

JBSA LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

APRIL 13, 2018



PHOTO BY JOHNNY SALDIVAR

Students in the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School Basic Officer Leader Course carry a "wounded" service member on a stretcher towards a helicopter that will evacuate the patient to a medical facility during a simulated tactical exercise Feb. 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Medical officers improve leadership skills

Page 7



JBSA members volunteer at REHABARAMA

Page 6



Symposium strengthens IAAFA partnerships

Page 13

COMMENTARY

Please return shopping carts here

By Master Sgt.
Carla Milanese

ROBERT D. GAYLOR NCO ACADEMY

“Please return shopping carts here.”

Most of us have seen this sign at store parking lots telling shoppers to return their cart to a designated area upon completion of their shopping. Yet, we usually see a handful of carts scattered across the parking lot.

For some people, it might be just a habit. We simply don't think about the inconveniences our actions can cause others.

We don't always think about the effects, consequences, or the work we create for others.

It sure can be frustrating when you find what appears to be a great parking spot, only to pull in and discover a family of shopping carts there. You either have to get out to move the

carts or find a different spot. In the grand scheme of things, these are just minor inconveniences though, right?

How about when the wind blows the carts right into the street, causing them to interfere with traffic? An observant bystander might retrieve a runaway cart before a potential accident occurs. Now it just became a little more serious.

Like the shoppers who leave their carts scattered in parking lots, think about things you might be unintentionally leaving behind for others. Maybe you work somewhere with shift work, and you carelessly left tasks for the next shift. Or, maybe you failed to inform your replacement about something extremely important pertaining to the mission. Due to your absent-mindedness, the team is now missing a vital

piece needed to ensure things go smoothly. In a lot of career fields and jobs, there is potential for great harm to people, equipment, or processes when this happens.

Now, what about people who purposely leave things behind because it's “not their job?” We're not talking about being inattentive anymore, we're talking about the people who have the mentality that some things are “someone else's job.”

It's a quick walk to the cart return area, right? Even if workers patrol these areas and bring large amounts of carts back to the storefront, they shouldn't also have to pick up after us when there's a sign asking us to do our part first.

We should think first before we purposely leave a task for someone else.

It may not be in your job

description, but it might be something you can still take care of without any detriment to your mission. Even better, it may help someone greatly.

We may have to seek out expertise at times. It's better to seek out expertise and do the right thing, rather than not try at all because it's not your job.

When I first noticed the shopping cart phenomenon, I imagined how people made other decisions in their lives if they didn't return carts. I now know that the “shopping carts” in our lives may be other things or tasks.

It may be intentional or it may be unintentional; we won't always know. If we are aware of our own actions and think twice before we leave the little things for someone else, our “shopping carts” won't go rogue.

Feedback can strengthen customer experience

By Jeff Champagne

INTERACTIVE CUSTOMER
EVALUATION SITE ADMINISTRATOR

With the explosion of social media feedback tools, there are now countless ways your customers can rate you what happened during their experience and how they feel about your organization, products and services.

Customer feedback is not a new concept. It is now much easier for customers to applaud efforts — or voice concerns — about your organization. The tools we use today are different and more democratized.

So, here's the question: What is your organization doing with that real-time customer feedback? And, are you using those ideas, thoughts and suggestions to strengthen the customer experience and are you using customer feedback to spark innovation in your



organization?

Here are five items that can help you start using customer feedback to drive performance and innovation in your organization.

► **Act now.** Make sure you are doing something meaningful with your customer feedback and make sure the customer knows.

► **Minimize customer effort.** Through listening and observation, find out how many times your customers have to

interact with you to get what they need. Understand their point of view regarding how they are working to get what they need. This direct feedback can lead you straight to some feedback and concerns that could easily be solved or could create value for a much larger groups of customers.

► **Translate feedback into innovation.** Use your customer's observations, ideas and feedback to drive service innovation in your organization.

Often customers have ideas you haven't considered, yet they are the ones using your service on a daily basis. Perhaps create a simple process where you can make the most out of the feedback.

► **Spot emerging customer needs.** Use customer feedback to identify needs that haven't been solved or even articulated yet. Don't just take customer comments and feedback at face value — jump in.

► **Get emotional.** Identify the emotional tone your customers convey when they talk about your service or organization. The emotional elements build loyalty. Work to strengthen that by listening intently to customer feedback. Remember what Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and author Maya Angelou said, “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

JBSA LEGACY

Joint Base San Antonio
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing
and JBSA Commander
BRIG. GEN. HEATHER PRINGLE

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

502nd ABW/JBSA
Chief of Command
Information
ED PRINCE

Editor
STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff

SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER

DAVID DEKUNDER

ROBERT GOETZ

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

TECH. SGT. AVE YOUNG

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

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

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

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

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

2018 JBSA AMBASSADORS TAKE PART IN NCAA DIV. I MEN'S HOOPS FINAL



PHOTOS BY STEVE ELLIOTT

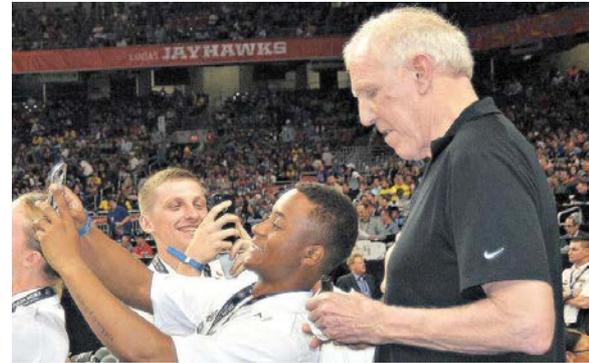
Above: The 2018 Joint Base San Antonio Ambassadors stand at midcourt before the NCAA Division I men's basketball championship game April 2 at the Alamodome. Shown from left to right are: Army Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas J. Weaver; Army Sgt. 1st Class Latrise N. Flanigan, Marine Cpl. Emanuela Shehu, Marine Sgt. Jonaton T. McFadden Jr., Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Shannon Chatterton, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Diana Mendoza De Saenz, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Christofer Mercado-Wallace, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Melissa M. Bennett and Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Victoria Toth.



Right: Villanova fans celebrate the Wildcats' victory at the NCAA Division I men's basketball championship game.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Diana Mendoza Se Saenz (left) and Petty Officer 1st Class Shannon Chatterton, U.S. Navy members serving as 2018 Joint Base San Antonio Ambassadors, salute during the National Anthem as part of the opening ceremonies at the NCAA Division I men's basketball championship game April 2 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.



Legendary NBA player Bill Walton (right) signs autographs for military members during the NCAA Division I men's basketball championship game April 2 at the Alamodome.

DOD, DHS to work with state governors to deploy Guardsmen

The National Guard troops will be stationed at the southern border

By Lisa Ferdinando

DOD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

President Donald J. Trump has directed the Defense and Homeland Security departments to work with state governors to deploy National Guard troops to the southern U.S. border, a top official said April 4.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen said the troops would augment U.S. Customs and Border Protection and provide support

where needed to secure the border with Mexico.

Trump would issue a proclamation later that day on the matter, she said.

In a statement, chief Pentagon spokesperson Dana W. White highlighted Department of Defense support for border security efforts.

"We are working with the Department of Homeland Security to enhance the support we provide to the DHS border security mission," White said. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with DHS to ensure the defense of our nation and security of the American people."

