

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

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PHOTO BY DAVID DEKUNDER

Sisters and service members, Navy Seaman Michelle Panchana (left) and Air Force Airman 1st Class Gisella Panchana (right) were students together at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston from August 2017 to January 2018.

Sisters from sister services serve at JBSA

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Leadership in the social media age

By Dayton Ward
NCO JOURNAL

Many people rely on the internet to obtain information, receive news, shop, conduct business, play games, watch films and television, and communicate. Within this realm, social media has served to personalize experiences and afford individuals the opportunity to share them with others. The ability to instantly connect with a network of loved ones and friends, as well as engage with strangers about similar interests, is perhaps the platforms' greatest strength.

For military members stationed overseas, deployed to forward areas, or aboard ships, social media is an invaluable morale tool that provides a welcome connection to families back home. From an organizational standpoint, employing social media offers ways to share information with other units, as well as interact with neighboring civilian communities.

Is social media prone to misuse or abuse? The unfortunate answer to this question is "Yes." Using the internet and social media brings risk to individuals, businesses and other public organizations. It can be a conduit for unwanted access to private, personal and corporate information, and this, of course, presents even greater security concerns for government and military entities. Nevertheless, social media is an integral part of everyday life, and its benefits can be appreciated even as we work to offset potential risks. For the Army, these are ongoing challenges that noncommissioned officers regularly confront.

Getting in Step with Social Media

In 2007, the Department of Defense blocked social networking sites, such as MySpace and YouTube, on military computers. After revisiting the prohibition in 2010, the DoD rescinded the directive, having

determined the benefits of this ever-growing method of communication and information exchange could be embraced while taking proper steps to mitigate risk.

This cleared the way for military personnel to access emerging social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter from DoD computers, and encouraged units and organizations to explore means of leveraging the power of these venues for important activities such as unit communication, training, family support, and community outreach.

Today, the government and military's presence on social media is entrenched. For the Army, this effort is spearheaded by the official U.S. Army Social Media website. Designed as an information portal, it is the primary aid for all Army personnel to better understand their "role in Army social media" and provides easy access to policies, guidance, education and training in order to "create an environment where trusted information is disseminated to the Army family and the public."

Social Media as a Leadership Tool

The newest generation of Soldiers have no memory of life without the internet or social media. Communicating with friends in private or public online spaces is second nature to them, but by no means are they alone. Statistics and comparison of demographics between the military and the total U.S. population suggests more than 90 percent of the active-duty force across all service branches makes regular use of social networking sites.

For Army leaders, social media represents a unique means of extending their influence. It allows for the rapid, concise exchange of information and ideas with Soldiers and their families, as well as the press and the general public. Unit commanders and senior

NCOs use resources such as Facebook to hold "virtual town halls" online. Such platforms offer an effective means of communication with Soldiers and families who may be geographically dispersed. They can also be employed to conduct training, conferences or other professional gatherings when assembling the intended audience at a physical location is less desirable or unfeasible from a time or cost perspective.

At the local/tactical level, NCOs have at their disposal an easy means of staying in direct contact with their Soldiers. For those still learning to embrace social media, this can pose a challenge when exploring it as a communications option with subordinates. Even if one does not actively participate in social media forums and other activities, it is still important to understand how younger Soldiers in particular view these platforms.

"Facebook is an extension of the barracks," said 1st Sgt. Aaron R. Leisenring, 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, during the NCO Solarium II event at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Many of the event's participants, including Daniel A. Dailey, Sergeant Major of the Army, made similar observations.

"We used to go to the barracks and check on the Soldiers," said Dailey. "Of course, that's still true, but there's also Facebook now. You have to be in there."

Social Media as a Leadership Challenge

While social media makes it much easier to interact with their Soldiers, NCOs must bear in mind even this form of constant connectivity is not a substitute for true leadership.

"(Social media) is not how we lead Soldiers," said Sgt. Maj. Boris Bolaños, senior enlisted adviser for the Center for the Army Profession and Ethic, during the "State of NCO Development Town Hall 4" presented

by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command in March 2017. "It is a way to facilitate communication, but the most effective way to communicate with Soldiers is face to face."

Bolaños' comments were made in response to questions regarding online activity and conduct. NCOs carry the responsibility of ensuring their Soldiers acquit themselves at all times as professional representatives of the Army. This obligation includes online activities, where the proliferation of smartphones and other mobile devices within the ranks has made it easy to share inappropriate comments or post information that violates operations security.

Posters may not even realize they made an error. On occasion, mistakes might not be so innocuous. Such missteps can range from sharing photographs of individual Soldiers or unit activities which may violate OPSEC, to engaging in derogatory, inflammatory or harassing and bullying behavior.

"At the end of the day, it's about those decisions and actions that our Soldiers make on and off duty when no one is watching," said Bolaños. "How well do we know our Soldiers? How well do we know what they're doing? It goes back to the aspect of leadership, which sets the credibility and foundation for trust."

With such concerns in mind, the Army has issued clear policies defining expectations for online behavior. The most recent reiteration of these policies is an All Army Activities message, ALARACT 075/2017, Professionalism of Online Conduct, which charges commanders and leaders to "reinforce a climate where ... online misconduct is inconsistent with Army values and where online-related incidents are prevented, reported, and where necessary addressed at the lowest possible level."

While there is a desire to

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DOD looks at impact of fitness trackers on opsec

Annual training urges service members and DOD civilians to limit online profiles

By Jim Garamone
DOD NEWS,
DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

Department of Defense officials are studying security issues raised by physical conditioning trackers that also can be used to track service members' whereabouts, a Pentagon spokesman told reporters Jan. 29.

The concern comes from a "heat map" posted by Strava, the makers of a fitness tracking application that shows the routes service members run or cycle in their daily exercises. These maps can show military bases and may be used to target individuals.

"We take these matters seriously and we are reviewing the situation to determine if any additional training or guidance is required, and if any additional policy must be developed to ensure the continued safety of DOD personnel at home and abroad," Army Col. Robert Manning III said during a news conference at the Pentagon.

Wearable electronic fitness trackers upload data to Strava, which then publishes a heat map of the activity so people can download the maps to find good running or cycling routes.

"The rapid development of technology requires the rapid refinement of policy and procedures to enhance force protection and operational security," Manning said. "DOD personnel are advised to place strict privacy settings on wireless technologies and applications."

Service members are prohibited from wearing such wireless technologies in some areas and during some operations,

Manning said.

