

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 8, 2019

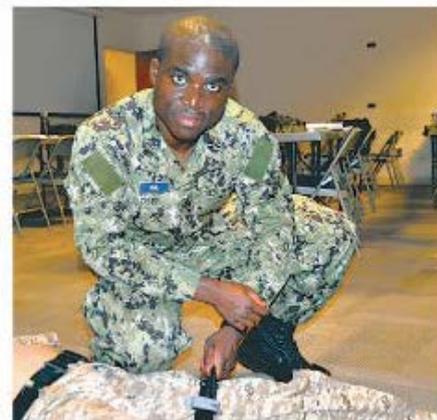


COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West (right), the surgeon general of the U.S. Army and commander, Army Medical Command, passes the colors to Lt. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, commander, Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Jan. 31 while Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Sargent, commanding general, the AMEDDC&S HRCoE, center, looks on.

Army Medicine still starts at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

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METC student overcomes challenges to join the Navy

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Caution urged when posting info online

By Tech. Sgt. Erich B. Smith
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

In recent months, military members have been victims of doxing — the practice of an outside entity making public personal or private information about an individual or organization by placing it in public areas of the Internet.

The unrelated, yet similar incidents, should serve as reminders to military members to be mindful of what they share online, said Jack Harrison, a division chief with the National Guard Bureau's Office of Public Affairs who oversees the NGB's social media and web presence.

"If your post is out there in social media, it's out there forever and whether you take it down or not is inconsequential to the outcome," he said. "Protecting yourself starts from moment one."

Those who carry out doxing often find the information from publicly available sources — such as social media posts, websites and other online

forums — but may also use more advanced techniques such as phishing scams or hacking. Because of that, said Harrison, protecting yourself means not only watching the information shared online, but also taking note of built-in features of cell phones and computers.

"The effort to protect yourself and your information isn't only about the social media platforms," he said. "It's also about the technology in the laptop they have on their desk or the cell phone they hold in their hands, and it's about making sure you use the technology to protect yourself."

Harrison pointed to Bluetooth and other wireless technologies available on most cell phones and computers. When left on in a public setting they may allow others the ability to connect to the device, depending on the security features that have been enabled. That may leave the device open to hacking.

Another concern comes when uploading digital photos from a camera with geotagging

features activated.

The location information saved by geotagging is embedded in the image, Harrison said, which may allow others to track an individual's movements and location, even if that location wasn't specified in the social media post or other areas the photos were uploaded to.

"Divulging someone's exact location would not only be a personal security concern," Harrison said, "but an operational security issue relative to the units in which that person serves."

Harrison added the security concern of location tracking may allow others to determine an individual's daily routine and time frames that may allow access to other areas with private information, such as a home or office. Additionally, it may give away details on unit and troop movements.

Maintaining an online presence isn't a bad thing, said Harrison, though military members should ensure their computer and cell phone are set

so others cannot connect to them. And when it comes to social media and other online posts, Harrison cautioned military members to think twice about the information they're putting out there.

"You need to ask yourself how much of your life you want to be exposed," said Harrison, "And from a military perspective, what would your commander think? One moment of your life can easily go viral and can affect or destroy your career."

Harrison emphasized that even if social media platforms are set to "private," an individual's posts can often still be shared by followers, making them visible to those the original poster may not know.

Striking a balance is key, he said.

"At the end of the day, it's all about common sense overruling the desire to be out there on social media," Harrison said. "You can do both, but you have to be safe and protect yourself by taking some common sense steps at the very beginning."

JBSA LEGACY

Joint Base San Antonio
Editorial Staff

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and JBSA Commander
BRIG. GEN.

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

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Federal tax law changes affect military, spouses

By Jim Garamone
DOD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA
ACTIVITY

Most service members and their families will see a reduction in their tax bills this year, but there are a number of changes in U.S. federal tax laws that they need to be aware of, said Army Lt. Col. Dave Dulaney, the executive director of the Pentagon's Armed Forces Tax Council.

"The last tax year has been quite exciting with all the changes that were made," Dulaney said. He noted that the Internal Revenue Service started accepting tax returns Jan. 28 for tax year 2018.

A number of pieces of legislation affect military taxpayers, he said: The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the

Veterans Benefits and Transition Act and the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act are just a few.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will mean that most service members will see a reduction in federal taxes for 2018, he said. There is an overall reduction of 3 percent for most military families under this act, Dulaney said, in addition, the standard deduction doubled, as did the Child Tax Credit.

"Because of these three things, most of our military families are going to see a substantial reduction in overall tax liability," he said.

There are also some special provisions that apply to military personnel. Service members who served in the Sinai Peninsula since June 9,

2015, are now eligible for the combat zone tax exclusion, the colonel said.

"This was retroactively applied and what that means is that since taxpayers have up to three years to file an amended tax return to make a claim for refund, those service members who served in the Sinai back in 2015 would be eligible to file an amended tax return, and they need to do it quickly," he said.

Service members with questions should go to their local tax assistance centers, Dulaney said, noting that this change should affect about 2,000 service members.

Members of the armed forces are still able to deduct their unreimbursed moving expenses incurred during permanent change of station

moves, he said.

There are changes to deductions for travel to drill for reservists. "Reservists cannot take deductions for drill duty expenses that are under 100 miles," he said. Those driving more than 100 miles can still take deductions.

For military spouses, there is a significant change as part of the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018. "This allows military spouses to elect to use their service member's state of legal residence for state and local taxes," he said.

In the past, a spouse may have had to file a different state tax return because they had split legal residences. For example, if a service member with a legal residence of New

TAX LAW continues on 4

Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman
502D AIR BASE WING
AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Installation & Facilities

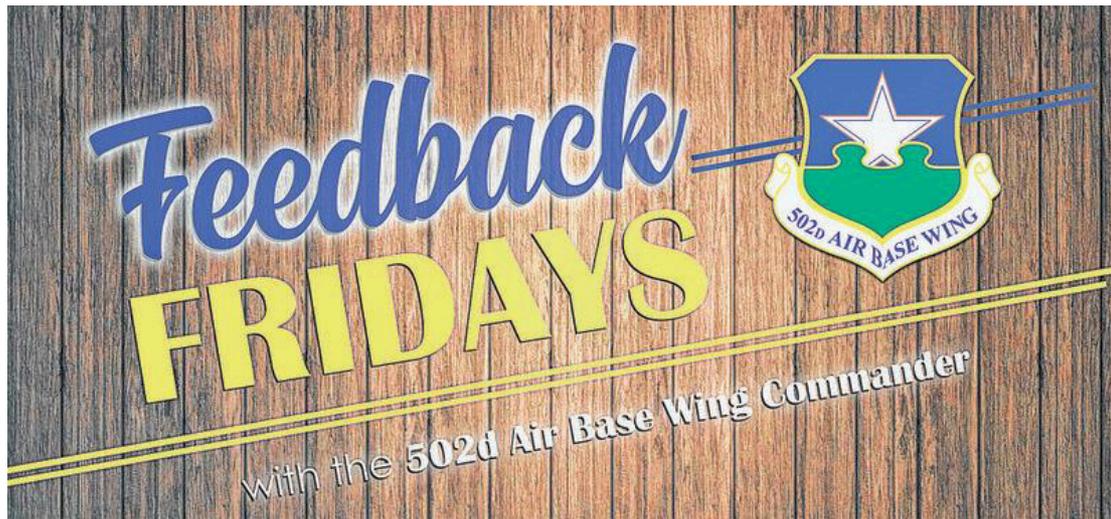
Q. What is the plan to develop Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis? Are any initiatives underway to increase the services offered there for mission and morale purposes, such as another restaurant or some food trucks on site; a gas pump; child care; gym expansion; site security; communications infrastructure?