'Unacceptable levels' of illegal activity

Nielsen said the deployment is aimed

at filling the gaps in border security and stopping illegal activities that pose a threat to the country.

"We continue to see unacceptable levels of illegal drugs, dangerous gang activity, transnational criminal organizations and illegal immigration flow across our border," she said.

Border security is national security, Nielsen said.

"We do hope that the deployment begins immediately," she said, adding the troops would support the mission in conjunction of the needs of the specific border state.

DOD to support DHS mission

The Defense Department has long supported DHS efforts to protect the

nation's borders, Nielsen said, including counternarcotics missions, infrastructure construction, persistent surveillance operations training and aerial support throughout the Western Hemisphere.

At the White House April 4, Trump said he wants to use the military to secure the U.S. border with Mexico, in response to gaps in security there. "Until we can have a wall and proper security, we're going to be guarding our border with the military," he said.

Previous presidents have deployed National Guard troops to support security along the U.S. southern border; 6,000 were sent under President George W. Bush, and 1,200 under President Barack Obama.

JBSA leaders show support for sexual assault survivors

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Five Joint Base San Antonio leaders showed their support for sexual assault survivors and urged active-duty members and government civilians to take action against sexual assault, signing a proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at the Medical Education and Training Campus Student Academic Center on April 3 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Signing the proclamation were Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander; Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command commander; Robert Naething, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) deputy to the commanding general; Lt. Col. Jeffery Buffa, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion commanding officer; and Cmdr. Marc Akus, Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit Texas.

The proclamation ceremony included remarks from Pringle, Naething and McCormick-Boyle and the showing of a video that encouraged JBSA members to

be “unafraid” in preventing and reporting sexual assault and standing up for survivors.

Pringle said it will take the efforts of all active-duty members and government civilians to prevent and stop sexual assault.

“We need to be focused on this issue every day of the year,” Pringle said. “One day, one month is not enough. It takes all of us together to eradicate this crime from our ranks. What’s important is that all of us come together and we fight this crime with one voice until the number of sexual assaults in our military is the number zero. That’s what we’re fighting for.”

Naething said sexual assault goes against the values of the military and is detrimental to both teamwork and mission preparedness.

“Teamwork is the bedrock of the protecting every mission,” Naething said. “Sexual assault is the number one destroyer of teamwork. It not only breaks every value we have, it’s also destroys our military’s ability to accomplish missions.”

He said stopping sexual assaults

comes down to not being afraid of speaking up or taking action and for military leaders to set up conditions that make sexual assault unacceptable.

A member of the JBSA Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, or SAPR, spoke at the ceremony about her experiences of being a sexual assault survivor.

Seletha Willis, JBSA SAPR Navy sexual assault response coordinator, said she was sexually abused by her uncle and cousin from ages 6 to 13.

When the rest of the family found out about the abuse, Willis said they made her feel ashamed with her mother beating her and her father stopped talking to her. The experience made her attempt suicide three times.

Later on, Willis also had to endure a marriage in which her ex-husband was controlling and emotionally abusive to her and she has also experienced a variety of health problems, including bone cancer and fibromyalgia.

Overcoming those hardships, Willis has worked as a sexual assault victim advocate for the Army and earned her college degree. She has been the JBSA

SAPR Navy sexual assault response coordinator since 2012.

Willis said her experiences as a sexual assault survivor inspired her to want to work with and help other sexual assault survivors.

“I look back at my journey over the years,” Willis said. “I understand why God has spared my life. I understand my purpose and embrace it. If I hadn’t gone through the childhood trauma, I wouldn’t understand how to empathize with victims during their childhood sexual assault or domestic violence. Most importantly, I know and understand that God wasn’t punishing me. He was strengthening me to be a person someone can lean on when they’re in a weary place.”

Willis said her healing process is still ongoing and her faith continues to sustain her.

“My hope is that my story can help at least one person see there is a light at the end of the darkness,” she said.

McCormick-Boyle thanked Willis for sharing her story.

“It’s an incredible story,” McCormick-Boyle said.

JBSA members take part in REHABARAMA

By Steve Elliott

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of Joint Base San Antonio were among the 200 volunteers who took part in the second annual REHABARAMA in the Highland Park neighborhood April 7, sponsored by the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation.

With the volunteers gathering at 1226 E. Highland Blvd., the event began with remarks from Rebecca Viagrán, District 3 councilwoman, and Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio.

REHABARAMA was concentrated on the 1100-1200 blocks of East Highland Boulevard, bounded by South New Braunfels Avenue to the west and South Gevers Street to the east.

"Twenty homeowners received much-needed assistance with exterior home repairs along the 1100 and 1200 blocks of East Highland Boulevard," said Shanon Miller, OHP director. "In the spirit of neighborhood revitalization, REHABARAMA focuses on hands-on preservation of historic resources and serves as an educational tool for those interested in the preservation trades."

In 2017, more than \$200,000 worth of work was done on 18 houses by more than 200 volunteers in Denver Heights during REHABARAMA. The work included refreshing paint, repairing porches and windows, and addressing significant maintenance items.

San Antonio has a significant number of aging buildings and thousands of



PHOTOS BY MARCELO JONIAUX

low- to moderate-income households struggling to keep up with simple repair and maintenance. At the same time, the number of skilled craftsmen specialized on historic and aging homes is rapidly decreasing.

"We're really proud to be here today and serve Military City USA," Pringle said. "More than 50 percent of the participating residents are veterans or retired military members, while 28 percent have worked in public service. In addition, 28 percent of the residents assisted are living with a disability.

"Giving back to these people who have already given to their country is really an honor," Pringle added.

At left: Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle (right), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, and Airman 1st Class Giana Quinones (left), a client system technician with the 502nd Communication Squadron, scrape off old paint on a house April 7 during the second annual REHABARAMA in the Highland Park neighborhood of San Antonio.



Staff Sgt. Wesley Wright, 502nd Communications Squadron, removes old nails to get a house ready for a new coat of paint during the second annual REHABARAMA on April 7 in the Highland Park neighborhood of San Antonio.

Common repair work includes painting, replacement of missing or deteriorating wood elements on decking, railing, columns, siding, skirting, and/or window screens, installation or refreshing of landscaping or site elements like fences, gates, planters and plantings.

The volunteers worked within an eight-hour time frame and received guidance from professional contractors and companies. Two homes also participated in a wood window restoration workshop prior to REHABARAMA March 30 and 31.

The land containing what is now Highland Park used to operate as dairy farms until the early 1900s. In 1909, the

pastures were sold to six local developers under the name Highland Park Improvement Company. Several streets were named after these developers, including Hammond, Rigsby, Kayton, and Avant.

Development of the area peaked between World War I and World War II and a majority of the homes date to around 1925. At one point, Highland Park was the largest suburb in the city. It was serviced by the No. 10 streetcar until 1933 when it was replaced by bus service.

Joint Base San Antonio celebrates its volunteers

By Tiffany Sertich

JBSA MILITARY & FAMILY READINESS

From leading Family Readiness Groups, Key Spouses and Ombudsmen to coaching youth sports, coordinating PTA meetings and organizing military spouse clubs to supporting our wounded warriors and lending a helping hand at our hospitals, libraries, administrative offices, and museums — volunteers are the foundation of our military community.

They lend their skills, time, and heart to help service members, family members, retirees and civilians.

