

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

OCTOBER 5, 2018



PHOTO BY DAVID DEKUNDER

Medics treat a "wounded" mannequin as part of a combat simulation exercise during the Army Best Medic Competition Sept. 19 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Army names Best Medic competition winner

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Former USS Cole command master chief visits Navy students, METC staff

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'Energy Resilience Enables Army Readiness'

By Army Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT

and Jordan Gillis

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
THE ARMY, INSTALLATIONS, ENERGY
AND ENVIRONMENT

October is Energy Action Month. This year, the Army's theme is "Energy Resilience Enables Army Readiness." Energy is vital for the Army to perform its mission and support global operations. The Army's first priority is

readiness — ensuring that our Soldiers have the tools and training they need to be lethal and ready to fight, survive and win. Readiness involves a Total Army force effort, to include the work accomplished through Army energy programs and professionals.

Energy resilience is essential for a responsive Army Force posture and it begins at our installations and community-based Army National Guard and Army Reserve Centers. These locations are the foundation of the Army. Through diligent

energy management, our installations organize, train, equip, mobilize, deploy and sustain operations.

Maintaining our strategic and tactical edge will require the wise use of resources. The Army depends on energy to power its mission command centers, and to protect its systems, information and processes required to train Soldiers, move vehicles and aircraft, and sustain military operations.

In Fiscal Year 2017, the energy bill for Army installations was \$1.1 billion. By taking action and

making energy-informed decisions, we possess the power to be energy resilience champions. Renew your commitment to energy security. We ask for your commitment to be resilient and enable Army readiness.

During the month of October, it is everyone's responsibility to become energy informed and aware, and to apply this knowledge throughout the year. We urge the entire Army Family to remain mindful of energy use, reduce consumption, innovate and promote energy awareness/action.

Fire Prevention Week campaign kicks off

From Joint Base San Antonio Fire Emergency Services

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere," works to educate about three basic but essential steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire — and how to escape safely in the event of one. Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7-13.

"LOOK" for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

"LISTEN" for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should meet.

"LEARN" two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

"By taking these three crucial steps, one can avoid to reduce the risk of fire, and have the knowledge to escape one, thereby saving your life," said Chief Mark R. Ledford, Fire Chief, Joint Base San Antonio Fire Emergency Services. "To escape quickly in the event of a fire, preplanning is what everyone should draw upon to snap into action."

This year's theme works to better educate the public about the serious importance of taking the essential steps of escaping a fire.

The Joint Base San Antonio Fire Emergency Services is working in coordination with the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, the official sponsor of the Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, to reinforce those potentially life-saving messages.

In support of Fire Prevention Week, encourages all JBSA households to develop a plan together and practice it.

A home escape plan includes

working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas. It also includes two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) that's a safe distance from the home.

The NFPA and JBSA Fire Emergency Services offer these additional tips and recommendations for developing and practicing a home escape plan:

- ▶ Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- ▶ Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- ▶ Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- ▶ Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- ▶ Close doors behind you as you leave — this may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- ▶ Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a

burning building.

The week will close out with an open house at JBSA-Lackland's Fire Station 1, building 2325, 1910 Kenly Ave., from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 13. There will be static vehicle and equipment displays, Sparky the Fire Dog, fire safety demonstrations, and a bouncing castle.

Firefighters will be available to answer questions about fire vehicles and the equipment they use. Handouts, coloring books and fire prevention information kits and refreshments, including hot dogs, chips, drinks and cake, will be available.

A fire safety trailer will be on display that teaches children the importance of fire safety, how to escape a fire in the home and how to properly call 9-1-1 to report a fire.

To find out about Fire Prevention Week activities at each operating location contact JBSA fire prevention offices at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 221-3465; JBSA-Lackland, 671-2921; and JBSA-Randolph, 652-6915 and ask for the Fire Prevention Section.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week, visit the NFPA website at <http://www.firepreventionweek.org>.

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

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

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Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen.
Laura Lenderman
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Personnel Issues

Q. With the increased emphasis on fitness, do you think there will be any changes to the enlisted evaluation system to delineate between “excellent,” “passing,” or “does not meet standards?”

A. Thank you for your question. Currently, there are no initiatives to delineate on annual evaluation forms the differences between actual fitness scores. That said, supervisors do have the ability to annotate on the form if an individual is performing Physical Training Leader and/or Unit Fitness Program Manager duties. Supervisors should also annotate when an Airman routinely or significantly fails to adhere to established AF standards. In addition, while no changes to individual physical fitness standards and tests have been announced, the Air Force authorized units to begin testing their assigned Airmen again effective Aug. 9, 2018. This initiative allows unit commanders to have greater oversight of their unit testing program.

Q. Are there plans to increase manpower in the Civil Engineering Squadron to handle the amount of work orders they receive?

A. Unfortunately, we are unable to increase manpower at this time, but we are working on several initiatives to support our workforce. The new Civil Engineering Group is focused on refining the work order intake process to not only accept all work orders but make submission more efficient for all Mission Partners on JBSA. These improvements will include transparency of submission via 502d CEG downloadable application, in development, as well as localized customer service

centers at each major operating location. Estimated launch for innovation is early fiscal year 2019. Our people are our greatest strength, and CE will continue to aggressively fill vacancies. On Oct. 31, 2018, the wing will be hosting a job fair wherein we will have the opportunity to hire for much needed critical vacancies. This opportunity coupled with continued partnership with the personnel center will enable fill actions to increase in areas such as customer service and operations.

Installation and Facilities

Q. Where and when are new permanent party dorms going to be built?

A. New dormitory analysis is ongoing as part of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Air Force Dormitory Masterplan. Once the analysis is complete, military construction projects will be programmed, then preliminary siting proposals will be explored. When this occurs, our local JBSA Area Development Plans will be adjusted to accommodate proposed military construction siting locations in the respective unit campus areas. We will continue to keep you informed on the status of any new dorm projects as we gain more information.