A. We are always striving to improve JBSA infrastructure, to include the ever-important JBSA-Camp Bullis! First, we have a brand new 36,000-square-foot dining facility that will break ground this year to provide top quality meals to service members who work and train at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

Additionally, we are working on designs for entry gate safety improvements as well as new Hutment/lodging facilities for JBSA-Camp Bullis trainees. Other improvements currently in planning include repairing the testing running track and improved pedestrian lighting. We will move forward with those projects as funds become available.

Q. Is it possible to install lighting at the Fitness Center at the METC Beaver Fit pad at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston? Most units are doing PT in the hours of darkness between 5-6:30 a.m. and cannot utilize the Beaver Fit due to safety concerns.

A. Thank you for bringing this safety concern to my attention. We currently working on several initiatives to improve lighting specifically on



JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; however, priority has been given first to training campus and pedestrian areas. Some facility mounted lighting has already been installed and additional lighting installation is being planned and funded this fiscal year.

We appreciate your inputs on the Beaver Fit pads and will work with our JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Executive Agent to determine the priority for planning and funding to install permanent lighting. In the interim, some owning organizations of Beaver Fit equipment have elected to self-procure and operate portable lighting until the permanent fix is available.

Q. I was hoping that you would consider, during the timeframe that the JBSA-Randolph Main Entrance will be down for construction, opening the East Gate at 5:30 a.m. for those of us that come in early and work on the East side of the base. It would save us driving across the Pat Booker intersection, to get to the West Gate and then contend with the base traffic to get back over to our east side work places. It just seems that opening the East Gate earlier than 6 a.m. would eliminate the congestion at the West Gate entrance.

A. Thank you for the feedback and suggestion for how to ease traffic during gate construction. Our Security Forces team took a look at the traffic flow and the positioning of their manpower. They were able to make some adjustments that allow us to expand hours at the East Gate as well as the South Gate. Starting this past Monday, 14 Jan, the gates are now open starting at 5:30 a.m.

Keep the feedback coming!

Miscellaneous

Q. How can we view the 502d Air Base Wing Commander's Call on the internet?

A. Thank you for your interest in participating in our Commander's Calls! While the best way to share in the experience is to attend the event on location, where you have an opportunity to engage with peers and leadership, we understand that physically attending the event is not always feasible.

In light of this, some members have asked us to livestream the event. Unfortunately, the existing Wi-Fi capability in many of our facilities prevents this from being a viable option. However, during the next Commander's Call we will plan to a video the event and share with all of you in order to ensure those folks that weren't able to attend in person receive the information.

Correction to Last Week's Q&A

Thank you for your continued responses and attention to Feedback Friday! Last week we published incomplete data with a few errors on a question pertaining to proper procedures during reveille/retreat. Below is an amended response.

Q. Why do vehicles drive during morning reveille?

A. Each military service has published guidelines for how personnel will respond to these events. The Army published Army Regulation 600-25. The Navy published OPNAVINST 1710.7A. And the Air Force published Air Force

Instruction 34-1201.

Here at JBSA, since installation support is provided by the 502d ABW, we use AFI 34-1201 to guide us. Paragraph 8.1.5.2 explains that if the base flies the United States Flag continuously for 24 hours with only Reveille or Retreat played, but no action with the flag, individuals are not required to stop and salute. Reveille and Retreat on their own are bugle calls only.

The playing of "To The Colors," the national anthem, or the raising or lowering of the flag is what requires proper honors to be displayed to the flag. In these cases, when outside and in uniform, face the flag (if visible) or face the direction the music is played and stand at attention and salute on the first note of "To The Color" or the national anthem (or if neither is played, when you see the flag first being raised or lowered).

Drop your salute after the last note of "To The Colors" or the national anthem, or when the flag has been fully raised or lowered, depending on the ceremony (during the playing of "Sound Retreat" which precedes the lowering of the flag, stand at Parade Rest).

If in a vehicle, during Reveille or Retreat pull the car to the side of the road and stop. All occupants sit quietly at attention until the last note of "To The Colors" or the national anthem is played (or the flag is fully raised or lowered). All sporting or physical training activities will stop during Reveille and Retreat (if the flag is being raised or lowered) with proper honors shown to the flag.

**FORT SAM
HOUSTON
2019
NATIONAL
PRAYER
LUNCHEON**

Date: 14 February 2019
Where: Fort Sam Houston Golf Course
Time: 1130 Lunch Served
1200 Program Begins



Guest Speaker:
Lynn Chickering,
Granddaughter of one of the survivors of
the SS Dorchester
POC: CH (MAJ) Thompson
(210) 221-5985

Event is free and open to Service
Members, Spouses, FSH Contractors,
and Retirees (no tickets)

Hear the inspiring story of the Four Chaplains



U.S. Air Force Academy advertises new enlisted academic instructor positions

By Ray Bowden
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For the first time in Air Force Academy history, enlisted Airmen will be deliberately hired for faculty teaching positions.

The Air Force Personnel Center began announcing Jan. 23 the need for senior noncommissioned officers to fill enlisted academic instructor positions at the school.

While enlisted Airmen have been instructing cadets for decades at the Academy, they have not been directly assigned to the Academy as accredited academic faculty instructors.

Chief Master Sgt. Rob Boyer,

Academy command chief, said the move stems from the Academy's investment in the enlisted force, and the development of our future officers.

"This initiative has grown as a result of decades of enlisted educational growth," he said. "We want to leverage opportunities for our enlisted Airmen."

With this move by the Academy, AFPC has created a new duty position.

"This is really exciting for the Academy and the Air Force," Boyer said. "We know the positive impact our enlisted Airmen have had on our cadets and their massive role and influence in fulfilling our mission. I feel like we're really

setting the standard here for great things to come at the Academy and for our Air Force."

Master Sgt. Talisa Williams, superintendent of the Academy's Military Personnel Division, said one just-filled position was for a chief master sergeant to manage enlisted instructors at the institutional level.

"The other two faculty instructor positions are open to senior master sergeants and master sergeants, and can be applied for by visiting the Air Force Assignment Management System," she said.

Enlisted faculty instructors will be assigned to an academic department at the Academy.

"They're going to be

instructors at an accredited university teaching courses within their degree discipline," Williams said.

Boyer said the push for accredited enlisted instructors is part of a joint effort by Air University and the Academy to advance the enlisted force education across the Air Force and the modern-day joint-service environment.

"We have to be smarter in how we fight today's wars," he said. "We have to exercise what our Airmen bring to the fight and deploy our lethality from the 'neck up.' This is an additional opportunity to show our cadets that our enlisted Airmen are smart, capable and able to get after today's complex mission environment

with commander intent."

Senior Master Sgt. Sadie Chambers, superintendent of the Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development, holds a master's in human relations. She's been teaching leadership courses to cadets since 2017. She's an accredited instructor authorized by the Academy's Manpower Office and selected by Boyer to teach while the Academy continued to work with AFPC to create the new position. Chambers said teaching helps her fulfill an obligation held by every NCO: developing Airmen.

