

# JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MARCH 8, 2019



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. KRISTAL WRIGHT

Jordan Peterson and Madison Sligh, Bots in Blue members, showcase the tools their club's robots must be able to use during competitions to Col. Robert W. Trayers Jr. (right), Air Force Recruiting Service vice commander, during a visit to Virginia Allred Stacey Junior/Senior High School Feb. 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Bots in Blue members design, build and program their own robots to use in competitions against other schools. During the 2018-2019 FTC South San Antonio Metro League Championship, they placed 2nd against 27 teams and earned the Control Award for programming excellence.

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## COMMENTARY

## Watching out for lost wingmen

By Col. (Dr.) Bruce K. Neely

446TH AEROSPACE MEDICINE  
SQUADRON COMMANDER

6,079. That's the number of veteran suicides in 2016, the most recent year reported. In some ways it's a random number and hard to put into any type of perspective. In many ways it's sobering, sad, disturbing and disappointing.

One. That's the number of veteran suicides of former 446th Airlift Wing members in 2019.

I'll give you some perspective on that. It was a friend of mine. A pilot who I flew into a war with. A pilot I helped when he needed a waiver for a medical issue. A pilot who was always upbeat, encouraging and helping to others. A pilot who left behind family and hundreds of friends across the Air Force. In all ways it's sad, disturbing, hard to comprehend

and, yes, disappointing.

There will probably never be answers for the question of why people commit suicide. I deal with suicidal people at my civilian work in the Emergency Department nearly every day.

Many of them have no answer for why they are feeling that way or what led them to that point. Many feel they are a burden on others and don't want to go on being a burden to others.

They don't realize the burden of helping them, be it by those of us in the hospital or by their families and friends, is nothing compared to the burden left behind if they end their lives. That burden is much greater and felt by more people. I know that to be true from my own reaction and the reaction of others to the death of our friend.

I make it a point to ask,

remind and encourage everyone to take care of the people around them, in the squadron and in the wing. That is part of being a good wingman.

But there's another part to being a good wingman. In the flying community, there is a term called lost wingman. That call is made when the wingman loses sight or contact with the lead. The call is made because it's a serious safety of flight issue to be lost or out of contact. The procedure is to change your direction for a short period of time and then get back into contact and back on heading. There is no shame in calling lost wingman.

So, you see the other part of being a good wingman is knowing when you're lost, and not just in relation to flying. It's a serious safety of life issue. There is no shame in reaching out for help, asking for help or

letting others know you are lost.

People are concerned it will end their career. It's not an end, it's a temporary change in direction until you can make contact and get back on the correct flight path. Remember, there's a waiver for almost everything, except being dead. There's no waiver for that.

Pay attention to those around you. If someone seems off, ask what's going on. Reach out. Be a good wingman. But if you are lost, don't hesitate to make that lost wingman call. I don't want to lose any more friends.

Here is a partial list of resources if you feel lost: unit commander, first sergeant, your supervisor, your flight or section chief, your flight or section officer in charge, psychological health, chaplain, emergency departments, Military OneSource (militaryonesource.mil or 800-342-9647), National Suicide Prevention Life Line (1-800-273-8255).

## AER wants no Soldier left behind financially

By Susan A. Merkner

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Army Creed of leaving no Soldier behind on the battlefield also applies to helping others in the Army family with their finances when needed, according to Army Emergency Relief, or AER.

AER, the Army's own nonprofit organization that provides financial assistance to active and retired Soldiers and their families, is reaching out to all Army personnel with dual messages: the organization is available to help during a financial challenge, and donations are appreciated when times are good.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, director of Army Emergency Relief, said financial stability boosts Soldiers' resiliency.

"If a Soldier is distracted by money issues, then he or she is not fully focused on their MOS training, their unit mission, and if they are deployed into combat that distraction could be a danger to themselves and their buddies on their left and the right," Mason said. "We want Soldiers to be laser focused in combat, execute their

mission and come home safely to their loved ones. So AER is really all about combat readiness."

Mason and retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Durr Jr., AER chief of assistance, visited Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 23 to meet with Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Becker, commanding general of Installation Management Command and Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McGuire, IMCOM deputy commanding general and an AER board member.

AER helps Soldiers and families get back on their feet through interest-free loans, grants and scholarships when monetary needs arise, and also provides budgeting and financial counseling.

In 2017, AER provided \$69.7 million in total assistance to 43,734 Soldiers and families.

Durr said AER's Quick Assist Program empowers company commanders and first sergeants to respond quickly to Soldiers' short-term financial needs by allowing them to approve certain types of short-term assistance within specific guidelines.