Q. Is there a plan to fix child care issues, Child Development Center regulations, and what directives are selectively enforced? Who do we contact, above the CDC directors, if we have issues that need to be fixed?

A. Thank you for bringing your child care concerns to our attention. Quality child care is a top priority in our wing. The seven Child Development Centers across JBSA are operated by the 502d Force Support Squadron, and all are accredited by the Department of Defense and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Based on DoD oversight of military child



care, the CDCs are required to adhere to standardized policies, procedures and guidance. If you as a parent have concerns about the CDC staff being selective in what they enforce, please bring that to the attention of the specific program director on site or please contact the Child and Youth Services Flight Chief at (210) 652-5973 so this can be properly addressed. In addition, if you're unable to reach the flight chief, you can always send concerns directly to me, and I'll be sure we address them.

Q. I work in Building 2797, the Military Family Readiness Center. The building is very old and needs a lot of work. What is your plan to update the infrastructure?

A. Thank you for taking the time to provide awareness about the Fort Sam Houston MFCRC. Our CE team has good news. The center has been funded for fiscal year 2019 for design and construction of all major building subsystems including HVAC, roofing, plumbing and additional

structural repairs. Our team will be awarding design projects in early fiscal year 2019 and construction will follow later that same fiscal year. Of note, the interior finishes will require a follow-on contract in fiscal year 2020.

Miscellaneous

Q. For Airmen who don't have a driving license, is it possible to establish a driving course that will teach them how?

A. That is a great question! Currently the 502d LRS is the responsible agency for military driving licenses, but not civilian licenses. We are working with the 502d FSS to partner with Morale Welfare and Recreation initiatives and develop a program that will allow our service members who don't possess a civilian driver's license to obtain one.

Q. Is there an end of fiscal year base or wing cookout already scheduled or in the planning phase to involve families?

A. This is a great idea! Our Comptroller Squadron and Contracting Squadron are planning end-of-year

celebrations for our team members, the CPTS planning for Oct. 10 and CONS for Oct. 25. It is very important to recognize their hard work in making this fiscal year a success while keeping this event small enough to meet its intent — taking a break, having fun and recognizing our people. Thank you to all the organizations and folks making this end of year so successful. We appreciate your hard work!

Q. What is the estimated date we are officially switching from a Civil Engineer Squadron to a Civil Engineer Group? When will signature blocks change?

A. Our CEG officially stood up on Sept. 1, 2018, and signature blocks are effective on that date.

Q. Will there be a ceremony to stand up the new Civil Engineer Group?

A. The 502d CEG as well as the 502d CES, 802 CES and 902 CES activation ceremonies are scheduled for Oct. 25, 2018, at 2 p.m. at the Gateway Club on Lackland. Invitations are now being distributed and all are welcome to attend.

Air Force deploys metrics, quantifies value of medical readiness

By Peter Holstein

AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the Defense Health Agency assumes management of Air Force military treatment facilities, one of the most important challenges facing the Air Force is its ability to maintain the readiness mission hospitals and clinics support.

Ensuring a ready medical force to support the warfighter remains the top priority for all Air Force medical facilities once they transition to the DHA. The Air Force, Army, and Navy will all retain responsibility for operational mission support and readiness at their MTFs.

To help MTFs quantify the value of their readiness mission and prepare for the transition, the DHA and Air Force are implementing Quadruple Aim Performance Plans, or QPP.

“MTF leaders will use QPP to report readiness activities, both expeditionary medicine and support to their local wing,” said Kyle Gibson, Analytics South division chief, Air Force Medical Operations Agency. “It seeks to measure a complete understanding of the time commitments an MTF needs for its

readiness mission, and the clinical currency opportunities its providers need to complete the mission.”

The DHA will assume management and administration of Air Force MTFs on Fort. Bragg, North Carolina; Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi; Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina; and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, starting Oct. 1, 2018. Additional Air Force MTFs will transition in phases, until all Air Force, Army and Navy health care facilities, are managed by the DHA.

QPPs are already rolled out at these locations, and other MTFs throughout the Air Force Medical Service are being tasked to develop a plan for their respective facility by Dec. 31, 2018.

“It’s vitally important that we accurately communicate and quantify our readiness requirement to our DHA partners,” said Col. Colin Smyth, director, Expeditionary Medical Policy and Operations for the AFMS. “QPP will be a common framework to create a shared understanding of readiness activities between the DHA and the Air Force Surgeon General, Major Commands, and

Combatant Commanders.”

Gibson emphasized the importance of creating a holistic measure that captures value and requirements, and includes downrange and local wing readiness missions.

“This is really the first time MTFs will be able to fully define their entire readiness requirement,” Gibson said. “Our hospitals and clinics have two missions, readiness and delivering the health benefit. We can’t rely on MTF performance against civilian standards to measure our

effectiveness. To properly assess MTFs, we need specialized performance metrics that capture readiness activities.”

The QPP is designed to report more than just funding requirements. It reports clinical currency requirements, training needs, and most importantly, the time medical Airmen need to devote to their readiness

missions.

“QPP is a tool for MTF leaders,” Gibson said. “With accurate data reporting and inclusion of all readiness activities, MTFs will receive credit for those activities and ensure all aspects of their mission are appropriately valued and supported, from a business, staffing, readiness and clinical aspect.

“There’s no doubt that the transition to the DHA requires us to speak a new language, overcome some misconceptions, and undergo a culture shift. QPP is a way for the DHA and each of the Services to agree on how to measure readiness, and elevate readiness measures onto an equal footing with other aspects of MTF performance.”



