the extension to VRRAD for implementation on May 11 as one of a wide range of initiatives the Air Force is pursuing to improve rated officers' quality of life and quality of service in order to increase retention and the rated officer inventory.

"Officers who return to active duty



COURTESY GRAPHIC

under VRRAD will fill rated staff and active flying staff, test, training and operational positions where rated officer expertise is required," said Maj. Elizabeth Jarding, Air Force's Personnel Center VRRAD rated liaison. "We can match VRRAD participants to stateside or overseas requirements where they'll fill critical billets that would otherwise remain vacant due to the shortage of rated

officers."

Rated officers who received an active duty-retirement within five years, or will receive one within 12 months from their VRRAD date of application, in the ranks of captain, major or lieutenant colonel and who are under age 50 may apply for the program, with applicants older than 50 considered on a case-by-case basis. Participation has expanded to up to 1,000 retired rated

officers and active-duty tour lengths are increased to a minimum of 24 months and a maximum of 48 months.

In addition, applicants must be medically qualified for active duty and have served in a rated staff position within 15 years or been qualified in an Air Force aircraft within 10 years of application for flying positions. Refer to AFPC's VRRAD webpage for aircraft specifics.

AFPC will accept applications for VRRAD until Dec. 31 or until all openings are filled, whichever happens first. Retired officers returned to active duty will not be eligible for the aviation bonus or for promotion consideration. Program participants will only deploy if they volunteer, unless they are assigned to a combat coded unit.

Officers who retired for physical disability are not eligible to apply.

Find additional information on VRRAD application procedures and eligibility requirements on the VRRAD page (<http://www.afpc.af.mil/Retirement/VRRAD/>) of the AFPC public website.

New AF Surgeon General sees readiness, innovation as key

By Peter Holstein

AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg knows she has her work cut out for her as she leads the Air Force Medical Service during a time of transition.

Newly appointed as the 23rd U.S. Air Force Surgeon General, Hogg is eager to address the challenges facing Air Force Medicine. She says that focusing on medical readiness and innovation will drive the AFMS forward.

"Readiness is job number one," Hogg said. "The only reason we have medics serving in uniform is to go to war."

Hogg sees opportunities in the near future to sharpen that focus. In October 2018, administration of military treatment facilities begins transitioning to the Defense Health Agency. Hogg thinks having the DHA manage delivery of the health benefit will allow the AFMS to focus on its readiness mission.

"For years, we've had the competing priorities of delivering the benefit and our core readiness mission," Hogg said. "Now, as a service, we can really make readiness the top priority, and devote our time, energy, and focus to operational medicine and preparing for deployment."

Hogg thinks Air Force Medicine needs to advance its current deployment platforms and develop new ones to meet combatant commanders' future requirements.

"The Air Force has always provided light, lean, and agile medical forces," Hogg said. "We are now pushing damage control surgery and aeromedical evacuation closer to the point of injury. We need to keep finding new ways to accomplish that mission, while still fitting our deployment packages on the back of an airplane."

Today, American forces are accustomed to setting up field hospitals to deliver care, and

having access to forward airfields. Hogg said Air Force Medicine needs to prepare to deliver medical support in combat theater without access to hospitals and airfields.

"We need to train our medics to address all of the threats we face today, and those we may face in the future," Hogg said. "Right now, many of our patients come to us, even in theater. We've got to improve our ability to go out on the battlefield, stabilize them, scoop them up, and get them to the next level of care."

Hogg's desire to innovate and find new solutions on the battlefield and at home station reflects her vision for the AFMS. As the medical community changes, Air Force Medicine needs to keep pace. This means finding new ways to provide operational medical support to those we serve, expanding the reach of Air Force medics beyond the military treatment facility.

"The Trusted Care principle 'Every Airmen, Every Day, A Problem Solver' is something we need to encourage and model," Hogg said. "I want everyone in our organization, from the top to the bottom, thinking about how we can innovate. Don't wait for the 100 percent perfect solution. We can take the successful parts and build on them."

One area where Hogg sees room for growth is virtual and telemedicine. With a limited population of patients and specialty providers, leveraging technology to connect them will improve access.

Hogg also sees room for growth in AFMS partnerships with other health organizations.

"Our partnerships are indispensable to maintaining the currency and competency of medical Airmen," Hogg said. "We've known for a while that our organic facilities do not bring the volume, diversity, or acuity of patients needed to keep all our medics current on all the skills they need for



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg, U.S. Air Force Surgeon General.

deployment."

Placing medical Airmen in partner hospitals ensures Air Force Medicine can treat patients along the entire continuum of trauma care, from the initial injury to final rehabilitation. Providers who have very specialized skills along that continuum benefit greatly from working in partner platforms. Hogg thinks the AFMS should expand these opportunities when and where it makes sense.

"Right now, our partnerships offer episodic training venues. Our medics embed for a limited length of time, and repeat it once or twice a year," Hogg said. "Is that enough to keep them current all the time? What if they need to deploy and it has been several months since they were performing trauma surgery?"

"I think we should pursue training agreements that embed our medics at partner facilities long term, as their full-time duty station. We'll need to build these relationships so both organizations gain from

this experience."

In her previous role as Deputy Surgeon General and Chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps, Hogg had many opportunities to get out into the field and hear from Airmen. She recognizes there are anxieties in the organization, but urges Airmen to stay confident and focus on their mission, providing Trusted Care with zero harm.

"My message to Airmen is to keep doing what you're doing," Hogg said. "Keep taking care of our patients. Continue to treat them as the most important person from the moment they come through the door."

Hogg is the first woman and the first nurse to serve as the Air Force Surgeon General. She recognizes the historic significance of this accomplishment.

She believes the Air Force prepared her well for this position in her 34-year career. She has been at every platform of care honing her leadership skills from bedside nursing to ambulatory care, from element

chief to Deputy Surgeon General, and now Surgeon General. She also recognizes this opens up the opportunity for other to aspire to be the next Surgeon General based on their leadership ability.

"Being a nurse is a part of who I am. The diversity of experience in my career gave me an appreciation of all the different perspectives we have in Air Force Medicine. A nurse looks at problems differently from a doctor, who sees things differently from a technician, an administrator, a pharmacist or a lab tech.

"None of those views are wrong, just different. We need to hear from all of those perspectives to find the best solutions. Every member of the team has something valuable to contribute."

That perspective does not just apply to leadership. Hogg looks to all levels of the organization to be disruptive innovators, calling on everyone in the AFMS to speak up if they have good ideas.

"Sometimes, all a good idea needs is for the boss to get out of the way and let it flourish," Hogg said. "New things can be scary, we all know that. Your rank, your corps, your gender, your ethnicity, none of that matters. Constructively challenge the status quo. You don't need a title to be a leader."

Hogg has a motto that drives her leadership style. "One is too small a number to achieve greatness." That means that no one person has all the answers. Hogg is ready to apply that creed to the next chapter in Air Force Medicine.

"I am humbled by this opportunity to lead the remarkable AFMS Airmen, and I'm excited for the future," Hogg said. "We have an incredible opportunity right now to define our destiny, to change our path. Let's take this opportunity right now to improve and innovate our medical readiness posture and stay focused on the Air Force mission."



