

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

NOVEMBER 2, 2018



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG

Airman 1st Class Jared Tajalle, 902nd Security Forces Squadron patrolman, and fellow 902nd SFS members pull a fire truck Oct. 20 during the final challenge of the 2018 Battle of the Badges in Eberle Park at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

JBSA Defenders are Battle of the Badges champions

Page 20



BAMC hosts Retiree Appreciation Day

Page 9



Echo Company, DLI provide pathway to Army career

Page 16

Employees need to know, heed Hatch Act rules

By Mark Wyatt

66TH AIR BASE GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Department of Defense civilian employees must be aware of the law limiting political activities in the federal workplace, during duty hours, or on federal property at any time.

The law restricting federal employees from engaging in certain political activities is in Title 5 of the United States Code, Sections 7321-7326, and Title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations, parts 733 and 734, commonly referred to as the Hatch Act. It defines political activity as “an activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office or partisan political group.”

“While the Air Force recognizes your right to support the issues and candidates of your choice, there are specific rules governing it, as well as roles one can assume as a government employee,” said Kathy Owens, chief of Employee and Labor Relations.

The act limits actions by federal employees to ensure the government functions fairly and effectively. Employees who violate the Hatch Act may be subject to a range of disciplinary actions, including removal from federal service or employment.

According to the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, while on duty, employees may not use government computers to send or forward political content or post to social media sites. Additionally, employees must never post a comment to a blog or social media site that advocates for or against a political party, candidate for political office, or political group when in a pay status, other than paid leave, or if representing the government in an official capacity.

The act also prohibits federal civilian employees from distributing campaign materials, performing campaign-related activities, displaying partisan political support to a candidate or political party or making political contributions on government time or by using government equipment.

The Hatch Act ensures federal programs are nonpartisan, federal employees are free from political coercion in the workplace and that promotions are on merit and not political affiliation, according to information on the U.S. Office of Special Counsel's website.

It does not cover members of the military who have their own restrictions; however, if you are a member of the National Guard or the Reserves, as well as a federal civilian employee, the Hatch Act does apply.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel offers advice to civilian employees on how to avoid violating the rules on social media and email at <https://osc.gov/Pages/Hatch-Act-Social-Media-and-Email-Guidance.aspx>.

The guidance concerning political activity for military members is found in DOD Directive 1344.10. Active duty personnel may not engage in partisan political activities while in uniform, and all military personnel should avoid creating the inference that their political activities imply or appear to imply DOD sponsorship, approval or endorsement of a political candidate, campaign or cause. The directive is available at <http://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodd/134410p.pdf>.

Additional resources on the Hatch Act are located at the U.S. Office of Special Counsel's website at <https://osc.gov/Pages/HatchAct-AdditionalResources.aspx>.

To request an advisory opinion from the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, go online to <https://osc.gov/Pages/HatchAct-AdvisoryAction.aspx> or send an email to hatchact@osc.gov.

AF extends high year of tenure for E-4, E-5, E-6s

From Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The Air Force is extending the high year of tenure for senior airmen through technical sergeants beginning Feb. 1, 2019.

The memo, signed Oct. 18, 2018, extends the high year of tenure from eight to 10 years for senior airmen, from 15 to 20 years for staff sergeants and from 20 to 22 years for technical sergeants.

Airmen in these ranks who reach their HYT prior to Feb. 1, 2019, or those who are currently approved for separation or retirement under the previous HYT limits, may submit a request to extend their HYT beginning Oct. 24 to the updated limit if government funds have not been expended

on their separation or retirement, such as moving expenses.

“This is just one of the ways we are working to manage the talent we currently have,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleb O. Wright. “Adjusting the high year of tenure policy will allow us to keep Airmen we’ve trained and developed over the course of their careers, and allow them to continue to serve their nation to the best of their ability and pay it forward, by training the next generation of Airmen who are right behind them.”

The Air Force will use the flexibility to retain talented midtier Airmen to provide training, leadership and mentoring to the growing number of accessions who are

joining the force.

“As we grow the force, we need to retain technically skilled experts across our ranks,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. “By extending high year of tenure, we’re able to leverage our talented, seasoned professionals to train, develop, and lead new Airmen to accomplish current and future mission requirements.”

The Air Force will consider using career job reservations and noncommissioned officer retraining programs as needed to ensure that its growth is deliberately targeted to meet the needs of the National Defense Strategy.

“These force-shaping tools are critical to ensuring the

investments we’ve made in enhancing our Airmen’s technical skills are leveraged and allocated across the force deliberately,” Kelly said.

Senior airmen through technical sergeants with an HYT of Feb. 1, 2019, and later, will automatically have their HYT adjusted by AFPC in accordance with this policy. Those hitting HYT prior to Feb. 1 can request an extension via the virtual manpower and personnel flight.

“Service in the Air Force is an honor, not a right or an entitlement,” Wright said. “Supervisors and commanders will continue to ensure that proper conduct and mission performance are the primary factors in determining continued service.”

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman

COMMANDER, 502D AIR BASE WING
AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

Feedback Fridays are weekly forums that aim to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil using the subject line "Feedback Fridays."

Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Installation & Facilities

Q. Months ago, we submitted a work order through Civil Engineering to get the pot holes repaired around Hangar 73 and the parking lot area between Hangar 73 and 74. No response yet.

A. Don't worry, CE hasn't forgotten about this! We are going to be cold patching the potholes identified at Hangar 73 and in the parking lot between Hangar 73 and 74 close to Nov. 5th. The delay was to allow for the weather to dry out and for temperatures to drop low enough to enable our patch work to hold. We are also scheduling a larger scale repair after the New Year and will update the units affected with the date.