"I absolutely love and am humbled by the opportunity to teach cadets in an academic setting," she said.

TAX LAW

From page 2

York moved to Virginia and married a person with a legal residence from that state.

"Now, our military spouses can now elect to use the legal residence of the military member for purposes of filing their state and local taxes," Dulaney said. "Now military couples will no longer have to file different state tax returns ... additionally it will reduce the

overall tax burden for military families."

Finally, the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act has been implemented for veterans who received disability severance pay and had tax withholding applied to the pay.

"Now under the tax code, disability severance pay is not taxable under certain situations," he said. More than 133,000 veterans who have received this pay are eligible for relief under the act.

The vets have until July to file for a refund.

There are a number of aids for military personnel

and their families as they prepare their taxes. Each base has a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program office that will help. To find your local office, visit Military OneSource at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/vita-location-lookup>.

The IRS offers information about free tax preparation at <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep>.

Military OneSource also has information about military tax services in its tax resource center at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-resource-center/>.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

METC student overcomes challenges to join the Navy

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Through perseverance, patience and determination, Seaman Gideon Osei is fulfilling his dream of serving in the Navy.

Overcoming obstacles, challenges and doubts along the way that would have caused others to quit, Osei has persevered and is beginning his service in the Navy as a hospital corpsman after graduating from the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 28.

Osei's goal of joining the military started three years ago when he and his wife, Ellen, who was pregnant at the time, emigrated to the U.S. from Ghana, in western Africa.

Osei said as an immigrant he takes pride in being a servicemember.

"One of the things that made me want to join was the uniform," Osei said. "In Ghana, many people respect people who have come here to the U.S. and joined the military. So it was for the pride of it."

He decided to enlist in the Navy because it would help him fulfill two of his goals: becoming an American citizen and furthering his educational opportunities in the field of medicine. Before emigrating to the U.S., Osei had worked as a registered nurse for four years at a hospital in Ghana, where he supervised nursing assistants.



DAVID DEKUNDER

Seaman Gideon Osei practices patient care by working on a mannequin in a training room at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The process of joining the Navy required a lot of patience from Osei. He signed up through the Delayed Entry Program and had to wait two years before he could go to basic training, as it took a long time for the Navy to obtain his educational transcripts from Ghana and conduct a background check.

At one point, Osei said he lost hope and considered opting out of the Delayed Entry Program after his first two ship out dates to go to basic training were canceled. But his chief recruiter in Maryland, where he and his family

reside, encouraged him to stay in the program and not give up on his dream of joining the Navy.

"I told my chief (recruiter) I may opt out of the Delayed Entry Program and the chief told me, 'It pays to wait,' " Osei said. "I shouldn't lose hope and I should hold on."

Finally, he got his instructions to ship out for basic training in July 2018.

Osei overcame another set of challenges at basic training, a language barrier between him and his instructors and passing his swim test. He overcame the language barrier by learning to pay close attention to the words spoken to him and he passed his swim test on the second try after practicing and working on his backstroke for six weeks.

"I never believed I could pass the swim test," he said. "As I passed the swim test, it really boosted my confidence. That was the beginning of my confidence in the Navy, passing my swim test. Confidence as in being able to do whatever task I am entrusted with in the Navy."

Osei came to METC in October 2018 as a student in the Hospital Corpsman Basic Program. During his time at METC, he made an impression with students and instructors.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Malter, Navy Medicine Training Support Center/Hospital Corpsman Basic Program instructor, said Osei was as an inspiration to students and instructors

at METC who knew him.

"His motivation and dedication have been infectious," Malter said. "Seaman Osei has been a very diligent student, very hard-working, especially when you notice the language barrier there. He's very forthcoming with his questions. He obviously had a lot of medical knowledge prior to coming here. He's been able to utilize that during his corpsman training."

Osei was a solid student at METC, graduating with a 90 GPA. He said his prior experience as a registered nurse in Ghana and his educational background (he has a college degree) helped him to overcome the language barrier and in understanding medical concepts taught to him at METC. In addition, he said his college education prepared him for the fast-paced, intensive learning environment at METC, particularly in studying for exams.

He said the students and his lead instructors at METC, including Chief Petty Officer Nija Shaw, Petty Officer 1st Class John-Ross McCarthy and Malter, were very supportive of him during his time at the medical training campus.

"They have been very, very helpful, especially (Petty Officer 2nd Class) Malter," Osei said. "(Petty Officer 2nd Class) Malter has been inspiring to me. He always wanted to know about me and encouraged me. Anytime I had any issue and (would) go to him for help, he was willing to help."

AMEDDC&S participates at Uzbekistan Preventive Medicine Exchange

By Jose E. Rodriguez

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CENTER & SCHOOL, HEALTH READINESS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, Health Readiness Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston was represented by Lt. Col. Stephen E. Cassle, Food Protection Branch Department of Veterinary Science chief, at the Preventive Medicine Subject

Matter Expert Exchange held Dec. 3-7, 2018, at the Central Military Medical Hospital at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The visit was an opportunity for subject matter experts from the U.S. military, Uzbek Ministry of Defense and Uzbek Ministry of Health to discuss preventive health, food and water safety, infectious disease control and share medical best practices.

The visit included briefs on a variety of preventive medicine topics agreed upon between both delegations prior to

execution.

The goal of the exchange was to develop a way forward and future events to increase military medical capacity.

Maintaining a robust, positive relationship through engagements with Uzbekistan allowed for the enhancement and development of U.S. diplomatic and political influence in the region and supports the U.S. Central Command Security Cooperation Plan.

"This was my second Global Health

Engagement and exchange with the Uzbek Ministry of Defense," Cassle said. "The addition of civilian members of the Uzbek Ministry of Health was vital to building a lasting partnership with Uzbekistan. By the end of the week, we all had a better shared understanding of the preventive medicine programs for both countries and how future exchanges can strengthen mutual support and collaboration."

Twins continue family tradition by joining Navy

By Burrell Parmer
NAVY RECRUITING DISTRICT
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Continuing a family tradition of military service, fraternal twin sisters Hanna and Halle Von Plueren of San Antonio are joining America's Navy.

Hanna, who entered the Navy's Delayed Entry Program in 2018, was present to witness her sister take the oath of enlistment at the San Antonio Military Entrance Processing Station at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 29.

According to Hanna, a 2018 graduate of Penn Foster High School in Scranton, Pa., it's a family tradition to serve.

"My father served in the Marine Corps along with my older brother and uncle, who are both Marines," said Hanna, who will serve in the

Master-at-Arms career field. "I have another brother and sister who served in the Navy, and my grandfather was a Korean and Vietnam War veteran who served in the Army."

Hanna said that she wanted to fight for freedom, travel the oceans and is happy for her sister.

"I am really excited that my sister decided to join," Hanna said. "She wanted to have better opportunities and continue in our family line of veterans."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Francisco Sierra, assigned to Navy Recruiting Station North East, Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, recruited both siblings.

"It's great to see family members take the journey together," Sierra said. "This will be my first set of twins who I have had the pleasure of

recruiting."

For Halle, a 2017 graduate of the Adult Learning Center in San Antonio, it's about family and becoming a better person.

"I wanted to follow in my family's footsteps," Halle said. "I will be able to learn a lot from being in the Navy, which will help better myself."

According to Halle, both sisters discussed joining the military in May 2018 and visited with Chief Petty Officer Sambath Ham at NRS North East in October 2018.