"Soldiers are encouraged to contact their company commander or first sergeant first

when a need arises," Durr said. "Their command team can respond quickly, addressing the need at the local level."

Other options for seeking assistance are Army Community Service offices at local installations, other military aid societies, or the American Red Cross if the Soldier lives 50 miles or more away from a military installation.

AER leaders say the most frequent needs are money for car repairs, housing deposits and monthly rent, homeowner's or renter's insurance, minor home repairs and many more. Another common situation involves the death of a family member, which may necessitate extra funds for travel, rental car, hotel and food.

Durr said that when Soldiers die while on active duty or a retired Soldier passes away their survivors may need a "bridging strategy" to help them financially until they can apply for and receive benefits.

"Often a Soldier's death leaves the family without financial resources until the benefits are received," Durr said. AER provides assistance to surviving spouses and children to help bridge this gap.

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# 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](mailto:RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil) using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

## Personnel Issues

**Q.** Can the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron HVAC shop participate in physical training?

**A.** Great question! The health of our work force is very important and key to our wing remaining mission ready. In my policy letter on Civilian Participation in Physical Fitness Activities, I identify that all full time employees are authorized up to three hours of duty time per week to participate in personal fitness programs. This is dependent upon mission and workload requirements, and is at the judgement of unit commanders/directors and supervisory staff. Specifically within the 502d CES where the HVAC shop falls, the process requires members to submit a fitness activities form to their supervisor to request starting or changing their personal fitness schedule.

Thank you again for your question and especially thank you for all that you and your team do to maintain a very complex network of HVAC systems across JBSA. You all are amazing and are absolutely critical to our mission readiness.

**Q.** Why is there a disparity in discipline when it comes to officer and enlisted? The perception is that officers get a slap on the hand and enlisted are more harshly punished.

**A.** Thank you very much for your question. Maintaining good order and discipline includes holding individuals accountable for their actions, regardless of rank.

Ensuring swift and fair justice is a top priority for me and all of my commanders. Commanders rely on our Staff Judge Advocates, or SJAs, for advice and guidance on the legal sufficiency of military justice actions.

Decision points include: (1) deciding whether to take disciplinary action; (2) determining proper charges; and (3) selecting the proper forum. Factors such as the alleged crime; extenuating or aggravating factors involved; as well as the member's prior history (good or bad) are valid considerations.

Judge advocates work hand-in-hand with commanders and first sergeants to ensure that cases are based on those factors and the factual evidence with a view that similar offenses are treated as consistently as appropriate across different units. Quarterly status of discipline meetings help myself and other commanders, command chiefs, and first sergeants at JBSA identify trends or disparate punishments for seemingly similar offenses.

Military justice actions involve sensitive and protected information not releasable to the public which can create nuances. Often it does appear that there are different outcomes for officers and enlisted members for similar cases. Notably, the impact of punishment varies between officers and enlisted members. For example, when an enlisted member receives a Letter of Reprimand, or LOR, the commander has discretion whether to place it in an Unfavorable Information File, or UIF. However, when an officer receives an LOR, the filing in a UIF is mandatory.

Additionally, the commander must then consider whether the LOR gets filed in the member's Officer Selection Record which is provided to the promotion board. Therefore, an LOR for an officer can have potentially career-ending impacts whereas an enlisted member has an opportunity of overcoming a similar action.

With an Article 15, enlisted members can be reduced in rank, but officers cannot. And while retirement eligible officers can be subjected to an Officer Grade Determination, a process which could result in retirement at a lower grade than currently held, there is no similar process for enlisted members.

Finally, in terms of what the available data demonstrates, Lt. Gen. Stayce Harris, the Air Force Inspector General, testified in front of Congress in February 2018 on this topic. She indicated that the Air Force's data does not show a disparity in punishments based on rank.

Please let me know if this response does not help answer your question or if you have any follow up questions.

## Installation & Facilities

**Q.** I have suggested off and on, for the past six months or so, that blue recyclable receptacles be placed in the men's and women's locker rooms. A small outlay of funds to purchase would do a tremendously good thing for the base and our surroundings.

**A.** Thank you for using our JBSA fitness facilities and your concern to be environmentally friendly! The decision to not have recycling receptacles in the locker rooms at our fitness centers is due to limited spacing and high traffic volume in many of our locations. The majority of our Fitness Centers do have recyclable containers in the lobby or outside the building which can be used by customers and we will continue to work with all of our locations to provide ample recycling ability to our staff and customers.

**Q.** How can we improve Airmen's quality of life in the dorms? It is hard to tackle dorm issues and it often takes a while to get an answer.