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Department of Defense offers enhanced support for military families with special needs

From DOD News, Defense Media Activity

The Defense Department now offers access to a wide array of newly enhanced and specialized support for military families with special needs.

Officials launched the Exceptional Family Member Program “ROC” for resources, options and consultations May 30.

Available through Military OneSource, it offers additional expertise, specialized support and more ways to connect families with resources, all of which augment the services already provided by the EFMP staff at military installations around the world, officials said.

Officials hosted a Facebook Live event on the Military OneSource Facebook page to introduce service members and their families to the newly enhanced support available through the EFMP ROC and answer questions.

“One call or chat puts you in touch with an amazing team to help you find services and navigate the wide and sometimes complex array of resources, benefits, and care available to you,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy, said. “The EFMP ROC connects you with subject matter experts, and can provide you with assistance in understanding and navigating the military health care system and TRICARE, as well referrals to local resources to meet your needs.”

As Dr. Ed Tyner, director of the

Office of Special Needs at Military Community and Family Policy, explained, “We continue to work with military and civilian leaders, service providers and family members to ensure our programs are focused on the family with greater standardization across the services and locations. The EFMP ROC will enable us to provide an enhanced level of service.”

Military families can schedule an appointment 24/7 with a Military OneSource EFMP ROC special needs consultant by visiting the Military OneSource website or by calling 800-342-9647.

Special needs consultations are available via phone or video session. The Military OneSource staff is also available to provide additional support to families through three-way calls with health care and other service providers.

Officials also encourage military families to enroll in the EFMP to ensure they have help working through their unique set of circumstances, and that their family members documented medical and educational needs are considered during the assignment coordination process.

To enroll, the family should complete DD Form 2792, “Family Member Medical Summary” and/or DD Form 2792-1, “Special Education/Early Intervention Summary,” and submit the forms according to the guidance of their military service. For assistance with this process, families can contact their installation Military and Family Support Center, or they can contact Military OneSource.

Army Vision: Behind the 10-year plan

By **Daniel Torok**
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In 1973, as the draft ended and America withdrew from Vietnam, the Army made it a priority to catch and keep the technological edge in weapons and equipment — setting up the formation of Training and Doctrine Command and Forces Command.

As America's defense policy reoriented, the Army underwent a thorough modernization of its combat arms and aviation units through training reform, weapons, equipment, and force modernization, and revising doctrine at the beginning phases of a new strategic order.

It was, and still is, imperative that the Army keep its technological edge in weapons and equipment against our near-peer competitors. "Our competitors

are seeking to alter global strategic realities for their own benefit, often at the expense of the U.S. interests and those of our allies and partners," Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark Esper said in his opening statement to the House Appropriations Committee on the posture of the U.S. Army, March 20.

The Army's current competitive advantage is in its Soldiers' ability to rapidly deploy anywhere, anytime, and producing a combat-credible deterrent against potential adversaries.

While a great advantage to have, Esper stated in the posture hearing that "some of the key challenges, and the Army's in particular, is defining our requirements and then implementing them."

Over the past 30-plus years, the M1 Abrams tank, M2 and M3 Bradley fighting vehicles, the UH-60 Blackhawk and

AH-64 Apache helicopters, and the MIM-104 Patriot air defense missile were developed and fielded. But in the past quarter century, the Army ceased to innovate, and with a large decrease in readiness, this technology has become outdated and overmatched.

The defining idea of the Army Vision, as laid out by Secretary Esper in a speech at the Brookings Institute June 5, is that the Army of 2028 will be ready to deploy, fight and win decisively against any adversary, anytime and anywhere, in a joint, multi-domain, high-intensity conflict, while simultaneously deterring others and maintaining its ability to conduct irregular warfare. "Modernizing today's equipment will align us to the future battlefield," Esper said.

To do this, The Army cannot look back 30 years, but instead must look forward in its ability



DANIEL TOROK

Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper (right) speaks with a Soldier while visiting an Army installation. Esper recently laid out "The Army Vision" through 2028 that will ensure America's Soldiers are able to fight and decisively win in any future battle.

to man, organize, train, equip and lead future Soldiers. Trusting and empowering subordinate leaders will facilitate both reform and greater performance. "We need to tap the talent of all the American people," Esper said. "We need to reach out to traditional industry and non-traditional" to forge the

road ahead.

"We have to change the character of warfare in our favor," the secretary added, outlining his six priorities for Army modernization: Long-Range Precision Fires, Next Generation Combat Vehicles, Future Vertical Lift, Network, Air and Missile Defense, and Soldier Lethality.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Purple Heart honors EOD Soldier's service

By Elaine Sanchez
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Warrior Transition Battalion Soldier was presented the Purple Heart for his combat wounds during a ceremony at the Warrior and Family Support Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston June 1.

Army Sgt. 1st Class James Burch, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with the 756th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, was injured May 5 when his vehicle was struck by enemy munitions near the Syria/Iraq border.

"I stand in awe," said Brooke Army Medical Center Commanding General Brig. Gen. George N. Appenzeller as he presented the Purple Heart to Burch. "This is one of those things you don't want to ever do, but when you do it, it brings everything home."

The general praised the Soldier for his devotion to the military and to his family.

"I want you to know the man who wants to be with his buddies, who wants to be with his family, who wants to be with his Army ... incredible," he said. "You have our deepest gratitude for what you do every day."

Burch said his vehicle came under attack when he was at an over watch position. "I had just gotten into the driver's seat when enemy munitions struck the front of the vehicle and detonated underneath my legs."

The other passengers were left unharmed, but Burch suffered burns to his hands, face and legs, along with shrapnel wounds to his lower body and abdomen.

When his parents and his wife, Dixie, were informed of his injuries later that day, they



ROBERT SHIELDS

Brooke Army Medical Center Commanding General Brig. Gen. George Appenzeller (left) thanks Purple Heart recipient Sgt. 1st Class James L. Burch (center) for his service during a Purple Heart ceremony at Warrior and Family Support Center June 1 as Burch's wife, Dixie, looks on.

immediately packed up and headed to San Antonio.

"My parents drove from Michigan to Arkansas to pick up my wife and they were here two days after I was injured waiting for me to arrive."

A few weeks later, the father

of three reunited with his children at BAMC on Memorial Day. "They were unfazed by my injuries," he said of his 6-, 8- and 10-year-old children. "They were troopers."

Next up for Burch is

rehabilitation, but his unwavering focus is on returning to duty.

"I love what I do; I love EOD," he said. "The camaraderie is amazing."

In brief remarks after the medal ceremony, Burch expressed his heartfelt gratitude to his family, friends and battle buddies.

"To everyone who showed up to support me, you have taken care of me and it has been phenomenal. This is an amazing hospital; I can't say enough about the staff here," he added. "I appreciate everything everyone has done."

Burch received a standing ovation in honor of his service and sacrifice.

The Purple Heart is the oldest U.S. military decoration awarded to members of the armed forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.