"They are continuing the legacy and history of service of their family to our nation," said Ham, the station's leading chief petty officer. "I wish them nothing but success in our Navy."

Halle will ship to Recruiting Training Command Feb. 19. It is the twins' desire to attend boot camp as a family.



BURRELL PARMER

Chief Petty Officer Sambath Ham, Navy Recruiting Station North East, from left; future Sailor Halle Von Plueren; Master Chief Petty Officer Matthew Maduemesi, chief recruiter of Navy Recruiting District San Antonio; future Sailor Hanna Von Plueren; and Petty Officer 2nd Class Francisco Sierra of NRS North East, gather for a photo at NRD San Antonio headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

BAMC seeks 'mystery shoppers' to improve patient experience

By Lori Newman
BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Retail stores often use secret shoppers to improve customer service. Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is now implementing a similar concept to improve patient experience.

The Mystery Shopper Program is an Army Medical Command initiative to help military treatment facilities and clinics improve care for patients.

"We are trying to improve and enhance our patients' experience," said Maria Guerrero, BAMC Patient Experience Branch chief. "Getting direct feedback from our patients is a great way to do that."

BAMC volunteers will be making the rounds to several different clinics to ask patients

for feedback after their appointment. The patient will be asked to fill out a simple, six-question survey about the appointment, to include timeliness, courtesy of staff and if there was adequate information provided during an appointment.

"This is a great opportunity, because the appointment is fresh in their mind," Guerrero said.

The volunteer will visit different clinics Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to hand out the survey.

If patients would like to participate in the Mystery Shopper Program, they also can stop by the Patient Experience Office to pick up a form before or after their appointment. The form can then be returned to the same office.

"Anytime a patient has any type of concern they can come see us or give us a call,"



JASON W. EDWARDS

Volunteer Cynthia Barrera, right, hands Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Gittens, Medical Education Training Campus instructor and writer, a Mystery Shopping Patient Experience pamphlet Jan. 25 at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Guerrero said. "We are here to help them."

The Patient Experience Office is on the first floor by the main entrance to the hospital. Patients

can call 210-916-2330 or stop by between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Another way for patients to get involved and help improve

their health care experience is by joining the Patient Family Advisory Council, or PFAC, which meets monthly. The meetings are approximately one hour and are planned for the day and time that best meets the schedules of the beneficiary members.

The PFAC committee provides a "Voice-of-the-Customer" forum to facilitate dialogue between BAMC leadership and representatives of the beneficiary population about the scope and availability of services, clinical quality, and to provide feedback and suggestions on all aspects of the patient experience.

"This is a great way for our patients to have a voice and be part of the solution," Guerrero said.

For more information or to sign up for the council, call 210-916-2330.

AB-positive, AB-negative blood donors urgently needed

From Akeroyd Blood Donor Center

The Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston has an urgent need for AB-positive or AB-negative plasma donors.

Only about four percent of the nation's population has AB type blood and they possess a unique gift – universal plasma – which is a crucial blood component in treating trauma patients, burn victims and those with bleeding disorders.

Plasma donations are open to all service members, their family members, Department of Defense and other federal civilian and retirees.

General guidelines for plasma donors:

- ▶▶ Male
- ▶▶ Female with no previous pregnancy, due to transfusion-related acute lung injury risk
- ▶▶ Must weigh at least 116 pounds
- ▶▶ Must be screened by the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center staff before scheduling an appointment. Screening takes about 5-10 minutes.
- ▶▶ Appointments will be scheduled from 4:30-11 a.m., Tuesday through Friday
- ▶▶ Must meet the same requirements as a whole blood donor

Bring the following items when donating:

- ▶▶ List of medications
- ▶▶ List of foreign countries the donor has traveled to (when, where, how long)
- ▶▶ Photo ID (military ID, driver's license)

During the donation process, blood is drawn from one arm through an automated collection system. This system separates and collects the plasma and then safely returns the remaining blood components back to the donor. The donation process takes approximately 35-45 minutes.

For more information, call the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at 210-295-4655.



STAFF SGT. KRISTAL WRIGHT

Receiving the gift of blood can mean the difference between life or death for those in need. In order for them to receive this life-saving substance, others must be willing to donate their blood.

HOUSTON ASTROS PITCHERS VISIT U.S. ARMY INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL RESEARCH BURN CENTER



DR. STEVEN GALVAN

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Peters, left, describes the mission and capabilities of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center Burn Flight Team to Houston Astros pitchers Dean Deetz, Rogelio Armenteros and Astros broadcaster Alex Trevino during their visit Jan. 24 to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. The Astros stopped by to visit with burn patients, sign autographs and tour the facility.

ARMY SURGEON GENERAL ADDRESSES ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT RETIRED SENIOR LEADER FORUM



REBECCA L. WESTFALL

Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, U.S. Army Surgeon General and Commanding General U.S. Army Medical Command, gives opening remarks during the Army Medical Department Retired Senior Leader Forum held at the Training Support Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 29. The forum provided a discussion on the vision for the future of Army Medicine's organizational structure.

Army offers more flexibility with new parental leave policy

By Gary Sheftick
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army has doubled the amount of parental leave available to fathers and other secondary caregivers of newborn infants with a policy that also provides more leave flexibility for mothers.

Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper signed a directive Jan. 23 that increases parental leave from 10 to 21 days for Soldiers who are designated secondary caregivers of infants. The new policy makes the Army's parental leave comparable to that of other services and in compliance with the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act.

Mothers will now be granted six weeks of convalescent leave directly after giving birth and can be granted another six weeks of leave as primary caregiver to bond with their infant anytime up to a year after birth.

"We want Soldiers and their families to take full advantage of this benefit," said retired Col. Larry Lock, chief of Compensation and Entitlements, Army

G-1. He said parental leave is a readiness issue that ensures mothers have the time they need to get back in shape while it also takes care of families.

The new policy is retroactive to Dec. 23, 2016 — the date the NDAA legislation was signed for fiscal year 2017.

In other words, Soldiers who took only 10 days of paternal leave over the past couple of years can apply to take an additional 11 days of "uncredited" leave as a secondary caregiver.

An alternative would be to reinstate 11 days of annual leave if that time was spent with their infant.

Eligible Soldiers need to complete a Department of the Army Form 4187 and submit it to their commanders for consideration regarding the retroactive parental leave.

Fathers can also be designated as primary caregivers and granted six weeks or 42 days of parental leave, according to the new policy. However, only one parent can be designated as primary caregiver, Lock pointed out.

LACKLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2018				
Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 466,702	\$ 2,711	\$ 189,789	\$ 659,202
5800 State Program Revenues	8,544,619	-	76,861	8,621,480
5900 Federal Program Revenues	7,797,058	206,796	628,310	8,632,164
5020 Total Revenues	<u>16,808,379</u>	<u>209,507</u>	<u>894,960</u>	<u>17,912,846</u>
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	9,102,599	-	225,462	9,328,061
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	244,649	-	516	245,165
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	705,911	-	43,432	749,343
0021 Instructional Leadership	120,243	-	102,097	222,340
0023 School Leadership	657,507	-	2,944	660,451
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	677,664	-	95,000	772,664
0033 Health Services	168,787	-	-	168,787
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	387,912	-	-	387,912
0035 Food Services	-	-	402,366	402,366
0036 Extracurricular Activities	239,426	-	324	239,750
0041 General Administration	803,764	-	53	803,817
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	1,366,672	-	-	1,366,672
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	152,137	-	-	152,137
0053 Data Processing Services	259,142	-	-	259,142
0061 Community Services	33,995	-	932	34,927
Capital Outlay:				
0061 Facilities Acquisition and Construction Intergovernmental:	-	1,098,286	-	1,098,286
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	584,877	-	-	584,877
6030 Total Expenditures	<u>15,505,285</u>	<u>1,098,286</u>	<u>873,126</u>	<u>17,476,697</u>
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>1,303,094</u>	<u>(888,779)</u>	<u>21,834</u>	<u>436,149</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7915 Transfers In	-	1,000,000	30,200	1,030,200
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(1,030,200)	-	-	(1,030,200)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(1,030,200)</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>30,200</u>	<u>-</u>
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	272,894	111,221	52,034	436,149
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	22,200,930	852,001	24,909	23,077,840
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	<u>\$ 22,473,824</u>	<u>\$ 963,222</u>	<u>\$ 76,943</u>	<u>\$ 23,513,989</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Army Medicine still starts at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CENTER & SCHOOL,
HEALTH READINESS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Army Medical Department Center and School, Health Readiness Center of Excellence, or AMEDDC&S HRCoE, conducted a Transfer of Authority ceremony Jan. 31 to publically recognize their realignment from the U.S. Army Medical Command, or MEDCOM, to the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, or TRADOC, with operational control under the Combined Arms Center, or CAC.

The realignment, which was official on Oct. 19, 2018, was commemorated during the ceremony by passing of the HRCoE's unit colors from the outgoing command to the incoming command. Co-hosted by Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, The Surgeon General of the U.S. Army and Commander, MEDCOM, and Lt. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, Commander, CAC and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the event also included a change in shoulder insignia, or unit patch, for the HRCoE's headquarters and headquarters company.

During her remarks, West told Lundy that the CoE "will be in outstanding hands because of our long tradition with TRADOC and the synergy that we have had in the past. This is just the next step in that direction."

West, who is the 44th Surgeon General of the Army, went on to outline why the HRCoE's motto - "Army Medicine Starts Here" is appropriate. She said, "This is the entry point for all the members of our Army Medical Department. Our doctors, nurses, administrators, x-ray techs, dentists, physical therapists and, of course our beloved combat medics, all start here."

West also noted that TRADOC and MEDCOM have always had a strong relationship and will continue to work closely to determine requirements for both personnel and materiel to ensure the future medical force is ready to support the Army and the joint force.

The HRCoE trains over 37,000 Soldiers in 104 officer and warrant officer areas of concentrations and 24 enlisted military occupational specialties. They produce agile Army medical leaders for the operational force in various medical specialties. Army medical personnel from various recruitment or commissioning sources, all pass through the CoE during Advanced Individual Training, Basic Officer Leadership Courses, Captains Career Courses, or many other international, graduate, civilian education or leader programs.

With the addition of the Health Readiness CoE, TRADOC schools will now have a soldier and service member throughput of over 745,000 annually among their nine centers, including the HRCoE. Each center of excellence, from Aviation, Cyber, or Fires to Intelligence, Maneuver, or Sustainment is focused on a separate area of expertise within the force; together, they are building America's Army.

The purpose of the Army is to fight and win the nation's wars. Warfighting is every soldier's primary mission, and the reorganization was guided by that fundamental principal by order of the Secretary of the



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West (right), the surgeon general of the U.S. Army and commander, Army Medical Command, passes the colors to Lt. Gen. Michael D. Lundy (left), commander, Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, during a Jan. 31 ceremony, while Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Sargent (center), AMEDDC&S HRCoE commanding general, looks on.

Army.

TRADOC's mission is to recruit, train, and educate the Army, driving constant improvement and change to ensure the total Army can deter, fight and win on any battlefield now and into the future. They execute their mission through major subordinate commands like the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, the U.S. Army Cadet Command, and the Combined Arms Center.

Lundy, who is also the Deputy Commanding General for Combined Arms, TRADOC, outlined how the Army has been very focused, for the greater part of two decades, on counterinsurgency, stability operations and counterterrorism, but now great power competition, or conflict, is at the center of the U.S. national defense strategy. Lundy said, "We have to continue to change and adapt to the operational environment, how we think about being able to prevail in large scale ground combat operations, and how Army medicine matters and is going to be different than maybe it has been over the last 17 years."

Through CAC's U.S. Army and TRADOC core roles and functions, they develop requirements across doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader development and education, personnel, facilities, and policy (DOTMLPF-P) for divisions, corps, and theater armies while synchronizing and integrating doctrine, training, education, and leader development.

"It is very appropriate that HRCoE is now formally a part of the Combined Arms Center, but I will tell you, it has always been a part of our combined arms team," said Lundy. The HRCoE, who has always had the mission of training the Army medical force, has worked hard to appropriately nest with the CAC and TRADOC missions.

Lundy reiterated West's sentiment that Army Medicine has been successfully linked with TRADOC

for some time and described how the expertise that The Surgeon General brings is necessary for CAC and the HRCoE's success through this realignment and into the future. Lundy told the command, "My expectation is that you maintain the relationship that you have now with the Army Surgeon General; that is absolutely vital."

The CoE traces its lineage to the Medical Field Service School (MFSS) established in 1920 at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. The creation of the service school was strongly advocated for by The Surgeon General at the time, Maj. Gen. Merritte W. Ireland. The Service School moved to Fort Sam Houston in 1946 and was located in the 9th Infantry Regiment Quadrangle. In 1991, the school was re-designated as the Army Medical Department Center and School and added the CoE designation after earning accreditation in February 2015.

Over 300 attendees, that included former AMEDDC&S HRCoE and MEDCOM commanders and command sergeants major, community leaders, soldiers and civilians, witnessed the historic moment when West removed the left shoulder insignia of Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Sargent, Commanding General of the AMEDDC&S HRCoE, the MEDCOM patch, to signify the end of assignment within the Medical Command. Lundy, signifying the transition to CAC, replaced the patch with the shoulder sleeve insignia that was originally established for the U.S. Army medical training center by the Institute of Heraldry from 1959 to 1973. The patch that was reinstated and re-designated for the HRCoE is adorned with a torch, representing knowledge, and a serpent, which is adapted from the Army Medical Corps insignia. The patch is maroon and white, the traditional colors of the Medical Corps.

The HRCoE, under the Training and Doctrine Command, maintains the authority and responsibility for developing medical readiness and health concepts, identifying medical readiness and health capability gaps, and defining and redesigning future Soldier medical and health requirements. The HRCoE mission remains to envision, design, train, educate, and inspire a premiere military medical force.

Upon completion of the Transfer of Authority and Patch Ceremony, Sargent told Lundy and West that the CoE is "all in" and committed to ensuring that Army Medicine does not lose the momentum that it has already gained in support of the Army's mission. He said he fully grasps the HRCoE's current mission and the nature of the changing operational environment. HRCoE priorities are designed to strengthen America's Army by developing the medical capability and preparing the medical force of the future. He also described how he believes the Army medical department brings humanity to the battlefield while conserving the fighting strength.

Sargent, who assumed command of the HRCoE June 1, 2018, reiterated his vision for the command, "We bring strength to the warrior; hope for the wounded and comfort for the dying. We are the foundation on which Army Medicine is built. Army Medicine Starts Here."