Manning didn't say what the department will do about the issue at this time.

"We have confidence in commanders to employ tactics, techniques and procedures that enhance force protection and operational security with the least impact to individuals," the colonel said.

All DOD personnel go through annual training on information security. The training urges service members and DOD civilians to limit profiles on the internet, including personal social media accounts, Manning said.

"Furthermore, operational security requirements provide further guidance for military personnel supporting operations around the world," he said. The heat map incident re-emphasizes the need for service members to be cautious about what data to share via wearable electronic devices, he added.



JIM GARAMONE

The Department of Defense urges service members and DOD civilians to use the strictest privacy setting.

Redesigned Army uniforms site provides guidance to Soldiers



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

For Soldiers who are curious about the new look and various components of the OCP, Army.mil has launched a newly redesigned uniforms site at www.army.mil/uniforms.

By Crystal Marshall
U.S. ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army's uniforms are ubiquitous around the globe for what they represent: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and professional courage. Whether a Soldier is wearing the Operational Camouflage Pattern combat uniform, the formal Service Uniform, or the physical fitness uniform, he or she knows the power of the image that the uniform conveys. As the Chief of Public Affairs for the Army, Brig. Gen. Omar J. Jones deeply understands the image that the uniform presents.

"Our uniform represents all Americans who have served in our great Army since 1775 and those serving around the world today," he said. "It represents our commitment to this Nation and to the American people to

protect and defend our Constitution and its ideals. And, it is a symbol of the discipline, values, and heritage of the US Army."

In 2015, the Army announced a change in the combat uniform from the Universal Camouflage Pattern to the Operational Camouflage Pattern. The mandatory date for possession for the OCP is Oct. 1, 2019.

For Soldiers — and civilians — who are curious about the new look and various components of the OCP, Army.mil has launched a newly redesigned, interactive uniforms site at www.army.mil/uniforms. The site also features full-body photos and information on the Service Uniform and Physical Fitness Uniform, various combat badges, and a helpful FAQ page for the most commonly asked uniform questions.

The new OCP pattern design includes several functional

changes. It removes several hook and loop closures, replacing them with button and zipper closures to enable quicker access to pockets. While internal knee pads were removed, double reinforcement of the fabric still occurs at the knee and elbow. And extra pen pockets were removed, while upper sleeve pocket length was increased to allow for greater utility.

Soldiers who have not yet purchased new uniforms may do so at their local Army and Air Force Exchange Service, using their yearly clothing stipend.

Even with the uniform guidance released by the Army over the past few years, Anthony Moore, sergeant major of the Uniform Policy Branch within the Deputy Chief of Staff's G-1 office, highlighted a few of the most common questions that

Soldiers approach him with regarding the proper use of their uniforms and gear.

During winter months, Moore pointed out that Soldiers are still authorized to wear the UCP Cold Weather Gear with the OCP uniform, including the Black and Foliage Green fleece.

Moore also noted that many Soldiers erroneously believe they are allowed to cuff their Army Combat Uniform Sleeves while in garrison. However, this is only authorized during deployment or in field environment.

And when headed to the gym for physical fitness, Soldiers are not authorized to drape a gym bag across their body. The bag must be either hand-carried, or carried using both shoulders.

Soldiers can take a further look at commonly asked uniform questions on the new website at www.army.mil/uniforms.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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strike a balance between Soldier’s private lives and professional responsibilities, it is important to remember that upholding the Army ethic is not a part-time or situational undertaking.

“I don’t think we’re saying not to go to (certain websites), but we’re asking people to remember that they’re professional Soldiers, 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said TRADOC Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport while speaking at the NCO Solarium II. “You can’t just turn your values on and off just because you’re on one of these social media sites.”

Risk to operations security is another obvious concern social media presents. Addressing this ongoing threat requires planning and training not just for Soldiers but also their families and friends. Everything from a spouse or parent’s post announcing their loved one’s pending deployment, to photos of a Soldier or a unit’s location with attached geographical location data, are examples of disclosing sensitive information.

“Geotagging” is often an automatic feature available on smartphones and digital cameras. Once uploaded to a publicly viewable social media site,

photos that include this data are no different from supplying a 10-digit grid coordinate to indicate where it was taken. The potential to unintentionally disclose sensitive information is a very real danger.

NCOs, as the first line of Army leadership, must recognize issues like these as ongoing concerns, and develop planning and training in order to teach their Soldiers how to better extend their situational awareness into the online space.

Conclusion

Properly utilized, social media is a formidable tool which allows the Army to connect with a global audience. NCOs must recognize that it is also an important part of their Soldiers’ lives, as well as those of their families.

While there are risks that must be acknowledged and challenged, they can be reduced through proper training and education. Resources such as the Army’s social media site are available to assist NCOs.

Read more on this subject in the Military Review’s “Soldier, Are You on My Friends List? An Examination and Recommendations for the Military Leader-Subordinate Relationship on Social Media.”

Take command: Urgent care now easier to access

Urgent care is needed for a non-emergency illness or injury requiring treatment within 24 hours

From TRICARE Communications

As of Jan. 1, most TRICARE Prime enrollees no longer need a referral for urgent care visits and point-of-service charges no longer apply for urgent care claims. This change replaces the previous policy, which waived referrals for the first two urgent care visits per year. Active-duty service members should continue to visit military hospitals and clinics for care. Active-duty service members enrolled in TRICARE Prime Remote who don't live near a military hospital or clinic don't need a referral

Take

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when seeking an urgent care visit. “We wanted our service members’ families and others to have easier access to urgent care,” said Ken Canestrini, acting director, TRICARE Health Plan, within the Defense Health Agency. “Beneficiaries can go visit an urgent care center right away anytime they have a need.” If you use TRICARE Select or any other TRICARE plan, you may visit any TRICARE-authorized provider, network or non-network, for urgent care.