EFMP assists families with special needs

By Lori A. Bultman
25TH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Having a family member with special medical or educational needs can be challenging, but the Exceptional Family Member Program is available to assist active duty military personnel with a wide variety of services and referral capabilities.

The majority of participants in the program at Joint Base San Antonio are in the military, but the program also offers limited activities and services to Department of Defense civilians, military retirees, Guard and Reserve members and those in geographically separated units.

By the program's definition, an exceptional family member, who can be a child or an adult, is one who has a physical, developmental, emotional or intellectual impairment or disability, and requires special medical or educational support services.

"Exceptional family members can have one or more of many disabilities," said Marcia James, JBSA-Lackland EFMP family support coordinator. "The disabilities do not have to be severe to qualify for the program. You qualify if you have a family member who requires specialized services. The full criteria can be found in DOD Instruction 135.19, section 3. You do not need to be enrolled in EFMP to receive assistance or gain resources and referrals from our office."

The EFMP office at JBSA-Lackland is the largest EFMP in the Air Force, with more than 1,600 families participating in the program, James said. It is one of 10 bases that have an expedited process, meaning members with a projected assignment to an expedited base may participate in an abbreviated EFMP clearance. This process ensures the service member is assigned near the services the family member needs.

"Because Joint Base San Antonio is located near a large metropolitan area, it has a wide variety of special services available and is often the assignment of choice for a lot of families," said Valerie Barber, JBSA-Lackland EFMP family support coordinator.

Each installation's EFMP consists of three components. The first component is EFMP Medical, which provides medical support to exceptional family members. This includes screening, enrollment and assignment coordination through the special needs identification assignment coordination process. Through the program, medical support for a family member may be provided through an installation's military treatment facility or it may be provided by other authorized medical entities, Barber said.

The EFMP Assignments component considers the medical and educational needs of the family during the assignment process and is administered through the Air Force Personnel Center assignments branch.

"When a service member who is Q coded (has an EFMP family member) receives orders for a new assignment, the EFMP Assignments coordination ensures special needs are considered during the assignment process," James said.

The third component of the program is EFMP Family Support, which assists families by providing



COURTESY PHOTO

Valerie Barber, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Exceptional Family Member Program family support coordinator, hands out informational materials at a local resource fair.

resources, information and referrals, in addition to non-case management through networking and partnering with agencies on and off the installation.

The Family Support coordinator establishes, implements and maintains family support information and referrals for families with exceptional family members, including those of Department of Defense civilian employees, military retirees, guard and Reserve personnel and geographically separated units.

"We are the sustainment piece from the time a service member receives orders. We contact them prior to arrival, support them while they are at the installation, and again when they PCS (permanent change of station), connecting them with their gaining base EFMP office," Barber said. "Our job is to not only do our best to enhance the quality of life for our family members, but to sustain them while they are here."

The EFMP Family Support program also provides information to participants on the availability of respite care.

"The Air Force has partnered with a civilian child care programs to create a respite program for EFMP families," Barber said. "The primary program is for active duty Airmen enrolled in EFMP and gives the family a time to rejuvenate. Eligible Air Force families can receive up to 40 hours of respite per month at no charge."

Maria Trevino, the spouse of an active duty Airman, appreciates the respite services offered to her

family.

"I was so lucky to find you, and find out about the respite care program," Trevino said. "It's been an awesome help for us."

Another active duty spouse, Krystal Cole, participates in the respite program with her son, who is on the autism spectrum. Her family has been participating in the program since her son was five years old.

"We've been utilizing the EMFP's Respite Care Program for about four-and-a-half years for our two children," Cole said. "We've had two providers since starting with the program, and have had our current provider for about three years."

"We utilize our respite care hours for a variety of things, from date nights and volunteer opportunities to being able to go to work," she said. "Since they increased the free respite care hours from 12 per month to 40 per month, I was actually able to work this summer as a PRN nurse (Per Diem or temporary fill-in nurse), and my children were able to stay at home where they are comfortable. Our provider also comes on family outings with us."

The provider who takes care of the Cole's children is specially trained and the children enjoy their time with her.

"My children look forward to our provider coming. She usually brings an activity for all of them to do together, and the children always have had positive things to say about their time together," Cole said. "I attribute that to the great and thorough training the providers must go through before they are put out on cases. As a nurse and a mom, I can tell you that the specialized training providers go through really prepares them with the special skills they'll need to use in each home."

In addition to respite care, the EFMP Family Support office offers specialized training and workshops, has a vast resource library and can give direct referrals to services, camps and events throughout the year. They also have a quarterly parent newsletter that is sent to participants.

"We keep parents in the 'EFMP Know' by posting information on resources, activities and current and upcoming events on our EFMP Facebook page," James said. "And, for those not familiar with EFMP, or who just want to know more about what they offer, there will be a special workshop in October on how to navigate the program and its available services."

"The Navigating EFMP workshop Oct. 25 is the best place to find out how the program works and what we have to offer," Barber said. "This workshop will include subject matter experts from each EFMP component, TRICARE, Respite Care and the school liaison office. It will be a great opportunity to have your questions answered face to face."

The Navigating EFMP workshop is from noon to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 25 at the CAMP facility at JBSA-Lackland, 2525 Ladd Street, building 3850. For preregistration, call 210-671-3722 or email jbsa.efmp@us.af.mil. Preregistration is not required to attend.

FORT SAM HOUSTON



Medics move a "wounded" mannequin as part of a combat simulation exercise during the Army Best Medic Competition Sept. 19 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

DAVID DEKUNDER

Army names Best Medic competition winner

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Enduring five days of challenging combat simulations that tested their physical and intellectual resolve, the team of Staff Sgt. Cory Glasgow and Staff Sgt. Branden Mettura, 1st Armored Division, won the 2018 Command Sergeant Major Jack L. Clark Jr. Army Best Medic Competition at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis Sept. 16-20.