**A.** Thank you very much for your question. We are working hard to improve the quality of life our dormitories. In addition to base defense, our dorms are one of my top priorities. We have a lot of work to and are partnering with Headquarters Air Force and Air Education and Training Command to improve the condition and quality of our dorms.

There are currently more than \$100 million in ongoing investments and an additional \$530 million in

major repairs, renovations and new construction targeted in the next three years for JBSA dorms. In addition, ensuring optimal living conditions is a multi-role approach that includes active participation between the occupants, facility managers, unit leadership, 502d Civil Engineer Group and 502d Air Base Wing leadership.

For Training Dorms, issues and recommended improvements should be routed through local leadership and facility managers who then communicate and track needs with CE. For Permanent Party Dorms, issues and recommended improvements should be raised with dorm management or through dorm councils, who also communicate with CE. Please share your recommendations with our team and importantly, please help us identify any areas in the dorms which need our immediate attention.

## Miscellaneous

**Q.** What action can be taken and/or who is responsible for protecting our activities on-base from the current rampant vandalism occurring on a daily/weekly basis? The 502d Force Support Squadron has spent almost \$200,000 on a brand new self-serve car wash. The rules are clearly posted so that all customers can see what is and what is not allowed at the car wash. On a daily basis, the equipment is broken and damaged beyond repair, customers and non-customers are dumping mud and lawn refuse when it clearly states that it should not be. This blatant disregard is beyond disappointing since 95 percent of folks on base are related somehow to the military – whether active duty, retiree, dependent, government civilian, etc.

**A.** Thank you for bringing this concern to our attention. Although there have been no recent police reports to this point, the base grounds company has been seen washing their maintenance equipment in the bays so management is reaching out to request assistance in cleaning up after in support of the posted rules.

Unfortunately, it appears the misuse of equipment is what causes some of the broken equipment which is disappointing. We would all hope people would treat the facility equipment as if it were their own. The Auto Hobby Shop management will continue to address the misuse professionally as they see it occurring and continue doing a great job of replacing broken items as quickly as possible.

**Q.** I presently wear hearing aids, as it has helped my hearing problem. The problem at the commander's calls were that the band was so loud I had to remove my hearing aids. When the band played, I had to take them out and cover my ears. Then when a speaker was talking, I had to put them back in. Is there any way the volume could be turned down? I am sure that the loud volume was bothering other people also.

**A.** We appreciate your feedback and thank you for attending our commander's call! Our band audio engineers are on-site at every commander's call monitoring the volume and we will work with them at future events to maintain the volume at a reasonable level. The band by its very nature will be louder than individual speakers and if the volume is still too loud, please let one of our musicians know and we will gladly adjust the output levels. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at our commander's calls in April!

# Hiring Heroes Career Fair provides plenty of opportunities

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Transitioning service members will find plenty of career and job opportunities from more than 30 Department of Defense agencies at the Hiring Heroes Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 20 at the Sam Houston Community Center, 1395 Chaffee Road, located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The career fair is free and open to all JBSA members, including transitioning, wounded, ill and injured service members, military spouses and family members, veterans, military retirees, primary caregivers. Department of Defense government civilians and DOD ID cardholders.

The Transition Assistance Program at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and the Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service, or DCPAS, are putting

on the career fair. The Transition Assistance Program provides counseling and job assistance to servicemembers who are preparing to leave the military. DCPAS is the agency that develops, implements and monitors DOD civilian human resources and programs throughout the world.

Candace Hillard, Transition Assistance Program transition services manager, said the upcoming Hiring Heroes Career Fair will be March 27 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston since 2005. The fair is held twice a year, in March and September.

Hillard said the March career fair will be the first one since it started at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston 14 years ago exclusively for DOD employers. Previous Hiring Heroes fairs included employers from the private sector and from federal, state and local governmental agencies.

"One of our goals is to keep our talent pool in the DOD,"

said Hillard, in explaining the fair's focus on hosting DOD employers and agencies.

DOD agencies and components that will be at the fair include those from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. These military agencies will be offering career opportunities and positions in areas JBSA members are skilled, trained and experienced in, including cybersecurity, information technology, law enforcement, financial management, food service and medical fields.

Attendees at the fair will be given a sheet that will list the DOD employers who will be at the community center.

Hillard said job seekers at the fair are encouraged to bring several copies of their resume and come dressed in professional attire because some DOD employers will conduct on-the-spot interviews.

"The goal is to increase direct hiring at the fair, so that job

seekers don't have to apply at USAJobs website for the positions," Hillard said. "There are a lot of critical and mission shortage positions DOD wants to fill."

Out of the 610 job seekers who attended the last Hiring Heroes Career Fair in September, 30 were offered jobs on the spot and over 100 after the event, said Hillard.