Urgent care is care you need for a non-emergency illness or injury requiring treatment within 24 hours. Examples of urgent care conditions include a sprain, rising temperature or sore throat. It isn't an emergency and doesn't threaten life, limb or eyesight. If you're unsure whether to seek urgent care, call the 24/7 Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273, Option 1). You can speak with a registered nurse who can answer your questions and give advice. The nurse can also assist you with finding a provider and

scheduling an appointment. If you need care after hours, while traveling, or if your primary care manager is unavailable, urgent care is a great option. Contact your regional contractor to help you find an appropriate urgent care facility or provider. You may also use the TRICARE provider search tool at <https://tricare.mil/FindDoctor>. Any TRICARE Overseas Program Prime enrollees requiring urgent care while on temporary duty or on leave status in the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, may access urgent care without a referral or an authorization. However, the active duty service members must follow up with their primary care manager in accordance with applicable Department of Defense and Service regulations concerning active duty service member care outside military hospitals and clinics. This is your benefit. Learn more about TRICARE changes (<https://www.tricare.mil/changes>) and take command of your health.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Sisters serve together in different services at METC

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When Airman 1st Class Gisella Panchana graduates from the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 30, she will go through conflicting emotions about the occasion.

The graduation will start the next phase of Airman Panchana's service in the Air Force, continuing her training as a radiology technician at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Even though Airman Panchana, 26, is excited about continuing her military career, her graduation means she will no longer be able to be around her younger sister, Seaman Michelle Panchana, 21, a Navy hospitalman who is also a student at METC.

While the two sisters will be separated from each other, Airman Panchana said they will still keep in touch.

"It's another chapter in my life," Airman Panchana said. "Even though I won't see her as much, I can still talk to her on the phone. It will definitely be a different experience without her."

The two sisters appreciated the time they were students together at METC for six months, from August 2017 to January 2018. Seaman Panchana was the first sister to arrive at METC in June 2017, beginning her classes in the pharmacy program. Two months later, Airman Panchana arrived at the campus to start her training in the METC radiology program.

Seaman Panchana found out that her older sister would be joining her at METC during a phone call with Airman Panchana, who was finishing up basic training at JBSA-Lackland.

"I was pretty excited," Seaman Panchana said. "When she told me, I couldn't believe it. I didn't think it would happen at all."

Even though they lived in separate dorms, being on the same campus gave the sisters the opportunity to visit, whether it was during class breaks, lunch or dinner, and talk about things that were going on in their lives, including their classes.

"I usually see her at least once a day during break time," Seaman Panchana said. "If not, we usually hang out after school and we get lunch or dinner together. We just talk basically about everything. We're sisters, there's really no limits to our conversations."

Airman Panchana said her younger sister was able to provide emotional support for her when she needed it.

"It's been a relief not being alone, just having a family member close by and talk to whenever you want to," Airman Panchana said. "To actually have her here has been really great."



DAVID DEKUNDER

Air Force Airman 1st Class Gisella Panchana works in the radiology laboratory at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. She graduated from the METC radiology program Jan. 30 and will continue her training as a radiology technician at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Seaman Panchana said being with her older sister allowed her to de-stress from classes and go out on weekends, including seeing the sights in San Antonio, shopping and eating out.

The sisters, who were born in the Bronx, N.Y., and grew up in New Jersey, were raised in a close-knit family of four children by their parents, Rita and Jorge Panchana, who came from Ecuador.

"Having her here at METC has just brought us even closer together," Seaman Panchana said.

Since they are close, the sisters seek advice from each other at times.

"I usually tell her everything that goes on," Seaman Panchana said. "If I have any problems, I will go to her and she does the same thing with me as well."

The two sisters and their younger brother, George, are the first members in their family to join the military. Their younger brother joined the Navy in early January.

Before each of the sisters joined the military, they discussed the idea with each other.

Airman Panchana was the first one to explore the option of joining the service after going to college and earning a degree in graphic design.

"I actually researched all the military branches and chose what I thought was the best for me," she said. "I just wanted something new in life. I kind of felt stuck at



Navy Seaman Michelle Panchana works in the pharmacy laboratory at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. She is training to become a pharmacy technician in the METC Pharmacy Program.

a point in my life and I thought, 'Why not?' They have great opportunities, so I decided to join."

Seaman Panchana said her older sister inspired her to join the service.

"She started talking about joining the military way before I even thought about joining it as well," she said. "We talked about it amongst ourselves for quite a time."

Seaman Panchana decided to enlist in the Navy after going to nursing school for two semesters. She said the Navy offers more medical programs and opportunities for her. Seaman Panchana is training to become a pharmacy technician.

Both sisters look up to each other.

"I definitely look up to her because she is a character," said Airman Panchana about her younger sister. "She puts herself out there and that's what I've always wanted to do. She's not afraid of anything."

"I've learned how strong she can be whenever she is in a tough situation," said Seaman Panchana about her older sister. "Seeing her overcome obstacles in her life, it has made me want to be a stronger person as well."

Seaman Panchana is set to graduate from the METC pharmacy program in April. She said it will be hard to see her older sister leave and not have her around at METC.

"I'm very sad she is going to leave first because we are just so use to having each other here," Seaman Panchana said. "It's going to be a little different now."

Basura Bash looks to clean out waterways around JBSA-FSH

By Steve Elliott

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Basura Bash is a one-day, all-volunteer event to clean the San Antonio Watershed. Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston will be hosting an event from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 17 at the Salado Creek Park.

The effects of storm water runoff are one reason the Basura Bash creek clean-up is necessary. Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation comes down faster than our soils can soak it up and this rain flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground.

Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants before it flows into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal waterway. Anything



COURTESY GRAPHIC

that enters a storm sewer system is discharged, untreated, into the bodies of water we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water.

Polluted storm water runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediments also fill up the storage capacity of our reservoirs

and can destroy aquatic habitats.

Last year, hundreds of volunteers pulled more than two tons of various kinds of rubbish out of the creek and from throughout the park area, almost filling a 40-yard-long dumpster to the top.

“We at the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron environmental section are spearheading JBSA’s participation. The event brings together a diverse group of

“Kayaks will be available thanks to outdoor recreation to those adventurous volunteers who wish to clean up from the source on the creek itself.”

Mike Tillema, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron

volunteers, from JBSA’s own Girl and Boy Scouts and Randolph and Cole High Schools’ students, to active duty members and veterans,” said Mike Tillema, 502nd CES environmental engineering and this year’s event organizer. “We are anticipating a significant turnout.”

A light breakfast will be provided by the City of San Antonio for those who register online. Due to the lengthy stretch of creek to be cleaned up, including denser brush, it is recommended that volunteers wear long pants, sturdy shoes or boots, and bring bug repellent.

“Kayaks will be available thanks to outdoor recreation to those adventurous volunteers who wish to clean up from the source on the creek itself,” Tillema said. “Gloves and bags will be provided.”