Miscellaneous

Q. How will 502d ABW leadership define innovation and improvement efforts?

A. Awesome question! I'm excited that you asked about innovation at JBSA. At the 502d ABW, we define innovation around two basic concepts: novelty and impact. Simply stated, innovation is novelty with impact. Novelty is an idea, process, solution, technique, technology or method that has an impact which saves money, time, solves problems, provides value, reduces risk, or improves performance. One way to identify innovative improvement efforts is through the continuous process improvement program which applies Lean Six Sigma tools. The application of LSS tools enables 502d ABW members to integrate continuous improvement into day-to-day operations across JBSA. As the largest joint base in the DoD, we rely on each and every one of you to innovate and solve problems. You are



welcome to submit innovation and process improvement questions to usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.cvm@mail.mil.

Some helpful innovation tools can be found at <https://itk.mitre.org/our-toolkit/>.

We also offer CPI training, Practical Problem Solving Model, and Green Belt training. Please visit our site to sign up <https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/12894/CPI/training/default.aspx>.

Q. I have been at JBSA for two years and noticed that individuals count it as a badge of honor to jump the chain of command and go directly to the higher-ups. How can that mindset be changed?

A. Thank you for your question. This is an age-old leadership dilemma. How does a leader stay approachable and accessible but still ensure the chain of command is respected? As leaders, we want our people to feel comfortable coming to us. At the same time, we need to empower other leaders, down the chain, to handle issues at their levels, whenever possible. This requires professionalism across the organization.

The solution is relatively simple, and it's every leader's problem to help solve. When an issue is presented to us that appears to be "solve-able" at a lower-level, we should be asking, "Have you given your chain of command the opportunity to handle this?" or "Did you give your chain of command the courtesy of letting them know you were bringing this to me?" By doing this consistently,

leaders will cultivate a more professional culture where we not only have approachable leadership, but good order and discipline.

Q. How do you plan on enforcing the AF's zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment in the work place?

A. Thank you very much for your question. I strive every day through my words and actions to reinforce a culture of trust and respect in our wing because when that trust breaks down, it can have a devastating impact on our mission and organization. Part of my effort to build trust is to ensure that all of our personnel are aware of and empowered to help enforce our zero tolerance policy towards sexual harassment. From the first briefing upon arrival to JBSA to the refresher "No Fear, Act" training course which is completed annually, we work to ensure everyone on our team knows they are valued, respected, and protected. Our mission is to arm civilians and military service members with the knowledge of how to address, confront, and report any instances of sexual harassment in their work places. Reports of sexual harassment can be made through a first line supervisor, first sergeant, commander, or through any Equal Opportunity representative across JBSA. If you have any questions, please reach out to one of our EO program managers:

» JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON:

Mr. Aaron Jackson
(210) 295-0552
aaron.t.jackson4.civ@mail.mil

» JBSA-RANDOLPH:

Ms. Maria Preda
(210) 652-3705
maria.preda@us.af.mil

» JBSA-LACKLAND:

Ms. Lakreisha Johnson
(210) 671-4282
lakreisha.johnson@us.af.mil

Q. Who is your AF role model or mentor?

A. I love this question. Like many of you, there are many people in my life who have helped me grow as an individual and a leader. I have to start with my dad. My dad was a Vietnam veteran who served 26 years in our AF, and he laid the foundation of what right looks like. He loved our country, he loved our family, and he's the reason I'm serving today. He was a quiet man of principle and strength who was my biggest cheerleader but also corrected me when I was wrong. I also turn to my husband, Dave. We met in pilot training in Columbus, Mississippi in 1995 and from the day we met, I have looked to him for advice, inspiration, and love. He's been my coach and also my teammate, and he's made this AF adventure so much fun. Lastly, I'd like to mention, Gen. Darren McDew, USAF. I wish everyone had a Gen. McDew in their life. He's a man of character and kindness who brought out the best in everyone around him. He has the highest standards and inspired all of us to achieve more than we thought possible. He's the kind of leader I hope to be some day.

Operation Home Cooking: Take a trainee home for the holidays

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

San Antonio area families can express their warmth and hospitality to Airmen and trainees at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland by allowing them an opportunity to enjoy a holiday meal and family atmosphere through “Operation Home Cooking.”

In its 43rd year, the program provides the opportunity for families to share their traditional Thanksgiving celebrations with Air Force Airmen and basic trainees.

Throughout the years, families have generously opened their homes to these young men and women,

recognizing that many of them are away from home for the first time. This program is designed for family participation and not intended for groups. This ensures everyone wanting to participate has an opportunity to do so. Last year, local residents hosted 3,440 Air Force members for Thanksgiving dinner.

Families within the San Antonio metropolitan area may invite two Airmen/trainees as a “General Request” by calling 210-671-5453/5454/3701.

To request an Airman/trainee under the “By Name Request” program, you must be a family relative (e.g., mother, father, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent or spouse) and live

in the San Antonio Metropolitan area. Exception will be for Airmen in the 8th week of training.

To request an Airman/trainee using the “By Name Request” you can call the same numbers as listed above. Requests can be made beginning Oct. 29, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reservations are required to host Airmen/trainees (e.g., you can’t show up on Thanksgiving Day “no notice/unannounced” and obtain trainees).

Due to heightened security measures, hosts without a current Department of Defense identification card (e.g., active duty military, retired military, or civil service) will require a background check and a

visitor’s pass prior to entering the base.

Hosts can pick up their visitor’s pass at the Luke Gate Visitor Reception Center off Military Drive (open 24/7) up until Nov. 22.

Once the total number of Airmen/trainees eligible for the program is reached, requests will no longer be taken. The phone lines will remain open till Nov. 22 or until all eligible trainees have been requested, whichever occurs first. Anyone who calls after the total number of Airmen/trainees have been reached may be placed on a waiting list and called back if more hosts are required.