In addition, transitioning servicemembers at the fair will find information about opportunities for apprenticeships, internships and certification and skill enhancement training that can help them in their post-military career through the JBSA Career Skills Program.

Also, counselors from the Transition Assistance Program and USO volunteers will be present to review resumes of job seekers, giving tips and pointers on improving resumes that give members of the military community a greater

chance of being interviewed for a position. Attendees who want to make changes to their resume are encouraged to bring their laptop or other electronic devices so the changes can be made on the spot.

Hillard said counselors from the Transition Assistance Program will provide information that will be helpful to transitioning servicemembers and members of the military community as they embark on a new career or start their job search.

"We will have a wealth of resources we will gladly share," Hillard said. "We will have information about career resources, transition, relocation, benefits and job searches."

Registration is not required to attend the Hiring Heroes Career Fair. For more information about the fair, contact the Transition Assistance Program at 210-221-1213.

## AF changes two tours

From Air Force's  
Personnel Center  
Public Affairs

Air Force military tour lengths for unaccompanied assignments to Papa Air Base, Hungary, and Moron Air Base, Spain, will change effective April 1.

Currently, both locations are 15 months unaccompanied. However, Papa Air Base will become an 18-month unaccompanied tour, while Moron will become a 12-month unaccompanied tour.

No changes were made to the current 24-month accompanied tour lengths for either location.

The change was directed by the assistant secretary of Defense, Manpower and Reserve Affairs to bring all assignments outside the

continental United States into compliance with standard tour lengths.

The Air Force's Personnel Center will send email notifications to all Airmen scheduled to arrive in Hungary or Spain on or after April 1. Cancellation requests may be considered on a case-by-case basis and will depend on mission impact, reporting dates, possible hardship situations and other factors. AFPC will work with Airmen who experience legitimate hardships as a result of the change.

Affected Airmen should contact their base personnel section to confirm they have accurate, updated orders.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit AFPC's public website at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/>.

## New guidance for travel to Mexico

From 355th Wing Public Affairs

The U.S. Army North Force Protection Division has new guidelines regarding travel to Mexico to ensure that our servicemembers are kept safe.

All personnel from active duty, Reserve, Guard, Department of Defense civilians and contractors considering traveling to Mexico need to be aware of the following changes presented in the United States Army North Force Protection Directive 19-001. The USARNORTH FP Directive 19-001 enacted the Official Priority Information 2019-008, which establishes the Mexico Travel guidance.

Personnel will follow the requirements for all travel, official or otherwise. Be aware that all other DOD Travel Guidance cited in this directive and the Foreign Clearance Guidance take precedence over the following changes.

Here are some key points from OPI 2019-008. All the personnel listed who are planning travel to Mexico, will need to notify their local Counterintelligence Representatives of the dates and specific locations they intend for their travel.

When entering Mexico, for any reason, all

personnel should have a valid U.S. passport. For unofficial travel, such as leave, pass or liberty, personnel will need to be aware of restricted and non-restricted states. Personnel may not cross a restricted state to get to an unrestricted state. The Foreign Clearance Guidance has the most up-to-date information on restricted states. These guidelines still apply for individuals planning travel to a resort or tourist area.

There are some exemptions to the restricted state travel. This will require chain of command O-6, or civilian equivalent, approval. The approval authority must ensure the individual has a communication plan for their travel.

Emergency travel to restricted states will require Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System, or APACS, for all active duty and reserve components currently on Title 10 orders.

Many states within Mexico have entered either level 3, "Reconsider Travel," or level 4, "Do Not Travel," advisory risks.

For advisory updates, refer to the Department of State Travel Advisory page at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>.

# The eyes have it: 7 tips for maintaining vision

## From Military Health System Communications Office

Eyes may be the window to the soul, as William in the military, eyesight is essential to remain fit for duty.

Here are seven tips for maintaining good eye health:

► **Protect those peepers.** “I think wearing eye protection is the most important thing anybody can do to protect their vision for the long term,” said Dr. Robert Mazzoli, a retired Army colonel and an ophthalmologist at the Vision Center of Excellence, or VCE. Of the approximately 2,000 eye injuries that occur in the United States daily, he said, 90 percent would have been prevented by wearing proper eye protection.

The VCE offers guidance on activities that call for wearing eye protection. In addition to obviously risky activities, such as grinding and hammering, Mazzoli said playing sports, working with bungee cords, and using household cleaning products or other chemicals are also risky. The Authorized Protective Eyewear List details items that provide the highest level of eye protection.