S.A. recruiters, future Sailors give back to community

By Burrell Parmer

NAVY RECRUITING DISTRICT SAN ANTONIO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Instilling the "Whole Sailor Concept" was the mission of Navy Recruiting Stations Hollywood Park and De Zavala during a Delayed Entry Program meeting held at the San Antonio Food Bank June 6.

The meeting began with a muster and re-certifications of more than 60 future Sailors, who were recruited from the both recruiting stations.

As part of the Delayed Entry Program, or DEP, meeting, the future Sailors and their recruiters assisted the food bank by sorting and packaging donated food items.



Electrician's Mate 1st Class Thao Tran of Los Angeles, a recruiter assigned to Navy Recruiting Station De Zavala, Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, volunteers June 6 at the San Antonio Food Bank.

SAILORS continues on 10

BURRELL PARMER



NO HOA FEES FOR TWO YEARS* WHILE YOU ENJOY A FITNESS FACILITY, POOL & AMPLE OUTDOOR TRAILS!

*Applicable to military, law enforcement, firefighters, healthcare professionals, first aid responders & teachers; limited offer from April 15th-July 15th, 2018; community members only.

HOMES STARTING IN THE MID \$200s  **LIVEHOMESTEADTX.COM** 

SAILORS

From page 9

Chief Petty Officer Isabel Guerrero of San Antonio, assigned to Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, was the event's coordinator.

"I want my Sailors to emphasize to the future Sailors the importance of community service because the Navy looks at the 'Whole Sailor Concept,'" Guerrero said. "Not only does conducting community service benefit my recruiters, but also the future Sailors. We want to send quality men and women to the fleet."

According to Guerrero, it's not just about doing your job; it's also about being the face of the Navy.

Joining Guerrero was Cmdr. Jeffrey Reynolds, NRD commanding officer.

"It was great to be here to join the Sailors and future Sailors in giving back to the community," Reynolds said. "Having a community relations project during a DEP meeting is kind of a non-standard way of interacting with community."

According to Reynolds, conducting community service is an integral part of naval service, whether it be at a

homeport or aboard overseas.

Future Sailor Savanna Vereen of San Antonio was appreciative of the opportunity to volunteer.

"The food bank does a lot for the community and I would love to come back again and volunteer," said Vereen, who will serve as an operations specialist in America's Navy. "I would like to thank the food bank for all that it does for the city and allowing us to come and volunteer."

"By joining the Navy, my horizons will be expanded and I will be able to experience many other things," Vereen added.

At the conclusion of the event, the volunteers received a detailed briefing by Mark Ortiz, the food bank's volunteer engagement coordinator.

"We could have not accomplished the tasks today without the support of the Sailors and other volunteers," Ortiz said. "This was a great day as we were able to complete two projects."

According to Ortiz, the volunteers filled 575 bags of produce and sorted 19,447 pounds of food which will provide 15,558 meals.

"We could not have done this alone," Ortiz said. "We appreciate your time to come and help those families in need."

AMEDD Museum upgrades honor Army medical community

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The stories and contributions of Medal of Honor recipients in Army Medicine are included in upgraded exhibits at the U.S. Army Medical Department, or AMEDD, Museum located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

George Wunderlich, AMEDD Museum director, is hoping an exhibit area dedicated to the 52 Medal of Honor recipients who served in AMEDD will be completed and open to public viewing by June 15.

The new exhibit for the Medal of Honor recipients will be placed on a wall in the main hallway and foyer of the museum.

Wunderlich said the Medal of Honor exhibit was moved from another part of the museum to the foyer to grab the attention of visitors and AMEDD students who do part of their training at the museum.

"These Medal of Honor recipients exemplify that Army value of honor, selfless service, personal courage, duty and loyalty," he said. "We are putting them in the hall to inspire people and



DAVID DEKUNDER

George Wunderlich, U.S. Army Medical Department Museum director, stands next to the new exhibit case holding The Command Sgt. Major Jack Clark Jr. Best Medic Award trophy and plaque displayed in the foyer of the museum.

remind them of what others have done to live the Army values and save lives."

The exhibit includes the photos of the Medal of Honor recipients, brief biographical information and citations. Wunderlich said the new exhibit has an improved modern design that is more compelling than the old Medal of Honor display.

The number of Medal of Honor recipients who served in AMEDD — 52 — is the second highest in the Army behind the infantry, according to Wunderlich.

"This is part of our identity and we wanted to showcase their

contributions in a prominent and accessible way," Wunderlich said.

The exhibit design includes three panels in navy blue that represent the Medal of Honor ribbon pinned on the dress uniform of the medal recipient. Each Medal of Honor display has a photo of and text of the recipient that is protected by Lucite, a solid transparent plastic that will make it easier for museum visitors to read.

Citations for the Medal of Honor recipients are displayed in two books in front of the exhibit.

Christopher Goodrow and Angelique Kelley, museum specialists for

the AMEDD Center of History and Heritage located in the museum, designed and put the exhibit together.

Other upgraded exhibits at the museum include the Command Sgt. Major Jack Clark Jr. Best Medic Award competition and plaque, named in honor of the former command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Health Services Command and awarded to the medic team that wins an annual competition of medics from AMEDD; and on two symbols associated with Army medicine — the caduceus and the Geneva cross.

All three new exhibits are displayed in the main hallway and foyer of the museum. The Command

Sgt. Major Jack Clark Jr. Best Medic Award had been displayed in the hallway in a smaller case, which made it less noticeable to the public. The improved exhibit includes a bigger case display made of dark oak wood that contains the award trophy and plaque, a photograph of Clark, and new labeling.

The exhibits for both the caduceus and Geneva cross symbols are displayed in new and secure custom fitted cases. The caduceus is the traditional symbol of the Greek god Hermes and features two snakes around a winged staff. It has been part of the AMEDD uniform regulations since 1902.

The Geneva cross is a red Greek cross on a

white background, identifying medical equipment and facilities, especially in conflict, as a sign of neutrality.

Wunderlich said the custom fitted cases for the Command Sgt. Major Jack Clark Jr. Best Medic Award and the two medical symbols are attached to the wall to give the displays a sense of permanency, provide for better security and more of a natural look. The exhibit cases, made of acrylic, also provide better protection of artifacts.

He said the exhibit cases were made by museum staff, which allowed the museum to develop displays that were specific to the needs of each artifact in a

AMEDD continues on 15

470th MIB member shares coaching skills with volleyball team

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A member of the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston contributed his coaching talents in helping the All-Army Men's Volleyball Team to a second-place finish at an Armed Forces tournament in May.