Out-of-town relatives who have trainees in basic training

that will be graduating during Thanksgiving week may request them “By Name Request” for Thanksgiving lunch/dinner. Since trainees are not permitted to have personal transportation during training, hosts must pick up “General Requests” at the Pfingston Reception Center, building 6330.

If the Airman/trainee is a “By Name Request,” they will be picked up from their respective squadrons on Thanksgiving Day between 7 and 11 a.m.

All Airmen and basic trainees must be returned to their respective squadrons according to their designated return time which will be no later than 7 p.m. Hosts should plan accordingly for traffic.



IT’S TIME TO FALL BACK

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR SATURDAY NIGHT

MFLCs provide support and build resiliency

By 2nd Lt. Austen Jarboe

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In our professional military careers, it is easy to get caught up in presenting a perfectly manicured image to our peers and superiors. Nobody sounds “average” in a performance report or a quarterly awards package, and there is a pressure to maintain the perception that everything is in its place.

In reality, this is far from the truth. We often experience the full range of emotion as we live our lives and sometimes those feelings are not the most constructive. It takes a strong individual to find success in the profession of arms, and for some of us it can be hard to accept when negative thoughts

and emotions begin to creep into our daily routines.

However, if we can do the hard work of accepting ourselves at our weakest, the Department of Defense provides access to a multitude of resources to get us back on our feet.

Closest to home, at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) is the Military and Family Life Counselor (MFLC) program, with locations at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph.

MFLCs are licensed professionals who provide situational, problem-solving counseling anonymously and confidentially. No written records are kept, and it is free to active-duty military and their family members.



GRAPHIC BY JOE BEACH

Reaching out to the MFLCs at your base gives you access to professional advice without the risk of your personal issues bleeding over to your professional life. The real risk comes when you do not seek care and those negative emotions influence you to make

destructive decisions that can affect your family and career.

It is never easy to admit when we do not have all the answers, especially when it comes to our own lives. However, if we find the strength to utilize all available resources, we can build the skill set to handle any

and every problem set the world throws at us.

When we become more emotionally resilient, it not only improves our lives but has the potential to positively influence the lives of everyone with whom we interact.

The fear of sharing your most personal narrative with another can be overwhelming, but it is no match for the peace you experience when you realize you do not have to face those troubles alone.

The new contact numbers for the MFLC program at each JBSA location are listed below:

► JBSA-Fort Sam Houston:

210-421-9387

► JBSA-Lackland: 210-984-1076 / 210-739-9667

► JBSA-Randolph: 210-744-4829 / 210-996-4037

FEDVIP is coming: Get to know dental and vision plans today

From TRICARE Communications

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program, or TRDP, ends Dec. 31, 2018. Beginning in 2019, dental and vision plans will be available through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, or FEDVIP. Now is a good time to become familiar with FEDVIP options. FEDVIP 2019 plans and rates will be online in the fall. But you can look at 2018 plans and rates now.

FEDVIP offers a choice between 10 dental and 4 vision options. This fall will be your first chance to enroll in a FEDVIP dental or vision plan for 2019 coverage. If you're eligible, you can enroll in FEDVIP during the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season. This runs from Nov. 12 to Dec. 10.

Who is eligible?

Retired service members and their families who were eligible for TRDP are eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage. Also, they're eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage if enrolled in a TRICARE health plan.

Family members of active duty service members who are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan are eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage.

Children enrolled in or eligible for TRICARE Young Adult aren't eligible to enroll in FEDVIP.

When do you enroll?

You can enroll in FEDVIP during the Federal Benefits Open Season. This year's open season runs from Nov. 12 through Dec. 10, 2018. Your coverage will begin on Jan. 1, 2019.

If you currently have TRDP, you must enroll in a FEDVIP plan during the Federal Benefits Open Season to continue dental coverage for 2019.

The Federal Benefits Open Season is your annual opportunity to enroll in, change, or cancel a FEDVIP dental or vision plan.

For more information, visit the FEDVIP website at <https://tricare.benefeds.com/>. You can see if you're eligible for FEDVIP in 2019. You can also compare FEDVIP plans, look up frequently asked questions and sign up for updates.

Take COMMAND

☆☆ Enhance Your TRICARE® Experience

Did You Know?

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR NEW VISION COVERAGE IN 2019.

Eligible beneficiaries will have the opportunity to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) during Federal Benefits Open Season for coverage beginning in 2019.

Federal Benefits Open Season runs **Nov. 12 – Dec. 10, 2018.**

To learn more and sign up for alerts, visit tricare.benefeds.com or tricare.mil/fedvip.



#takecommand

FORT SAM HOUSTON

BAMC hosts Retiree Appreciation Day

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 4,700 military retirees, retiring service members and family members received useful information about programs and benefits as well as important health information and screenings during the Joint Base San Antonio and Brooke Army Medical Center Military Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 20 in the hospital's Medical Mall.

"Today is all about you," said BAMC Commander Army Brig. Gen. George Appenzeller. "This is a thank you from the best medical team in the world to all those who are out there who have served."

"We are profoundly aware that any achievements we may have made are built on the foundation of you and your families sacrifice," Appenzeller said, thanking them for their service. "You do not know the impact that you have made."

He encouraged them to take advantage of the more than 100 information tables and services provided at the annual health fair.

Retirees and their family members had direct access to services including free flu shots and other immunizations, mammograms, wellness activities and much more. There was walk-in ID card services on the lower level, as well as information tables on the first, second and third floor in the hospital.

"BAMC and the 502nd Air Base Wing goes all out for our retirees," said Maria Guerrero, chief of the Patient Experience Office and one of the main organizers of the event.