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Basura Bash is a part of a larger effort throughout San Antonio where local residents, community groups and organizations collect trash at 20 different locations connected to San Antonio’s watershed.

For more information and registration, go to <http://www.basurabash.org/> or call 210-221-4967 or 210-671-0396.

Army JAG Corps leader visits JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

By Staff Sgt. Tomora Nance
ARNORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Army Maj. Gen. Stuart W. Risch, U.S. Army deputy Judge Advocate General, visited Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston for an Article 6 inspection Jan. 9.

According to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 6 states that the Judge Advocate General or senior members of his staff shall make frequent inspection in the field in supervision of the administration of military justice.

"We are statutorily required to inspect our field on a frequent basis; we look at the full spectrum of the services we provided from legal assistance and environmental law to contracting law and international operational law," Risch said.

However, the visit wasn't just to inspect the offices in the JAG Corps — it also served as a morale booster.

"The purpose for this visit



STAFF SGT. TOMORA NANCE

Soldiers and civilians gather for a photo before Maj. Gen. Stuart W. Risch, the deputy Judge Advocate General for the U.S. Army, delivers his State of Corps address Jan. 9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

was twofold: to inspect and ensure that all policy and procedures are being followed, and to serve as a morale visit to check-in on our folks and to ensure they have the resources they need to accomplish the mission." Risch said. "This is the best part of my job because I get to visit with the personnel we have in this career field."

One of the stops made during the Article 6 visit was to the U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) Staff Judge Advocate office.

"The visit was a great opportunity. Whenever you have the

opportunity for your office as a staff judge advocate to hear from the JAG Corps leadership it's always beneficial," said Col. Lance Hamilton, staff judge advocate for U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and Army Support Activity. "It serves as a morale booster and it generates excitement amongst your team to go out and continue the JAG Corps mission."

Although this was Risch's first Article 6 visit, he said, "My goal for this trip was to speak with as many JAG personnel as possible whether

they are civilian or military, and thank them for all that they do while listening to their questions and concerns."

"As a senior member of JAG corps, I see these Article 6 visits as being extremely beneficial for civilian personnel because they don't always get to interact with the leadership," Hamilton said. "I also see it as a significant benefit for the younger judge advocates and paralegals to see their leadership team in person to engage with them in formal and informal settings. It allows everyone to understand that our JAG corps leadership is approachable."

Throughout the Article 6 visit, one of the top priorities was to communicate strategic priorities of the JAG Corps.

"We do a State of the Corps with the JAG personnel to let them know what's new in the career field, what the Judge Advocate General's expectations are, and to inform them of any changes or updates to laws

and regulations," Risch said.

One of the changes to the regulation was in 2016's Military Justice Act.

"The military justice Act of 2016 was enacted, which was one of the most comprehensive changes to the UCMJ in about 50 years. That is our seminal document and what governs good order and discipline in the military," Risch said. "We wanted to talk about any issues or concerns."

"The visit reconfirms one of the tenants of the JAG Corp that I always find advantageous; we are one family, which espouses the 'one team, one fight' philosophy," Hamilton said.

During fiscal year 2018, members of the JAG staff leadership are slated to participate in 17 Article 6 visits. And, as for Risch, his next Article 6 visit is to United States Army Pacific area in February. USARPAC has jurisdiction over Hawaii, Alaska, South Korea and Japan.

BAMC reverified as Level I trauma center

By Elaine Sanchez
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center has again been verified as a Level I trauma center by the American College of Surgeons for its dedication to providing top-quality care for critically injured patients.

“This accomplishment reaffirms our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality trauma care for our civilian and military patients,” said BAMC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson. “It’s also a testament to our trauma staff’s teamwork, professionalism and expertise.”

Hospitals seeking verification must undergo intense scrutiny by reviewers from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma every three years. To be verified, the hospital must demonstrate its ability to provide a broad spectrum of trauma care resources to address the needs of all injured patients.

“We are fortunate to have incredible teams of trauma surgeons and supporting specialists at BAMC,” said Army Col. Bret Ackermann, Deputy Commander for Surgical Services. BAMC’s “team of teams” includes orthopedic, cardiotho-



A trauma team examines a patient in the emergency department at Brooke Army Medical Center. BAMC has again been verified as a Level I trauma center by the American College of Surgeons.

ROBERT WHETSTONE

racic, vascular, otolaryngology, oral and maxillofacial, plastic, and neurologic surgeons, in addition to anesthesia, emergency medicine, internal medicine, infectious disease, critical care, pulmonology, physical therapy, neurology, rehabilitation, radiology, nursing and operative technician teams.

BAMC is the only Level I trauma center within the Department of Defense and one of two Level I trauma centers with-

in San Antonio. Alongside University Health System, BAMC administers lifesaving care to more than 4,000 trauma patients each year, including 750 burn patients, from an area that stretches across 22 counties in Southwest Texas and encompasses 2.2 million people.

Of the more than 4,000 trauma patients admitted each year, 85 percent are community members without military affiliation. Johnson cited the recent

Sutherland Springs church shooting as an example of BAMC’s readiness to provide care. Eight patients from the shooting were cared for at BAMC with wounds similar to those sustained in war.

“Due to our daily trauma mission and the experience we’ve garnered downrange, we were ready when needed and honored to provide care,” the commander said.

The trauma center is not only

“We are fortunate to have incredible teams of trauma surgeons and supporting specialists at BAMC.”

Army Col. Bret Ackermann, Deputy Commander for Surgical Services

an asset within the community, but is “absolutely critical” to military medical readiness, Johnson said. “There is no other place within the DoD that has the volume of trauma in their hospital to accomplish our war-time training and sustainment of health professionals’ mission,” he said.

This readiness enables BAMC professionals to respond quickly and efficiently when called upon, whether here in San Antonio or deployed overseas, he said.

“What we do here ensures our medical personnel are ready to do what’s needed to save a life whether stateside or downrange for full scale military operations or humanitarian assistance,” Johnson said. “This is who we are and what we do.”

ARSOUTH welcomes new command sergeant major

By Maj. Jamelle A. Garner
ARSOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Command Sgt. Maj. William Rinehart took over for outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Carlos Olvera at a U.S. Army South change of responsibility ceremony presided over by Maj. Gen. Mark Stammer, Army South commanding general, Jan. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

“The constant in our lives has been Command Sgt. Maj. Olvera,” Stammer said during the change of responsibility. “He is the glue that has bound our organization together and he’s expertly led us to new heights.”