It's their acts that strengthen and enrich the community. This year, during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 15-21, Joint Base San Antonio

Military & Family Readiness is hosting several events to recognize volunteers and thank them for all that they do.

JBSA-Randolph

- ▶ Volunteer Appreciation Picnic
- ▶ April 13, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Current volunteers and those interested in learning about volunteer opportunities are invited to the M&FRC for a free afternoon picnic. Open to all JBSA patrons. For more information, call 210-652-5321.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

- ▶ Volunteer Awards Ceremony
- ▶ April 18, 1-3 p.m.

Join us as we recognize the nominees from eight

different categories for the Volunteer of the Year Award and the life time achievement Volunteer Excellence Award. These individuals demonstrate the power of giving and have made a positive impact on the lives of others within our community. For more information, call 210-221-2705.

JBSA-Lackland

- ▶ A Time to Bowl, Thank You for your Role!
- ▶ April 20, 3-5 p.m.
- ▶ Registration deadline: April 13

The first 50 JBSA volunteers to register with the JBSA-Lackland M&FRC will receive two free games plus shoes and a meal for the Skylark Bowling Center April 20 from 3-5 p.m. To register, call 210-671-3722.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Course teaches medical officers leadership

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Each year, approximately 2,000 incoming officers at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School learn about Army values and how to be a Soldier in a course that puts their knowledge and leadership skills to the test.

The Basic Officer Leader Course, or BOLC, is the entry-level course for students becoming Army commissioned officers. The course is conducted in two phases: classroom training and field training.

At AMEDDC&S, located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, students in BOLC go through seven weeks of training, four weeks in the classroom at AMEDDC&S and three weeks of field tactical exercises at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

The course is held six to seven times a year at AMEDDC&S, with each class averaging between 250 to 500 students.

During their training, the students in the course are assigned to Company A, 187th Medical Battalion, part of AMEDDC&S, and are trained to the guidelines and standards set by U.S. Army Medical Command and the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

Lt. Col. Werner Barden, AMEDDC&S BOLC chief, said the objective of the course is to train new officers to do Army tasks and to familiarize them with the AMEDDC culture.

“Our responsibility is to build an initial entry Army Medical Department officer for the operating force,” Barden said. “We focus on the basic Army tasks of shoot, move and communicate.”

The areas of shoot, move and communicate that students learn at BOLC include weapon proficiency, hand-to-hand fighting techniques, land navigation and movement, communication, mission planning and tactical execution.

The students learn these Army tasks while being put through simulated combat settings, including a convoy that is ambushed and damaged by an improvised explosive device, gunfire and being shelled by mortar fire.



JOHNNY SALDIVAR

Students in the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School Basic Officer Leader Course, or BOLC, help treat a “wounded” service member during a simulated tactical exercise Feb. 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

In each combat situation – under the careful eye of instructors – the AMEDDC&S students have to plan, react and coordinate the treatment of wounded and injured warfighters, who are groaning and screaming in pain.

Barden said it's critical to the Army mission that AMEDDC officers know what to do in a combat situation, including how to handle and use a weapon.

“Why is it so important that an Army neurosurgeon have that requirement to use a weapon because every one of our officers have the potential to be deployed in harm's way,” he said. “They have to be a Soldier first, then an Army Medical Department officer second. They must be proficient in doing those Soldier tasks.”

In addition, the student officers are learning about the three levels of medical care in a tactical setting as set up by the Army including role one, the treat-

ment, transporting and movement of wounded warfighters in the field by vehicle and helicopter; role two, a medical treatment facility setting in which the wounded are brought in and cared for with equipment and services; and role three, a combat support hospital setting that includes surgical intervention and preventive medicine.

“We are taking what we learn in the classroom and putting it into practical application in a field tactical exercise,” Barden said. “We cover everything in the field from your basic Army warrior tasks to complex movements and communication in a tactical environment. They gain confidence in their own ability, learn effective communication and how to work as a team to accomplish the mission, which for us is the care, treatment and evacuation of our casualties.”

The student officers are trained on how to plan an operation and to brief

subordinates to execute the operation at various levels on both the tactical and operational sides.

Each BOLC has an average of 55 instructors, who are split into six different teams. The instructors are experienced service members who have deployed and been commanders in several locations around the world.

Barden said the course instructors are dedicated professionals who devote many hours preparing, instructing and coaching the students so they can become successful officers and leaders.

Capt. Jennifer Koontz, platoon advisor, instructor and officer in charge for the role three simulation, said the students that go through the simulations are put through situations that make them have to think on their feet and react to problems that come up.

For instance, in the role three simulation, the instructors will simulate a scenario in a combat support hospital in which some of the equipment is down and not working.

“Once we've taught them (about role three) and the flow of everything, then we will have services shutdown and make them critically think: What do you do now?” Koontz said. “The operating room is shut off. What are we going to do now? Or the x-ray machine is down: What do you do next? We make them thank outside of the box on that stuff. We get them comfortable and situated with how everything works and then we get into that next level of the thought process because that stuff happens.”

Barden said one of his toughest challenges in overseeing BOLC is trying to mold an entire class that has many different skill sets and years of experience.

“We have more than 70 plus different skill sets within AMEDDC,” he said. “My challenge is to bring all those 70-plus different medical skill sets to a common Soldier capability.”

Barden said the average years of experience and service in the Army for a BOLC student could range from a newly commissioned officer, who has just

LEADERSHIP

From page 7

completed a ROTC program and is beginning their Army career, to someone who has served 15-plus years.

Barden said the experienced students in BOLC are encouraged to utilize their knowledge and skills by becoming mentors and providing peer-to-peer guidance to the younger students.

1st Lt. John Boswell, who has served for 11 years in the Army, was one of those BOLC students who helped provide guidance and knowledge to the younger incoming officers in the course.

Boswell, who served as a combat medic in Afghanistan, said he and another service member in the course taught a tactical combat care casualty class, instructing younger students on life-saving interventions for injuries in combat.

“Myself as well as the more experienced Soldiers in our platoon are really trying to share as much of our knowledge, as much of our experience as possible,” Boswell said. “We are giving them (younger students) hints about really anything from actual warfighting skills to daily routines of military life. I

think we are doing a pretty good job of showing them some important stuff along the way.”

Boswell was impressed by what he saw from the younger officers in the course.

“I will say, I’m very impressed with our young Soldiers,” he said. “Some of these guys are really young, like early 20s, mid 20s, and they’re extremely motivated and they’re willing to learn and happy to learn. That’s exciting to see for the future of the military.”

2nd Lt. Jennifer LaFalce, a newly commissioned officer in the BOLC course, said many of the experienced students were always there to help her out and provide guidance when she needed it.

“It’s been an incredible experience,” she said. “I’m so grateful to have met so many prior service folks who have now taken the officer’s path because they have so many years of experience under their belt. They’ve been nothing but helpful to me in learning the ropes, how to be a better Soldier, to be a better officer and to learn what right looks like. You’re going to have to teach your Soldiers how to do these things. So it’s helpful to have people who have done it.”

Combat medics learn to save lives at FOB Courage

By Mark Salcedo

AKERROYD BLOOD DONOR CENTER RECRUITER

Tucked into a corner of Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis is a unique military training area — the Soldier Medic Training Site, Forward Operating Base Courage.

