

# JBSA

# LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JULY 13, 2018



PHOTO BY JOEL MARTINEZ

Megan Foster sits in the cockpit of a T-1 Jayhawk during her "Pilot for a Day" orientation, hosted by the 560th Flying Training Squadron June 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

## 560th FTS welcomes newest 'Pilot for a Day'

Page 17



### Soldiers build structures, relationships in El Salvador

Page 7



### Trainee saves life, earns Air Force Achievement Medal

Page 14

# OPAT reduces Army trainee attrition

By Sean Kimmons  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Fewer Army recruits are now dropping out of initial military training, preventing the Army from wasting millions in training dollars, said the Army's senior enlisted adviser.

The results, officials say, show that the Occupational Physical Assessment Test, or OPAT, is better preparing new recruits for the physical rigors of training they will face once they step off the bus and are greeted by drill sergeants.

"That was the goal," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey. "The goal was to get 18- to 24-year-old people more focused on physical fitness instead of showing up on Day 1 of basic training, and saying, 'Oh, my God, I have to do a pushup.'"

Given to recruits to determine their best-fit career field in the Army, OPAT measures muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiorespiratory endurance, explosive power and speed. Current Soldiers who decide to reclass to more physically demanding jobs are also required to take the test.

The gender and age neutral test includes four events — a standing long jump, seated power throw, deadlift and interval run — that gauge a recruit's physical aptitude similar to how the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, or ASVAB, assesses mental aptitude.

"OPAT, obviously, is increasing our capability," Dailey said at a media roundtable inside the Pentagon June 25. "There was no physical assessment prior to OPAT."

Since January 2017, when the OPAT test was first rolled out to recruiting stations, the Army has seen an average of about 1,000 fewer trainees leave initial military training early. That's about equal to a 10 percent overall reduction in attrition.

"We're saving over 1,000 trainees a year," said Michael McGurk, director of research and analysis at the Army Center for Initial Military Training. Many trainees who drop out, he added, experience some sort of musculoskeletal issue.

It costs between \$55,000 to \$74,000 to send a recruit through training, depending on if they attend one-station unit training or a combination of basic combat training and advanced individual training.

McGurk said his center uses \$50,000 as a general figure for a trainee who fails to complete the training. Using that number, cost avoidance for the Army could be \$50 million or more each year.

"We think that's on the low end," he said Thursday. "It's not savings, it's cost avoidance, because no one hands you a check for that money. It's the car that didn't break down, the water heater that didn't explode."

As more and more recruits train for the OPAT, scores have also gone up.

When Dailey travels to speak with high school students, he notices that many of them are already aware of it.

"The scores on OPAT are getting better and that is simply because the greater population that is propensed to serve in the military know about it and now they're training for it," he said.

The test is changing how people think about the Army before they sign up, according to McGurk.

"It's not 'I'm going to join the Army and get in shape,' it's 'I need to get in shape so I can join the Army,'" he said.

"That's the mindset we're trying to instill in young people. Before you go to training, you're going to have to get in shape. And that's a good thing for everybody."

The test, along with other efforts, is intended to help boost readiness in the Army as



COURTESY PHOTO

*Soldiers administer the strength deadlift event of the Occupational Physical Assessment Test to a potential recruit.*

it shapes a future fighting force.

Earlier this month, senior leaders outlined what the Army should focus on over the next decade to retain overmatch against potential adversaries. In the 2028 vision statement, signed by the Army's secretary and chief of staff, one of the key objectives is to grow the regular Army above 500,000 Soldiers with associated growth in the National Guard and Army Reserve.

The Army plans to do this by "recruiting and retaining high quality, physically fit, mentally tough Soldiers who can deploy, fight and win decisively on any future battlefield," the statement reads.

As part of the Army's renewed focus on fitness, leaders have developed a new Army Combat Readiness Test that has been piloted at several installations. The six-event assessment gauges Soldiers on the 10 components of physical fitness — muscular strength and endurance, power, speed, agility, aerobic endurance, balance, flexibility, coordination and reaction time.

The new test, which relies heavily on functional fitness, is designed to reduce injuries and may eventually replace or supplement the current three-event Army Physical Fitness Test. That test has been around since 1980 and only

measures muscular and aerobic endurance.

On Monday, the Army also announced a pilot to extend one-station unit training, or OSUT, for infantry Soldiers from 14 weeks to 22 weeks.

The pilot, which runs from July to December, will allow Soldiers to get more training sessions in on weapons, combatives and combat-lifesaver skills. It also includes additional time for physical fitness.

"We know if we have more time with Soldiers, we can make them more physically capable," Dailey said.

If the results are positive, the OSUT pilot could even convince senior leaders to make basic combat training longer for all Soldiers, he added.

"We know we can do better," he said. "We want to get our Soldiers more capable. We want to give those units receiving these young men and women a better product."

At the core of all these efforts is a desire to ensure Soldiers are healthy, trained and ready for when their call comes.

"Non-deployable personnel is something that we have to get after and you can't just do it from a policy or discipline perspective," Dailey said. "You have to do it preemptive; you have to get after it before it occurs."

## 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 nonmerit 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.



# Moving? Your TRICARE options may change

## From TRICARE.mil

Are you starting a new adventure in a new location soon? If so, that's a TRICARE Qualifying Life Event, or QLE.

A QLE is a major life change, like moving, getting married or divorced, or becoming eligible for Medicare. Moving doesn't change your TRICARE eligibility. Your TRICARE coverage moves with you. But moving may change your TRICARE health plan options.

Because moving is a QLE, that means you'll have 90 days from the date of the move to change your TRICARE health plan based on your eligibility.

A QLE lets you enroll in or

change your TRICARE health plan outside of the annual open season. When a QLE happens for one family member, it creates a QLE for the entire family. This means all family members may be able to switch TRICARE health plans when one person in the family has a QLE.

## Before You Move

When you're about to move:

▶ Don't disenroll from your current plan before you move.

▶ You're covered by your current TRICARE health plan on your way to your new location.

▶ Update your address and other new information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility

Reporting System (DEERS).

▶ Tell your regional contractor and doctors if you have other health insurance (OHI), in addition to TRICARE. By law, TRICARE pays after all OHI. OHI doesn't apply to active duty service members (ADSMs).

## Moving Stateside

If you're enrolled in TRICARE Prime and moving to another Prime Service Area, you can transfer your TRICARE PrimeA managed care option available in Prime Service Areas in the United States; you have an assigned primary care manager who provides most of your care. TRICARE Prime enrollment. Depending on how

far you move from your current home, you'll likely need to change your primary care manager.