Glasgow and Mettura beat out 26 other two-Soldier teams in the annual competition that tests the readiness of Army medics in a continuous, realistic simulated combat operational environment.

The Army Best Medic Competition pits teams against each other from Army units across the world and is hosted by the U.S. Army Medical Command and conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, both headquartered at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The competition is open to all Army active-duty, Reserve and National Guard medical

members who have earned the Expert Field Medical Badge or the Combat Medical Badge. Competitions are held at local command and regional levels to determine the 27 two-member teams that will make it to the Army Best Medic contest.

Altogether, a total of 54 Army medics participated in the Army Best Medic Competition.

For winning the competition, Glasgow and Mettura were presented the Combat Medic Statue and Meritorious Service Medal, and several other gifts and monetary awards.

"I feel super pumped, super excited," Glasgow said. "This was my fourth time competing."

"We're really excited to represent the 1st AD (Armored Division)," Mettura said. "We're bringing this home to them."

The 1st Armored Division, a tank division, is located at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gragg, command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Medical Command, said the competition tests medics on their medical and tactical competency skills and their physical prowess, pushing competitors to raise their level of performance.

"Competition is the lifeblood of the Army," Gragg said. "That's what we are about. We are an organization built on winning, and we have to encourage a culture of winning and exceeding and excelling the standard. So this (Army Best Medic Competition) right here just reinforces that need to be the best."

Compared to previous competitions, Gragg said the 2018 competition puts an additional emphasis on challenging medics intellectually as well as being able to endure the physical rigors of the combat simulations.

Gragg said the skills the medics utilize and learn in the Army Best Medic Competition helps improve overall medical readiness and care for servicemembers on the front lines.

"It highlights the professionalism and excellence that we have in the Army Medical Department," he said. "It also reinforces the confidence in the rest of the Army because as they see the level of professionalism and excellence that these individuals

embody, they will understand the medical professionals that are in the foxhole with them are extremely qualified and that they will take care of them to their utmost ability. If they (medics) happen to do their job in the theater of operations, their (service members) chances of coming back home are very, very good."

The team of Glasgow and Mettura totaled 1,725.5 points in the competition, 22 points ahead of the second-place team of Capt. Michael Broussard and Staff Sgt. Sean Collins of the 75th Ranger Regiment from Fort Benning, Georgia (1,703.5 points). Finishing in third place was the team of Sgt. 1st Class David Nagle and Sgt. 1st Class Adam Church of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Health Readiness Center of Excellence (1,699 points).

Sgt. Ian Thompson of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan., said the competition was both mentally and physically demanding, as he was told beforehand.

"They promised it would be hard, it would be mentally taxing ... and they were right,"

Thompson said. "It was tough. For instance, tactical land navigation with 60 pounds worth of gear and then rolled right into a rough march. It was a lot. Mentally, it was a blow because you think you're going to have some time to rest and then it's right back to it. It really has been go, go, go since day one."

"That's just part of the game, but part of the reason why it was good to be here, and we had fun doing it," Thompson added.

Thompson said the benefit of being in the competition was learning about and utilizing the practices for prolonged field care. Prolonged field care is the treatment and care for a patient for a full day on the front lines.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Leach of the 1st Infantry Division, and Thompson's team partner, said he and Thompson got through the grueling competition by encouraging each other.

"He would see me struggling, I would see him struggling and you would just boost each other up, like 'Hey, we got this,' " Leach said. "If you can't find it internally, you got your partner to help you through."

ARNORTH plays vital part in disaster response

By Navy Lt. Haider Mullick
U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After two weeks of preparing and providing relief to communities devastated by Hurricane Florence in North Carolina, active-duty soldiers, led by Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, U.S. Army North commanding general, are winding down rescue efforts while remaining ready to meet federal and local needs.

At the peak of the response, more than 12,000 National Guard and federal military personnel supported the hurricane response efforts, rescuing people and pets, transporting first responders and delivering food and water.

Under the framework of state joint force commands established in North and South Carolina, active duty and Reserve Component military forces supported the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state authorities in response to the needs of citizens affected by the storm.

Federal forces were prepared to assist both North and South Carolina, said Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, commander of U.S. Army North and U.S. Northern Command's Joint Forces Land Component Command.

"We brought together all the resources of the federal side of the military – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps," Buchanan said.

Army North's higher headquarters, NORTHCOM, is the Defense Department's synchronizer for defense support of civil authorities, and brought additional capabilities and capacity to the hurricane response efforts. These

capabilities included communication support for landlines and cell phone towers, medical units, and five-ton troop transportation trucks with high suspension to maneuver flood waters.

Additionally, a Navy surface group led by the USS Kearsarge departed Norfolk, Virginia, for the open seas, then followed the storm toward the shore and postured near the coast to be ready to provide support off shore.

Acting on lessons learned from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, Army North became fully engaged in response efforts for Hurricane Florence before the storm made landfall, building logistical networks to facilitate rapid lifesaving and sustaining operations.

"While we acknowledge that every natural disaster is distinct, we have learned that coming in early helps tremendously to ensure we are not late" to provide assistance, Buchanan said.

The Army North staff worked closely with forces commanded by Army Maj. Gen. James Ernst of the North Carolina National Guard, who was designated as the dual status commander by the secretary of defense.

"It's my job to coordinate the efforts of both the North Carolina National Guard and the active-duty units that come in," Ernst said.

The 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command from Fort Bragg commanded key units such as the post's ad hoc "Task Force Truck" and the 101st Sustainment Brigade as they conducted high water rescue missions across North Carolina's coastal towns including flood-ravaged Lumberton and Wilmington. Soldiers in tactical vehicles helped rescue displaced residents in waist-high water.