LACKLAND

Basic Military Training puts focus on heritage

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

Basic Military Training has implemented several heritage-based programs in an effort to better connect Airmen to the Air Force core values.

“Over our 71 years of heritage we’ve had a lot of young men and women who shaped who we are,” said Chief Master Sgt. Lee Hoover, 737th Training Group Superintendent at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. “We need to make sure that when a trainee becomes an Airman, they are tied in to what it means to be an Airman.”

The first step BMT is making toward this goal is the implementation of “Heritage Books.”

“Heritage books are filled with stories about inspirational Airmen our military training instructors can use to motivate trainees and help them learn why we do what we do,” said Master Sgt. Jacob Babich, a 326th Training Squadron MTI. “They really focus on sharing our Air Force heritage, not just our history. History is knowledge, heritage is something you feel; something that drives and motivates you.”

Heritage books will be in the hands of every MTI and soon every trainee. These books are only part of the change, as plaques at Basic Expeditionary Airmen Skills Training have also been created to further infuse heritage with technical training.

“We’ve created plaques honoring enlisted heroes at each obstacle in the obstacle course,” Babich said. “Whenever groups of trainees approach the next obstacle, they’re met by these plaques. The MTI leading the group will stop and share the enlisted hero’s story, allowing the trainees to reflect and indulge themselves in the next challenge as the Airmen before them have done.”

The plaques honor notable figures in Air Force history such as Airman 1st Class John Levitow, who became the lowest ranking Air Force member to

ever receive the Medal of Honor. Levitow selflessly threw himself on a burning flare in an aircraft and kept it covered with his body until he was able to throw it from the aircraft, saving the entire crew. He accomplished this despite having sustained many wounds.

Along with the heritage books and plaques, MTIs are also sharing the stories of Air Force heroes during special physical training sessions, Babich added.

“We call it BRAVE PT,” Babich said. “BRAVE stands for battle ready Airmen of valor and excellence. We tell a story over the loudspeaker about an enlisted hero and use it to drive the trainees. For example, we’ll talk about Chief Master Sgt. Dwayne Hackney, the most decorated enlisted man in Air Force history, and allow the Airmen to connect with his story so they can say ‘hey, I’m not gonna slow down, because Chief Hackney didn’t slow down.’”

These three programs come in conjunction with broader curriculum changes aimed at increasing readiness, lethality and human performance.

“All of these tools work in concert to teach what it means to become an Airman,” Hoover said. “You don’t just have a class about what it means; you have to have continuous two-way conversations and insert information about the people who’ve gone before you and challenge Airmen to think, ‘what does it mean to become an Airman?’”

Upholding the Air Force core values is the price of entry for becoming a member of the world’s greatest Air Force, Babich added.

“You can’t just be technically ready, you have to be ready in your heart,” Babich said. “If you don’t want to come to work everyday and fight for our country then you’re in the wrong place. We’re not here to just give you a paycheck, we’re here to defend our country and uphold the standard of excellence of our enlisted heroes.”



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

Air Force Basic Military Training trainees attempt to build a bridge during a team-building challenge at Basic Expeditionary Airmen Skills Training Dec. 12 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



Air Force Basic Military Training trainees cheer on their wingman during Basic Expeditionary Airmen Skills Training Dec. 12 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

JBSA Command Post responds, reacts, resolves

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It's three o'clock in the morning on a weekend and a fire breaks out in one of the facilities at Joint Base San Antonio.

Emergency action controllers in command post determine how the base responds and reacts in emergencies, such as a base fire, and then how to resolve the situation in question.

"We are your 24/7, 365-day point of contact for all of JBSA ... and its 266 mission partners," said Master Sgt. Angelina Hinton, 502nd Air Base Wing command post acting superintendent.

"A lot of times we're the only voice you hear," adds Staff Sgt. Ashley McGovern, 502nd ABW command post NCO in charge operations training manager.

The group works eight- to 12-hour shifts to support the base operations, which can

include managing weather alerts; installation breaches and threats; accidents and other emergencies.

"If something happens at JBSA, we're going to take care of it," Hinton said.

Monitoring the weather is important.

"Lightning in five miles of the base is very important for JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph because of the flight lines," Hinton added.

In addition to the information being pushed out

via email, it is also announced on loud speakers across all JBSA installations.

Regardless of what kind of emergency situation develops, the information can quickly be dispersed because of command post's efforts.

"For the majority of the situations that occur, our controllers have quick reaction checklists," Hinton said.

To keep their skills sharp and to stay mission ready, they also train once a month using various scenarios.

"You have phones ringing," McGovern said. "You have a possible bomb threat. You have people coming at your door trying to get in. Aircraft trying to depart, land and going on alert; everything that you can think of coming your way."

There is always at least one controller on duty 24/7 regardless of holidays and weekends, with fellow team members standing by to assist by remote laptop or coming in.

"No matter what time of the day or night, we're always there," Hinton said.

Registration opens for 3rd annual I-WEPTAC

By Malcolm McClendon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION
SUPPORT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center announces registration for the Third Annual Installation and Mission Support Weapons and Tactics Conference is open.

The conference provides the only Air Force innovation forum for the installation and mission support, or I&MS, community. It takes place the end of March and early April in San Antonio with an outbrief April 10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Military and Department of Defense civilians with a secret clearance are invited to attend and can register at <https://org2.eis.af.mil/sites/14000/I-WEPTAC/SitePages/Home.aspx#/home>.

Based on the Combat Air Force WEPTAC, I-WEPTAC tackles I&MS challenges across the force. More than 150 of the brightest young minds in the Air Force will assemble in the coming months and form teams to develop innovative solutions for this year's topics:

- ▶ Topic 1: Command and Control of the Installation as a Weapons System
- ▶ Topic 2: Leveraging Technology and Innovation for the Installation We Need
- ▶ Topic 3: Integration of Training & Technology Across Multi-Domain Operations
- ▶ Topic 4: Logistics Under Attack

The teams, called mission area working groups, or MAWGs, will deliver their courses of action at the outbrief and, if approved by Air Force leaders, those solutions will be pursued and



MALCOLM MCCLENDON

Capt. Alex Pagano, a career broadening officer at Hill Air Force Base and mission area working group chair for the 2019 I-WEPTAC, begins working his topic at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 23.

tested for implementation.

Recommendations from previous I-WEPTAC working groups have already reached validation and implementation across the Air Force. Maj. Erich Kramer, with the AFIMSC's Expeditionary Support Directorate and an I-WEPTAC conference coordinator says AFIMSC's Combat Support Wing initiative is a great example of a concept that was born from and developed using MAWG recommendations throughout the past two I-WEPTAC events.

"Young NCOs and officers from across our Air Force developed a way to train multiskilled Airmen to become more agile, minimize our footprint in austere locations and to support Adaptive Basing and future fights," Kramer said. "It presents solutions to the warfighter and

to the joint force commanders when faced with a potential high-end fight. Through our partnership with the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, we conducted a successful proof-of-concept exercise last year. We will continue partnering with the Air Combat Command and United States Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa operational communities to expand on this proof-of-concept into their exercises in 2019."

Topic 3 MAWG chairperson, Maj. Zachary Haney, chief of tactics of the 319th Special Operations Center at Hurlburt Field, Fla., looks forward to the opportunity to bring change to the Air Force.