During 16 weeks of initial training, Soldiers go through a three-tier training program to become an Army combat medic. They complete casualty assessments, learn to apply a tourniquet, initiate IVs, dress battlefield wounds and conduct other complex medical procedures needed in combat. All Soldiers must pass the National Registry Emergency Medical Technicians exam before graduating and earning the title “combat medic.”

After 14 weeks of classroom and simulated field training, students are transported from JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to FOB Courage for their final two weeks. Here they combine and apply their training: conducting exercises in mounted and dismounted patrols, treating patients in a mass casualty situation and transporting injured patients to a high-

er-level facility for care.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Steve Bolton, Department of Combat Medic Training team leader and instructor, is assigned to FOB Courage. Bolton and the other instructors ensure that the training provided is as realistic and as close to combat as possible. On any given day, teams can be responsible for up to 400 Soldiers at the training site.

Bolton, a combat medic himself, comes from a long line of military service members.

“My dad served in the Army as a communications specialist during Vietnam. And — according to my grandmother — every generation in our family has at least two family members who served in the military.”

He also has two deployments to Afghanistan; once from 2007-2008 and again from 2009-2010. Because of his experience, Bolton started a new initiative during the final combat medic field training exercise.

On the final day of training, he coordinates a blood drive with the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at Brooke Army Medical Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Hous-



MARK SALCEDO

John Whitfield (left), a medical laboratory technician with the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center, prepares to collect blood from Army Pvt. William Mulrone.

ton. During the drive, combat medic students can volunteer to save the life of an injured service member overseas or to a patient in need at BAMC by donating blood.

“A medic’s primary role is to provide emergency medical treatment in combat and to evacuate casualties to the nearest treatment point,” Bolton said. “But there are those times that a medic may have to

give of themselves to ensure that their casualty goes home.”

In 2008, Bolton was assigned as a medic to Company C, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

“I never had an incident where I had to care for a patient for more than 30 minutes,” he said. “However, there were many times when my platoon and I were in the dining facility and a soldier came in stating that blood was needed. We dropped our plates and answered the call.

“Each and every one of us can and should be donating blood. It is a simple thing that each of us can contribute and only takes about 45 minutes from our day,” Bolton stated.

Military blood drives are open to all service members, their family members, Department of Defense federal civilian employees and retirees. Donations from non-DOD civilians who fit the eligibility criteria and have access to an ASBP blood drive are also accepted.

For more information, call the ASBP blood donor recruiter for the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at 210-295-4655.

Soldiers vie for coveted badge at challenge

By Lori Newman
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Eighty-four candidates converged on Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis March 17 to begin their quest for the coveted Expert Field Medical Badge. Only 14 Soldiers walked away with the esteemed badge during a ceremony held March 28.

Following in-processing, the candidates cycled through a week of standardization to learn the performance standards and what was expected of them during testing.

During testing week, the candidates first took their written exam, which included questions from four categories: warrior skill level one tasks, medical detainee operations, field sanitation and medical tasks.

Army Capt. Paul Rosbrook, Company B, 187th Medical Battalion, received the highest score on the written test.

"This is not an opportunity that comes around often for officers," Rosbrook said about the opportunity to go for the badge. "I realize that if you want these things, you have to recognize opportunities and take them."

Rosbrook credited the cadre for the support he received during the standardization phase.

"Since I'm a dietitian, I'm not very skilled in a lot of the things we were taught out here," Rosbrook said. "I give a lot of credit to the great training we received. It was spectacular, just how much time and attention to detail they gave us. They really set a lot of us up for success."

After the written test, candidates had to complete both day and night land navigation. If they were able to prove their skills, they advanced to the three Combat Testing Lanes, or CTLs, where they had to demonstrate their warrior skills as well as medical knowledge, completing tasks from four categories: tactical combat casualty care, evacuation, communications and warrior skills.

Each task on the CTLs and land navigation is evaluated as either "Go" or "No-Go."

Army 1st Lt. Devon Furey, Company A, Brooke Army Medical Center Troop Command, received the most "Go's" during her quest for the EFMB this time around. Last year in Colorado, she fell short of the time she needed to complete the foot march by just 50 seconds.

"I was determined to pass this year," Furey said. "Having the most 'Go's' was an honor. I thought it was a direct reflection of the effort put forth by the graders on all of the CTLs who trained us during standardization week, and the ones who spent extra time after the study hall period was over to work with us to make sure we would get it right during testing week.

"Support from my fellow Soldiers pushed me to succeed and watching my fellow Soldiers pass their lanes at the end of the day made me happier than hearing that I passed mine," Furey said. "Pushing each other to succeed is what EFMB is all about."

The culminating event was the 12-mile foot march, which tested the candidate's physical stamina, state of training and mental attitude.

Army Spc. Harold Owiti finished the foot march with a time of 2 hours, 33 minutes, 8 seconds, making him the first to complete all of the events.

Owiti said the foot march wasn't that tough for him. The most challenging thing for him was the mental aspect of trying to complete the tasks during the EFMB.

"I had to change how I think so I could make it through," Owiti said. "I'm not going to lie, there were days I felt like I wasn't going to make it, but I have friends, family and my wife. I would talk to them on the phone. People kept encouraging me and putting me in the mindset that I was going to get it and every day I was doing one task at a time."



ROBERT SHIELDS

Army 1st Lt. Devon Furey masters one of three warrior skills during Expert Field Medical Badge testing March 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Luciano, Defense Health Agency senior enlisted advisor, was the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony.

Luciano began by congratulating the Soldiers who earned their badge. "It's a great day to be a Soldier and it's a great day to be a Soldier Medic," he said.

He praised the Soldiers for their grit as he described his own experience trying to earn the EFMB, which took him three tries to achieve and how he felt after completing the 12-mile road march.

"I would like to say I was walking a little taller and looking a little sharper," Luciano said. "But, honestly I was looking like John Wayne who just got off a horse after riding 100 miles. I could barely walk and I needed a medic. But I was done with it.

"It was no joke," he said.

"That was a test that really put the grit to you."

Luciano encouraged the Soldiers who didn't achieve the EFMB this time to keep trying.

"For those Soldiers who didn't get the badge this time, all I can say is challenge it again," he said. "Never quit, it's not in your DNA to quit. A combat medic is not going to quit on the battlefield either."

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, BAMC commanding general, agreed.

"Successful leadership is not about getting to the goal every time the first time, it's about what you do thereafter," Johnson said. "It's about how you pick up the pieces and learn from what you have experienced and then move forward."

Johnson said it takes more than excelling in a series of tasks on the CTLs to make Soldiers better medics on the

battlefield. It's the grit, determination and attention to detail they learned during the EFMB that will help them succeed.

"Having the badge is more about a confidence that I can accomplish hard things than the prestige of wearing it," said Army Lt. Col. Chad Bangerter, an endodontist at Budge Dental Clinic, who decided to go for the badge because a co-worker challenged him.

This was the first time BAMC has hosted an EFMB qualification event.

"I think it went really well," said Army Capt. Jessie Smith, officer in charge. "I believe we are the first military treatment facility to ever host an EFMB event."

"We have shown that it can be done and we should continue to do this to continue to build leaders and create badge holders," Smith concluded.

AMEDD Center & School conducts course

From AMEDDC&S Pharmacy Branch

Students attended the Clinical Pharmacy Course, or CPC, at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston during the third week of March 2018.

The CPC is the only short course dedicated to clinical pharmacy practice. This course is agenda-driven based upon current Department of Defense and Army Clinical Pharmacy practice as established by the U.S. Army Pharmacy Consultant.