FSHISD PUBLIC MEETING OCT. 18



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District has posted a notice of a public meeting to discuss the FSHISD's state financial accountability rating at 11 a.m. Oct. 18. The meeting will take place at the Media Center building of Robert G. Cole High School at 4001 Winans Road. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the FSHISD' rating of "A" for "Superior Achievement" on the state's financial accountability system.



MICHAEL WATKINS

Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman (seated), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, signs the 2018 Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month Sept. 25 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Joining Gen. Lenderman are (from left) Chantelle Stoops, Family Advocacy Outreach Manager, JBSA-Lackland; Rose Padilla, Family Advocacy Program Assistance, JBSA-Lackland; Capt. Isaiah Jones, Family Advocacy Officer, JBSA-Lackland; Angela Nance Family Advocacy Intervention Specialist, JBSA-Randolph; Craig Hodge, Young Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate, JBSA; Jessica Reynolds, Family Advocacy Outreach Manager, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; Irina Adams, Family Advocacy Intervention Specialist, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; Stephanie Smith, Family Advocacy Officer, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; and Chief Master Sgt. Heather Ransom, interim 502nd ABW and JBSA Command Chief.

Proclamation sets stage for Domestic Violence Awareness Month at JBSA

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, signed a proclamation Sept. 25 setting the stage for the installation's observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

Purple light is illuminating five buildings at Joint Base San Antonio each night throughout October to shed light on the issue of domestic violence and its devastating impact on families and relationships.

The five buildings are the water tower and Military Entrance Processing Station at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the 37th Training Wing and 37th Training Group buildings at JBSA-Lackland and the Taj Mahal at JBSA-Randolph.

"The purpose of Domestic Violence Awareness Month is to bring awareness to an issue that people are too scared, embarrassed or uncomfortable to talk about," said Angela Nance, JBSA-Randolph Family Advocacy Program intervention specialist. "Domestic violence impacts us all; no community is immune, regardless of your socioeconomic status, race, religion, age or sexual orientation."

Domestic violence is so prevalent in the United States that a woman is assaulted or beaten every nine seconds, Nance said.

"In addition, one in 10 men in the U.S. have experienced physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner, according to the Department of Justice, and 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually," she said.

FAP representatives and Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates, or DAVAs, helped raise awareness of domestic violence when they participated in National Night Out activities Oct. 2 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph.

Also during the month, members of the JBSA community are encouraged to wear the color purple on Fridays to remind people of the damaging effects of domestic violence and how they can move from awareness to action, which is reflected in the national theme adopted by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, #ItThings, Nance said.

"If we all pitch in to do one thing to prevent domestic violence, then collectively change can happen," she said. "We are hoping folks will

commit to doing something to make a change. That can be in the form of talking to a victim or an offender about domestic violence, taking someone in who needs a place to stay, taking someone to a shelter, wearing a purple ribbon to spark conversation during the month, speaking up when you hear about abuse and not laughing at jokes that promote violence."

The forms of domestic violence are physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional or psychological abuse, Nance said.

"We hope it can be prevented by everyone doing their part when they hear or witness any type of domestic violence," she said. "Doing just one thing to prevent it can make a difference."

Victims of domestic violence should also be proactive, Nance said.

"You should talk to someone, whether that is a friend or a formal agency such as the Family Advocacy Program," she said. "A safety plan is also important. You should think about where you can go if you are in danger, such as a friend's place, a shelter or a police station. Victims who are injured should seek treatment by going to a hospital or clinic."

FAP representatives are available to assist the victims and witnesses of domestic violence, Nance said. Phone numbers for JBSA FAP offices are 210-221-1996 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-292-5967 at JBSA-Lackland and 210-652-6308 at JBSA-Randolph.

Other important phone numbers are the 24/7 DAVA hotline, 210-367-1213, and the National Domestic Violence hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

Former USS Cole command master chief visits Navy students, METC staff

By Lisa Braun

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
CAMPUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Oct. 12, 2000, was a day retired Command Master Chief James Parlier will never forget. The retired Navy hospital corpsman was serving as the command master chief, the highest enlisted crew member, of the USS Cole when it was attacked while being refueled in Yemen's Aden harbor. Seventeen Sailors were killed and another 39 were critically wounded.

Parlier shared his experience and thoughts with the standing-room-only crowd of students and staff in the Hospital Corpsman Basic, or HCB, program at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 21.

"Unfortunately, sometimes we have to learn the hard way, such as this incident on Cole," Parlier said. "I had to put shipmates in body bags that day. I've not been a corpsman for quite a while, but I'm going to tell you what ... all this training you're getting, when you go out

of here, it's not going to stop. And it's important, because when that attack happened, it was like riding a bike. You don't think. You do it."