"Talking to the young CGO (company grade officer) and NCO

(noncommissioned officer) corps, there are lots of ideas out there," Haney said. "You hear them in office spaces and hallways, but sometimes they never get combined or go anywhere to actually solve a problem. I-WEPTAC is the perfect forum to bring those ideas to life."

As they begin to address this year's topics, MAWG chairs are seeking fellow Airmen to assemble their teams.

"I'm looking for people who are excited about the problem and are passionate about solving Air Force issues," said Capt. Alex Pagano, a career broadening officer at Hill Air Force Base and chair for Topic 4. "People who are able to get in a room and learn about topics they've never heard before, yet are able to put their all into it and work toward thinking from an enterprise perspective on how the Air Force can do this better."

Capt. Justin Bateman, director of operations for the 6th Security Forces Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., and Topic 1 chair, believes these groups are not only beneficial to Air Force processes, but to the Airmen who make them up.

"The networking and getting to meet each other here is also beneficial," Bateman said. "As we continue to grow as Airmen, not only have we solved problems in the past together, like here at I-WEPTAC, but those relationships are there as we continue our Air Force careers."

The MAWG teams will present their innovative solutions at the out brief April 10 at JBSA-Lackland. It is open to all DOD service members and employees with a secret clearance.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S LEADER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM VISITS 149TH FIGHTER WING

Participants of the Adjutant General's Leader Development Program on Jan. 30 visited the 149th Fighter Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. TAGLDP is intended to fill critical preparation gaps by introducing midlevel leaders to Texas Military Department-specific strategic-level concepts.



STAFF SGT. AGUSTIN SALAZAR

59TH MDW COMMANDER VISITS GATEWAY BULVERDE CLINIC



STAFF SGT. AMANDA STANFORD

Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes, right, 59th Medical Wing commander, coins Dr. Kenneth McGill, left, family care practitioner, during his visit to the Gateway Bulverde Clinic in San Antonio Jan. 25. DeGoes and Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Frizzell, 59th MDW command chief, toured the Gateway Bulverde Clinic Jan. 25 to speak with the Airmen who keep the growing demand for primary care on the North Side of San Antonio running and to recognize the team for outstanding patient care. The facility is on the second floor of Bulverde's Baptist Emergency Hospital, and features comprehensive family health care with on-site laboratory and pharmacy services.

RANDOLPH

Radar Airfield Weather Systems technicians ensure safe navigation of Air Force aircraft worldwide

By 2nd Lt. Austen Jarboe

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Every day, U.S. Air Force fighters, bombers and mobility aircraft take off across the globe to showcase the tenacity of American air power to those who choose tyranny over freedom.

However, those critical missions are not successful until those aircraft return safely to Earth, touching down on a friendly runway. That safe navigation and transition to solid ground is enabled by the Radar Airfield Weather Systems, or RAWS, maintenance shop.

RAWS technicians work on the radio navigation beacons, weather reporting/radar equipment, air traffic control radios and runway guidance devices that ensure efficient airfield operations. Multiple Air Force Specialty Codes have been combined over the past 30 years to bring all airfield systems maintenance under one roof.

Within the 12th Operations Support Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph is one of the most elite RAWS shops in the world.

"I'd put us up against anybody in the Air Force as one of the best," said Kristopher Kite, RAWS shop supervisor.

They have over 300 years of combined experience in the speciality AFSCs that came together to form the core of the RAWS mission.

"My oldest guy has 40 years of experience and my youngest has just over 17 years," Kite said. "We have one of the most diverse groups, but one of the best proactive and problem-solving shops in the Air Force."

Due to their wealth of knowledge, the reach of the 12 OSS' RAWS team extends far beyond South Texas. The 12th OSS' technicians are often called away on official trips across the world to provide support to bases that experience the most unique technical issues.

"We get called to resolve issues not only here at Randolph, but across all of AETC," Kite said.



2ND LT. ANDREW FISHER

Air traffic controllers assigned to the 12th Operations Support Squadron monitor radar screens and the west runway to ensure safe takeoff and landing of the T-6 Texan II, on Jan. 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The 12th OSS at JBSA-Randolph is one of the most elite radar airfield weather systems shops in the world.

The level of complexity required to dig deeper into many of the airfield systems takes a seasoned professional, possessing knowledge only gained through years of practice.

"We're the only shop in the Air Force that still does component-level repair, troubleshooting down to the level of circuit boards and wiring," Kite said. "Other bases send us their stuff; we fix it and send it back to them."

Two of the most important systems the RAWS shop maintains are the Enhanced Terminal Voice Switch in the control tower and the Randolph navigational aids on the airfield.

The ETVS is the brain behind the most critical lines of communication at JBSA-Randolph.

"The ETVS controls all the communications between the tower and everywhere else, the phones, the radios, all the way down to opening electronically locked doors," said Joe Pranger, RAWS technician.

These clear and concise communications take on immense importance in the event of an emergency, and responding agencies can be instantly contacted with the push of a button.

"If there is an aircraft emergency, the

ETVS automatically calls the other tower, the fire department, the hospital and the base operations center," Pranger said. "This creates a conference call between those agencies so they can share information about the incident."

From that primary notification, those base agencies can disseminate information through secondary communication channels, allowing the air traffic controllers to focus on ensuring the safety of the pilots and their wounded aircraft.

"The controllers, during an emergency, are too busy to have all these outside agencies trying to talk to them," Pranger said.

The VORTAC is a combination between antennas for Very High Frequency Omni-Directional Range, or VOR, and Tactical Air Navigation, or TACAN. Both systems allow for precise navigation from any compass direction within 100 to 200 nautical miles to directly over the beacon on the west side of the airfield.

"Inside the cone section from the red line down are a series of very high frequency radio antennas for the VOR portion," Pranger said. "The top section is the TACAN, ultra high frequency radio antennas used only for military

flight operations."

Maintenance on the VORTAC is a unique hybrid of computer diagnostics and hands-on repair of the physical components at the site.

"There are three Air Force regional centers around the world that can perform remote monitoring and maintenance," Pranger said. "If something breaks, they can diagnose the issue, send us a part, we can install it and they make the adjustments."

This hybrid maintenance is efficient and the way of the future, but not all problems can be solved with the click of a button.

"Automation is great, but it only gets you so far when the hard wiring, circuit cards, antennas, etc., begin to break down," Pranger said.

It is for that reason that the centuries of experience in the 12th OSS' RAWS shop will continue to be vital for the foreseeable future.

"We've come a long way from fires on mountaintops to what we have today," said Brian Harder, RAWS technician.

RAWS technicians stand ready to ensure the most powerful Air Force in the world can execute the mission and always find their way back to safe harbor.

Youth club helping peers with Jeans for Teens

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Youth Programs' Keystone Club is dedicated to community service, engaging in projects that benefit the homeless, the elderly and other often-forgotten members of the community.

This month the organization composed of high school students is focusing its efforts on helping its peers.

Keystone members are participating in a Jeans for Teens clothing drive, decorating and placing collection boxes at five JBSA-Randolph locations: two at Youth Programs, one each at the two Child Development Program locations and one at the main chapel annex.

"Jeans for Teens is a community service project that allows members of our Keystone Club to give back to the community by helping others in need," said Andrea Black, JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs coordinator and Keystone Club sponsor.

The collection drive, which coincides with Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, provides gently used jeans for children 18 years old and younger who are living at a local facility that is meeting the needs of young victims of abuse, neglect, abandonment or family disruption.