If you're moving to an area where TRICARE Prime isn't available, the QLE will allow you to change your enrollment. TRICARE Prime isn't available everywhere. You may have different TRICARE health plan options when you move. ADSMS may only use TRICARE Prime.

If you're already enrolled in TRICARE Select, update your personal information in DEERS. Then find a new TRICARE authorized network or non-network provider in your new location. Using a TRICARE

network provider will help keep out-of-pocket costs lower.

## Moving Overseas

Before you move, call the appropriate TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Regional Call Center for your new area. Active duty family members must be command-sponsored for TOP Prime or TOP Prime Remote coverage. Retirees and their family members aren't eligible for TOP Prime options, but may be eligible for TOP Select.

During this moving season, remember that your TRICARE coverage moves with you. Take command of your health by learning more about QLEs and the upcoming open season.

# This HIV screening starts in the privacy of your own home

## From health.mil

The Air Force has developed a self-collection blood kit to encourage its active-duty members with a higher risk of acquiring human immunodeficiency virus to test for infection more frequently than what's mandated by the military.

The kits enable users to be proactive about their own health and potentially prevent the spread of HIV, which can lead to many health complications, including AIDS.

"Generally, HIV infection rates in the military are lower than in the general population," said Air Force Lt. Col. Jason Okulicz, a physician and director of the HIV Medical Evaluation Unit, Infectious Disease Service, Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. "But every year, we have several hundred active-duty members in the Military Health System who are newly diagnosed with HIV infection," he said.

Currently, all service members are screened for HIV every two years, before and

after deployments, and when it's clinically indicated by health care providers, based on symptoms or answers to routine questions about sexual partners and practices. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that individuals most at risk of acquiring the infection get tested at least annually.

HIV can be detected in the blood as soon as a week after exposure, Okulicz said. About 40 percent of all new HIV transmissions in the United States are from people who are unaware they have the infection, said Okulicz, who's also chair and Air Force lead of the TriService HIV Working Group. The group's mission is to improve HIV care and prevention in the MHS.

Okulicz said the primary means of HIV infection among service members is sexual contact.

"Because of perceived stigma, service members at high risk for HIV may not be willing to talk with their primary-care providers about getting tested more frequently," Okulicz said. "The kits provide a way to lower this



COURTESY PHOTO

*The Air Force offers self-collection kits that include instructions, supplies to obtain a finger-prick blood sample and a prepaid envelope to mail the sample to a lab for HIV testing.*

possible barrier to testing."

Active-duty Air Force members can request a kit be mailed to them by calling 210-916-5554 (DSN 429) or emailing IDVirtualHealth@mail.mil.

Each kit includes instructions, supplies to obtain a blood sample via a finger prick, and a prepaid envelope for returning the sample to the HIV Diagnostics and Reference Laboratory at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Those who have negative results – meaning that they don't have HIV – receive a phone call from the HIV

Medical Evaluation Unit office with the news, along with an explanation of what the test means.

"For example, if you had high-risk sexual activity a few days before you took the test, it may be too soon to know if you acquired HIV," Okulicz said. The MEU office can also answer any questions and offer information about reducing future risk of infection.

For those who've tested positive for HIV, in-person notifications are arranged at the local base level.

"People may have an adverse reaction because they're worried not only about their

health but also their career," Okulicz said. "We want to make sure they have the support and information they need."

There's an established protocol for service members who test positive for HIV, Okulicz said. Generally, those who test positive can remain in uniform as long as they're capable of performing their military duties.

Okulicz said the kits augment mandatory screening and are not alternatives or replacements. He said because there isn't a good process in place to ensure face-to-face communication with reserve component members or dependents, the kits are available only to active duty Air Force members.

"My counterparts in the other services are aware of and interested in our initiative, but next steps haven't yet been developed," Okulicz said, referring to colleagues in U.S. Army Medical Command and the Bureau of Naval Medicine. He said the Air Force is in discussions on how the initiative could be rolled out across the Department of Defense.

# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## JBSA Navy Medicine commands host Navy STEM externship visit

By Petty Officer Second Class Shayla D. Hamilton and Flisa Stevenson  
NAVY MEDICINE TRAINING SUPPORT CENTER & NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT-SAN ANTONIO  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

San Antonio area Navy Medicine commands hosted 26 middle and high school guidance counselors and high school chemistry and health professions educators June 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston as part of a summer externship focused on high school student career preparation and exploration.

Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command, known as NMETLC, and Navy Medicine Training Support Center, or NMTSC, hosted a Navy overview brief and tour of Hospital Corps "A" and select "C" schools for 16 middle and high school guidance counselors.

Ten chemistry and health professions educators were at the Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio, or NAMRU-SA, located on the Brooke Army Medical Center campus at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The afternoon briefings and tour at the Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, were structured to give educators and counselors an opportunity to learn what it takes to "make a Hospital Corpsman," said Gail Hathaway, NMETLC assistant chief of staff and the Navy's event coordinator. NAMRU-SA provided the 10 educators a laboratory tour and "meet the scientists" career path discussion. Hathaway said both groups were excited and very impressed with what they saw and learned.

"I was trying to say goodbye to the teachers and counselors after it was over," Hathaway said. "I could hardly get a word in. They were just abuzz talking about what they had experienced at METC and NAMRU-SA."

The visit was part of the Alamo STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Workforce Coalition, or ASWC program that invited educators from the 13-county

workforce region to participate in the unprecedented, summer externship opportunity for science teachers and high school counselors.

"The military stop was our last stop in the program," said guidance counselor Jorge Garcia. "We're the counseling portion, but there is also a portion of science and math teachers who are, in this process, learning to structure their math and science lessons in a way that helps prepare the students for these various careers."

A Navy Recruiting District-San Antonio, or NRD-SA, medical officer recruiter, accompanied by several enlisted recruiters and staff, provided the guidance counselors a briefing on the Navy recruiting process, the first step to making a hospital corpsman. The NRD-SA team also answered questions and shared their perspectives on the Navy, Navy Medicine and a variety of paths leading to a Navy commission or enlisted service.

"It is so important that we are communicating the prerequisites to you, the guidance counselors, so that you can communicate that to your students," said Burrell Palmer, NRD-SA public affairs officer.

Parmer explained how the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test score determines eligibility for Navy service, emphasizing STEM classes best prepare students for the highest scores, which leads to the most sought-after programs.