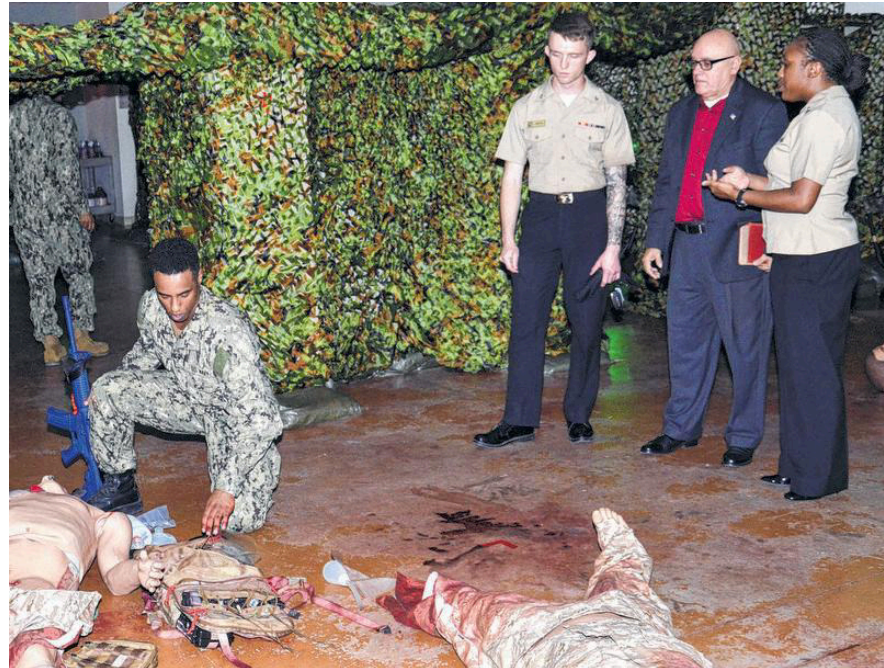
In the wake of the USS Cole attack, Parlier and the ship's corpsmen provided Navy leaders with invaluable lessons learned with regard to the medical response and capabilities.

"I think fleetwide a lot of ships, our platform and other ships, learned things like placement of medical lockers, bulkhead-mounted lockers, the equipment that failed, and not having enough stretchers were important going forward," Parlier said.

Parlier, an independent duty corpsman during his Navy career, also toured the HCB program and observed shipboard mass casualty and tactical combat casualty care training that were both implemented last year. Parlier was impressed.

"I've seen some of the school house and, believe me, I love what I see. I love where our hospital corps is going," he said to the audience.

"My overall perception of the



PHOTOS BY LISA BRAUN

Retired Master Chief James Parlier observes as a student conducts mass casualty training in the Hospital Corpsman Basic program at the Medical Education and Training Campus Sept. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.



Retired Master Chief James Parlier addresses a standing-room-only audience of Navy students and staff from the Hospital Corpsman Basic program Sept. 21 at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Hospital Corps School is that we have taken lessons learned from the past — whether in the field or from the school itself — and improved upon the training in so many ways to match the environments we are challenged with today," he said. "I saw the motivation and determination from both instructors and students in completing tasks to prepare new corpsmen for the fleet. You're in good hands students."

While describing the events following the attack, Parlier didn't mince words.

"Never did we ever think that a billion-dollar warship would come under attack in a port halfway across the world. Never did we think that we would be fighting a ship that should have

"I've not been a corpsman for quite a while, but I'm going to tell you what ... all this training you're getting, when you go out of here, it's not going to stop. And it's important, because when that attack happened, it was like riding a bike. You don't think. You do it."

Retired Command Master Chief James Parlier

been sunk. And never did we think that we'd see our shipmates on a small ship like that in the condition they were in, and were still treated with respect. We got 39 critically wounded patients off in an hour and a half with a makeshift gangplank."

Parlier also said they depended on locals to transport the wounded patients to the hospital, while remaining vigilant, in the event of a second attack.

"Just pray you never find yourself in that situation. But if you do, be as ready as you can."

LACKLAND

Battlefield Airmen train using tech advantages

By Airman 1st Class
Dillon Parker

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Battlefield Airmen Training Group, with squadrons located at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland; Kirtland AFB, New Mexico; and Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina, continues pushing boundaries; training innovative, scholarly, tactical athletes for U.S. Special Operations Forces.

The BATG's mission is to select, train and mentor airmen for global combat operations. Since its activation on June 2, 2016, the BATG has raised its overall graduation rate from 10 percent to 21 percent, according to the 37th Training Wing's website.

"The most important question for us is 'how do we move the human body in the most efficient way possible?'" said Chief Master Sgt. Joshua Smith, 350th Battlefield Airmen Training Squadron superintendent. "This question is important because historically injuries have been one of the biggest causes of attrition in the Battlefield Airmen training pipeline. To figure out the answer, we have to look at things scientifically."

This scientific approach is a drastic change to the way things have been done in the military for years, according to BATG superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Todd Popovic. In the past, instructors would require things like holding a pushup position for 40 minutes without considering what kind of damage it could do to trainees' shoulder and elbow joints.

"We still train just as hard, but now we're asking ourselves



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

Battlefield Airmen candidates, having just completed the Battlefield Airmen Training Group's combat controller course of initial entry, perform flutter kicks in a creek Aug. 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Medina Annex.

what the most efficient way to improve human performance is," Popovic said. "We're doing everything we can to take it to the next level and create the best warfighters and people possible."

As a first step, the BATG leadership took a comprehensive look at all aspects of their operation for efficiency opportunities that would not reduce training or curriculum standards.

"Our first challenge was decreasing the amount of time students await training," Popovic said. "There are many sequential courses in the pipeline that take place in different locations. We need to ensure the most efficient order to prevent gaps in training that result in muscle atrophy and therefore injuries."

The next step the BATG leadership took was adopting a scientific and methodical approach to training. The BATG now collects massive amounts of data, staying on the cutting edge of technology.

"We have biometric sensors on our candidates that measure approximately 300 data points per day," Smith said. "We use all this data to find out when candidates are being stressed the most, what kinds of things contribute to injuries and what factors are the most important for maximizing human performance."

The new biometric sensors have been instrumental to identify periods of high stress that contribute most to injuries.

"We recently found a research paper which shows that college athletes have much

higher injury rates during finals week. No one has ever looked at this kind of stuff in our training before," Smith said. "Our scientific approach has enabled us to find this type of information and use the data we collect to see where we can affect stress levels and reduce injuries."

In addition to finding new ways to combat injury, the BATG leadership has started quantifying other factors that will increase human performance, such as nutrition and proper sleep.