JASON W. EDWARDS

A Brooke Army Medical Center staff member tests the grip strength of an attendee during the Joint Base San Antonio and BAMC Military Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 20 in the hospital's Medical Mall.

"It's about honoring our service members, retirees and family members so they know we care about them for taking care of us," Guerrero said. "The BAMC staff will continue to honor them during Retiree Appreciation Day and make it better every year."

"We always try to add something different and this year we have included a lot of hands-on care like women's wellness exams, mammograms and skin cancer screenings," Guerrero said. "Several clinics treated people on the spot or scheduled follow-up appointments for new and existing patients."

90-year-old Korean War veteran, retired Army Sgt. Maj. Victor Lopez said he was very interested in finding about changes to the TRICARE dental plan. Representatives from TRICARE Information and Humana-Military were there to inform retirees of their medical benefits.

"This is the best retiree event that I've seen," Lopez said. "Every year it gets better. There's a lot of good information that applies to each and every one of us and I'm taking advantage of that."

Retirees who had an up-to-date prescription for eyeglasses were able to have their glasses ordered at the health fair. In addition, attendees could turn in any expired or unwanted medications at the BAMC pharmacy booth.

Art Mitchell, a Navy veteran, said he and his wife Judy have been coming to BAMC since 1999.

"Thank God for BAMC, we love them," Judy Mitchell said. "This is very helpful for all of us retirees. We can get all kinds of information about different things that are going on. A lot of them I didn't even know we could participate in."

84-year-old retired Army Maj. Gen. William L. Moore Jr., a frequent patient at BAMC and the Center for the Intrepid, also attended the Military Retiree Appreciation Day event. Moore was commander at BAMC from 1988-1991.

"Duty, honor, and service has been the tradition of Brooke Army Medical Center, since its inception, years ago," Moore said. "The annual health fair is a manifestation of the patient-centered focus that is characteristic of the services provided by this facility."

Lincoln Military Housing opens Bark Park for four-legged friends

From Lincoln Military Housing

Lincoln Military Housing at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston now offers a place where four-legged friends can run and play. The Bark Park, located behind building 407, opened Oct. 2 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the park.

Not only does the park offer plenty of space for pets to play catch, chase and make new friends, it also boasts a pet washing station, an agility course, artificial turf and decomposed granite, which is extremely durable and environmentally friendly. The park is only for those pets registered with Lincoln Military Housing

The ceremony was held in conjunction with the

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston observance of National Night Out Oct. 2, which brought installation organizations together, in a fun safety-focused atmosphere.

The event ended with an agility demonstration by a JBSA working dog and a Halloween Pet Costume Contest. Small, medium, and large dogs were assembled in the dog park to show off their flare for disguise in this first-ever pet-friendly resident event.

A yellow lab named Penny, sported a porcupine costume to take home one of three grand prize packages. Other winners included a Yorkshire Terrier who was dressed as one of the "Golden Girls" and a pair of dogs who portrayed the Chic-Fil-A cow and chicken. Prizes included a dog bed, assorted dog toys and treats.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lincoln Military Housing at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston now offers a place where four-legged friends can run and play. The Bark Park, located behind building 407, opened Oct. 2 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the park.

BAMC's Ward 6T seeks dog teams

**From Brooke Army Medical Center
Public Affairs**

Ward 6T of the Behavioral Health Department at Brooke Army Medical Center is looking for qualified and dynamic dog teams to aid in the department's healthcare mission.

Specifically, dog teams will therapeutically interact with patients,

family members and staff assigned to the ward. Interested owners must be able to present all necessary certification documents at the time of interview. The team's certification must be issued by a licensed evaluator applying a nationally recognized curriculum and must include the following information:

» Picture identification of

animal/animals and owner.

» Name of owner and animal/animals.

» Expiration date.

» Temperament Standard.

» Name of the organization issuing the certification document.

» Name and telephone number of AAA/AAT supervisor.

» Determination of animal/owner team status (AAA or AAT).

» DD Form 2209 Veterinary Health Certificate with updated immunization record or commensurate certified documentation issued by the State, etc.

» A statement that the animal/animals is/are at least 1 year old and that the owner has had the animal/animals for over a year.

During the interview process teams must demonstrate the animal's ability to respond to the owner's commands, such as: "Come," "Down," "Sit," "Stay" and "Leave It," etc. Owners/animals with a temperament not suited to an unpredictable, complex environment (e.g. children, crowds, etc.) will be nonselected.



Interested owners/teams should contact BAMC's Ward 6T at 210-916-1085 to set up an in-person interview. Pet team requirements and availability will be discussed. Applicants, please bring the animal/animals and all necessary documentation to the interview.

MICC contract support for Soldiers exceeds \$5B

By Daniel. P. Elkins

MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Contracting members from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command, headquartered at San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, administered and executed contract actions valued at more than \$5 billion in support of Soldiers and their families in fiscal 2018.

The command's two brigades, two field directorate offices, 30 contracting offices and nine battalions executed a combined 29,795 contract actions valued at \$4,985,927,284 while also administering 499,299 Government Purchase Card transactions worth more than \$726.7 million for the fiscal year.

Contracting members awarded contracts in support of Army commands, installations and activities across the country through the final hours of the government fiscal year, which came to a close Sept. 30. This included approximately \$7.4 million in



SGT. RYAN RAYNO

Aundair Kinney (right), the director for the Military and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Hood, exchanges business cards with a contractor at the Mission Command Training Center April 18.

last-minute contract requirements in support of the Installation Management Command to address storm

damage from Hurricane Florence that battled the eastern seaboard in September.