The course focuses on closing competency gaps by developing critical skills and attributes required to perform as a clinical pharmacist or clinical pharmacy technicians. Additionally, this course encourages pharmacy personnel to occupy greater roles in patient's healthcare, which has been shown to decrease overall medication cost to the organization.

The CPC focuses on the pharmacist-patient role in the medical home, warrior transition, pain management, deployment medicine, and other specialty clinics. Pharmacists and technicians attending the CPC develop confidence, acquire knowledge and obtain a skillset to practice at the edge of their licensure.

More than five years ago, most of these practices were not even discussed in the pharmacy communities, but are now being practiced widely throughout the Army. CPC is the initial thrust that some clinical pharmacist and clinical pharmacy technicians require to step out of their comfort zone and explore new possibilities to improve patient's well-being.

This course is an initiative by the pharmacy consultant to the Army Surgeon General and was originally organized in February 2016 by Dr. Jennifer Evans and Lt. Col. Leslie

Walthall. It is now a semi-annual course that has trained 147 civilian, and military members from Army, Navy, Air Force and Veterans Affairs.

Due to the increasing interest in this course, another iteration was added this year in March. The course objective is to standardize and improve the practice of ambulatory clinical pharmacy by both clinical pharmacists and clinical pharmacy technicians.

Over the last six iterations, this course has undertaken dramatic changes incorporating topics, such as battle field acupuncture, physical exam and computer training on various software such as AsU-Type (a spell-checking software program), while also peaking the interests of our sister services who have now become regular attendees.

The newest and most interesting topic in CPC is Battle Field Acupuncture. This technique was developed in 2001 by Dr. Richard Niemtow and is managed by the U.S. Air Force Acupuncture Center.

This class focuses on a protocol-based acupuncture of five points on each ear to relieve or reduce minor to significant pain. Open label studies shown a response rate of more than 80 percent, but while in clinic physicians report seeing a response rate of more than 95 percent.

If a patient responds appropriately, this practice can help reduce the use of opioids and/or NSAIDs improving overall well-being of the patient. Although due to limited evidence this may still be a placebo effect, it is safe for all non-pregnant immunocompetent adults and as long as the patient is willing to try, it serves as a great tool for our clinical pharmacists.

Clinical pharmacists are often consulted regarding patients that suffer from variety of medical conditions that are treated by multiple medications. Hypertension, hyperlip-



COURTESY PHOTO

Cmdr. Janel Rossetto (left) practices needle placement for battle field acupuncture on Dr. Adam Lang during the Clinical Pharmacy Course at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston during the third week of March 2018.

idemia and diabetes are very common medical conditions that are closely interrelated and should be evaluated at every visit.

One exam that is often overlooked when seeing diabetic patients is the foot exam. In diabetes, the feet of patients may lose sensation and therefore become damaged and/or infected without their awareness. A diabetic foot exam is not routinely conducted by primary care providers, but serves as a key determining factor for a patient's wellbeing and future mobility.

Clinical pharmacists that are routinely conducting these exams developed and taught a class during the CPC regarding these issues.

The physical exam that is performed by clinical pharmacists is not the typical exam where someone slaps a blood pressure cuff on your arm, a thermometer in your mouth while asking you a series of questions about smoking and drinking as the blood pressure machine is conducting its assessment.

help build their clinical note.

During the CPC, users receive a robust class on AsU-Type which assists both technicians and pharmacists in quickly documenting patient encounters allowing for greater time spent with the patient.

A newer and a less recognizable position in the practice of clinical pharmacy is the clinical pharmacy technician. People holding these positions are often overlooked and under-trained, but are always expected to perform at the highest standards for pharmacy technicians.

The CPC is the only Army course that recognizes the clinical pharmacy technician's role in the success of clinical pharmacy and attempts to grow this field by incorporating technician instructors and building separate tracks relevant to the clinical pharmacy technician practice.

For majority of the course, clinical pharmacy technicians are incorporated with the clinical pharmacists, but a few classes are separated into tracks that allow instructors to discuss more pertinent topics to their field.

For technicians, these topics include methods for gathering data that help identify at-risk patients, communicating with patients, scheduling appointments, and performing in-depth medication reconciliation prior to patient's visit with the clinical pharmacist. The CPC recognizes efforts by clinical pharmacy technicians as a force multiplier that allows the clinical pharmacist to increase number of patients seen while spending more time with each patient.

The CPC is taught on a military installation utilizing DOD instructors without a registration cost. Additionally, each student may receive up to 34 hours of Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education, or ACPE, Continuing Pharmacy Education, or CPE, credits required to maintain licensure.

In this course, pharmacists are taught proper methods for taking blood pressure in standard and non-standard patients such as obese, amputees and others; conduct a diabetic foot exam using a monofilament, tuning fork and a reflex hammer; and a series of questions to ask patients that help avoid missing pertinent health information.

Pharmacists that step into these rolls are able to recognize if the diabetic patient's feet have signs of undiagnosed damage and refer them to a specialist before their condition becomes worse and/or irreversible.

Although AsUType software has been available in most DOD hospitals, it is not utilized by majority of users to its maximum potential. This software allows the user to type short user-defined codes in any word processor such as MS Word, AHLTA notes, or Notepad that are then auto-translated into user-friendly text. This program also allows users to program decision trees that with further input

LACKLAND

Symposium strengthens IAAFA partnerships

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Inter-American Air Forces Academy, or IAAFA, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland welcomed partners from 21 nations to San Antonio, March 13 -17, 2018, with a mission to continue strengthening relationships during its annual Western Hemisphere Exchange Symposium and 75th IAAFA anniversary celebration.

The week-long symposium addressed areas of shared best practices and lessons learned in aircraft maintenance and sustainment, drug control operations, airspace command and control and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Leaders from countries that participated in the symposium included Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Haiti.

An estimated 350-400 attendees were treated to festivities on JBSA-Lackland, to include the Parade of Flags honoring IAAFA partners during the week of activities. The symposium and IAAFA's 75th anniversary celebration were both held in downtown San Antonio.

Col. Isaac Davidson, IAAFA commandant, said that while the symposium's baseline was maintenance and sustainment, how the countries work together is key.

"For every one of the challenges, [IAAFA partners] respond with systems that require robust maintenance and sustainment," Davidson said.

Keeping the relationships between countries strong starts with one important factor: friendship.

"[IAAFA partners] all agreed that before you can have security cooperation, there's got to be a baseline of friendship," Davidson said.

Brig. Gen. Fernando Losada, chief of Training and Education of the Colombian Air Force, couldn't agree more. Many students from his country are trained at IAAFA.

"My country has a long relationship with IAAFA," Losada said. "It's very



ANDREW C. PATTERSON

Military officials and delegates from 20 partner nations, along with Inter-American Air Force Academy (IAAFA) students, attended the 3rd Annual Western Hemisphere Exchange Symposium March 16 in San Antonio.

important to have our students come here and then go back to Colombia with the knowledge and preparation to complete the task."

As a result of the education students receive at IAAFA, the relationship between Colombia and other Latin American countries has grown even stronger which sets the country up for success.

"We want to be self-sustaining in our maintenance and the training we get here is very important," Losada said. "That training offered at IAAFA prepares our graduates to step up when a crisis occurs."