"We have an excellent dietitian on our staff that focuses on not just getting our candidates the right amount of food but the right quality as well," Smith said. He also confirmed that "proper sleep increases performance but also

reduces injury rate."

Since the BATG has adopted this scientific-based approach to training, it is enjoying unprecedented success. The most recent Tactical Air Control Party graduation was the largest ever, with 34 graduates. This represents a 21 percent increase from the previous high of 28 graduates, and exemplifies the current trend of falling attrition rates, as 85 percent of the starting class graduated.

"It all comes down to finding the most efficient ways to create capable joint warfighters," Popovic said. "If we can continue to build on what we've done in the past two years we are well on the way to becoming the recognized leader in the Special Operation Forces community."

59th MDW Airman saves life with Heimlich

By Daniel J. Calderón
59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Recently, a quick-thinking Airman saved a person's life at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

As Master Sgt. Andre C. Denson, medical equipment management section chief, left the food court from grabbing lunch, a man brushed up against Denson's left shoulder and indicated he was choking.

Denson immediately stepped in and performed the Heimlich maneuver, ultimately saving the man's life.

"Once I started giving him the Heimlich, I probably gave him about four or five thrusts and then there was [an Airman] who said, 'Your hands are too low,' " Denson said. "So, I readjusted my hands higher, closer to his sternum, and the lodged item came out."

After the man was stabilized and medical personnel arrived, Denson picked up his lunch and went back to his office.

"I'm happy he will have this opportunity to live and his family can enjoy him still being around for them," Denson said. "I think the most important part is it wasn't his time. Whether it was me or somebody else helping him, it just wasn't his time to go."

He told no one about his actions, but surveillance

"Those scenarios do come into play. As easy as calling 911, you can save somebody's life yourself. I don't take that training for granted at all. If you come on a situation, do anything you can to save that person's life. The worst thing you can do is to do nothing."

Master Sgt. Andre C. Denson, 59th Medical Wing medical equipment management section chief

footage captured the lifesaving act.

"What you see is what you get," said Dave Collings, clinical engineering flight chief. "He's the model Airman. He works hard. He has great respect and he receives great respect from everyone in the office."

Denson maintains and tests medical equipment used at facilities throughout the 59th MDW's area of responsibility, ensuring medical personnel



DANIEL J. CALDERÓN

Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes (left), 59th Medical Wing commander, presents a command coin to Master Sgt. Andre C. Denson, medical equipment management section chief, Sept. 17 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

have properly functioning equipment to complete the mission.

He credits the basic lifesaving skills he has received through the Air Force

for his ability to step in when needed.

"Those scenarios do come into play," he said. "As easy as calling 911, you can save somebody's life yourself. I

don't take that training for granted at all. If you come on a situation, do anything you can to save that person's life. The worst thing you can do is to do nothing."

Family Emergency Center Opening!



Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center opens Family Emergency Center

By Master Sgt. Keyonna Fennell
59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After seven years, the 59th Medical Wing will once again have an emergency center.

The grand opening of the Family Emergency Center, currently known as the Urgent Care Center, scheduled for Oct. 1 at 11 a.m. at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center.

Operating under its new moniker, the FEC will provide 24-hour emergency care to patients who would have been previously transferred to local facilities.

"We will have the capability to treat patients of all ages," said Col. Keith Donaldson, 59th MDW vice commander. "Our pediatric patients will no longer have to leave or bypass JBSA-Lackland to receive emergent care; we

can treat them right here in our facility."

The 59th MDW capabilities will also stretch beyond pediatric and geriatric care.

"Our expanded capabilities include full-time ancillary services with pharmacy, laboratory and radiology support, and a wide variety of procedural interventions such as evaluating chest pain, stabilizing a fracture or removing a toenail, to name a few," said Maj. (Dr.) Jacob Powell, Emergency Services Flight medical director.

As a level four emergency center, some services will still require coordination with partnering medical facilities.

"The FEC is not a trauma center," Powell

said. "We do not have in-house capability for emergent surgical procedures. In such cases, the FEC staff will have the ability to stabilize and transport patients to a level one trauma center such as Brooke Army Medical Center."

The FEC staff has spent more than a year preparing for the transition. At midnight Oct. 1, warrior medics will stand ready to provide high level, patient-centered care to all TRICARE beneficiaries in the San Antonio area.

RANDOLPH

Training at M&FRCs prepares adults for opportunities in mentorship

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center will be the site of a training session from noon to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 11 for adults who have a desire to be a positive influence in the life of a young person.

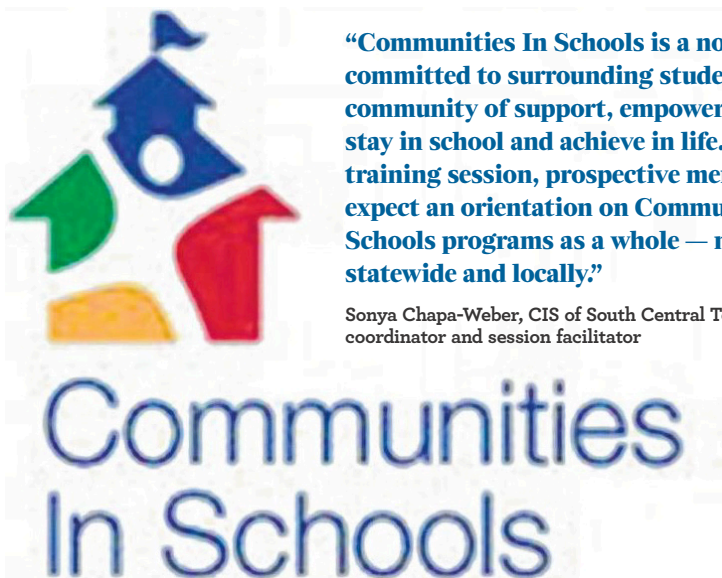
The session, facilitated by a representative from Communities In Schools of South Central Texas, prepares participants for volunteer service as a mentor to at-risk students in four school districts across two San Antonio-area counties.