Recruiters then discussed the second step of making a Hospital Corpsman-Navy boot camp. Teachers and counselors nodded with a smile, while others chuckled during the video that tracked recruits from arrival to graduation.

The final step to making a Corpsman, Hospital Corps School, began with an overview of the METC presented by Lisa Braun, METC public affairs officer.



PHOTOS BY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS SHAYLA D. HAMILTON  
*Lt. Cmdr. Kirby Jahnke, a Sailor assigned to Navy Medicine Training Support Center, shows medical instruments to a tour group of San Antonio middle and high school guidance counselors June 27 at the medical training campus.*

The tri-service METC is where all Navy, Army and Air Force hospital corpsmen and enlisted medics are trained. NMTSC is the Navy's command responsible for HM instructors and students when they are not in class.

From there, it was off to the classrooms where the visitors watched students train on the same equipment they will use at Navy Medicine treatment facilities, and they visited several medical simulation rooms.

Following the tour, the guests attended a Hospital Corps "A" School graduation ceremony, followed by a panel discussion with five HM instructors who answered questions, offering different perspectives of the Navy and Navy Medicine.

Meanwhile, the 10 educators were at NAMRU-SA, where they were briefed about the unit's science mission and research, followed by a tour of the laboratory facilities to observe firsthand how science is used to develop novel technologies, therapies and treatment modalities to support warfighter

readiness and survival. The educators then participated in a discussion with a diverse group of NAMRU-SA scientists that focused on the scientists' varying career paths. The scientists described their individual preparation and experiences along the research career path that brought them to Navy Medicine.

Capt. Thomas C. Herzig, NAMRU-SA commanding officer and research physiologist, explained the high demand for employees in the STEM career fields and discussed some of the opportunities in Navy Medicine.

"Students with a passion for STEM could discover a career path in Navy Medicine through military or military civilian service," Herzig said. "Either military or civilian service can offer them the opportunity to do what they love, make a contribution, and have a work-life balance."

In the end, many of the high school faculty left with a different perspective of the Navy and military service.



# U.S., Salvadoran Soldiers build structures, relationships

By David Vergun  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Some 1,800 Soldiers from Combined Joint Task Force Hope are providing humanitarian assistance as part of their training during the Beyond the Horizon exercise in El Salvador.

The U.S. Army South-led mission runs through Aug. 4, and includes Soldiers from all components, Air Force and Marine service members, Salvadoran soldiers and personnel from non-governmental organizations.

The scope of training includes the construction of two schools, as well as extensions to two existing schools and a clinic in the La Paz Department, a rural area in the southeastern part of the nation that is underdeveloped and in need of services, said Maj. Al Cavazos, CJTF Hope Information Operations Cell officer-in-charge. The task force is also providing medical and dental treatment at various locations.

Staff Sgt. Cristin Baughman is the non-commissioned officer in charge of a group of 30 Soldiers from the 4th Engineer Battalion, Fort Carson, Colorado, who are building a three-classroom cinderblock structure for elementary and middle school children at Santa Rita.

The U.S. Soldiers were working alongside Salvadoran soldiers June 25. Despite the language barrier, they were coordinating efforts very well, she said.

The hardest part of the work, she noted, was getting the right supplies at the right time where they would be needed. For example, she didn't want



DAVID VERGUN

1st Lt. Yamilet Estefani Alabi, a Salvadoran soldier, directs U.S. Soldiers at a construction site in El Amato June 25 in La Paz Department, El Salvador.

the roof beams to arrive before the concrete, which needed to be poured for the foundation.

Nevertheless, supplies didn't always arrive at the right time or in the right sequence. Some items are not even available, as Soldiers had to rely on the local economy for construction materials, she said.

Baughman said she has found the local people to be happy about having U.S. troops building a school. She said they bring coffee and food throughout the day, and one woman even offered to sew torn clothing for Soldiers.

1st Lt. Alexander Swafford said the construction project not only benefits the local community, but it also serves as valuable training for the U.S. Soldiers.

The U.S. Soldiers are more accustomed to horizontal construction work, not vertical construction, he said, explaining that horizontal means projects like road building or burying pipes for water or sewage. Vertical means building structures.

Meanwhile, other U.S. troops were building an entire school at El Amate. There were 15 U.S. Soldiers, 12 U.S. Marines and about a dozen Salvadoran soldiers engaged in the construction.

Army Cpl. Eric Lett, a Reservist from Knoxville, Tennessee, said most of the U.S. Soldiers had very little experience in vertical construction. However, Lett's civilian job is vertical construction, which he does

throughout Tennessee, so he gives tips on construction techniques to others.

Also, the U.S. Soldiers and Marines are learning a lot from the Salvadorans about construction techniques at El Amate, he said.

The Salvadorans are hard workers, he commented. Back in the states, Lett said he encounters many construction workers who are Salvadoran and they all work very hard and do a great job there as well.

Supervising all U.S. and Salvadoran soldiers at El Amate was 1st Lt. Yamilet Estefani Alabi, a Salvadoran soldier.

Lett said he found that the U.S. Soldiers and Marines have great respect for Alabi's leadership and engineering ability.

Alabi said the U.S. Soldiers and Marines are learning about vertical construction very quickly and are doing a great job. They are very respectful and are a joy to work with, she added.

Alabi graduated from Escuela Militar Capitan General Gerardo Barrios, Salvador's military academy, 11 years ago.

The Salvadoran soldiers have a physical fitness test that is somewhat similar to what the U.S. Soldiers do, she noted. There's a two-mile run, pushups and situps. What's different is the Salvadorans also swim laps in a 100-meter pool.

The attrition rate was about 40 percent, she said. Of the 79 who

graduated, Alabi was one of six female graduates. She graduated first in the academy, beating everyone in the physical fitness test and academics.

Although women get treated the same as men in the Salvadoran army, she said she works extra hard to get respect.

During the construction work, Alabi took some time to visit a group of eighth-grade students who were studying math and English at a temporary school site. They will be going to the new school in Amato, which is expected to open around the end of July.

Alabi gathered a group of female students around her, telling them that she's an engineer in the army and if they study hard, they too can succeed in life and get a good career.

Two of the girls said they wanted to become engineers like Alabi. They had visited the construction site and had seen Alabi leading the engineers and they admired her achievements.

Gloria Estela Henriquez de Rivas, the school director at El Amate, said all of the residents are grateful for the American assistance.