The club is also addressing teen dating violence by discussing topics such as building supportive healthy



TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG
Andrea Black, left, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Youth Programs coordinator and Keystone Club sponsor, assists Ryann Jackson, Keystone Club president, and Dayondre Williams, Keystone Club vice president, in decorating donation boxes for Jeans for Teens Jan. 30 at JBSA-Randolph.

relationships and how to recognize unhealthy relationships and actions to take during its February meetings.

In addition to providing jeans for teens during the month, the club is expanding its service efforts by collecting other articles of clothing and household items for others in need.

The Keystone Club has participated in Jeans for Teens for almost 10 years, Black said. The club chose jeans because it's an article of clothing that teenagers like to wear.

"More than a million young people experience homelessness in the United States every year," she said. "The one item they often request is a pair of jeans.

Jeans are also practical and versatile. "Jeans are the perfect item to donate," Black said. "They can be worn multiple times between washes, can be dressed up or dressed down, and provide a sense of normalcy to the person wearing them."

Black called Jeans for Teens an "enlightening" project for the club.

"They see the impact of it when they deliver the jeans," she said. "The children who receive the jeans see it as a true blessing.

Ryann Jackson, Keystone Club president, said Jeans for Teens is a worthwhile cause.

"A lot of kids are less fortunate than we are; they can't afford a pair of jeans," said Ryann, a 17-year-old senior at Randolph High School. "When they are given a nice pair of jeans, it shows them that people actually care for them.

Dayondre Williams, Keystone Club vice president, said Jeans for Teens benefits members and the recipients of the club's outreach.

"It's a very important project for us because it gives us an opportunity to donate clothes to teens like us," he said.

Williams, also a 17-year-old senior at Randolph High School, said he enjoys all of the club's community service projects, whether it's Jeans for Teens or visiting local nursing homes and interacting with the residents.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America started the Keystone Club as a leadership program more than five decades ago. Community service is one way to develop that trait.

"We take community service very seriously," Jackson said. "Although we have busy lives as teenagers, we're still able to find the time to give back to the community and make the world a better place. We need more of that, especially now."

Dental clinic's events focus on children's oral health this month

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Dental Clinic is reaching out to the youngest members of the community this month with a special event and presentations that will focus on the importance of oral health.

The Children's Dental Health Month activities will begin with the annual Give Kids a Smile Day from 7:30 a.m. to noon Feb. 8 at the clinic, 221 Third St. West, building 1040.

The event raises awareness about the importance of oral health and allows dentists and technicians to provide free oral health education, screenings and treatment to underserved children.

Appointments may be made by calling the clinic at 210-652-1846, but slots are now only available for children 6 months to 3 years old.

"According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one in four children ages 2 to 11 years has untreated cavities in their baby teeth," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Stephen Gasparovich, Air Force Personnel Center Dental Utilization Section chief.

Give Kids a Smile Day will not only provide children ages 1-13 years from active-duty and retired military families a free dental exam and cleaning, but they may also be selected for dental treatment at JBSA-Lackland's residency programs.

The American Dental Association Foundation launched the Give Kids a

Smile program in 2003 as a way to join with others in the community to provide dental services to underserved children. Each year, about 350,000 to 400,000 children benefit from more than 1,500 events, all because of the efforts of 40,000 or more annual volunteers nationwide.

Dentists and technicians from the JBSA-Randolph clinic will also provide outreach as part of the health care facility's Children's Dental Health Month observance, visiting the Child Development Center Feb. 13, Randolph Elementary School Feb. 14, Randolph High School Feb. 19 and the JBSA-Randolph Library Feb. 20.

"The purpose of the presentations is to educate preschool and school-age children on the importance of oral

health, but we also want to make the presentations fun, hands-on events," said Capt. (Dr.) Jessica DeFazio, 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron dentist. "We'll show them how to brush and floss their teeth, and talk about hygiene and nutrition."

Nutrition is an emphasis because so many of today's foods have hidden sugars, DeFazio said.

"Fruit juices can be really harmful to your teeth because many of them have added sugar," she said. "Fruit snacks and energy bars can also contain a lot of sugar."

Oral health education is a key aspect of preventive care and critical to maintaining good dental health and overall wellbeing, DeFazio said.

Outstanding program manager represents AETC

By 2nd Lt. Robert Guest

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Alan Becker is an unassuming man. If you worked down the hall from him, you might see him as a kind, hardworking man but not much more. He has a friendly voice that matches the half-smile that's always on his face.

When he speaks, he uses everyday language even though he is highly intelligent. Talking to him, he might tell you about gardening with his wife, all about his three grandchildren or about his church's "Inquiry Class" he has taught for the past 10 years.

After getting to know him, though, you would see there is a lot more to Becker than his approachable demeanor and his polo-and-slacks attire imply. Becker is Air Education and Training Command's winner of the 2019 Air Force Association Outstanding Civilian Program Manager of the Year award.

He probably wouldn't bring that up in conversation, though. He also probably wouldn't mention his bachelor's degree in applied mathematics or his master's degree in computer science. Or that he is a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate who served on active duty for 26 years and has served more than 14 years as an Air Force civilian since his first "retirement."

Becker was nominated for the AFA award because of



Alan Becker

his work as the program manager who transferred Holloman Air Force Base from Air Combat Command to AETC and moved two F-16 fighter squadrons from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

Describing his job as program manager, Becker said he was "the center of the wheel for manpower,

logistics, operations, training, etc.," acting as a liaison to connect all the different spokes in the wheel.

Even though the Holloman move was award-winning work, Becker downplayed his role in the process.

"It was like moving a mountain; you can only move it one rock at a time. I helped others identify the big rocks they needed to move, but I just moved my little pebble out of the way so others could move their big rocks," Becker said.

Becker was more interested in talking about the strengths of others than his own. Talking about the Holloman move, Becker said his biggest supporters were the individual team leads and co-workers from his own office.

"Team leads were the ones who knew everything in their area of expertise and got things done," Becker said.

Outside of the office, Becker has a lot of support from his family. Becker could talk at length about his grandkids, his wife and his children. Becker also said

the No. 1 thing that makes him successful is prayer.

"With all the crazy things that are always going on, I can't keep things straight if I don't take some time each day to go clear my head and pray," Becker said. "The physical part of talking and getting things done has to be infused with the spiritual."

Becker doesn't just rely on the support of others. He has also worked hard to be a supportive mentor for those around him. Some of his mentees have recognized him when he least expects it.

Once, Becker was sitting in the main auditorium on Randolph AFB while Gen. Robin Rand, the former AETC commander, was giving a speech. Rand was walking up the aisle when, right in the middle of a slide, he stopped, looked at Becker and said, "Hello, Al Becker! Remember that time we almost ran out of gas over Crater Lake?" And the entire auditorium burst into laughter.

"When you have a relationship early on, and you see these outstanding leaders grow and progress in their careers, they'll remember you. It's an honor to be remembered," Becker said.

While Becker doesn't directly use his math or computer science degrees as a program manager, he said they were still essential subjects for him to study.

"It's the thought-process, the problem-solving techniques that I've learned that are important," Becker said.

Becker is in the running for the Air Force-wide AFA Outstanding Civilian Program Manager of the Year award. That award will be presented to the winner at AFA's Air, Space and Cyber conference in September.