“Communities In Schools is a nonprofit committed to surrounding students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life,” said Sonya Chapa-Weber, CIS of South Central Texas mentor coordinator and session facilitator. “During the training session, prospective mentors can expect an orientation on Communities In Schools programs as a whole — nationally, statewide and locally.”

In addition, prospective mentors will learn about the mentoring relationship and complete an application to become part of the program.

“We will also discuss and choose the campus and grade level best-suited to the mentor,” Chapa-Weber said.

Part of a national network established in New York City more than 40 years ago, CIS of South Central Texas serves



“Communities In Schools is a nonprofit committed to surrounding students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. During the training session, prospective mentors can expect an orientation on Communities In Schools programs as a whole — nationally, statewide and locally.”

Sonya Chapa-Weber, CIS of South Central Texas mentor coordinator and session facilitator

COURTESY GRAPHIC

students in the New Braunfels, Comal, Marion and Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City independent school districts. A site coordinator at each CIS campus selects students for the program.

Angela Green, JBSA-Randolph school liaison officer, said JBSA SLOs work with CIS of South Central Texas and CIS of San Antonio to recruit mentors from the JBSA community.

“We’re always seeking more mentors,” she said.

“Active-duty members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and other adult members of the JBSA community are welcome to serve as mentors so they can

give guidance to students in our local schools.”

Mentor training sessions are conducted from noon to 1:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph M&FRCs and from 10 to 11:30 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC. CIS of South Central Texas recruits from the JBSA-Randolph area, while CIS of San Antonio seeks mentors from the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Lackland areas.

Green, who also serves as a mentor, said that helping students succeed is a rewarding experience.

“These students just want to know that someone cares and is listening to them,” she said. “We try to build their self-esteem and support them.”

Mentors meet students at their schools, typically for 30 to 45 minutes once a week, Green said.

“Meeting them at their school is what’s great about this program,” she said. “Both the student and mentor feel comfortable in that situation.”

The relationship normally begins at the beginning of the school year, but mentors may join the program at any time, Green said.

“We hope that the relationship will last after the school year ends,” she said.

“Some mentors keep up with their student through the summer and even beyond that time.”

Building a relationship with a student is a gradual process, Green said.

“You have to build a bond first and foremost, then the student will open up more,” she said. “You’ll hear what’s going on with them and offer advice, using your experiences to help them, no matter what their situation is.”

Mentoring is a mutually beneficial experience, Chapa-Weber said.

“Mentoring benefits the student and the mentor by creating a friendship with a purpose,” she said. “They help each other; the mentors feel like they are making a change while the students feel the change and impact of having a community member check in with them each week.”

The impact is real, Chapa-Weber said.

“Students with mentors are less likely to skip school and less likely to start using drugs,” she said. “Students with mentors are more likely to enroll in college, participate in extracurricular activities, volunteer in their communities and go on to become mentors themselves as they get older. Mentors gain leadership skills and satisfaction knowing they help someone who needs their coaching.”

For more information, call the school liaison office at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-2256; JBSA-Lackland, 671-8388; or JBSA-Randolph, 652-5321.

Victim advocates and their role in resiliency

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

When Airmen become victims of violence, the mission is affected. To make sure these victims are supported in their time of need, members of the Air Force's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate program remain ready to assist 24/7.

Responsibilities of an advocate include providing crisis intervention, referral and ongoing nonclinical support, as well as providing information on available options and resources to assist the victim in making informed decisions. With permission, they may also accompany the victim to medical, investigative, legal proceedings and court hearings.

There are two types of victim's advocates: staff victim advocates and volunteer victim advocates. Staff victim advocates are full-time civilians whose primary job is to continually assist victims.

"Our role is long term, meaning when we assist victims, we would first receive a person in a crisis situation, like after they just had violence occur or they had a trigger based on a past experience," said Bernadette Villa-Morris, 502nd Air Base Wing victim advocate.

"We sit with them, we assess, comfort and provide a safe place, or a soft landing, in their time of need," Villa added. "We're also covered with client advocate confidentiality. We meet with them in their most vulnerable moments in their situation and help discover what their needs are."

Although volunteer victim advocates have a similar role, they are also important in educating units about the SAPR program and avenues that are available to victims.

"Volunteer victim advocates are an extension of our role," Villa-Morris said. "In Joint Base San Antonio, we have 45 volunteer victim advocates to serve a population of about 80,000 personnel.



They not only have to be on call, and the hotline, but they also have administrative paperwork just like the staff victim advocates. They do a lot of what we do, just on a smaller scale, because they have a primary role that they serve in their units because most of them are active duty."

Although being a victim advocate may seem like just another way to volunteer, it is a duty with an important effect on other people's lives.

"It's important to know that being a volunteer victim advocate is not like any other additional duty," Villa-Morris said. "These folks that volunteer to be a part of our program are going to affect other people's lives. They will be critical in changing the trajectory in a victim's life oftentimes. If they're a great volunteer and they provide a smooth experience for

that victim via empathy and attentiveness, then that victim will have a better process of healing through a traumatic life experience."

In order to become a volunteer, enlisted members must be a senior airman or higher and at least 21 or older. Officers must be a first lieutenant or higher.

Personnel assigned to the judge advocate office, chaplain office, equal opportunity office, security forces, inspector general staff and some medical center clinics are not eligible for the program due to potential conflicts of interest.

To volunteer or find other ways to get involved, contact your SAPR office at JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-4386, at JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-7273, or at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-3796.