The symposium's first day featured representatives from Bolivia, Brazil, Haiti and Peru. Each representative led sessions on topics that included Airspace Command and Control and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response, as well as, how to counter threat networks.

The topic of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief was discussed in

depth. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti claimed approximately 230,000 lives, according to Hantz Celestin, Senior Air Traffic Controller and Director of Haiti's Aeronautical Search and Rescue Department. Celestin traveled from Port-Au-Prince to talk about how partner nations were there when the natural disaster happened.

During his presentation, he highlighted the cooperation between countries as soon as assistance began, despite the fact that the air control tower had been destroyed.

"It started rolling really fast," Celestin said. "Everyone wanted to come in, but we could only handle 10 airplanes at a time on the tarmac."

Regardless of the country, help was coming from everywhere.

"I saw the U.S. Air Force unloading a plane from Cuba, a plane from China, a plane from Venezuela. That day, it didn't matter what country you represented. You were bringing help," Cel-

"We want to be self-sustaining in our maintenance and the training we get here is very important," Losada said. "That training offered at IAAFA prepares our graduates to step up when a crisis occurs."

Brig. Gen. Fernando Losada, Colombian Air Force chief of Training and Education

estin said.

Later on that week, IAAFA's 75th anniversary dinner was held in downtown San Antonio. The keynote speaker for the dinner was Maj. Gen. John Norman, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Southern Command.

"Norman is a 'great leader and supporter' for IAAFA," Davidson said. "He interacted with partner nations throughout the week and made them feel welcomed."

Lt. Col. Pedro Matos, IAAFA deputy commandant, was the key architect of the week-long event. Matos and his team received great feedback not only from attending leaders, but IAAFA students.

"It was worth it and beyond what we thought," Matos said.

Davidson and Matos credit the Air Education and Training Command, 2nd Air Force, 37th Training Wing leadership, and the entire IAAFA staff, among countless others throughout JBSA for giving the symposium's attendees an educational and memorable experience.

"The fact that we were able to have open and candid discussions on the topics that really affect our nations in the setting that we had; you can't replicate that," Matos said.

Women's History Month luncheon highlights Women in the Air Force with fashion show

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

The Airman Heritage Foundation hosted a luncheon and fashion show in recognition of the Women in the Air Force (WAF) March 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Gateway Club.

Although women were allowed into the Air Force starting in 1948, the WAF were a separate entity from the regular Air Force for three decades with laws restricting them to only two percent of the force and ten percent of the career fields.

"There were even efforts to do away with women in the military altogether," said retired Lt. Col. David Schultz, outreach program director for the Airman Heritage Foundation. "The WAF were fighting battles of a philosophical and cultural nature from day one."

It wasn't until 1976 that the WAF was dissolved and many of the re-

strictions placed on woman service members were removed.

In order to bring the rich heritage of the WAF to life, the Airman Heritage Foundation put on a fashion show during the luncheon that featured 18 different historic WAF uniforms.

"We wanted to honor the WAF and provide people a glimpse of the traditional values that the respective periods represented," said Schultz. "Not only did the uniforms on display define our Airmen of the past, but we also provided historical descriptions of the veterans who donated the uniforms and other key historical information of that particular time frame."

Putting together the uniforms for this fashion show took a lot of time and effort for Schultz.

"Lt. Col Schultz has spent 20 years collecting these uniforms," said Staff Sgt. Krisitina L. Craven, "The show really looked spectacular and hon-

ored the WAF the way we wanted to."

In addition to the fashion show, the event also featured guest speakers Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, retired Maj. Gen. Susan PamerLeau, former Deputy Chief of Staff for personnel, and Cynthia Vahle, a former member of the WAF.

Vahle delivered powerful remarks detailing a time when marriage or pregnancy would result in removal from the military, and women were still fighting for equality.

As a female member of the Air Force today, Craven really appreciates the battle for change the WAF had to go through.

"It's really humbling to know how far we've come," said Craven. "From the [struggles] that the WAF went through, to us now being able to own it and be proud that we're strong women serving with pride in the military is unbelievable."



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

Airman Vivian Claussen, a warehouse technician with the 59th Medical Group, models a summer service uniform at the Women's History Month Luncheon March 27 at the Gateway Club at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The Women in the Air Force summer uniform consisted of a men's necktie worn tucked into the shirts with this wool olive drab uniform typical for early WAF members.

Military Rabbi's faith extends beyond Joint Base San Antonio

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Every Friday afternoon, Rabbi Raphael Berdugo conducts services at the Airmen's Memorial Chapel on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. His congregation reaches across all denominations as the Air Force Major offers words of faith and guidance to all who attend.

His reach doesn't stop inside the military installation. Rabbi Berdugo recently conducted funeral services off base for two Jewish veterans.

"When I first came here I was approached to help. Apparently, they [Jewish community] had a hard time finding anyone to do [purifications]," said Berdugo. "It's not something that can be done by anybody. It has to be someone who is a Sabbath observer."

At first, Berdugo had some trepidation, but he has been performing the purification ceremonies ever since.

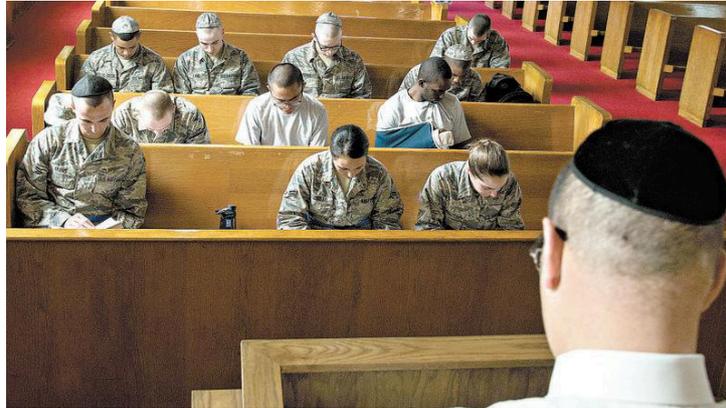
"It's such an uplifting experience. It is a very spiritual experience," said Berdugo.

Each of the recent purification ceremonies was performed at a local mortuary. One of the veterans was a World War II veteran. He was the first Jewish liberator to enter Dachau concentration camp in Munich, Germany.

"Everyone was just in awe when we were doing the purification, said Berdugo. "There were three of us."

They also performed purification services on a second veteran that same day.

During each purification, the body is cleansed in a specific order while verses of the bible are read in the process. The body is then elevated in a ritual submersion, dried and pronounced pure. The body is dressed in shrouds in a specific order, lowered into a casket and



AIRMAN DILLON PARKER

Air Force Rabbi (Maj.) Raphael Berdugo conducts services at the Airman Memorial Chapel March 23 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

wrapped in a prayer shawl. Dust that is brought in from Jerusalem is sprinkled in the coffin to simulate the beginning of the burial process. The casket is sealed. No wakes or viewings are held within the Jewish faith.

Berdugo said it is very important to live in a Jewish community and he has been welcomed not only within JBSA-Lackland, but in San Antonio.

"I'm in the synagogue every single morning. I'm the one that opens the synagogue; the first one there, said Berdugo."

Berdugo is one of two Rabbis stationed at Joint Base San Antonio.

Chaplain Lt. Col. Peter Fischer is the wing chaplain at JBSA-Lackland. He supervises Berdugo and a diverse staff which is one of the largest staffs in the Air Force. He said Berdugo is an important part of the team.