The Soldiers and Marines said de Rivas visits the construction site nearly every day, bringing snacks and drinks for them.

De Rivas said she's familiar with army life, as her husband is a retired Salvadoran army captain. He served with U.S. forces in Iraq from 2003 to 2004. The Salvadorans were part of the coalition that was in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Hernan Garindo-Lecca, a Peruvian soldier, visited several of the construction sites. He said he was there as an observer to take notes on the project, as his army would like to do similar projects in rural parts of Peru and possibly other nations.

He provided the engineers with a checklist of maintenance items to keep the schools in proper working order once they open.

Besides school construction at Santa Rita and El Amate, the other two school construction sites are at Ulapa Arriba and San Marcos del la Cruz. The last two sites are being built by Salvadoran soldiers and U.S. Air Force Red Horse engineers.

Also, U.S. Soldiers, Red Horse Engineers and Salvadoran soldiers are building an addition to a clinic at Unidad de Salud de Zacatecoluca.

## NAVY STEM

From page 6

"Knowing that all of these opportunities are available to the students really changed my outlook on the military," a guidance counselor said. "From education to experience and everything else, I'm just super overwhelmed with all of the information we received. I would always tell my kids 'stay away from the military' because of everything I see going on today, but now I see the military side on a different level. It was truly a wonderful, eye-opening experience."

# JBSA hosts college fairs

**By Steve Elliott**

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Are you a high school student looking to find out more about college opportunities? Are you a service member who is retiring soon and trying to get information about the Troops to Teachers program? How about a military spouse who needs certification in a certain career field?

For people in any of these situations and many more, the Joint Base San Antonio Education Service Centers are hosting college fairs July 24-26.

Representatives from up to 60 universities, colleges, technical institutions and career schools will be available, as well as representatives from Veteran Affairs, ROTC, the Career Skills program and various officer and enlisted education programs.

“The college fairs are open to anyone who is looking to further their education,” said Annette Henderson, chief of education and training, 802nd

Force Support Squadron at JBSA-Randolph. “These institutions offer everything from certification programs to graduate degrees.”

The first fair is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 24 at the Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Library, building 1222, 3011 Harney Path.

The next is at the JBSA-Randolph Library, 5th Street East, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 25.

The final fair is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 26 at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at JBSA-Lackland.

“People just need to bring themselves and their curiosity,” Henderson said. “This is a great avenue to get a bunch of great information to jumpstart their education.”

For more information, call the education service centers at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-1294; at JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-5964; or at 210-671-8711 at JBSA-Lackland.

# Initiative restores contracting structure

**By Brig. Gen. Bill Boruff**  
MICC COMMANDING GENERAL

As we continue to posture the Mission and Installation Contracting Command to best support our customers, it's critical that we continue to share with you regular updates on the progress being made with the MICC Readiness Initiative.

To achieve the highest success with this initiative, I divided my command into a two-year picture.

Over the first six months, I evaluated processes that were really important and those that can better deliver mission capability to our supported customers to meet the Army's priorities. Most of the initial discussions leading up to the implementation of the MICC Readiness Initiative, or MRI, began at the command level.

One of the first decisions was to rescind MICC 2025, which converted 200-plus positions in the 1102 contracting career series to 1105 purchasing agents across our command.

Through analysis, we found that as a consequence of MICC 2025, we were losing some of our command's most experienced people through a protracted implementation process as well as some of our customers who sought alternate contracting organizations for support. MRI restores the number of 1102s in our organization, and allows the MICC to recover its customer base.

The intent of MRI is to push more authority down to our tier two and tier one offices to allow them to better support

the customers, because that's what our customers are requesting. This includes empowering the right people to make decisions at the appropriate levels.

When the sergeant major and I conduct operational visits to our field offices, we're hearing from customers that they want to use the MICC, but the command did not have the same stability it once had. This is why we're rebuilding our 1102 career series structure, which will also open up new opportunities to many of you.

None of the offices will return to the pre-2014 staffing levels. Most offices will see gains in personnel above the current staffing levels.

MRI offers a healthier solution to staffing. The key tenet of MRI is to return staffing levels and procurement decision making authority to the local office director and his or her staff. The headquarters has conducted staff analysis and determined that the bulk — about 80 percent — of the workload associated with most non-center level offices falls in the less than \$15-million range.

Therefore, local office



DANIEL P. ELKINS

*Brig. Gen. Bill Boruff, commanding general of Mission and Installation Contracting Command, addresses members of the command June 14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*

directors and commanders will have full authority to plan, execute and manage the full range of support below the \$15-million level and, in coordination with their respective brigade commander or field directorate office director, contracts of greater value, based upon need and capability.

Next, I turned to our human resource and resource management directors at the headquarters to align that structure with the workload. This will not happen all at once as we continue to finalize grade plates that synchronize with the increased contract authority under MRI. Some changes to personnel may be

accomplished over multiple years as we wait for transition points to move full-time equivalents around accordingly.

MRI also entails a strategic approach to rebalance the number of 1105s in the command. I greatly appreciate what they bring to our mission. Included in this strategic approach is the command's ability to leverage those across the MICC enterprise performing cost-price analysis, quality assurance, property management and Government Purchase Card functions.

Determining the right staffing levels in support of this initiative has all been accomplished by

working closely with leaders at the brigade and field directorate level. In turn, they have reviewed workload and workforce requirements with commanders and directors at all levels.

Now that we're a quarter into the year that follows my initial assessment, the focus of MRI is squarely on implementation. Many of the staffing decisions are now in effect and was accomplished without the loss of any jobs. We are now hiring against requests for personnel actions that have been submitted to civilian personnel advisory centers.

The workload support for the Army Reserve Command has already transferred to the 419th

Contracting Support Brigade at Fort Bragg and its subordinate offices. Fort Polk has also realigned under the 418th CSB.

The structure for FDO-Fort Belvoir has been established and discussions on end-of-year closeout, onboarding, and the ability to perform left-seat, right-seat training continue. I anticipate FDO-Fort Belvoir to be fully operational in the second quarter of fiscal 2019. FDO-Fort Sam Houston will remain operational through this fiscal year.

Key in this entire process is transparency. I've communicated frequently with brigade

**MICC continues on 10**

# BAMC pharmacies offer options for convenience

By Lori Newman  
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Brooke Army Medical Center Pharmacy Department offers several enhancements to the patient experience, implementing new features to improve service.