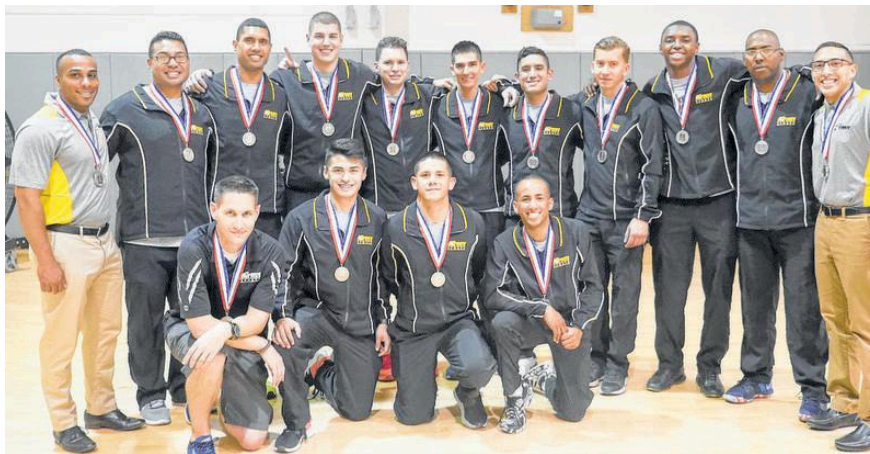
Sgt. Pedro Ortiz Feliciano, 470th MIB analyst, was an assistant coach for the Army team that competed at the Armed Forces Volleyball Championship May 7-11 at Hurlburt Field, Florida. Men's and women's teams from the Army, Navy and Air Force participated in the round-robin tournament.

The men's Army team earned the silver medal at the tournament with a 3-3 match record, finishing behind tournament champion Air Force, who went 5-1.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. Pedro Ortiz Feliciano, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade analyst at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, served as an assistant coach for the All Army Men's Volleyball Team that competed in the Armed Forces Volleyball Championship tournament in May at Hurlburt Field, Florida.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. Pedro Ortiz Feliciano (far right), 470th Military Intelligence Brigade analyst at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, and members of the All Army Men's Volleyball Team pose with the silver medals they won at the Armed Forces Volleyball Championship tournament in May at Hurlburt Field, Florida.

Ortiz Feliciano said he enjoyed his experience being a member of the Army team.

"It was not only a privilege but it was mesmerizing

because you have a group of people who are not only Soldiers, but that actually love the sport," he said. "So just to concentrate on that and really play and represent the Army was really, really, really rewarding."

Ortiz Feliciano has been playing volleyball since his teen years, starting on his middle school team in his native Puerto Rico. He continued playing the sport in high school and played professionally for one season, also in Puerto Rico.

He said he decided to attend try outs for the Army team after playing in volleyball leagues in San Antonio and getting the support of his commander.

"I saw the opportunity," Ortiz Feliciano said. "I figured, why not? Just try out. You never know. That's essentially what drove me.

Ortiz Feliciano was one of 19 service members who tried out for the team in April. The tryouts were held at Fort Indiantown Gap Army Reserve Center, Pa., the Army team's training facility. The month long tryouts were competitive as service members practiced three times a day and played in several tournaments against

club teams made up of former collegiate players.

After the tryouts were completed, 12 service members were selected to the team. Ortiz Feliciano was not one of them, but the team's head coach, Jaime Gonzalez, asked him to stay on as an assistant coach.

He said being an assistant coach gave him an opportunity to utilize the knowledge and skills he has acquired in playing volleyball to help the Army team. In addition, Ortiz Feliciano has a degree in sports science with expertise of physical training and body recovery.

"Essentially what ended up happening is the coach needed some help," Ortiz Feliciano said. "He figured if he got some extra help, it would be better for the team. Out of all the candidates that were participating, as far as knowledge in the court, knowledge against other teams and scouting other teams, I became the most experienced in that position (assistant coach)."

As assistant coach, Ortiz Feliciano duties included reading the offensive and defensive set ups of opposing teams, helping to create

offensive plays and enhancing the Army team's physical training.

"Even though we didn't win gold at the Armed Forces tournament, I can say with 100 percent confidence that our team had the most stamina out there," Ortiz Feliciano said. "I believe we were the most prepared when it came to physical readiness."

He said volleyball is one of the top two sports to play in Puerto Rico, next to baseball. In fact, according to Ortiz Feliciano, about half of the members on the Army volleyball team are from Puerto Rico, including head coach Gonzalez.

Ortiz Feliciano said his family back home in Puerto Rico was happy for him when they found out he was playing volleyball while serving his country.

"They are really ecstatic, not only because I got to play, but because I got to do what I like," he said. "I love playing volleyball. It was really cool for them."

Ortiz Feliciano came to the U.S. in 2010 to study in the chiropractic program at Life University, in Marietta, Georgia, graduating with his sports science degree in 2014. Four months later, he joined the Army.

His next goal is to pursue the position of head coach for the women's Army volleyball team next year. Ortiz Feliciano said he believes his experience as both a player and assistant coach would help him to improve the performance of the All Army Women's Volleyball Team, which finished third at this year's Armed Forces Volleyball Championship.

"I believe that the experience (of being an assistant coach) plus the volleyball player experience mixed together, it'll help us come out on top next year for (the Army women's team)," he said. "They have the talent to win, (the women's team) just needs a little bit more organizing."

JBSA continues quest to be energy smart

JBSA's energy bills encompass five area installations

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As temperatures continue to climb and summer is just around the corner, many people are keeping a close eye on their utility usage as they struggle to beat the heat.

Imagine this: an annual energy bill of approximately \$72 million to keep the lights on; air conditioners cooling; water running; and gas appliances working all to meet the mission of Joint Base San Antonio. That is what 502nd Civil Engineering Energy and Utilities Section Chief Thomas Mieczkowski says JBSA spends.

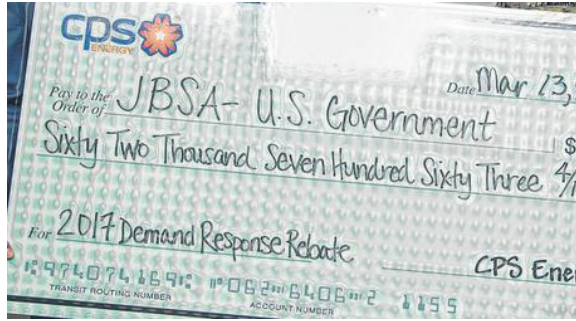
"Our job in utilities and energies is to reduce that, find inefficiencies in the way we heat and cool our facilities, keep the lights on and any other systems that use electric, gas, water or sewer," Mieczkowski said.

JBSA's energy bills encompass JBSA-Lackland, Randolph, Fort Sam Houston, Camp Bullis, Medina Annex, Seguin, Canyon Lake, and four other smaller locations. As efforts to be more energy efficient continue, some projects are already underway with the hopes of reducing that annual amount.

"We have a number of projects to replace fluorescent lighting with LED lighting, which is a huge savings," Mieczkowski said.

Light-emitting diode, or LED, lights feature reduced wattage and last longer. Projects such as this are made possible by Air Force funding, but JBSA competes for those funds with other military installations.

"To cool our facilities and to make them comfortable, costs a lot of money," Mieczkowski



COURTESY GRAPHIC

said.

There are over 4,000 facilities on JBSA covering more than 34 million square feet inside and 47,000 acres of land, according to the Erica Becvar, 502nd CES Portfolio Optimization (Programming, Planning, Energy) chief.