"I can send him to a unit and the unit embraces him," said Fischer.

who was able to see the liberation, see the beginning of the end of this horrible suffering," said Fischer. "He [Berdugo] had the honor of preparing the body for burial."

Fischer compared Berdugo to a super highway bridge to the local Orthodox community who is well known and knows many.

"He is a tremendously devout man of strong faith..When the hard times hit, he completely trusts God for his circumstances. No question. It's not lip service," said Fischer.

JBSA-Lackland presently has two Rabbis on its team and Fischer said they serve the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph communities as well.

"Having two Rabbis is not going to last forever. I'll enjoy it while I can," said Fischer.

So will Berdugo; this is the second time he has been assigned to JBSA-Lackland. His reach is multi-layered, beginning with those he counsels on base and off.

"I was always meant to be a Rabbi one day. The natural progression of things just happened," said Berdugo.

Fischer said Berdugo volunteers his time when called on to prepare bodies for burial and recalled how the Rabbi shared the story of the WWII veteran's history after preparing him to be buried.

"So much pain and suffering for the Jewish community and for one of those

RANDOLPH

Airman reunites with parents at concert

By Senior Airman Gwendalyn Smith

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In September 2016, Senior Airman and Puerto Rico native Jonathan Rodriguez-Maldonado, 502nd Comptroller Squadron finance technician, was deployed to Kuwait and returned to the United States in April 2017 with hopes of visiting his parents and other family in Puerto Rico later that year.

Before he could visit, Hurricane Maria devastated the island. The hurricane is considered the worst natural disaster Puerto Rico has ever seen. Because of the devastation and safety reasons Rodriguez was not permitted to visit his family.

"I know the reason the [Air Force] wouldn't let me go was not because they didn't want me to, but because they're looking out for me because of how things were there," said Rodriguez. "I definitely wouldn't want to be put in a situation where something bad might happen just because I want to go there before I should [or before it's safe]."

After almost two years of being separated from his family, Rodriguez was reunited with his family during the NCAA March Madness Final Four Music Festival on March 31 in San Antonio.

"I knew eventually I would be coming back and

seeing them again, but you always feel sad when you're separated from your family through something like that," said Rodriguez. "I haven't been able to go back to the island because of everything that happened, but I'm very happy to see them again. I was not expecting this at all. I really appreciate my unit [and other sponsors] for doing this for me; it means a lot."

The reunion was sponsored by Coca-Cola with help from the San Antonio USO and the 502nd CPTS.

"The USO through Coke asked for a military 'story' that could potentially develop into a sponsorship opportunity during the Final Four Fan Fest," said Capt. Andrew Calloway, 502nd CPTS Financial Operations Flight commander. "The team put together a couple of paragraphs detailing Jonathan's story and finalized the USO request. Soon, Heather Krauss from the San Antonio USO called my office to begin coordination efforts with the family."

"I was absolutely stunned and beyond excited to help get A'Rod's family out to the great state of Texas," Calloway said. "I called his father, Jose, to explain the event, of course he accepted the invitation. I linked him with the USO team the next day and soon Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez were on a driver flight to Texas. The rest is history."



SENIOR AIRMAN GWENDALYN SMITH

Senior Airman Jonathan Rodriguez-Maldonado (center), 502nd Comptroller Squadron finance technician, is reunited with his parents during the NCAA March Madness Final Four Music Festival on March 31 in San Antonio.

"What Now, Airman?" spurs discussion about ethical dilemmas

By Tech. Sgt. Ave I. Young

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"What Now, Defender?" is currently the 11th topic in the "What Now, Airman?" series being produced by The Profession of Arms Center of Excellence.

"What Now, Airman?" training videos present moral and ethical "gray areas" to spur discussion and address decision-making among targeted audience groups. The central focus of the videos is to address character development, Air Force Core Values and moral, ethical decision-making.

The Defender training video is being developed to support the new Air Force Global Strike Command Security Forces New Supervisor Workshop and other Security Force units in the Air Force.

"The series allows Airmen to take an ethics and character 'simulator ride'

where they get to walk through specific scenarios before they have to face them for real," said Kevin Adelsen, PACE program analyst for the "What Now, Airman?" series. "We try to get the audience to see both sides of the dilemma because we want our Airmen to understand not only what they believe, but why they believe what they believe. So they can take that and apply it in a real-world situation."

Each video module has ethical topics the audience has or will experience themselves or vicariously within their peer groups.

Tom Guidry, PACE Instructional Systems specialist, said the two modules developed for the AFGSC-SF New Supervisor Workshop specifically communicates to defenders and addresses two of the most common and challenging dilemmas facing a new supervisor within that command.

"Having a dilemma that the AFGSC-SF defender can relate to and identify with enhances the learning environment and makes it more probable that the overall learning outcome will be achieved as the curriculum was designed," Guidry said.

Each module has six scenarios that consist of a main character who introduces the ethical dilemma he/she is facing. There are five to six other characters who present their perspectives of what the main character should, or should not do.

Guidry added that each dilemma starts out with a connection to the Air Force Core Values, and is then summarized by the main character with the perspective of what really happened.

"This helps the audience understand what virtues or values may have been questioned for that particular dilemma and what the actual Core Value connection

was," Guidry said.

The class is led by a trained facilitator, usually lasts an hour and is meant for a group of 10-15 students. Each character perspective is a minute-to-two-minutes long and are designed to spur discussion among the group.

The goal of the "What Now" series is to enhance professional development, promote discussion, strengthen the connection to the Air Force Core Values and foster habits of the mind that lead to moral courage and ethical judgement.

The series includes training videos for Airmen's Week at Basic Military Training, Judge Advocate General School, the U.S. Air Force Academy, Total Force Officer Training School and squadron commanders.

For more information about the training series, contact PACE at aetc.pace.projectmgtworkflow@us.af.mil or 210-652-8918/6616 (DSN 487).

Class helps service members PCS with school children

Some military families face not meeting the required number of instructional days for their children

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Active-duty members getting ready for a permanent change of station have numerous items to cross off their checklist, including trainings and briefings, arranging for travel and transfer of household goods, canceling subscriptions and utilities, and turning in assigned property.

If they have families, especially children who are in school, service members have another set of issues to consider.

A class that will be presented this month at three Joint Base San Antonio locations, "PCS'ing with School Age Youth," will provide active-duty members with the information they need to make their children's move to a new school in a new location a successful

one.

"We want the transition for active-duty members' children to be as smooth as possible, so we give them information that will help ensure their children will not lose any credit hours and will be getting all the resources they need to succeed," said Angela Green, JBSA-Randolph Military Child Education-School Liaison Officer.

The class is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 10 at the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249; noon to 1:30 p.m. April 11 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, building 2263, room 107; and 10 a.m. to noon

April 18 at the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC, building 693.

Much of the presentation at each location will be focused on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which provides for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states.

Also known as MIC3, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, which was designed to eliminate educational obstacles for military families during their frequent moves, has been able to get most of the states to agree to the compact.

The compact addresses issues such as eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation as well as

special education services and extracurricular activities.

One example of the problems military families face when they relocate is meeting the number of required instructional days for their children, Green said.

"That requirement varies from state to state, so that makes the transition harder," she said. "If they do not complete the requirements prior to departure, we advise them of their options at their next installation."

The compact also removes roadblocks to graduation when students move on to a high school in another state, Green said.