"Army acquisition professionals and our contracted partners share the tremendous responsibility of equipping and enabling the warfighter," said Brig. Gen. Bill Boruff, MICC commanding general. "That capability extends to responding at a moment's notice to emerging requirements and further demonstrates the caliber of professionalism our civilian and uniformed workforce embodies day in and day out in support of Army."

The MICC also met all five of its small-business socioeconomic goals in fiscal 2018 for the fourth consecutive year. The MICC Small Business Programs workforce consists of specialists around the country representing small business interests. They conduct outreach events to inform industry representatives of installation requirements to ensure their maximum opportunity to compete for Army contracts.

BAMC tests emergency capabilities during city-wide exercise

By Lori Newman

BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"This is an important opportunity to ensure our readiness in case of a mass casualty incident as well as build on relationships with our community emergency response partners," said Air Force Col. (Dr.) Patrick Osborn, deputy commander for surgical services. "At BAMC we value these training opportunities that underscore the importance of mission readiness and help ensure we're prepared to serve anytime, anywhere."

"Exercises like this are critical for preparation for real world events such as the Sutherland Springs shooting," Osborn added.

The scenario for this exercise was mass shooting involving explosives at Freeman Coliseum in downtown San Antonio. At BAMC, an additional scenario involving a tanker truck containing a chemical agent colliding with a bus carrying patients, was added to test the hospital's ability to decontaminate patients before treatment.

"Exercises such as this are important for our daily operations because we never know when the next mass casualty event is going to be," said Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Scott Trexler, BAMC trauma medical director. "As a Level I Trauma Center we, along with

our partners at University Health, represent the highest level of response for the traumatically injured patient in South Texas so it's important that we know our system is ready for these no-notice events regardless of when or where they may occur."

The BAMC trauma mission is unique as the Department of Defense's primary readiness platform for more than 8,800 personnel who work together to hone their ability to care for patients and sustain wartime trauma care skills.

BAMC evaluates more than 4,000 trauma patients each year. Over 90 percent of those are civilian trauma patients from the local community.

"The benefit of training here at BAMC is that we work together as a team," Trexler said. "Every day we are taking care of traumatically injured patients. This allows our team to work together doing the things they are going to be doing downrange."

STRAC, whose members include hospitals, health systems and EMS agencies, organized the annual exercise. STRAC has responsibility under state law for planning and coordinating emergency care within a 26,000 square-mile region in South Texas.

"Doing this with our partners benefits the community as a whole," Trexler said, explaining that the exercise tests the system on many



JASON W. EDWARDS

Members of Brooke Army Medical Center's medical staff assist an exercise role player Oct. 11 during the 2018 San Antonio Mass Casualty Exercise and Evaluation at BAMC.

levels, including making sure the right patients are sent to the right location at the right time.

"This is certainly a key to preparation for an event that may affect

San Antonio or southern Texas. It allows us to ensure that we have the resources and the skills available to respond to something like this," Osborn said.

LACKLAND

JBSA activates 502d Civil Engineer Group

The group provides fire protection and disaster preparedness and maintains infrastructure and power

By Senior Airman Krystal Wright

502D AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 502d Air Base Wing held an activation ceremony for the 502d Civil Engineer Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Oct. 26. The group was activated effective Sept. 1, with Brenda Roesch as the director.

"Today marks an important chapter in the evolution of our wing and the history of JBSA," said Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman, 502d ABW and JBSA commander and presiding officer of the ceremony.

The activation restructures the 502d CEG to improve command and control, streamline operations, reduce overhead costs and ultimately vest authority, responsibility, accountability and resources in a single commander.

The new organization structure streamlines support functions into a single organization while retaining critical customer service centers at each JBSA location.

"The success of this group plays a fundamental role in our nation's ability to project power and maintain strength and stability of our Armed Forces and country," Lenderman said. "We are the gateway to the Air Force. Every enlisted Airman in the United States Air Force walks through the gates of JBSA. We are the home of military medicine; every medic in the Department of Defense is trained here. We also train 100 percent of the C-5 pilots and military working dogs."

JBSA is home to numerous units: Army North, Army South, Air Education and Training Command, Air Force Personnel Center, Air Force Recruiting Service, 24th Air Force, 25th Air Force, Installation and Mission Support Center, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, 59th Medical Wing, 37th Training Wing, 12th Flying Training Wing and the 688th Information Operations Wing.

"And that is just scratching the



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman (left), 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, presents the 502d Civil Engineer Group guidon to Brenda L. Roesch as she takes command during an activation ceremony Oct. 25 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

surface," Lenderman said. "In total, this group supports more than 450,000 personnel and 266 mission partners. More than 1,400 of the best engineers in the U.S. Air Force wake up every single day and make miracles happen. Every day they keep JBSA up and running."

The 502d CEG provides fire protection, disaster preparedness, explosive ordnance removal and environmental support for all of JBSA. The group also maintains JBSA's infrastructure and power along with the fuel, water and sewage systems. In addition, they keep the installations pest- and weed free and manage recycling.

"We are the ones running to danger: fires, unexploded ordnance, hazardous waste spills," Roesch said. "We are the

ones getting dirty fixing things. When everyone else is saying 'these are awful work conditions; it's 78 degrees,' our engineers are working in 140 degree attics to fix the air conditioning. They are the ones catching the bats people are scared of and then getting bit. They are up to their necks in sewage some days."

"It's beyond hard and our engineers keep doing it, and we are making a huge difference for our mission partners," Roesch said, adding that the engineers' work ethic, dedication and motivation was humbling.

The 502d Civil Engineer Squadron dates back to Feb. 15, 1979, when it was first stood up at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, as the 3800th Civil Engineering Squadron. It was later

re-designated as the 502d Civil Engineering Squadron Oct 1, 1992, then as the 502d Civil Engineer Squadron March 1, 1994. The squadron, however, deactivated the following October during the overall mission reassignment from the 502d ABW to the 42d ABW.