The practice of conserving energy is a daily challenge. All the JBSA buildings have different ages, insulation and various hours of operation that must be considered. An example of this are the buildings at JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

"We're limited by what we can and can't do in the buildings as we work with the Texas State Historic Preservation office," Becvar said.

Teaching energy awareness is an ongoing mission.

"I want to believe people are being more conscious of energy use," Mieczkowski said. "We are trying to encourage people to allow thermostats to get turned up."

JBSA's policy calls for air conditioners be set at 76 degrees during summer months and 72 degrees in colder ones.

"Most of the HVAC systems are centralized, serving various zones within a facility. Unfortunately if zones are not designed correctly or loads change over time, it can become very difficult for a centralized system to make everybody happy," he added.

Another measure, already implemented, to conserve energy is the Demand Response Program.

"During peak times, we will trim back the temperatures in some buildings. We're just going to raise the temperatures a couple of degrees," Mieczkowski said.

He adds his office will see how people respond to that and still maintain comfortable levels. His office will then measure and verify energy savings. If the pilot program works well, he'll consider doing the same in other buildings.

Smart meters will also be installed on the facilities which make up 75% of the energy consumed at JBSA. The data received from these meters will allow the energy managers to baseline buildings, establish benchmarks and monitor improvements in energy usage.

JBSA hospital facilities pose a special challenge in the quest to keep them cool because they typically use 100% outside air.

"If we are taking 100 degree outside air and cooling it down to 55 degrees to make it comfortable in the facility, that requires a considerable amount of energy," Mieczkowski said.

Because every structure and mission is different, certain measures to conserve energy may not be able to be implemented. Looking ahead,



COURTESY GRAPHIC

"If we are taking 100 degree outside air and cooling it down to 55 degrees to make it comfortable in the facility, that requires a considerable amount of energy."

Thomas Mieczkowski, 502nd Civil Engineer Energy and Utilities section chief

newer buildings will be featured with energy saving features.

Overall Texas electric rates are favorable for consumers which can make the economic justification of projects more difficult.

For now, JBSA may explore a one degree temperature setbacks. When calculated using the 34 million square feet of facilities space and the

cost of electricity, one degree results in over \$4 million in annual savings for JBSA.

"This energy measure merely requires advocacy from base personnel," Mieczkowski said.

October is Energy Action Month at JBSA. City Public Service will be at JBSA to educate people on how they can play a role in conserving energy.

U.S. ARMY CELEBRATES 243RD ANNIVERSARY

Spc. Matthew Saenz (left), a supply clerk with U.S. Army South, joins retired Army Brig. Gen. Charles V.L. Elia in the ceremonial cake cutting at San Antonio's 243rd U.S. Army Birthday Celebration at the Grand Hyatt Riverwalk Hotel June 9. Saenz, 20, and Elia, 97, were the youngest and oldest Soldiers present and had the privilege of slicing the first piece of cake. Maj. Gen. Patrick Sargent, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. William O'Neal, AMEDDC&S senior enlisted adviser, were there to observe the long-standing tradition.



SGT. MAJ. DEAN WELCH

AMEDD

From page 11

cost-effective way.

"We hope the new exhibits will bring people into the story of AMEDD," Wunderlich said. "It is a new way to experience the story. We want people who are coming here for any purpose, whether they are a civilian, or they have a family member who is graduating from one of the AMEDD courses, or an active servicemember, to see the Army medicine symbols we use to identify ourselves and our service. It is a matter of pride, but it should also cause us to think how important all of our jobs are."

The exhibit upgrades are part of several improvements that started last year at the museum. Those

improvements include better lighting, a renovated activity room, a new sound system in the museum auditorium and new exhibit cases for holding objects and artifacts.

The cost for the museum upgrades is being covered through donations from the AMEDD Museum Foundation.

The AMEDD Museum, located at the corner of Harry Wurzbach and Stanley Roads at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, is free and open to both Department of Defense cardholders and the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Visitors who want to come to the museum but do not have DOD access to get into JBSA-Fort Sam Houston should refer to the JBSA website at <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/library/visitorinforma->

[tion.asp](#) for base entry requirements.

Museum information is at <http://ameddmuseum.amedd.army.mil/index.html>. To contact the museum, call 210-221-6358.

LACKLAND

IAAFA hosts Latin American nations for annual PREPLAN conference

Holding the conference in S.A. is important because this is where IAAFA is based

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Representatives from 17 Western Hemisphere nations gathered for the Preliminary Planning conference the week of May 21 in preparation for the annual Conference of the Chiefs of the American Air Forces to discuss strategies on how partner nations can assist each other in the event of a humanitarian crisis.

This year PREPLAN was co-hosted by the Inter-American Air Forces Academy and the Secretary of the Air Force/International Affairs.

The System of Cooperation among American Air Forces is a voluntary and non-political organization dedicated to the promotion of its 20 partner nations. Each year, SICOFAA conducts the pre-planning conference as part of a three-year cycle of cooperation among partners.

U.S. Air Force Col. David Delmonaco, SICOFAA secretary general said the pre-planning discussions will be submitted to the Chiefs of Staff of the Western Hemisphere Air Forces for its CONJEFAMER conference held this June in Panama.

"We'll take a snapshot of every conference we've done throughout the year and we'll put it in the format for the Air Chiefs because they want to

know that there's value for the money they're spending on this," said Delmonaco.

Delmonaco added every nation faces budget constraints so it is important that the Air Chiefs know the system of cooperation between nations in the event of a humanitarian crisis when expenses occur.

Once CONJEFAMER is held, the nations will prepare for virtual exercises.

"We're doing the virtual exercises in Mendoza, Argentina and there will still be various meetings throughout the year," Delmonaco added. The virtual exercises will begin in April 2019.

Once virtual exercises are successfully completed, partner nations will prepare for the actual exercise.

"We're sending equipment, aircraft and people and that's all the nations," Delmonaco said.

He recalled that the SICOFAA operational exercise in Chile was cancelled so partner nations could assist Mexico when an earthquake struck in September 2017. The organization's forces played a role in the delivery of over 43 tons of supplies and helped evacuate more than 100 citizens.

SICOFAA member air forces also helped Peru when floods struck in March 2017.

Approximately 103 tons of search and rescue and medical equipment was delivered. They also assisted in the evacuation of thousands of citizens.



ANDREW C. PATTERSON

Representatives from 17 Western Hemisphere nations gathered for the Preliminary Planning conference the week of May 21 in preparation for the annual Conference of the Chiefs of the American Air Forces to discuss strategies on how partner nations can assist each other in the event of a humanitarian crisis.

Cycles like these keep the participating partner nations involved, according to Peruvian Air Force Col. Jorge E. Reátegui, SICOFAA sub-secretary general.

"It's important to SICOFAA that cooperation takes place to implement positive relationships within our member nations so we can help each other in instances of humanitarian disaster," Reátegui said.

Reátegui added holding the pre-planning conference in San Antonio is important because this is where IAAFA is based.

Deputy Director of the Panamanian National Air and Naval Service Gen. Luis E. Ruiz, SICOFAA president, said

"We're not only representing our nation, we're helping the rest of humanity in a moment of need. Every nation takes pride in putting their heart and soul forward to help a partner nation who is in the middle of natural disaster and help them recover as quickly as possible."