Olvera had served as Army South CSM for 32 months, and in that time, has accomplished several advances for non-commissioned officers with the unit’s partner nation allies. As the mantle of authority passed, the regimental colors transferred from the outgoing command sergeant major’s hands as final deference to his authority and leadership.

During the ceremony, Stammer acknowledged a few of Olvera’s accomplishments, such as his direct engagement with senior enlisted leaders from Central and South America and the Caribbean, his oversight and involvement of the creation of a noncommissioned officer academy for the Domini-

can Republic and facilitating the development of a sergeant major of the army position for the Chilean army.

“Serving as the command sergeant major for the last 32 months has been a tremendous experience, truly humbling and rewarding,” Olvera said.

“The strength of our nation is our Army, the strength of our Army is our Soldiers and the strength of our Soldiers is in our families,” Olvera said in reciting a quote from retired Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno.

Rinehart comes to Army South from the U.S. Army Cyber School, Cyber Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon, Georgia.



KAYE RICHEY

Incoming Army South Command Sgt. Maj. William Rinehart gives remarks during a change of responsibility ceremony Jan. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Cole Junior ROTC earns high score on inspection

From Fort Sam Houston Independent School District

The Robert G. Cole High School Junior ROTC cadets have earned the highest score ever on their recent accreditation inspection.

The cadets scored 199 points out of a possible 200, earning them an unprecedented 99.5 percent. The cadets worked extremely hard and their level of execution was simply beyond exceptional in all aspects.

As part of the inspections, the cadets presented two one-hour briefings and both briefings attained a perfect score. One of the evaluators noted that this is the first time that has happened in his more than 18 years doing the evaluations.

JROTC instructors retired Col. William LaChance and retired Master Sgt. Calvin Ross said they were extremely proud of them for their historic accomplishment.

"We would like to thank all of those who supported



COURTESY PHOTO

The Robert G. Cole High School Junior ROTC cadets have earned the highest score ever on their recent accreditation inspection. Our efforts," LaChance said. "Whether it was allowing cadets to practice during class time, prepping our facilities, providing refreshments or simply lending a word of support. This will be a great lead in to our upcoming military ball ... a time to celebrate"

Every three years, the 5th Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command, conducts an accreditation inspection to ensure compliance with the Southern Association of

Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement accreditation standards and designation as Honor Unit with Distinction.

Unlike previous military disciplined focused inspection programs, the new accreditation program is a rigorous academic evaluation at both unit and individual levels.

The cadet staff delivered a service learning project briefing and a continuous improvement plan brief each approximately an hour in length to evaluators. The evaluators then selected eight cadets from across the corps to undergo inspection of their individual academic portfolio.

Not only were the contents of the portfolio evaluated, the cadets were interviewed to ensure understanding of the curriculum. The entire corps underwent a uniform inspection, as well as drill and color guard evaluations.

The evaluation also assessed the instructors' academic qualification and proficiency with an inspection of instructor portfolios and interview.

Army's virtual technology improves readiness

By David Vergun
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

In 2017, there were approximately 40,000 virtual health encounters across the Army in both deployed and garrison settings, said Dr. Colleen Rye, chief of Army Virtual Health.

That's a big increase over previous years and the increases are expected to continue, she said.

That 40,000 does not include telepharmacies, teleradiology or secure messaging, she added, explaining that virtual health means having a doctor who specializes in something like pulmonology, hematology and psychiatry reaching out in real time to medics or other doctors or caregivers at the point of injury.

Virtual health involves use of medical devices that can send information to healthcare providers over the Internet, along with high-resolution video showing the patient in great detail, Rye said.

Virtual health allows specialists to diagnose disease or injury and prescribe medication or treatment from a distance. It even allows providers to walk medics who are on-site with an



DAVID E. GILLESPIE

At Fort Campbell's Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, clinical staff nurse Lt. Maxx P. Mamula examines Master Sgt. Jason H. Alexander using a digital external ocular camera. The image is immediately available to Lt. Col. Kevin A. Horde, a provider at Fort Gordon's Eisenhower Medical Center, offering remote consultation.

injured patient through emergency surgery, Rye said. Specialists in Germany, Washington state and Texas, for instance, could simultaneously provide healthcare assistance to a medic treating an injured Soldier in Afghanistan.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, commander of Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, said virtual health could be as important of a medical advancement for Soldiers as was the invention of the tourniquet.

The reason it could be so important, he said, is because Soldiers will increasingly be operating in remote areas of the world, and will be dispersed in small units, which may only have access to a medic.

Furthermore, these small units may be many hours or even days away from a medevac opportunity, particularly in combat against a near-peer adversary who dominates the air domain, or if helicopters are needed elsewhere for assault missions, he offered.

Already, Soldiers are operating in remote places like Africa and South America, he added. By the end of 2018, virtual health will be more widely available to these dispersed units in those two continents.

Since 2017, virtual health has been available to Strong Europe Soldiers in rotational units supporting NATO missions, he said. Many of the specialists for these Soldiers are at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, "keeping folks in the fight, not having to bring them back for every medical need."

Rye said the Army has been providing virtual health to Navy and Air Force units across the Pacific since early 2017.

She provided details of a Special Operations Soldier in the Pacific who recently had a hand injury severe enough to require surgery, with only a medic at the point of need. Details of the location in the Pacific where the Soldier was operating are classified, so even the surgeon at Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Ga., and the nurse at Fort Campbell, Ky., did not know where the patient was.

The surgeon and nurse walked the medic through the

delicate operation, she said, noting that the hand is particularly difficult to operate on because of the many nerves in close proximity to one another.

The result of that virtual health engagement was that the Soldier's hand was saved and today is 100 percent functional, she said.

In a home-station or combat training center setting, virtual health has delivered results that put hours or even days back into training, she said, meaning the injured Soldier doesn't necessarily have to be evacuated to a medical treatment facility.

Rye said the Army has been using some form of virtual health since 1992. However, that effort was relatively small and involved a lot of pilot studies.

One notable example of that effort took place in 2009, in the wake of the mass shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, she said. Psychologists and psychiatrists in Hawaii, Texas and in the Washington, D.C. region participated in virtual health consultations with some of the survivors.

Expansion of virtual health, she said, took off in 2010. That's also the year her office was stood up and virtual health became institutionalized.