The 502d CES was reactivated April 30, 2010, at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston under the 502d Mission Support Group and later reassigned to the 502d Installation Support Group at JBSA-Lackland.

When the 502d CEG was activated, the 502d CES was reassigned from the 502d Installation Support Group to the 502d CEG. In addition, the 802d and 902d CES - which were both inactive since Dec. 3, 2013 - were activated and also assigned to 502d CEG.

Echo Company, DLI provide pathway to Army career

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Initial entry trainees, from various parts of the world, with the hope of joining the United States Army, must learn the language that will take them to the next level.

Some are fresh out of school, while others look for a new career that will not only serve the U.S., but support their families in the process.

Echo Company works with the Defense Language Institute English Language Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland to help trainees bring their English skills up to a level where they'll be able to enlist in basic training with the Army.

"Our sole purpose here is English language learning," said Capt. Tyler Mallon, Echo Company commander. "We take initial entry trainees. They are prebasic trainees who haven't gone to basic training. This is their first experience in the Army."

Trainees include people with green cards who can gain U.S. citizenship once they graduate from both the Echo program and basic training with the Army. Ninety percent of trainees are from Puerto Rico, where citizenship already exists.

"By coming here first, even if it's just for two weeks, [the trainees] get their keys to success," Mallon said. "They're learning and improving a language. They're trying to learn what it means to become a soldier."

Trainees are under the watchful eyes of drill sergeants tasked with getting them to DLI daily for English lessons. Drill sergeants also ensure trainees maintain pace with physical readiness training and Army life.

"Last year we had a lot of trainees that were affected by Hurricane Maria from different walks of life," said Senior Drill Sergeant Mayraibeth Berry, 1-40th Field Artillery Battalion. "They wanted something different."

"Once they grasp that language, and they're used to the drill sergeants yelling at them, they can take a deep breath, they can listen and understand what the drill sergeant is telling them to do and respond accordingly," Mallon said.

"You have to instill the discipline from day one," Berry added.

New trainees start with a briefing at Echo Company on Tuesdays that tells

"You're now in the Army and they're paying you to improve your English. Your language learning is our top priority and we're going to do everything we can to make sure you succeed in all that."

Capt. Tyler Mallon, Echo Company commander

them what to expect.

"You're now in the Army and they're paying you to improve your English," Mallon added. "Your language learning is our top priority and we're going to do everything we can to make sure you succeed in all that."

Once trainees comprehend the English language and pass a required test, they are shipped out to one of the four Army basic training facilities across the United States.

Since 1975 Echo Company has prepared trainees for Army military basic training. Trainees from approximately 38 different countries went through training at Echo Company in 2017.

Trainees can take anywhere from two weeks to six months to complete English training. Echo Company has a 95 percent graduation rate.



AIRMAN1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Santos Mathis, Echo Company drill sergeant, instructs an initial entry trainee during intake Oct. 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Drill sergeants ensure trainees maintain pace with physical readiness training, Army life and English lessons at the Defense Language Institute.

U.S. Air Force Band of the West mentors the next generation

By Senior Airman Krystal Wright
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Air Force Band of the West members have started a music mentoring program for students in grades K through 12.

Band members visited four Title 1 school campuses multiple times throughout the semester as part of a community outreach program.

Visiting the schools on several occasions versus the previous once-a-year schedule helps the Air Force mentors build a stronger relationship with the students.

“Music is a universal language,” said Airman 1st Class Michael Steiger, U.S. Air Force Band of the West trombonist. “It can convey things that could not be conveyed through words. It creates a common bond where there was not one before.”

The schools are Irving Academy Middle School, Marshall High School, Villarreal Elementary and Adams Hill Elementary.

During their time with the students, the musicians talked about their instruments and demonstrated different kinds of music and various styles each instrument can produce. Some of the instruments they introduced to the children included the bassoon, flute, piccolo, different kinds of trombones, drums, clarinet and numerous small percussion instruments like bells and a triangle.

Not only did the Airmen play for the children, they also had the children play for them and then provided constructive feedback, along with tips and tricks to improve.

“We are creating a dynamic experience for them,” Steiger said. “With music, you are not just observing, you’re engaging with it and your imagination is crafting something with it.”

The mentor program has received positive feedback from both the students and school staff.

“I think it is absolutely amazing how you incorporate music into the Armed Forces; I had no clue and I find it very interesting,” said Alicia Perez, Villarreal Elementary computer teacher. “It brings joy not only to your (troops) but now to our students. I think it is pretty awesome.

“My favorite part is the students learning that wearing the uniform doesn’t just mean defending the country and being strong, but also having another part, that soft part ... bringing happiness to everyone,” she continued.

The other teachers echoed Perez’s sentiments.

“I thought it was really neat that they were willing to come out and play for kids and be part of our community,” said Mary-Ellen Fimbel, Villarreal Elementary music teacher. “My favorite part is seeing the kids get excited about music and the chance to interact with military members. It is exciting for them to see that music has an application in the real world and to get to hear quality professionals.”

By mentoring the children musically, the band members also have the opportunity to engage with them as military members, which can be a unique opportunity for some of the children.

“A lot of the students ask, ‘Why are you here at our school,’ and I ask them if they knew anyone in the military or was a veteran, and the majority have never met anyone in the military,” said Airman 1st Class Burton Fowler, U.S. Air Force Band of the West bassoon player. “I think it is important to let them see that we are just regular people like them who choose to serve and that anyone willing to work can do the same.”