Gen. Luis E. Ruiz, Deputy Director of the Panamanian National Air and Naval Service

cooperation between nations is SICOFAA's principal theme.

"We're not only representing our nation, we're helping the rest of humanity in a moment of need. Every nation takes pride

in putting their heart and soul forward to help a partner nation who is in the middle of natural disaster and help them recover as quickly as possible," Ruiz said.

An inspiring journey from high-risk youth to national award winning Airman

By Lori A. Bultman

25TH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Michael Butler has many accomplishments, including five Air Force-level awards, and soon he will add recipient of the prestigious, national Arthur S. Flemming Award to the list.

The annual Flemming award honors outstanding federal employees who made significant and extraordinary contributions to the federal government. Butler, a Buffalo, New York, native, won in the leadership and management category.

Butler's contributions came about while he was chief of the Space Situational Awareness Branch assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center, with duty to the Defense Intelligence Agency's Directorate for Science and Technology. There, he led a large joint sensor development and operations team with members from multiple national agencies. Together, he and the team rapidly fielded unique methods of intelligence collection to fill key intelligence community capability gaps, according to his nomination for the award.

As a result of Butler's work developing new algorithms and processing techniques, space objects that used to show up as "fuzzy blobs" when viewed from earth are now viewed in spectacular detail. He was able to improve images to the equivalent of what a large sensor with a dish diameter hundreds of meters wide would produce.

Butler, who graduated from Penn State University, loves the work he does for the Air Force and his country, but things did not always come easy to him.

"I overcame a high-risk upbringing — both parents had substance abuse issues," Butler said. "That was a very toxic environment for a kid to grow



LORI BULTMAN

From high-risk youth to national award winner — One Airman's inspirational journey.

up in."

His absentee father passed away from his addiction, and his mother did not get sober until he was 20 years old. He said the only positive role models in his life were his grandparents, who looked after him in his later teens.

"I graduated high school in the bottom third of my class," Butler said. "I was inspired by my grandparents and had the potential to do very well but, statistically, high-risk kids are lucky if they graduate high school."

One teacher even told him that he would never amount to anything in life, but he was determined to prove her wrong.

"I knew I needed to move out of my grandparents' house and do something with my life after high school. I felt my grandparents should be enjoying their retirement, not raising another teenager," Butler said.

At the age of 18, Butler enlisted in the Navy and aced the Nuclear Field Qualification Test.

"That is a very elite career field; only three percent of the entire Navy fleet is nuclear trained," he said.

The job involved completing two years of technical school, which included operating a nuclear reactor. Unfortunately, Butler was disqualified from the career field after completing the training due to a color vision issue.

"It was in the Navy that I developed the discipline, structure and study habits that I needed in my life," he said.

At that time, he transferred to the Naval Reserves as a Seabee and was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"While deployed, my sister, who was an Air Force veteran, told me she was thinking about applying to Penn State and enrolling in its (Air Force

ROTC) program," he said. "I thought this was a great idea, and I decided to do it too. I was not on an ROTC scholarship my freshman year due to my high school grades, and I was lucky to get accepted to Penn State at all because my high school grades were poor. My SAT scores were high and my admission letter detailing my struggles and how I overcame them convinced them to take a chance on me."

During his freshman year, Butler worked as a janitor through the university's work study program to pay his out-of-state tuition, which was double the normal tuition rate.

"During my freshman year, I was so broke trying to pay tuition that I used my janitor master key to do laundry at the campus gym at night when the gym was closed," he said. "The cafeteria workers would leave me leftover food at night, instead of throwing it away like

"I thank God every day for the position he has put me in. So far, God's plan has led me to a career that I absolutely love, and to my wife and three kids. I did not have parents that were role models that I could build my own parenting skills off of, so probably my biggest achievement is that my kids already think I am a superhero. I think going through my upbringing has made me a better father and husband, because I do not take anything for granted."

Maj. Michael Butler

they were supposed to, because they knew that would be the only food I would eat that day."

Toward the end of his first semester is when he said he started believing God had a plan for him.

"I was \$1,500 short of paying that semester's tuition bill and I could not register for the following semester's classes until the current semester was paid in full," Butler said. "I did not know how I was going to

AIRMAN continues on 23

Motorcycle safety course prepares global trainers

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

Motorcyclists from military bases around the globe converged on Joint Base San Antonio-Medina Annex May 12-24 for a train-the-trainer workshop.

The workshop trained eight new trainers and 10 new rider coaches. Rider coaches helped Department of Defense members with the initial member training required to ride a motorcycle on military installations, while the trainers are able to train new rider coaches.

“We send the trainers (on temporary duty) to go out and train more rider coaches DOD wide,” said Arthur Albert, the Air Force Motorcycle Safety manager. “Having trainers saves us a lot of money, because rather than sending 12 people somewhere to become rider coaches, we can send out one of our trainers to train 12 new rider coaches at a base or wherever needed.”

Opportunities for personnel to travel from different units and bases and train at one location is very rare added John McLaughlin, Motorcycle Safety

Program manager for JBSA.

“The last one of these was about three years ago,” McLaughlin said. “This is a huge event for the Air Force, but even after the eight new trainers are added, we’ll still only have 12 Air Force wide.”

Even though trainers and rider coaches are so rare, they are extremely vital to the safety of DOD personnel, McLaughlin said.

“It’s absolutely crucial to get training if you’re going to ride a motorcycle,” McLaughlin said. “You’re more than 35 times more likely to get killed riding one than you would be in a car.”

Albert echoed this sentiment explaining how the training helps riders stay as safe as possible.

“This training has saved me numerous times,” Albert said. “We teach that you need a constant emphasis on safety when riding a motorcycle, you need to pay close attention to environmental factors and your personal protection equipment. Even the smallest mistakes can be life threatening, so risk management and situational awareness are crucial.”



JOHNNY SALDIVAR

Experienced motorcycle riders from throughout the Air Force attend the RiderCoach Preparatory Workshop May 24 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Medina Annex.

AF transfers cyber responsibility to Air Combat Command

From Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force officials announced the service's cyber responsibilities will realign to Air Combat Command from Air Force Space Command.

"This move will drive faster decisions as we fight by realigning the cyber operations and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions under the same command," Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson said.

Wilson pointed to the new National Defense Strategy that directs the U.S. military to invest in gaining and exploiting information and to deny adversaries the same ability.

"This initiative helps do both," she said.

The realignment, directed by the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force, designates ACC as the lead Air Force

command responsible for organizing, training and equipping Air Forces to conduct effective full-spectrum cyber missions and operations. AFSPC will focus on space superiority and full-spectrum space capabilities integrated into multi-domain operations.

The two commands have been in close coordination on the realignment for the past 21 months to properly align roles, responsibilities and the presentation of ready forces.

"Under the guidance of the National Defense Strategy and the emergence of great power competition, we must be prepared for a future high-end fight," said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein. "We must organize, train and equip ourselves to compete, deter and win. This move integrates key capabilities and helps ensure that we are fully prepared to win today and in the future."