LACKLAND

Tet Offensive veterans changed the way security forces operates

Attacks remain the biggest ground assault on a U.S. air base in the history of the Air Force

By Alain M. Polynice

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the Vietnam Security Police Association, along with close family, gathered outside the Security Forces Museum Jan. 31 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland for a ceremony to honor and remember the service members who fought and died on the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Tet Offensive.

Vietnam veterans came from various parts of the country to pay homage to their fellow comrades who fought in the fiercest battle of the Vietnam War 50 years ago, the Tet Offensive.

The Security Forces Academy, which worked in conjunction with the Security Forces Museum Foundation the past 10 months to organize this special event, commemorated the day with a donation of the Security Forces Battle Cross to the museum. Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center commander, Maj. Gen. Bradley D. Spacy, presented the Battle Cross to retired Col. Bernie DeNisio, a Silver Star recipient of the Tet Offensive and the ceremony's guest



ANDREW C. PATTERSON

Maj. Gen. Bradley D. Spacy (right), Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center commander, presents the Battle Cross to retired Col. Bernie DeNisio, a Silver Star recipient of the Tet Offensive during the 50th anniversary commemoration ceremony of the Vietnam War battle Jan. 31 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

speaker, who accepted it on behalf of the museum.

DeNisio, who spent his 21-year military career as a security police, told his fellow Vietnam veterans in the audience who saw action when the Tet

Offensive began, the 50th anniversary was also a birthday for them as well; given the fact they are alive and survived the enemy assault against them.

"I realize that today is not only the 50th anniversary of

the Tet Offensive, but in a real sense, it is a birthday for a lot of us who were there at Tet, our 50th birthday," DeNisio said.

In his remarks to the audience, DeNisio spoke briefly about his experience as a young

captain assigned to the 377th Security Police Squadron, 900 members within its ranks, when the Tet Offensive was launched.

CEREMONY continues on 15

Financial Services Air Force Workshop focuses on training, improved process

The opportunity to network and discuss common issues was a popular feature of the event in S.A.

By Ed Shannon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Staff Sgt. Amber Gonzalez and Airman 1st Class Femke Vargas can't wait to return home to Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, from their recent trip to the 2018 Financial Services Air Force Workshop in San Antonio.

Motivated by the variety of training topics, instruction, and crosstalk with more than 300 peers from across the Air Force, Gonzalez and Vargas are returning to their team with a better understanding of financial services support.

"This workshop was super beneficial for me because I served 6½ years in the Guard," said Gonzalez, a quality examiner and first line supervisor who oversees eight Airmen who execute multiple financial support functions. "It was really helpful to put things together and understand how the active duty component does finance. I am excited about the programs and tools coming out in the future, best practices that were shared, and the lines of effort coming out."

Vargas, the Defense Travel System (DTS) representative at Holloman, said most of the people in her sections are one-deep.

"I took lots of notes this week knowing the issues our team struggles with, and I know the information I share with them will be very help-



STEVE WARNS

Financial services technicians from throughout the Air Force gathered recently in San Antonio for the 2018 Financial Services Air Force Workshop, sponsored by the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center and the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office.

ful," she said.

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center hosted the workshop in partnership with the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office and Defense Finance and Accounting Service with a focus on giving attendees the tools they need to provide the best financial customer service possible.

"Training is our No. 1 focus area this week, and it's been a roaring success," said Monica Anders, director of AFIMSC Resource Management Directorate. "We brought together

the right audience with the right instructors and subject matter experts for training and crosstalk that will enhance financial customer service support across the Air Force."

AFIMSC Financial Services Division Chief Linda Alcalá said the goal of the workshop is to provide expertise attendees can share with their financial customer service teams.

"We want to develop our financial customer service skills to make sure our Airmen can go out and do their

jobs without any military pay problems that we can solve for them," Alcalá said.

The opportunity to network and discuss common issues was a popular feature of the workshop and benefited Debra Adams, finance chief at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

"The workshop allowed us to meet face to face with people we are often on the phone with - leaders in the Air Force financial world," Adams said.

Avis Hightower Rose, a budget analyst from Kirtland, said learning about all the updates and migrations of

financial systems was extremely informative for her.

"A lot of the work we do is helping customers by phone," Hightower Rose said. "We saw a new update in DTS we had not seen before. The training this week will help us talk our customers through the DTS screens as they file their vouchers."

As attendees participated in training, networked and heard from keynote speakers, a 15-person team participated in a Continuous Process Improve-

WORKSHOP continues on 16

CEREMONY

From page 13

During the Lunar New Year, or Tet holiday, in late January 1968 — Vietnam's most important holiday — North Vietnamese and communist Viet Cong forces (rebel forces sponsored by North Vietnam) launched a series of coordinated, surprise attacks against a number of targets, cities, towns, and hamlets in South Vietnam. Both the 377th SPS, assigned to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, and the 3rd SPS, at Bien Hoa AB, were attacked shortly after 3 a.m. that morning.

“[Tet Offensive] was the first actual major combat that the Air Force security police fought during the war,” said Rudy Purificato, Command Curator and Director of Operations for the

Airman Heritage Museum. The security police, now called security forces, were tasked to handle base defense of the various air bases throughout South Vietnam. “[The security police] took the brunt of the initial attacks.”

Purificato noted the gallantry of the 377th SPS who fought and managed to repel over 2,500 enemy forces from taking over Tan Son Nhut AB.

“It was quite a day,” Purificato added.

Based on intelligence attack reports and follow-on reports, 5,000 enemy troops were committed to the attack, said DeNisio. Reports detailed 962 enemy killed in action, although after action reports suggested the number was over 1,200. Inside the Tan Son Nhut AB perimeter, 157 enemy killed in action were identified.

The attacks remain the biggest ground assault on a U.S. air base in the history of the Air Force, said DeNisio.

Catherine Jeffries, course chief of the Security Forces Apprentice Course, attributes the lessons learned from the Tet Offensive and the men who fought in that battle to how the security forces career field operates and has adapted in dealing with global threats.

“In our history books here in the security forces career field, we call [the Tet Offensive] the biggest test of our combat effectiveness in our entire history and that fact stays true today,” said Jeffries.

She acknowledged there are a lot of challenges in the security forces career field but Jeffries is steadfast when she says security forces members continue to remain battle

tested time and time again.

“These guys in the Tet Offensive set the bar and paved the way forward for us so that we can build on that history by the noble men who fought the battle,” Jeffries noted.