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN KRISTAL WRIGHT

U.S. Air Force Band of the West musicians perform for Villarreal Elementary students Oct. 17 in San Antonio.

“I thought it was really neat that they were willing to come out and play for kids and be part of our community. My favorite part is seeing the kids get excited about music and the chance to interact with military members. It is exciting for them to see that music has an application in the real world and to get to hear quality professionals.”

Mary-Ellen Fimbel, Villarreal Elementary music teacher

The other Airmen not only shared those feelings, but expressed pride in being able to be ambassadors for the military to these school.

“Our core mission values as a unit is to honor, inspire and connect,” Steiger said. “This is the kind of mission where we hit all three: We are honoring those who serve before us, are serving and will serve; we are inspiring and getting these kids super amped about band; and represent the military.”

“This is a meaningful vocation to take up,” he added. “To serve your country is an important thing that you choose to do; it’s not conscripted. We do it in service to all and it includes those kids, and they should understand that. Not to sound cheesy, but when we put on the uniform, we serve all Americans.”



Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Robinson, U.S. Air Force Band of the West flutist, demonstrates different styles of music on her instrument for Villarreal Elementary students.

JBSA Dermatology at forefront of wounded warrior care

From JBSA Laser Surgery and Scar Center

The 59th Medical Wing is home to the Joint Base San Antonio Laser Surgery and Scar Center, one of the most sophisticated medical treatment centers of its kind in the nation.

Located at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, this state-of-the-art clinic functions within the Brooke Army Medical Center's Department of Dermatology to provide world-class medical and surgical care for diseases of the skin, hair, and nails for active duty service members, dependents, and military retirees.

The JBSA Laser Surgery and Scar Center offers a wide range of procedural capabilities with one of the largest collections of laser and energy-based devices in the country. While the center offers an extensive array of treatment options for a myriad of dermatologic conditions,

the Laser Surgery and Scar Center specializes in optimizing the care and management of trauma and burn scars, residual limbs, and other skin diseases in the wounded warrior population.

Also located at BAMC, the Center for the Intrepid has championed a multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitation for the wounded warrior population, particularly those with traumatic lower extremity amputations requiring prostheses. Unfortunately, dermatologic issues including excessive sweating, itching, discomfort, skin infections, and irritation can limit the use of these life-changing prostheses

and detract from patient satisfaction.

However, Maj. Nathaniel Miletta, chief of the JBSA Laser Surgery and Scar Center, and his colleagues demonstrated in 2016 that the use of laser hair removal at the residual limb-prosthetic interface markedly improved the health-related quality of life in the wounded warrior population.

Coupled with the use of botulinum toxin for local sweat reduction, laser hair removal now functions as a minimally invasive and safe option for wounded warriors to help maintain their prosthesis use and functionality.

The JBSA Laser Surgery and Scar Center also utilizes an advanced

approach to the treatment of patients with significant burn and trauma scars. Whereas traditional therapy for scars involves extensive surgical interventions, Miletta, Col. (Dr.) Chad Hivnor, and retired Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Bart Iddins, 59th MDW dermatologists, utilize an innovative combination of laser surgery, pharmacotherapy, and minor tissue-conserving surgery that can be tailored to each individual patient in a cost-effective manner.

As hypertrophic scarring represents a significant source of morbidity in the general population as well, the broader application of this multimodal methodology has the potential to

maximize the long-term aesthetic, functional, and symptomatic outcomes for both civilian and military patients in need moving forward.

Ongoing research collaborations with world-class academic institutions, including the Shriners' Hospital for Burn Care – Boston, the Wellman Center for Photomedicine – Harvard Medical School, and the United States Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center – BAMC, aim to forge new frontiers in scientific discovery and application to ensure the absolute best care is provided to our patients each day.

While simultaneously offering the aforementioned cutting-edge diagnostic

and treatment techniques, the JBSA Laser Surgery and Scar Center partners with the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium Dermatology Residency Program.

The joint service graduate medical education program, led by program director Lt. Col. Wendi Wohltmann, is comprised of 21 dermatology resident physicians and 13 board-certified dermatologist staff members.

The JBSA Laser Surgery and Scar Center seeks to equip and train the next generation of military physicians to effectively deliver outstanding dermatologic care to our patients around the globe.

RANDOLPH

JBSA Defenders are Battle of Badges champs

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Security forces members and firefighters from across Joint Base San Antonio faced off once again for the annual battle of the badges Oct. 19-20 at JBSA-Randolph.

After two days of competition, the members of the 502nd Security Forces Squadron emerged victorious as back-to-back champions.

"You put yourselves between people and danger, and take care of them at all cost," said James Graham, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron director. "I'm so honored to have fighters and defenders on my team; it's humbling to see what you do every day."

This year's Battle of the Badges was comprised of three main events: a force-on-force exercise, firefighter combat challenge and a fire truck pull.

In addition to the traditional challenges, this year's event opened with a basketball game Oct. 19, where the defenders pulled off a victory.

The defenders were also able to edge out the firefighters in the truck pull and firefighter challenge with a time of 26:30 and 2:10:31.

The firefighters completed both challenges with times of 28:45 and 2:11:49.

The firefighters were however able to pull off a victory during the force on force exercise and a dance off between Sparky the Fire Dog and McGruff the Crime Dog.

Families and friends of security forces members and firefighters also attended the event to learn about some of the first-responder missions performed on a daily basis, to cheer on competitors and meet with Sparky the fire dog and McGruff the crime dog.