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Units realigning include 24th Air Force and subordinate units, as well as the Cyber Support Squadron, Air Force Network Integration Center and Air Force Spectrum Management Office, which are currently direct reporting units to AFSPC.

"Integrating cyber operations and intelligence in cyber capabilities under one

command is a significant step towards enhancing our warfighting capabilities to conduct multi-domain operations," said Gen. Jay Raymond, AFSPC commander. "Air Force Space Command will stay focused completely on gaining and maintaining space superiority and outpacing our adversaries in the space domain. Ultimately, this will

generate powerful synergy and increased lethality for our Air Force and our joint warfighters."

According to the National Defense Strategy, readiness requires innovative operational concepts, including changing the ways in which the military organizes and employs forces.

"Air Force cyber capabilities are intertwined with the intelligence, command and control, air superiority, personnel recovery and precision attack missions that we are responsible for," ACC Commander Gen. Mike Holmes said. "This move streamlines how the Air Force presents forces to joint commanders, and it improves our ability to integrate cyber and air operations to improve our effectiveness in multiple domains."

ACC is scheduled to assume cyber responsibilities this summer.

RANDOLPH

History, all the comforts of home coexist at JBSA-Randolph housing

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Taj Mahal and the main chapel are rightly regarded as historic treasures at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, but they are only two of the structures that are part of the JBSA location's rich architectural tradition.

The Randolph Field Historic District, which features 350 buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, includes a housing sector that rose from wide open spaces formerly devoted to farming in the early years of the Great Depression.

Today, some 1,250 residents — the families of officers and NCOs — occupy 173 one- and two-story houses and 144 two-story duplexes that look much as they did when Randolph Field was in its infancy, thanks to their historic designation and the stewardship of base leadership through the years and Hunt Military Communities, which has managed the units under privatization for more than a decade.

The housing units are protected by U.S. Department of Interior historic preservation guidelines, which stipulate the exterior facades must retain their original appearance and many interior features cannot be altered, but residents are still able to add the personal touches that make a house a home.

"There are limitations to what residents can do because of historic preservation guidelines, but if they take the proper steps, they can make the homes their own," said Diane Butler, JBSA-Randolph Housing Element chief.

The programmatic agreement between the JBSA locations and the Department of the Interior that requires compliance with historic preservation guidelines defines the "character-defining features" that distinguish the historic buildings at the



JOEL MARTINEZ

Many of the military housing buildings at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

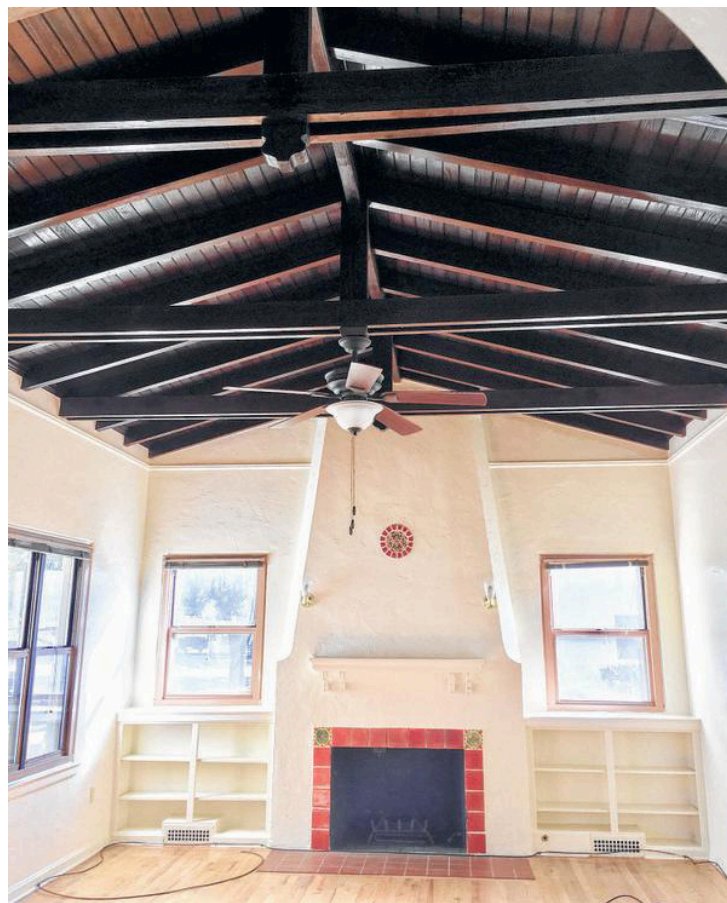
locations, evoking a bygone era.

At JBSA-Randolph, the character-defining exterior features of housing units include gabled, hipped and pent roofs, mostly with red clay tile and decorative brackets; arched front porches and rear loggias; stucco exterior walls; decorative iron at porches and windows; and appropriately detailed entry doors.

Some of the interior features are staircases with decorative iron railings, arched openings between rooms, built-in butler's pantries, decorative fireplaces, hardwood floors, tiled floors at some porches, telephone niches, decorative hardware such as door knobs and hinges, and tiled floors, walls and shower closets in bathrooms.

A trifold that is presented to residents when they first arrive lists projects they should avoid so their homes' historic character is protected. These include hammering nails into hardwood floors, painting over stained wood or wrought iron, removing original hardware such as door knobs and hinges, replacing any fixtures or hardware, constructing walls and attaching items such as television antennas and satellite dishes to exterior walls or the roof.

Although carpeting replaced some hardwood floors in the past — before



COURTESY PHOTO

The Randolph Field Historic District, which features 350 buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, includes a housing sector that rose from wide open spaces formerly devoted to farming in the early years of the Great Depression.

preservation guidelines were in effect — efforts are made to restore the original hardwood when possible, Butler said.

There are many things residents can do in their homes on base, but there is a process they must follow.

1ST MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS SQUADRON HOLDS CHANGE-OF-COMMAND CEREMONY

Col. Heidi Paulson Air Force Manpower Analysts Agency commander, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Jessica Corea, during the 1st Manpower Requirements Squadron change of command ceremony June 11 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The mission of the 1st MRS is to provide the Department of Defense senior leaders with effective recourses decision-making tools.



JOEL MARTINEZ

Sun sets on AF Academy-hosted 2018 Warrior Games

From Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

As the sun set behind the Colorado Springs mountaintops, the flame lit ceremoniously a week earlier to signify the official start of the 2018 Department of Defense Warrior Games was extinguished, bringing to a close the eighth annual iteration of the games on June 9.

Wounded warrior athletes representing the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Special Operations Command, as well as athletes from the U.K. Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force, and Canadian Armed Forces listened as the Air Force's vice chief of staff addressed the crowd.

"If we measure success by the lives saved, the steps forward you have taken, and the inspiration you've given to everyone here, I'd say these games have been absolutely, unbelievably successful," Gen. Stephen W. Wilson told the athletes.

Quoting President George Washington, Wilson continued, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

The Warrior Games, he noted, are one way the U.S. military attempts to live up to those words and ideals.