The service options include an automated wait-time dashboard available through the BAMC Internet page, as well as a prescription auto-notification to inform patients when prescription refills are ready for pickup.

“We want to improve our customers’ experience by providing services that will keep our patients informed about the availability of their medications,” said Army Maj. Christopher Everett, deputy chief of the BAMC Pharmacy Department.

### Wait Times

The wait time dashboard is a tool that patients can use in order to view pharmacy wait times throughout all BAMC pharmacies. To view pharmacy wait times, patients can visit the BAMC website at <https://www.bamc.amedd.army.mil/>. Click on the Pharmacy Wait Times icon underneath the clinic photos. Patients can choose their desired pharmacy location and see how long they can expect to wait to get their prescriptions filled at the current time. To ensure the times are accurate, the screen refreshes automatically every 20 seconds.

### Refill Text Notifications

This service informs enrolled patients of when their called-in refill prescriptions are ready for

pickup. Patients are now able to enroll to receive text notifications directly to their cell phone.

“We strive to ensure our patients are informed about their medications as we diligently work to provide the highest level of customer service,” Everett said.

This service is not yet available at the Taylor Burke (at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis) and Schertz pharmacy locations. To enroll in this program, simply ask the pharmacy team member the next time you’re at the pharmacy window and they will enroll you into auto-notification.

### Refill Line

A routine service that BAMC pharmacy provides is the ability to order refills either by phone or at <http://www.tricareonline.com>.

To refill a prescription, patients can call the automated refill line at 1-800-469-7170 or 210-916-8700. When prompted, patients should select the pharmacy location where they would like the prescription picked up. To order the refills at Tricare online, patients should click “Rx Refill” option on the TRICARE Online home page. Patients will then be asked to confirm their primary military treatment facility from the drop-down menu.

After that selection, they simply select the prescription(s) to refill and choose a Pharmacy Pickup Location. Called-in refills will be ready in three business days (not including weekend days). Refill prescriptions must be picked up within seven days of the date they are ready.

### Electronic Prescriptions

If a patient is receiving care

from a health care provider outside the military treatment facility, the civilian provider can submit electronic prescriptions securely to a BAMC pharmacy. For more information, the provider can call 210-916-6036.

“Your doctor will need to use a specific code when submitting the prescription,” Everett said. “The electronic process also helps prevent medication errors.”

### Home Delivery

TRICARE Pharmacy offers home delivery of a 90-day supply of prescription medications at minimal cost. For more information about TRICARE home delivery, call 1-800-238-6095 or visit [express-scripts.com/TRICARE](http://express-scripts.com/TRICARE) Formulary.

“If you don’t want to travel to the pharmacy and spend time waiting, this may be a good option,” Everett said.

For questions about these pharmacy options, call 210-916-1536, option 6.

## MICC

From page 9

and field directorate leaders and have shared my thoughts on MRI at town halls, during operational visits to the field and through video updates to the workforce. I’m always open to your feedback but ask that you first seek answers to your questions from your leadership and those at the brigade and FDO level as they make decisions in line with my guidance.

In regard to category management and the 165 requirements greater than \$15 million, these requirements will be “categorized” into six portfolios. In concert with the six portfolios, the MICC will stand up centers of excellence for each portfolio. The initial center of excellence for food services has stood up at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

As we near the end of the implementation phase, the final six months of my command will serve as a glide path to gauge successes realized

through MRI and make minimal adjustments. Your continued support for MRI and communication with our customer base on how we are better positioned to meet their mission needs remain a vital element of this initiative.

In May, Department of the Army officials required every organization to provide manpower positions to support modernization efforts in fiscal years 2020 and 2021, with 15 billets coming from the MICC. Our goal is to realign the manpower positions through attrition as those adjustments are implemented in FY20 and FY21. We wanted to make sure no one lost a job while continuing the momentum to support the MRI.

In closing, I’d like to thank every MICC employee for all the hard work and sacrifices to provide efficient and effective contracting solutions for our Army. With the fourth quarter looming, let’s make sure we are all prepared to execute end-of-year operations successfully. Contracting for Soldiers! With honor!

## FORT SAM HOUSTON ISD NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 10:15 am on July 26, 2018 in the Professional Development Center located at 1908 Winans Road, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget.

Public participation in the discussion is invited.

Immediately following the public hearing, the Board of Trustees will hold a public meeting that will include in the agenda an action item to adopt the 2018-2019 budget.

Additional information regarding the proposed budget is available on the school district’s website: [www.fshisd.net](http://www.fshisd.net).

### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations – 4.45% increase.

Total Expenditures (Maintenance/Operations and Child Nutrition Funds) – 4.33% increase.

### Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operation Fund Balance - \$7,500,000

Interest and Sinking Fund Balance - \$0 (District has no debt.)



# LACKLAND

## 59th MDW paramedic channels passion to save lives

By Senior Airman  
Keifer Bowes

59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland paramedics have a proud history of delivering help in dire situations across San Antonio.

No matter the circumstance, these men and women can be on site in a short amount of time providing care for those in need.

For Senior Airman Tyler Stager, a paramedic from the 59th Medical Wing, having the unique opportunity to work as an emergency responder is a way of life for him.

"I had been working in the urgent care for a couple of years when I was approached by my leadership and asked if I wanted to be a paramedic," Stager said. "We filled out the application and I was accepted into the program and on my way to training."

The course is hosted by Pima Community College Public Safety and Emergency Services located in Tucson, Arizona. Under normal circumstances, it takes 10 months to complete and consists of classroom and field experience training, but for Stager and the rest of his class, they would have four.

While in training in Tucson, Stager would realize passing the rigorous course wouldn't be as easy as he thought.

"The training was rough and long," Stager said. "We'd work six days a week, luckily I had two of my wingmen there and we supported each other throughout the whole thing."

The rigors of training weren't just confined to a classroom, however; trainees were required to go out into

the community and work with Tucson first responders hands-on.

"You'd work a night shift at one job during clinicals and have to wake up and go to class the next morning," Stager said. "It was extremely taxing and I had to dig deeper than I ever had before just to make it through."

All the hard work paid off for Stager and he graduated near the top of his class and was on his way to

JBSA-Lackland. Upon completion of this course, Airmen receive a National Registry Certification.

"When I got to Lackland, I was thrown into orientation and shown the different procedures and protocols for how things were going to work on the base," Stager said. "I had some great mentors and they really helped me get through the uneasiness of being in a new job."