If an injury does occur, the worst thing to do is to put pressure on the eye, Mazzoli said, such as patching it. This could lead to further injury, including loss of vision and even loss of the eye itself. A rigid shield protects against further damage, he said. If a shield is not available, he suggested donning a pair of glasses to serve as a shield and then taping them in place before seeking immediate medical help.

► **Get shaded.** The sun’s ultraviolet, or UV, rays can affect vision and lead to conditions such as macular degeneration and cataracts, Mazzoli said. Macular degeneration, which permanently damages the retina over time, is the leading cause of age-related blindness. Cataracts are the clouding of the lens, the part of the eye that focuses light.

Sunglasses labeled UV 400 offer the best protection and should be worn even on overcast days because UV light can go through clouds, said Mazzoli.

► **Step away from the smartphone.** “When you’re using smartphones, both the



SGT. STEPHANIE RAMIREZ

*Spc. Brianne Coots, an eye specialist in the U.S. Army Reserve assigned to the 1984th U.S. Army Hospital, 9th Mission Support Command out of Honolulu, performs an eye exam during Tropic Care 2018 in Kea'au, Hawaii, in June. Regular vision exams are vital for eye health.*

screens and what we’re trying to see are typically very small, and this taxes an individual’s ability to focus on and resolve the content being viewed,” said Dr. Felix Barker, an optometrist with the Department of Veterans Affairs who works with the VCE.

Barker also said smartphones increase demands on vision because they’re held close to the eyes for reading. “The eyes try to converge, meaning that they turn closer together,” he said. “When you

spend an excessive amount of time on smartphones, you can put a lot of stress on your vision and cause blurred or even double vision.”

► **Here come those tears again.** Dry, itchy eyes are common among allergy sufferers, Mazzoli said. But he recommends against overusing products that contain redness relief ingredients, such as potassium chloride and tetrahydrozoline, because they may eventually damage the eyes. Instead, look for products

that advertise themselves simply as artificial tears, which provide lubrication.

► **Kick the habit:** According to the American Cancer Society, smokers are at increased risk for developing vision loss and eye disease such as Dry Eye Syndrome, which appears as damaged blood vessels and causes itchy and burning sensations.

► **Take care with contact lenses.** Contact lenses can damage eyes if they’re worn for too many hours or not cleaned or stored properly, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC’s recommendations include not sleeping in contact lenses unless your eye doctor has prescribed this, and removing lenses before swimming, showering and using a hot tub. ► **Get regular vision exams.** Active-duty service members can get routine eye exams as needed to maintain fitness for duty. Their covered family members are eligible for one routine eye exam per year and may be eligible for more robust coverage. The TRICARE website has information about eligibility and coverage for all MHS beneficiaries.

## Army FY20 budget proposal realigns \$30 billion

By Devon L. Suits

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army on March 12 is slated to release its fiscal year 2020 budget request, which will include the realignment of nearly \$30 billion to improve readiness and better support the Army’s six modernization priorities.

“We’ve been very consistent about where we’re trying to take the Army ... by 2028,” said Under Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy. “We are trying to enable the National Defense Strategy, and we have taken some pretty dramatic

steps to get there.”

The under secretary discussed the Army’s upcoming budget request during the Association of the U.S. Army’s Institute of Land Warfare breakfast series in Arlington, Va., on Feb. 26.

While McCarthy didn’t go into a line-by-line detail about the upcoming budget, he shared that the FY20 request will include “\$8 billion in cost avoidance, and about \$22 billion in cuts or terminations.”

Further, a portion of the request will help fund the science and technology community, supporting the “31

signature priorities” outlined in the FY18 and FY19 budgets.

Freeing up \$30 billion was no easy task. Last year, Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper and Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley ordered a comprehensive review of the entire budget. Army senior leaders, staff officers and major commanders from all three components participated in the process, he said.

“We ran through every program in the budget,” McCarthy said. “They branded it ‘night court,’ because it had that shark tank feel. You went in there and you’d try to

explain your program to the leadership. If it didn’t survive — it was out.

“We need to be better with every dollar that taxpayers give us,” he said, adding Esper and Milley are trying to change the “fundamental behavior of the Army.”

After the budget proposal is released, Army leaders will engage with Congressional leaders to justify the request. However, with this year’s shortened approval timeline, McCarthy acknowledges the challenge Congress will face in passing the FY20 budget.

Failing to pass a budget

could result in a series of continuing resolutions and alter the Army’s agenda.

“Continuing resolutions breed mediocrity,” he said. “You can’t have predictability in an environment where you’re getting an installment every three or six months. How will companies know if they’re going to get paid or not? How can you get the system primed to hit at optimal levels?”

The Army will need to work very hard with Congress during the posture hearings to get it the information it needs, McCarthy said, so it can pass both the authorization and appropriation bills by Oct. 1.



# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## Ceremony commemorates first military flight

Foulois, who flew 7½ minutes, lauded for his contributions to military aviation

By David DeKunder  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military leaders and distinguished guests commemorated the 109th anniversary of the first military flight by Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin D. Foulois during a wreath-laying ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 1.

The ceremony was held at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Flag Pole, just a few hundred feet from where Foulois, then a lieutenant, made his historic flight on March 2, 1910. On that day at 9:30 a.m., Foulois climbed aboard Army Airplane No. 1, also known as “Old Number One,” at Fort Sam Houston. The aircraft was America’s first



PHOTOS BY DAVID DEKUNDER

(From center, left to right) Col. Peter Velesky, Joint Base San Antonio deputy commander and 502nd Air Base Wing vice commander; Col. Samuel Fiol, 502nd Force Support Group commander; and Lt. Col. Emil Bliss, 12th Operations Group chief of standardization and evaluation at JBSA-Randolph, salute after laying a wreath commemorating the 109th anniversary of the first military flight by Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin Foulois, on March 1 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Flag Pole.



Col. Peter Velesky, Joint Base San Antonio deputy commander and 502nd Air Base Wing vice commander, discusses the 1910 military flight by then-Lt. Benjamin Foulois during the ceremony. He says Foulois helped to create a tradition of innovative military aviators.

military airplane.

Foulois flew for 7½ minutes on the historic flight, circling the field at 30 mph while attaining a height of 200 feet. He made four flights that day, crashing on the last flight due to a broken fuel pipe. The first flight became known as the “birth of military flight” and Foulois became known as the “father of U.S. military aviation.”

Col. Peter Velesky, JBSA Deputy Commander and 502nd Air Base Wing Vice Commander, said as an Army aviator himself, he appreciates the contributions Foulois made

to field of military aviation when he took that first flight in 1910.

“It’s truly amazing, when you think about it, to stand in this field and know that only a few hundred feet away, 109 years ago, military aviation began its illustrious ascent,” Velesky said.

Velesky said that Foulois was sent to Fort Sam Houston by Brig. Gen. James Allen, Chief Signal Officer of the Army Signal Corps, to learn how to assemble and fly the Model B aircraft the Wright brothers began building in their factory in Dayton, Ohio, in 1910. Foulois

learned how to put together the aircraft and maneuver it by exchanging letters with the Wright brothers.

“On March 2, 1910, the only pilot to qualify by correspondence made four flights of varying degrees of success, which he described in his own words: ‘I made my first solo, my first landing and my first crackup – all the same day,’” Velesky said. “From my aviator perspective, that’s one hell of a day. Despite the fact his last flight was cut short from a broken fuel pipe, he was able to walk away, which any aviator

worth his salt will tell you – any landing you can walk away from is a good landing.”

Velesky said that Allen and Foulois, who was then a lieutenant, did not think alike when it came to the direction and future of military aviation. Allen, an 1872 graduate of West Point, had been studying the uses of military air power for many years and had come to the conclusion that dirigibles, or steerable airships, were the future of military air power.

Even though Foulois had

CEREMONY continues on 8

## CEREMONY

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become the Army's first dirigible pilot, after learning about airship and airplane technology, he decided that airplanes would be more beneficial for military use and be the future of military air power.

"Foulois as a military lieutenant was vocal in his disagreement with Gen. Allen on this point," Velesky said. "And while it was not recorded how Allen addressed the situation, we do know he kept Foulois around when he could have sent him back to the infantry."

When Foulois had enlisted in the Army in 1899, it had been as an infantryman.

"To me it's clear that Allen realized that passionate, independent thinkers will disagree and his team was better off with a smart, dedicated officer like Lt. Foulois than without him," Velesky added. "We as a nation benefited from Gen. Allen's understanding that talent and subordinates do not always think like their bosses. Intellectual curiosity and diversity of thought is the key characteristic of an innovative team, and Gen. Allen worked hard to encourage it over a century ago."

Velesky said Foulois helped create a legacy of military aviators who were innovative and challenged themselves beyond their limits in advancing military aviation.

"The next Benjamin Foulois, the next Chuck Yeager, the next Neil Armstrong, the next generation of intrepid military aviators is standing in our own formations today," he said. "Standing here today, I'm humbled by the countless number of dauntless military aviators who have paved the way in a very short history of military aviation.

"And although brief," Velesky added, "those brave souls have taken us from this field through the sound barrier through the envelope of our own atmosphere and eventually to the heavens, to our moon and one day to Mars and beyond, and that is absolutely amazing and awe-inspiring."