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG

Military Working Dog Becky, assigned to the 902nd Security Forces Squadron, takes down Staff Sgt. Travis Fiero, 902nd SFS K-9 handler, as Senior Airman Carlos Castro, 902nd SFS K-9 handler, commands the canine during a MWD demonstration at the 2018 Battle of the Badges competition at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



The 902nd Security Forces Squadron team members (dressed in firefighter gear) who won the firefighter fitness challenge portion of the Battle of the Badges competition Oct. 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Camp Talon are from left: Senior Airman Joshua Reeves, Airman 1st Class Jared Tajalle, Staff Sgt. Neal Kiser, Airman 1st Class Elliot Elia and Senior Airman Patrick Sullivan.



Staff Sgt. Justin Phelps, 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron lead firefighter, races up the stairs while carrying a hose during the firefighter fitness challenge portion of the Battle of the Badges competition Oct. 20, 2018, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Camp Talon.

‘Exemplifying Pride in Our Service, Heritage’

By Tech. Sgt. Ave I. Young

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For the 12th Flying Training Wing, the corrosion control paint shop provides the opportunity to repurpose and reuse select aircraft. Their capabilities allow planes to be in service longer by appropriately balancing operational needs and long-term sustainment of Air Force assets.

For the third time this year, the paint shop has repainted an aircraft to mimic another, much older aircraft. This time they repainted a T-1A Jayhawk to appear as a WWII B-26 Marauder bomber.

“This aircraft [T-1A] is assigned to the 451st Flying Training Squadron in Pensacola, Florida,” said Daniel Rodriguez, 12th Maintenance Group paint shop supervisor. “Once it got here, we evaluated the paint using a scoring system [1 to 5] five being the worst, and this aircraft fell into that category. Looking at the history of this aircraft, this time it will be sand-scuffed.”

Sand scuff describes how the paint

shop scratches the paint that is present.

“To determine which paint scheme is used, there is a process of submitting a Form 1236 to get approval from higher,” Rodriguez said.

The 451st FTS requested to have the original color, markings and insignia to match that which the 322nd Bomb Group applied to their 451st Bomb Squadron B-26 fleet for the D-Day bombings. This paint scheme greatly enhances the ability of the 451st FTS to accomplish the squadron vision of “exemplifying pride in our service and heritage” by celebrating the squadron’s success stories and will serve as a visual reminder of Air Force heritage throughout its tenure.

“We affect the flying mission by a lot of little things that people don’t think about,” Rodriguez said.

The mission of the corrosion control shop is to produce, deliver and sustain assets to meet or exceed their service lives at acceptable cost and reduce the negative impacts of corrosion on operations, resources and safety.



SEAN WORRELL

Assigned to the 451st Flying Training Squadron in Pensacola, Florida, a T-1A Jayhawk with a paint scheme to resemble a WWII B-26 Marauder bomber is parked at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Oct. 5. The 451st FTS requested to have the original color, markings and insignia to match that which the 322nd Bomb Group applied to their 451st Bomb Squadron B-26 fleet for the D-Day bombings.

JBSA designs ‘Find My Ride’ app for buses

By Airman Shelby Pruitt

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Serving nearly 1.6 million passengers a year, most of them students, Joint Base San Antonio’s 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron continues innovation for the installation by designing and implementing a “JBSA Find My Ride” mobile app.

The app includes all of JBSA’s bus routes on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and Medina Annex. Currently, there is no bus service on JBSA-Randolph.

“Basically, it’s going to track each shuttle so the students know when it arrives and how long it’s going to be before it gets to their location,” said Tech. Sgt. Justin Hartley, JBSA Vehicle Operations Support supervisor, 502d Logistics Readiness Squadron. “Each shuttle will have a GPS device that sends a ping to the server every five seconds to update their location on the map.”

Additionally, the app will allow Vehicle Operations to post alerts about delays and emergencies.

“If the buses are running late, there’s a base lockdown or just weather (or) traffic delays, we can shoot information out that they’ll see on that app,” said Todd Deane, JBSA Vehicle Operations manager, 502d LRS. “If the passenger registers and indicates what route they take, it’ll send them a text message so they’ll know.”

One reason the app was created is because of the

THERE’S AN APP FOR THAT?

inconsistency of bus pick-up times at off-base locations, causing students who are training on JBSA to miss the bus.

“The app came about because of our medical students on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and here on JBSA-Lackland. They have clinical routes that go downtown every day, and there is no set time on pick-up in the afternoon,” Hartley said. “They’ll just be standing outside for up to an hour waiting on the bus, so we thought, ‘How could we help them out?’”

The app is intended to keep JBSA passengers safe and out of the elements while waiting for their bus.

Although the app will be free, and available on both the Google Play Store and the Apple Store, it is meant for Department of Defense ID Card holders who are able to ride the shuttles provided. The app will also be open to visiting family members who have been officially invited to the installation.

“To activate the app you will be issued a password,” Deane said. “This will be updated monthly so we can control access to the app.”

Passwords to access the app will be issued to each Basic Military Training Airmen to relay to their families and to each student in training on JBSA, and will be available to other ID card holders by request.

The avenue for the app came about as a part of the Chief of Staff Air Force initiative to provide wing



AIRMAN SHELBY PRUITT

Tech Sgt. Justin Hartley, 502d Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Operations Support supervisor, displays a preview of the Joint Base San Antonio “Find My Ride” app Sept. 9 at JBSA-Lackland.

commanders with innovation funding. The 502nd LRS was awarded a \$50,000 Squadron Innovation Funding grant for the idea.

The outsource contractors who are developing the website and managing the creation are currently developing the website, loading up all routes and will integrate it with a mapping program, Deane said.

The 502nd LRS is planning a “soft start” of the app during the week of Nov. 5. After they make sure it is functioning properly and fix anything needed, it is slated to go “live” the week after, on Nov. 12.

“This is for the customers. It’s why we did it, to help them and provide a better experience for them,” Hartley said. “This just helps everybody, helps us and helps them.”