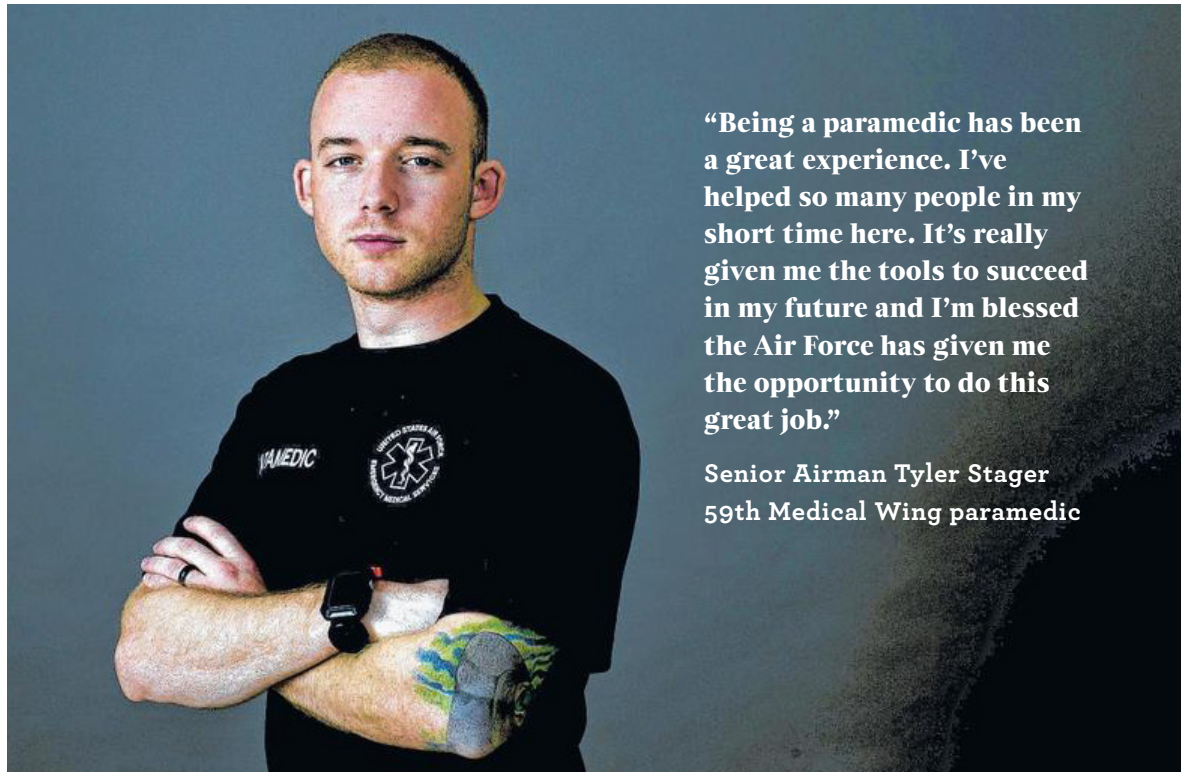
Stager has gone on to help

countless patients from minor injuries such as sprained ankles to saving the lives of heart attack and stroke victims.

"The most rewarding experience is the instant gratification I get from helping a patient," Stager said. "When you get to the hospital and you've made the call to the nurse and you've helped ease the patient's pain, it's a really good feeling when that patient can thank you because you helped them."

Through saving these lives Stager and all the 59th MDW paramedics have been able to touch the community in a unique way that will continue to affect lives for years to come.

"Being a paramedic has been a great experience. I've helped so many people in my short time here," Stager said. "It's really given me the tools to succeed in my future and I'm blessed the Air Force has given me the opportunity to do this great job."



**"Being a paramedic has been a great experience. I've helped so many people in my short time here. It's really given me the tools to succeed in my future and I'm blessed the Air Force has given me the opportunity to do this great job."**

**Senior Airman Tyler Stager  
59th Medical Wing paramedic**

SENIOR AIRMAN KEIFER BOWES

Senior Airman Tyler Stager, 59th Medical Wing paramedic at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, stands at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center.

# Texas, Nebraska Air National Guard participate in international exercise

One of the program's main goals is to promote international security

By Tech. Sgt. Mindy Bloem  
149TH FIGHTER WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen from Texas and Nebraska deployed with fighter and tanker aircraft and various other support equipment to participate in the binational air exercise Sky Avenger, held June 18-28.

The exercise is part of a long-term partnership with members of the Czech air force and Texas and Nebraska Air National Guard members. This unique partnership falls under the State Partnership Program, a National Guard Bureau program that links a state's National Guard with a partner nation's military and conducts military-to-military exchanges.

"This training gives the United States and the Czech military a great opportunity to integrate together in order to become better as a group — The United States, Czech and NATO," said Lt. Col. Sean Penrod, an F-16 instructor pilot assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing. "It's a great opportunity to share some tactics, techniques and procedures with one another and also provides an opportunity to get to know one another — to strengthen our relationships as we progress forward."

When the State Partnership Program first formed, its main goal was to help members of the Czech military integrate into NATO. Since then, the partner countries have taken turns hosting events at their respective bases as a way to



TECH. SGT. MINDY BLOEM

*Maj. Thomas Werner, an instructor pilot assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing, Air National Guard, performs air-to-air drills in an F-16 Fighting Falcon June 25 near Čáslav Air Base in the Czech Republic during Sky Avenger 2018.*

share mutually beneficial ideas and best practices. This year marks the 25th anniversary of that partnership.

"This interaction has helped the Czech air force to become the proven member of NATO's air power," said Col. Petr Tománek, commander of the 21st Air Force Base at Čáslav. "The Sky Avenger 2018 exercise is a great example of such cooperation and its benefits. The exercise has given the opportunity to learn new skills — combat tactics, maintenance, logistics support, force protection are a few examples.

During the exercise, members from the 149th FW, a San Antonio-based unit, incorporated complex scenarios

into their air missions that involved in-flight refueling support from the 155th Air Refueling Wing, a Nebraska-based unit, and support from the 147th Attack Wing, a Houston-based unit, which provided Joint Tactical Attack Controllers for various exchanges conducted during the exercise.

"The partnership that we enjoy with the Czech armed forces is built on mutual trust and shared cooperation that spans 25 years," said Col. John Williams, commander of the 155th ARW, Nebraska Air National Guard. "That's what makes our bilateral cooperation so unique. Our personal relationships are the

underlying reason for the success of the program. It's not about teaching or training. It's about cooperating to achieve better results than we could achieve alone."