After the conclusion of Velesky's remarks, a wreath was laid at the marker commemorating Foulois' historic flight, which is located at the flag pole. Laying the wreath were Velesky, 502nd Force Support Group Commander Col. Samuel Fiol and Lt. Col. Emil Bliss, 12th Operations Group chief of standardization and evaluation at JBSA-Randolph.

# JBSA-FSH leaders update residents about housing issues

**By Kerrigan D. Simpson**

ARMY SUPPORT ACTIVITY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PLANS, TRAINING, MOBILIZATION, AND SECURITY

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston residents met with installation leaders in a town hall hosted by Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commanding general and Army Senior Commander at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, at the Lincoln Military Main Resident Center Feb. 21.

The town hall was an initial step in a plan to address residents' concerns about issues with privatized housing.

Key issues voiced during the town hall include mold, mildew and HVAC issues, repeat work orders for the same issue and lack of resolution due to substandard maintenance and repairs, as well as safety.

The Army Senior Commander and the Army Support Activity, responsible for the government-run Army Fort Sam Houston Housing Office, in conjunction with JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's privatized housing partner, Lincoln

Military Housing, are working to ensure systemic issues and gaps are corrected.

Lincoln Military Housing has already implemented a number of actions to better serve JBSA-Fort Sam Houston residents. LMH will conduct 100 percent call backs on all completed work orders and scheduled appointments will receive a call 30 minutes prior to maintenance arrival.

Duct work in all homes will be cleaned each time the home is turned over. Additionally, the Army Support Activity is conducting 10 percent call backs and visits on emergency work orders as an additional quality control measure to ensure residents are satisfied with the service they received.

The Department of the Army Inspector General, or DAIG, will visit Fort Sam Houston today. The DAIG's goal is to assess the climate and customer satisfaction that JBSA-Fort Sam Houston residents have with Lincoln Military Housing. Residents were notified via email, social media and the military chain of command of times and locations to meet with the IG

**A 24/7 Housing Hotline has been established at 210-221-0891 as a means to address any unreported or unanswered housing concerns as well as any events of reprisal against residents. Residents should continue to first report work orders through the Lincoln Call Center, 210-225-5564, before addressing their issues through the Hotline.**

team.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston leaders will hold a follow-up town hall at 6 p.m. March 20 at the Military & Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797, at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. All housing residents at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston are invited to attend to address additional concerns and to hear the current corrective actions being implemented.

Additionally, a 24/7 Housing Hotline has been established at 210-221-0891 as a

means to address any unreported or unanswered housing concerns as well as any events of reprisal against residents.

Residents should continue to first report work orders through the Lincoln Call Center, 210-225-5564, before addressing their issues through the Hotline. As always, residents can also address any and all issues through ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation) at [https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=94865&s=450&dep=\\*DoD](https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=94865&s=450&dep=*DoD).



# Veterans, families visit 'The Wall That Heals'



STEVE ELLIOTT

*A veteran searches for the name of a friend at "The Wall That Heals" display Feb. 28 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.*

**By Steve Elliott**

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On the cool, rainy morning of Feb. 28 at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, dozens of Vietnam War-era veterans, their families and many others turned out to pay tribute to those who never came home.

The Daughters of the American Revolution's Alamo Chapter hosted "The Wall That Heals," a traveling representation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the cemetery through March 3.

The exhibit featured a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., with the names of more than 58,000 men and women who died in that war. The display also has a mobile education center that gives visitors a better understanding of the legacy of the Wall and educates about the impact of the Vietnam War.

Bringing "The Wall That Heals" to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the Memorial to exist once more among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings,

according to the wall's website.

The traveling exhibit also provided thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of facing the original wall find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

Checking out the display Feb. 28 were a number of junior ROTC students from local high schools.

"I think it's important for these kids to come out and see this. It instills patriotism in the youth of today," said Tim Tetz, site manager for "The Wall That Heals." "They should know the sacrifices that have been made by those who have come before us and paid the ultimate price."

San Antonio was the first stop on a tour that will take "The Wall That Heals" to 34 communities throughout the United States in 2019, ending in Columbia, Miss., in November.

The replica is 375 feet long and stands 7 1/2 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors experience it rising above them as they walk toward the apex, a key feature of the design of the original wall in Washington, D.C.

## New reusable container option available in BAMC dining areas

**By Lori Newman**

BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Brooke Army Medical Center Department of Nutritional Medicine at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is implementing a new reusable container option at the dining areas throughout the hospital.

Patrons now can choose to use a reusable plastic container when getting food at a dining area within the hospital. The containers can hold anything from classic fare meals to soup, salad or pizza.