The 50th anniversary commemoration ceremony concluded with the Battle Cross being permanently displayed in front

of the Gold Star Mothers exhibit at the entrance to the museum's Hall of Honor. The significance of the day was felt by many who attended the ceremony.

“It's a day of remembrance for the fallen — the first major conflict in which the security police had to fight in combat, hand to hand.” Purificato noted. “The Security Forces Museum is a spe-

cial place, particularly for the Vietnam veterans.”

“Security Forces Academy is the home of security forces worldwide. It's where everybody starts,” said Jeffries, adding it only made sense to have the commemoration here at JBSA-Lackland. “It's where every one of these veterans at one point in their life started their career right here, at Lackland.”

WORKSHOP

From page 14

ment (CPI) event designed to address a concern submitted from field.

AFIMSC financial administrators received input for several potential improvement initiatives from installations worldwide and observed a consistent concern regarding an apparent gap between metrics, systems, and guidance from varying Air Force levels. The CPI team analyzed the issue and developed Courses of Action for AFIMSC Resource Management officials to consider.

“We looked for the opportunities to improve the performance of the financial services operations by looking at all the processes and finding more effective and efficient ways to deliver entitlements and benefits to the Airmen,” said Maj. David Collins, AFIMSC CPI director who facilitated the event with Master Sgt. Gloria Hofilena.

A diverse group of subject matter experts comprised the CPI team, including Senior Airman Dariyelle Ricks, Eglin AFB, Florida; Staff



STEVE WARNS

Thomas Murphy, Financial Operations deputy assistant secretary, shared information about customer expectations, tools and training with more than 300 financial customer service technicians at the 2018 Financial Services Air Force Workshop Jan. 30 in San Antonio.

Sgt. Crystal Carr, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; Crystal Toupin, Hill AFB, Utah; Tech. Sgt. Kinsie Bradstreet, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; TSgt. Neeley Yarborough, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana; Master Sgt. David Weaver, Misawa AB, Japan; Michael Hogglen, Eglin AFB, Florida; Richard

Grant, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; Master Sgt. Darryn Disanto, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; Master Sgt. Jawanica Woodard, Suhyon Siewert, Denise Perry and Ian Davies, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland; and Bronson Gurdowski, Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

RANDOLPH

Security forces officer recognized by AETC

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

Capt. Nathan Spradley of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's 902nd Security Forces Squadron has been named as the Outstanding Security Forces Company Grade Officer for 2017 by Air and Education Training Command.

Spradley's leadership, merit and participation in coordinating security for a number of important patrons are among factors that made him the best recipient for the award. The 902nd SFS provided security for the president of the United States, vice president, secretary of the Air Force, chief of staff of the Air Force, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force and the local community.

Spradley further exhibited leadership when he quickly developed a force protection operations plan to accommodate members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. His plan allowed FEMA to coordinate relief efforts from Randolph Air Force Base in response to Hurricane Harvey.

Spradley acknowledged that he felt blessed to receive recognition, but also pointed out that he was blessed to be a part of security forces. Members of his squadron motivate him daily with their positive attitude. As an operations officer, he develops security for the installation by providing training and equipment to more than

"As a leader, you're only as good as your people. That award should go to the folks here that are actually in the cold, adverse weather conditions, performing the mission."

Capt. Nathan Spradley, 902nd SFS

100 defenders. He attributes mission success to effective communication and good partnerships, and feels the award he received is not an individual one.

"As a leader, you're only as good as your people," Spradley said. "That award should go to the folks here that are actually in the cold, adverse weather conditions, performing the mission. I'm here working for them and hopefully providing them with whatever they need to execute that mission."

Lt. Col. Brandon Edge, 902nd SFS commander, explained on Spradley's individual merit.

"He was asking all the right questions and was eager to improve things within the squadron," said Edge. "I have worked with some very strong company grade officers in my career, but Captain Spradley is the best. I have no doubt he has a very bright future ahead of him."



COURTESY PHOTO

Capt. Nathan Spradley, 902nd Security Forces Squadron

Recipients of the 12th Flying Training Wing's 2017 Annual Awards gather for a group photo with the Vice Wing Commander, Col. Randy Oakland (far left) and the Wing's Command Chief Master Sergeant, Tony Goldstrom (far right), during a ceremony Jan. 26 in Hangar 41 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Members of the Wing traveled from Naval Air Station Pensacola and the United States Air Force Academy to join their colleagues and senior leaders for the awards presentation.

The 2017 Awards recipients are Capt. Nikita Werling (Company Grade Officer); Kyle Scott (Civilian Non-Supv. Cat I); Katrina Scott (Civ. Non-Supv. Cat II); William Novak (Civ Supv. Cat I); Donald Alexander (Civ Supv Cat. II); Lee Sims (Civ Supv Cat III); Tech. Sgt. Andrew Lewis (Enlisted Instructor); Maj. Jordan Smith (Field Grade Officer); Senior Master Sgt. Amber Wortman (First Sergeant); Capt. Emily Elmore (Flight Commander); Capt. Sid Maru (Instructor Combat Systems Officer); Lt. Col. Blake Johnson (Instructor Pilot); Senior Airman Kevin Robey (Junior Enlisted Member); Tech. Sgt. Jason Hooper (Noncommissioned Officer); Master Sgt. Benjamin King (Senior Noncommissioned Officer); Ross Mills (Individual Wing Innovation); and the 12th FTW Maintenance Group (Team Innovation).

12TH FTW NAMES 2017 ANNUAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS



COURTESY PHOTO

FEBRUARY OBSERVANCE

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dating violence affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of teenagers each year.

According to Loveisrespect, a project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the problem is so widespread that an estimated one in three adolescents is the victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner.

Joint Base San Antonio will focus on teen dating violence and the importance of developing healthy relationships during February — Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month — with activities such as poetry slams, a “respect week” and a teen talent show.

“Nearly 1.5 million high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a year,” said Angela Nance, 359th Medical Operations Squadron Family Advocacy Program intervention specialist. “Our goal is to bring awareness to the problem of teen dating violence in the month of February and encourage people to take action toward a solution.”

Respect Week is planned Feb. 12-16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, said James Price, 59th Medical Operations Squadron FAP outreach manager.

“Students at Stacey Junior/Senior High School will be active participants in helping spread the word about teen dating violence prevention to their peers by posting information on social networks and creating different games and activities that focus on the issue,” he said.

The FAP is working with the JBSA-Lackland sexual assault response coordinator, teen center and the Lackland Independent School District to set up information tables at Stacey Junior/Senior High School and



the teen center.