One of the program's main goals is to promote international security but it also encourages people-to-people ties at the state level, an aspect that one senior noncommissioned officer has noticed helps to make his Airmen more well-rounded.

"A lot of these younger troops have not been here, and some of them have never left their state or the country," said Senior Master Sgt. Donald Yedlicka, a 149th FW member assigned to the 149th

**"The partnership that we enjoy with the Czech armed forces is built on mutual trust and shared cooperation that spans 25 years. That's what makes our bilateral cooperation so unique. Our personal relationships are the underlying reason for the success of the program. It's not about teaching or training. It's about cooperating to achieve better results than we could achieve alone."**

Col. John Williams, 155th ARW, Nebraska Air National Guard commander

Maintenance Group. "It's been interesting to let them come to Europe, interact with Europeans to see different cultures, listen to a different language, spend different currency, see how people live here and then try to learn about them socially. It's been very enriching for these younger troops."

For those personally involved in these interpersonal exchanges, that face time is the heart of the program.

"It's the communication," said 1st Lt. Jan Brzon. "I get to speak with new people. I get to do new stuff. I get to make new friends. That's probably the best part for me. It's not about work so much, it's about the people and learning something new."



# Trainee saves life, earns AF Achievement Medal

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

Upon hearing a cry for help coming from the men's latrine at the Basic Military Training Physical Therapy clinic May 24, an Airman sprang into action to save the life of an unresponsive fellow wingman on the floor.

"I was going to a routine appointment and I heard a sound coming from the restroom," said Airman Oh. H. Bang, a 737th Training Support Squadron trainee. "Instincts kicked in and I just started running toward the sound. When I entered the latrine I was in a little bit of a shock, but I just stuck to my training and tried to stay calm."

Bang, a former Emergency Medical Technician, reached the Airman and administered basic life support while waiting for emergency medical personnel to arrive. He stabilized his fellow wingman enough to ensure a successful transport to the Brooke Army Medical Center, where the Airman received treatment.

Bang was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal June 21 for his quick response and lifesaving actions, a rare feat for a basic military training trainee, said Col. Jason E. Corrothers, 737th Training Group commander.

"Airman Bang's high situational awareness and quick reaction in an emergency situation saved his wingman's life," said Corrothers. "He truly exemplified all that it means to be a wingman in our Air Force."

While Bang said he was excited to receive the award, he imparted his feelings that many service members and emergency personnel perform similar actions as a part of their daily routines.

"There are plenty of people in uniform out there that do things like this every day," said Bang. "I'm happy to receive the medal, but I was just doing my job as an Airman."



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

*Airman Oh. H. Bang, 737th Training Support Squadron trainee, receives the Air Force Commendation Medal June 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland for his quick response and actions which resulted in saving a fellow trainee's life.*

## AFROTC vacancies available for summer 2019

By Kat Bailey  
AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL  
CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force officials have announced 45 projected Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps detachment commander positions and 104 instructor vacancies available for summer 2019.

Line of the Air Force lieutenant colonels and majors selected for lieutenant colonel may apply for detachment commander positions. Officers eligible for instructor slots include first lieutenants, captains and majors in the Line of the Air Force competitive category.

### Line of the Air Force lieutenant colonels and majors selected for lieutenant colonel may apply for detachment commander positions.

Guard and Reserve officers are eligible to apply for both opportunities under the Voluntary Limited Period of Active Duty program. The application deadlines for detachment commanders and instructors are July 31 and Aug. 1, respectively.

Applicants must meet additional eligibility criteria for these career broadening leadership opportunities. Interested officers can search for

eligibility and application procedures on myPers using keyword "AFROTC." Guard and Reserve officers should use keyword "VLPAD."

There are still 37 instructor vacancies remaining for this summer, which can be found on myPers under the "Hot Jobs" listing.

For more news and information, visit the Air Force's Personnel Center website.



## CYBER PROTECTION TEAM CONFERENCE LINKS CYBER PROS, BEST PRACTICES



TECH. SGT. R.J. BIERMANN

Col. Brian Denman, 567th Cyberspace Operations Group commander, briefs Cyber Protection Team Conference 18-1 attendees June 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The three-day, 567th COG-hosted conference gathered Total Force and joint cyber professionals to share best practices to improve operational CPT effectiveness. U.S. Cyber Command CPTs defend national and Department of Defense networks and systems against threats as part of the combatant command's Cyber Mission Force.

# Blended Retirement System enrollment period halfway closed

By 2nd Lt. Christian Eberhardt  
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The period of enrollment for the Blended Retirement System, a modernized plan that affords eligible members an alternative to the traditional fixed-rate pension plan, is more than halfway to a close. Active duty members with fewer than 12 years of service, and National Guard and Reserve members with fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31, 2017, can opt into the BRS by Dec. 31, 2018, the official deadline. For this group of members, enrollment is not mandatory. Instead, they can retain the traditional retirement plan. Members who decide to enroll into the BRS will receive an automatic one percent contribution. This contribution is based on the member's base pay and is paid by the Department of Defense

directly into their Thrift Savings Plan. Members can receive an additional DOD funded contribution, ranging from one to four percent, depending on the members own level of contribution into their TSP. Soldiers, sailors and airmen who are eligible to voluntarily enroll in the new system are first required to complete mandatory training. Members can complete the virtual course, "Opting into the Blended Retirement System," by visiting Joint Knowledge Online. Upon completion members are able to finalize the process through myPay. "There's a very detailed, methodical process in myPay," said Air Force 1st Lt. Daniel Long, financial operations deputy flight commander for the 502nd Comptroller Squadron. "So make sure that when you click on myPay and you opt in, you're actually



GETTY IMAGES / ISTOCKPHOTO

understanding you're opting in." For Marines, the option to enroll is available through Marine Online, upon completion of BRS training that's available through MarineNet. Coast Guardsmen can elect the BRS through Direct Access

after completing the online training through JKO. Members entering military service on or after Jan. 1, 2018, are automatically enrolled into the new retirement system. For these members, the one percent matching payment from the DOD begins after 60 days of service. Additionally,

the DOD does not match contributions until after the member completes two years of service. Members seeking assistance with the BRS, or who have questions regarding investments, can contact the Military and Family Readiness Center for support. "They have counselors that are specifically trained with the BRS, they know everything about it and they can give financial advice," said 2nd Lt. Brodie Wilson, financial operations deputy flight commander for the 502nd CPTS. For more information on the BRS, contact your local Military and Family Readiness Center: Fort Sam Houston MFRC, 210-221-2705. Lackland MFRC, 210-671-3722. Randolph MFRC, 210-652-5321.