"If students who have been attending high school in Texas have a few courses to go at their new

school, they can still graduate under the Texas curriculum," she said.

"The compact makes things as easy as possible for students so they don't lose opportunities or credits.

The compact addresses sports and other extracurricular activities in addition to academic issues, Green said.

"It's stressful when students' activities are taken away," she said. "This law helps with that a lot."

Some states have extended benefits through the actions of their MIC3 councils, Green said.

In Arizona and California, for example, families can pre-register into their new school district upon receiving orders, but must provide proof of residency within 30 days of arrival.

Kentucky has enhanced the compact by covering Department of Defense civilian employees.

One of the benefits of the class is that it familiarizes attendees with the compact, Green said.

"A lot of parents aren't aware of the compact," she said. "If parents are aware of it, their children's transition to another school is much easier."

Schools' knowledge of the compact is also important, which is why school liaison officers educate administrators, counselors and teachers about its guidelines, Green said.

The class will also feature additional support for parents with presentations by Military and Family Life Counselors and Exceptional Family Member Program coordinators.

Freedom Flyers Reunion brings friends from Vietnam together

By Senior Airman Gwendalyn Smith

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 45th annual Freedom Flyer Reunion had five guests who managed to escape from Vietnam two years after Americas POWs were released. From the beginning of the Vietnam War in 1954 till the end in 1973, America played a role in defending its allies in the Republic of Vietnam. The incentive was to end the growing communist system in Vietnam.

As part of the alliance between the two countries, the U.S. military helped train South Vietnamese troops.

Among those trained were Vietnamese War pilots Chau Trinh and Hai Le. Both Trinh and Le trained and received their pilots' wings at Randolph Air Force Base in 1964. Later, in 1966, they were sent to Williams AFB, Arizona, to be trained in the F-5E fighter jet.

After training, both returned to Vietnam to join the war, but were separated into different flying squadrons.

The U.S. military involvement in Vietnam ended in August 1973, but the war did not end until April 1975.

On April 29, 1975, the last day of the war, the North Vietnamese forces captured the city of Saigon and Tan Son Nhut Air Base, where Le and Trinh were stationed.

"At the last minute, April 29, 1975, everything was collapsing, a disaster; and we had to make a decision, a difficult one," said Trinh. "We had to get out of Vietnam in a hurry. Another major and I took shelter at the bunker, but then we heard a lot of jets taking off, so we rushed to the flight line."

The F-5E is a single-seat aircraft, but that didn't stop them. After finding an available jet, Trinh and his friend man-

aged to get into the jet together.

"We found a jet and ripped out the parachute so we could both fit in there," said Trinh. "I had no choice, we were in a hurry and had to get out of there. I sat on the lap of another major. He sat down and was my cushion. Neither of us had helmets or parachutes. Nobody was controlling the air from the air traffic tower. We just started the engine, went down the runway and went airborne as soon as possible so we wouldn't get hit by an oncoming rocket. We landed in Utapao, Thailand, where we were surrounded by Thai military police. They wanted to send us back, but we ended up staying there for a couple of days, then were sent to a Marine base in Guam."

After being in Guam for three weeks, Trinh was sent to Eglin AFB, Florida where he wanted to be reunited with his family who were sent to a refugee camp a week prior to the end of the war.

Similar to Trinh, Le also left Vietnam on April 29th.

"That morning, shelling was increasing in intensity," said Le. "Airplanes were burning and people were wounded. While waiting for a ride back to my squadron, I was helping our wounded flight staff get transportation to the infirmary. Then I saw my wing commander and three of his staff members get out of a jeep and start checking F-5s that were still in flying condition. I was surprised to see their presence because they didn't usually fly combat missions, especially in a situation like this. A few more jeeps arrived. I asked a colonel, who was a friend of mine, if we were evacuating. He did not answer, but his eyes said yes. I then



SENIOR AIRMAN GWENDALYN SMITH

Vietnamese War pilots Chau Trinh (left) and Hai Le War stand in front of the Missing Man Monument March 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Both Trinh and Le received their wings at Randolph Air Force Base in 1964.

started searching for an F-5 for myself."

Le then ripped out the parachute just as Trinh did, to fit two people in the seat. This was dangerous because it meant that they would not be able to connect to the oxygen tank and would not be able to evacuate in case of an emergency.

"I sat on Lieutenant Xuan's lap, and flew the plane, he served as my cushion," said Le. "As I taxied out to the runway, I ran over a piece of shrapnel, which cut my tire and flattened it. Lieutenant Xuan was alarmed and suggested we abort the flight; I refused."

The pair encountered hydraulic problems and faced the risk of losing control of the plane, but trusted that the backup system was working.

Because Le knew how to get to Ubon Air Base, an American installation in Thailand at the time, they decided in that direc-

tion.

On their journey there, Le noticed a formation of Russian aircraft.

"I was scared. We had no sidewinders or enough fuel to engage in a fight, so I decided to get out of their way," said Le. "As I lowered my aircraft's nose to get away, I checked the rear-view mirror to see if they were following us. They weren't. At that point our left engine flamed out and we were running out of fuel. We could not bail out because we did not have parachutes, and we could not survive a crash. So I started praying. I am quite surprised I maintained my calmness. We could both die in a few minutes."

"Suddenly, I felt Lieutenant Xuan tap my shoulder repeatedly and he showed me a small road stretching out on our left wing. We had to take our chance, so I started circling down. There were a few cars on

the road as we were ready to land. I flew over some of them. As I touched down, I saw a yellow bus in front of me, so I took the plane up and touched down again."

They ran out of gas after landing and had a hole in the right wing. Rockets were barely holding on, but they managed to land on a narrow dirt road.

"I did not know it was possible to come out alive in the situation we were in," said Le. "All I could think was 'Thank God, we made it. We are alive.'"

Years later, Le and Trinh both retired to Houston, and remain lifelong friends.

Both returned to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph this year to participate in the Freedom Flyers 45th Annual Reunion.

"We were here 54 years ago, it feels great to be back and hear the jets taking off again," said Le.

Joint Base San Antonio Retiree Council seeks members

From the Joint Base San Antonio Retiree Council

While the Joint Base San Antonio Retiree Council predates the formation of Joint Base San Antonio, with the creation of JBSA, the council changed from an Army-only council to one that now includes all services across all JBSA locations.

The council needs more officers and NCOs who have retired and can devote a minimal amount of time each month to help other retirees, which in turn, helps active-duty members.

The council is also open to surviving spouses and any officer or NCO who has retired from the National Guard or Reserves.

The council's purpose is to identify issues that affect military retirees, then work within the active-duty chain



COURTESY GRAPHIC /

of command to solve them locally.

Issues that cannot be solved locally are taken through the senior commander and then forwarded to the Retiree Service Office at the Pentagon in Washington.

Once there, along with other issues identified by other councils around the world, new issues are pre-

sent to the National Level Retiree Council for action and recommendations to the Chief of Staff of the Army. Issues that come before the Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council are primarily the same that would be present for any of the services.

The council also assists the retiree service officer, or RSO, who is uniquely called for in the Army regulation, but in no other service, with their job of assisting pre-retirees and retirees from any service. They also work with the RSO in planning and executing annual Retiree Appreciation Days.

The council was established under an Army regulation, which takes into account the new joint basing requirements and encourages participation of members in all branches of service.

For more information on joining the council, call 210-416-0502 or 210-221-9005.