“We will also share information and resources with unit first sergeants, spouses’ groups, the Military & Family Readiness Center and other agencies and individuals to spread information about teen dating violence,” he said.

At Randolph Middle School and Randolph High School, students will confront the problem of teen dating violence with poetry slams, Nance said.

“The poetry slams will be conducted Feb. 16 at the middle school and Feb. 23 at the high school,” she said. “Students will present poems that focus on healthy dating relationships and the impact of cyberbullying and social media on teens.”

The poetry slams will also feature an information table, Nance said.

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs will be the site of a program called “In Their Shoes” at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 21. Facilitated by Texas Advocacy Project, an Austin-based organization

“We want people to step up and break the silence. If teens know of an unhealthy relationship, they should talk to a trusted adult. We asked that parents reach out to a school counselor. Parents should also have an open, honest dialogue with their teenage children about what a healthy relationship should look like.”

Angela Nance, 359th Medical Operations Squadron Family Advocacy Program intervention specialist

whose mission is to prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking by providing free legal services, access to the justice system and education, “In Their Shoes” allows participants to become characters based on the experiences of real teens.

The Jeans for Teens Shelter Drive is again planned at JBSA-Randolph, Nance said. Donations of gently used blue jeans may be placed in collection boxes at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs, the chapel office and

the medical clinic throughout the month. The jeans will be taken to teen shelters in the San Antonio community.

An installation-wide activity is scheduled Feb. 13, when JBSA community members can wear orange to show their awareness of teen dating violence and support of efforts to prevent it, she said.

Although teen dating violence typically begins between the ages of 12 and 18, advice for teens is also applicable to young adults who have com-

pleted high school, Nance said.

“We’re not just looking at high school and middle school ages, but also at 20-some-things,” she said. “We want young Airmen to be aware of dating violence and strive for healthy relationships.”

Speaking up is an important part of addressing teen dating violence, Nance said.

“We want people to step up and break the silence,” she said. “If teens know of an unhealthy relationship, they should talk to a trusted adult. We asked that parents reach out to a school counselor. Parents should also have an open, honest dialogue with their teenage children about what a healthy relationship should look like.”

In military communities, teens and parents have a variety of resources to turn to when addressing teen dating violence, including military and family life counselors, chaplains, Military OneSource and TRICARE, Nance said.

COURTESY GRAPHIC /

FORT SAM HOUSTON BRIEFS

FSHISD Seeks Board of Trustee Members

Deadline: Feb. 28
The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District is soliciting for two nominees to be considered for the Board of Trustees. The positions must be filled by either a military member or civilian living on or employed by Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. To qualify for the board, a volunteer must be 18 years of age or older, a U.S. citizen and be a qualified voter. Trustees will take an official oath of office and serve without compensation. Interested applicants must apply no later than 5 p.m. Feb. 28. Resumes may be submitted to the School Liaison Officer at 2484 Stanley Road, building 2263, 107 B (in the basement room). For more information, call 210-221-2214 or 2256.

Positive Communication

Date/Time: Feb. 12, noon to 1 p.m.
Location: Vogel Resiliency Center, building 367
This interactive class will focus on ways to

improve communication skills by identifying the best methods using real life scenarios. As a result, participants will be able to apply verbal, non-verbal, effective listening and paraphrasing, and resolving conflicts of communication. To register, call 210-221-2705.

Military Caregiver Support Group

Date/Time: Feb. 13, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Location: Soldier & Family Assistance Center
Caregivers have the opportunity to build a support network, share experiences and information. For more information, call 210-426-9984.

Financial Success: Save & Invest

Date/Time: Feb. 13, 2-4 p.m.
Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797
Learn about the risks and rewards of investing. Identify strategies to help reach your investment goals and review the different type of saving options. To register, call 210-221-2705.

LACKLAND BRIEFS

JBSA-Lackland Hiring Our Heroes Transition Summit

Date/Time: Feb. 21, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Location: Gateway Club
Transitioning service members, veterans and military spouses are invited to a Hiring Our Heroes transition summit. The event features military and career connection workshops, interactive panel discussions, a career fair and a networking reception for employers, senior leaders and job seekers. Call 210-671-3722 or visit <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/events/hiringfairs> for event details.

Firing Range Trespass Notice

Location: Medina Firing Range, 900 Patrol Road, JBSA-Lackland Training Annex at Medina.
It is illegal and dangerous to trespass on the Medina Firing Range. Weapons training is conducted daily. For more information or valid entry requests contact the 37th Training Support

Squadron, Combat Weapons Section range control office at 210-671-2349 or 210-671-0023.

Post-Deployment Reunion & Reintegration

Date/Time: Mondays, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Location: Logistics Readiness, building 5160
Required for all service members returning from deployment; this training covers reintegration into home life and provides resources to deal with associated stressors. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. To register, call 210-671-3722.

Pre-Deployment Briefing

Date/Time: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 a.m.
Location: Logistics Readiness, building 5160
All service members scheduled to deploy, go on a temporary duty assignment longer than 30 days, or go on a remote assignment are required to attend. To register, call 210-671-3722.

RANDOLPH BRIEFS

JBSA-Randolph Hiring Our Heroes Transition Summit

Date/Time: Feb. 22, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Location: Parr Club
Transitioning service members, veterans and military spouses are invited to a Hiring Our Heroes transition summit. The event features military and career connection workshops, interactive panel discussions, a career fair and a networking reception for employers, senior leaders and job seekers. Call 210-671-3722 or visit <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/events/hiringfairs> for event details.

VA Stand Alone Workshop

Date/Time: Feb 23, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 693
Those exempt from the mandatory five-day Transition GPS Workshop must attend a Veterans Administration stand-alone workshop. Topics covered include critical VA programs and

services ranging from general benefits information, disability compensation, and GI Bill benefit. Prerequisite: Pre-Separation. To register, call 210-652-5321.

Stress and Time Management

Date/Time: March 8, noon to 2 p.m.
Location: Rambler Fitness Center, building 999
Class for those who want to examine the different causes of stress and learn time management techniques to more effectively cope with every day stressors. Call 210-652-2448.

Master Your Emotions

Date/Time: March 5, 12, 19, 26; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Rambler Fitness Center, building 999
For those who want to learn to cope with anger and other overwhelming emotions in healthy and productive ways. Also, get tips on handling angry people. Call 210-652-2448.