# RANDOLPH

## 560th FTS welcomes newest Pilot for a Day

A child with a chronic health condition is chosen to spend the day with the flying squadron

By Senior Airman  
Gwendalyn Smith  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



In December 1994, the 560th Flying Training Squadron started the program "Pilot for a Day." The program offers children with lifelong disabilities the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a U.S. Air Force pilot.

A representative from Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio Children's Hospital or other local hospitals nominates a child with a chronic health condition to spend the day with the flying squadron.

"We have close relationships with a lot of the hospitals downtown," said Maj. Justin Stimets, 560th FTS C-Flight commander. "If they have a patient they feel is a good fit for this, they'll make a nomination."

For 17-year-old Megan Foster it was her nurse who nominated her.

Since age 8, Megan has lived with Type 1 diabetes. Around November of last year, she began having physical difficulties due to an infected cyst on her spine, causing her to miss nearly three months of school. Within those months, Megan had various surgeries and procedures to remove the cyst.

Despite the challenges and

setbacks she faced, she was able to finish her junior year and will begin her senior year this fall.

"She missed a lot of school so we had to wait till the summer for her to be able to do this," said Thomas Foster, Megan's father. "I think this is a great opportunity for her. Being retired Air Force, I know how rare and great this is for her to be able to experience."

Throughout the day Megan was able to tour the 560th FTS building, the aerospace physiology building, control tower and various flight simulators.

She was able to see the various tests that pilots endure before flying an aircraft.

To add to the experience, Megan was suited up in a flight suit and shown three different static display aircraft, all with her name painted next to the actual pilot's name.

"The spinny chair (Barany chair) was my favorite part, but I also like the flight suit because it feels like I'm wearing pajamas," said Megan. "Overall it was cool to see everything."



PHOTOS BY JOEL MARTINEZ

Maj. Justin Stimets (right), 560th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, speaks with Megan Foster aboard a T-38 Talon during her "Pilot for a Day" orientation June 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



Airman 1st Class Ckyree Campbell (right), 59th Medical Wing aerospace physiology technician, speaks about the altitude chamber with Megan Foster during her "Pilot for a Day" orientation June 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



# Incentive flight gives graphic artist insight

By Robert Goetz  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A special event in the career of a 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs graphic artist last week at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph provided him with a pilot's perspective of a device that is transforming information management in the cockpit throughout Air Education and Training Command.

Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Tony Ervin, whose graphic design career as an Airman and civilian spans nearly 30 years, emerged from the cockpit of a T-38C the afternoon of June 21 after the 435th Fighter Training Squadron gave him an incentive flight that acknowledged his contribution to the creation of interactive in-flight guides and checklists for the Electronic Flight Bag, an iPad touch-screen tablet computer that contains digital versions of all mission documents.

"This incentive flight exposed Tony to our mission and the impact of his project on our flight operations," said Maj. Erik Lugo-Escobar, who piloted the aircraft. "He's worked on this project for many years, and with this flight he can see the fruits of his labors."

Lugo-Escobar, a 435th FTS pilot who also serves as the 12th Operations Group EFB program manager, gave Ervin high praise for his composure during the 45-minute incentive flight, which included pulling several 5-G-force moves during dogfighting maneuvers.

Ervin, who received moral support from his wife and two daughters prior to takeoff, said he was nervous at first, but the jitters quickly went away.

"The flight was great; I really enjoyed it," he said.

Ervin said Lugo-Escobar kept in constant communication with him

during the flight, which was especially helpful during the series of dogfighting maneuvers.

"He gave me a quick heads-up before he engaged a student pilot," Ervin said. "I expected it to be like a roller-coaster, but I was pinned to my seat the whole time."

During the last portion of the flight, Ervin pulled out the electronic flight bag, accessed some of the apps and was able to see the importance of pilots' input as the EFB was developed.

"I was able to get a hands-on feeling for what pilots go through in the cockpit," he said. "I saw the importance of where buttons are placed when they're using the device."

Ervin experienced the mobility limitations that pilots have when they are in the cockpit and was able to see why the color and size of text on the touch screen were important considerations when pilots look at the touchscreen.

"Now I understand what will and what will not work," he said.

Ervin's role in the creation of the EFB – the focus of an AETC Pathfinder test program spearheaded by the 12th OG – included transferring the print publications used by pilots to the digital medium, resulting in ease of access, increased efficiency and improved safety.

A single tablet contains the same information as the paper documents, including weather read-outs, terrain clearance charts, navigation information, normal and emergency checklists, flight pattern references and procedures, and instrument arrivals, approaches and departures.

Ervin, who is assigned to the multimedia section of the 502nd ABW PA office at JBSA-Randolph, actually started working on EFB products more than five years ago when he was tasked by the 558th Flying Training Squadron to transfer all the



JOEL MARTINEZ  
Tony Ervin, 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs illustrator, prepares to test the electronic flight bag during flight June 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

pages of their in-flight guide and checklist to the digital medium, a process he said "started from scratch."

"I received the documents in PDF form and inserted them into page layouts, then linked them with buttons and hyperlinks," he said. "One of the things I had to do was allow pilots to access any page from the first page in three clicks or less."

Quick access to a page is a huge plus for pilots, Lugo-Escobar said.

"It's much more efficient than using paper documents," he said.

Aircraft-specific versions of the in-flight guides tailored to

each squadron are now being used throughout the 12th Flying Training Wing at JBSA-Randolph. In addition to working on the local in-flight guides, Ervin continues to maintain the T-38C, T-6A and T-1A unit developed checklists and has also begun creating UDCs for the Air Force Academy's fleet. These UDCs will be used by aircrews throughout the entire command.

"Others are now reaping the benefits of Tony's work," Lugo-Escobar said. "It has far-reaching effects throughout AETC."

The optimized EFB products will only get better,

Lugo-Escobar added. "As technology improves, we'll take it to the next level," he said.

Lugo-Escobar called the relationship between the 12th OG and the 502nd ABW PA office a "win-win."

"Multimedia has the skills we don't have," he said. "We get the benefit of their technical knowledge and they have an opportunity to support the mission directly."

Ervin said the project means a lot to him.

"I am very proud of the project and the fact that I can contribute to the mission of flying training," he said. "This is very big for the unit."