"Our task is to carry on maintaining that commitment to our service members, veterans and military families, with the relentless effort, teamwork, esprit de corps, network, hope, healing and grit you all exhibited here, that we witnessed all week," he said.

The final countdown

The atmosphere at the closing ceremony was festive. Athletes dressed in their team colors talked animatedly with one another and gave hugs and high-fives to their families, friends, coaches and caregivers.

The ceremony came on the heels of the games' wheelchair basketball championship, where the Air Force was edged out by the Army, finishing in second place.

The Air Force team performed admirably at this year's games.

Its wheelchair basketball and sitting



TECH SGT. ANTHONY NELSON JR.

Team Air Force athlete Master Sgt. Brian Williams competes in the track and field portion of the Department of Defense Warrior Games on June 2 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

volleyball teams advanced to the final round of play in both sports, while Air Force track and field athletes Senior Airman Brent Campfield, Senior Airman Heather Carter, Master Sgt. Ken Guinn, Capt. Rob Hufford II and Lt. Col. Julie Walker all broke Warrior Games records in their respective events. Senior Airman Rafael Morfinencisco and Maj. Stacie Shafran, who competed in eight events each, were two of only seven athletes named "ultimate champions," a title awarded based on their cumulative performances at the games.

By week's end, the Air Force's 39 athletes amassed a combined 165 medals: 70 gold, 56 silver and 39 bronze.

Competing to win?

For many members of Team Air Force, though, success at the games was not defined by their place on the awards podium.

"We come here not just to compete, but to heal and learn, and we stay for other people's stories. From that, we're able to go back to our bases and actually be advocates for healing and recovering," said 1st Lt. Ryan Novak, a munitions and missile maintenance officer serving as an aerospace ground equipment flight commander at Andersen AFB in Guam.

Novak, who has a spinal cord injury, competed in archery, cycling, swimming and track during the games.

"Many of us go back, and we're there to cheer on our own service members

who are going through their own issues and help them," he explained. "It's about walking away and being a better person, not just physically and mentally, but also being a better leader."

And like Novak, Air Force guardsman Master Sgt. John Angel Jr. didn't just compete. He came to help others.

"Less than a year ago, I didn't think I could do this, but here I am," he said. "It means the world to me. It's lit a spark and fixed up my self-esteem."

Angel is on medical hold and resides in Birmingham, Alabama.

"I'm a wounded warrior with invisible wounds," he added. "I hope in some way I can inspire others to take part in this."

A family affair

While the games were focused on the athletes and their great experiences and accomplishments, they also provided an opportunity to recognize the dedication and support of the athletes' family members and friends.

These caregivers have made their own sacrifices to help wounded warrior athletes with their recovery efforts and athletic achievements.

Angel, who competed in the indoor rowing and archery competitions, was accompanied at the games by his wife, Christy. On the subject of the care she provides for her husband, she said, "It's actually an honor; I get to take care of not just my husband but a service member who has given up a lot in

sacrifice for our country.

"To have him here still is a blessing," she added. "I have to take care of him 24/7, but, you know what? You marry them for better or worse, in sickness or in health, in my eyes. I like standing by his side."

Shawn Sprayberry, who has been the communications program manager for the Air Force Wounded Warrior program since 2015, has witnessed firsthand the impact spouses and family members can have on an athlete's recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration process.

"It can be a huge role. And it can be crushing to those caregivers, because they go from being a spouse to a caregiver, and that's a huge adjustment," Sprayberry said. "But, caregivers are, for those warriors who have them, they're vital."

Wingmen for life

Another key player in the success of the Air Force team that competed in the games this year was the staff of AFW2.

Every Air Force athlete who participated in the games is enrolled in the program, which begins by identifying an airman's condition and continues through their stabilization or resolution.

"The moment someone is wounded, ill or injured, and they are identified, from the moment they are in our hands, we advocate for them," Sprayberry said.

AFW2 strives to provide well-coordinated, personalized support to every airman in the program, which incorporates adaptive sports and reconditioning activities that promote healing.

Air Force wounded warriors who competed in the games worked with expert coaches, sports trainers and nutritionists for months in advance to prepare.

Though the AFW2 program supports its members in a myriad of ways, watching the Air Force athletes arrive and compete in the games is the single most important experience the staff has, Sprayberry said.

"When we come out to the games and see these warriors, we can see the nervousness, but as soon as they start winning, competing and bonding with other warriors, it takes all of that away," he said. "And when you see that happen, nothing can compare."

TO ADVERTISE IN THE JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO LEGACY, CALL 210-250-2052.

AIRMAN

From page 17

come up with the \$1,500, and I remember thinking at the time, 'I gave it everything I got; maybe it is not meant to be.' Then, right before the deadline to pay my tuition, I found out the Navy underpaid my per diem and allowances while I was deployed. This reimbursement helped pay my tuition and allowed me to enroll in classes for the following semester."

A month later, due to his high grades, he was awarded an AFROTC scholarship that began his sophomore year.

Butler continued to do whatever it took to get through and graduate. While his classmates were out enjoying themselves after finishing a big test or project, he would routinely be at the library until 2 a.m. studying for the next test.

His hard work paid off. He graduated in the top 20 percent of his class with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

"The night before my graduation and commissioning, I did not sleep... not even for a minute. I was so overcome with emotion and joy, reflecting on the obstacles and mountains I climbed," Butler said. "My commissioning ceremony was very emotional.

Everyone in the room had tears in their eyes as I detailed my struggles and expressed my deepest appreciation for everyone's love and support in helping me overcome these struggles. My mother, along with my grandparents, pinned on my rank. I was hesitant to have my mother involved, but I knew if I was going to be an effective leader I needed to have compassion and forgiveness."

As Butler continued into his Air Force career, he made a point to inspire high-risk youth by sharing his experiences through various local and military base programs.

At his last duty station, Butler tutored students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at one of the most underperforming and impoverished elementary schools in Florida.

As a result of his hard work and dedication to the students, Butler was selected by the school's vice principal to mentor 12 of the most troubled and underperforming youth. He tutored them through STEM-related team building activities and helped them overcome their behavioral problems and lack of interest in academics.

"These kids did not get the attention they needed at home, so they could not focus on learning. I knew

that I had to make learning fun for them by creating problem-solving activities that also enabled them to build interpersonal relationships and self-esteem," Butler said. "Everyone has obstacles and challenges to overcome, some more than others. You can let these experiences make or break you. To be able to overcome the obstacles that I had to overcome, I had to be committed every single day to give my very best in everything I did. Once I had built enough sweat equity, it rewired my DNA. I cannot quit or give less than my best, even if I wanted to. I have too much sweat equity invested."

Butler was recognized by the Arthur S. Flemming Award Commission June 4, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

"I thank God every day for the position he has put me in. So far, God's plan has led me to a career that I absolutely love, and to my wife and three kids," Butler said. "I did not have parents that were role models that I could build my own parenting skills off of, so probably my biggest achievement is that my kids already think I am a superhero. I think going through my upbringing has made me a better father and husband, because I do not take anything for granted."