"Our hope is that people will opt for this option because it will help reduce waste and costs and help us save the environment," said Army Maj. David Elliott, Department of Nutritional Medicine deputy chief. "Each year we spend

more than \$1.2 million on disposable containers, plastic cutlery and cups, etc."

Customers going through a food line can ask the server for the reusable container option or simply pick it up when getting self-serve items such as pizza, soup or the salad bar. When checking out, the cashier will charge them a one-time non-refundable fee of \$5 for the container.

"You paid for it, you own it, you can take it home or use it however you like," Elliott said. "But the next time you come into the dining facility, please don't bring your old container and try to fill it with food. Instead, you will need to get a new one, because the containers must be cleaned and sanitized by DNM staff before reuse."

To return the soiled

container the customer simply inserts it, with the barcode facing up, into one of the three receptacle machines located throughout BAMC. The machine will scan the barcode and issue the customer a token. The machines are located in the main dining room on the lower level, in the Grab and Go by the Garden entrance and outside the Café Express located in the Pediatrics hallway on the first floor.

"The machine is really just a receptacle to hold the dirty containers," Elliott said. "The bottom of the container has a barcode. You put the container upside-down in the receptacle, it reads the barcode and dumps it into a bin and releases a token."

When the machine is full, it sends an email to the dining room staff so they can retrieve

the bag full of soiled containers. These containers are then taken to the dishwasher to be cleaned and sanitized and put back out on the lines for reuse.

"Customers should dump and scrape any food remnant from the container into the regular trash before they are put into the machine," Elliott said. "This helps the staff properly clean and sanitize them for reuse."

Patrons must have a token when checking out to avoid being recharged for the reusable container.

"The token is what you use instead of paying the \$5 again at the cashier," Elliott explained.

"Patrons will still have the option of using a regular plate and silverware or opting for the disposable container, but we hope they will opt to use the reusable container when

possible," he said, noting many people choose the disposable containers even when they are eating in the dining facility.

"Those disposable food containers are expensive," Elliott said. "For example, the big clamshell container, made out of formed cardboard, costs 33 cents apiece and here at BAMC, we send more than 76,000 of them to the landfill each month."

"The three machines were an initial investment of about \$90,000, but if we get 20 percent of our customers the use the reusable containers it will pay for itself in about six months," Elliott said. "The cost savings is only a secondary reason for us starting this program. Our primary goal is sustainability. We hope to save the planet by not producing more trash than we need to."

# LACKLAND

## Perfecting humans with healthy fueling

By Debbie Aragon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION  
SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In today's military environment, the Air Force isn't just focused on aircraft being in top shape and powered by the right fuel to defend our nation.

The Air Force Services Activity, through its comprehensive healthy food initiative continues zeroing in on the human weapons system – our nation's Airmen – and providing them “with the right nutrition to increase lethality; ensuring a more ready force to meet mission requirements,” said Bill Spencer, AFSVA's Food and Beverage Division chief.

“Our customers continue to seek performance ‘fueling’ menu items,” Spencer said. “And through our HFI approach, we're delivering that.”

Central to HFI is the continued implementation of the Go For Green, or G4G, 2.0 program in dining facilities across the Air Force. Every Air Force dining facility uses the initial G4G program since it's part of a Department of Defense joint service performance-nutrition initiative that began in 2012.

However, AFSVA, with the help of industry partners like the Culinary Institute of America, is upping its game to help Airmen better fuel for body and brain health by rolling out new recipes, and new coding and training standards to revitalize and revamp the Air Force's program, said Tech. Sgt. Shantavis Hightower, an AFSVA food and beverage manager.

Key to G4G 2.0 is a certified initiative where three CIA affiliated master chefs and a registered dietitian conducted regional hands-on training and culinary demonstrations at six installations – Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.; Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; Yokota Air Base, Japan; and Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

“Key personnel from surrounding bases attended the regional training,”



*An Airman builds her meal using fresh, healthy options on the Pure Bar Feb. 28 at the Aragon Dining Facility at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.*

CARRIE GROVER

Hightower added. “So they could then go back to their home stations to train others how to prepare and serve healthier, tastier food items.”

The comprehensive hands-on culinary training, conducted at centralized locations, used new products and cooking methods, Spencer said. Additionally, AFSVA rolled out 90 new recipes, created by the culinary institute, that include more whole, fresh foods and healthy fats and less saturated fats.

“I love the new changes and knowing exactly what I put into my body,” said Airman 1st Class Cassandra St. Germaine, a customer service apprentice at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. “With our jobs, it's important to fuel our bodies with the right nutrition and that's exactly what I can get (with Go For Green 2.0). I know all of the ingredients in my meal and can customize it the way I want.”

With G4G 2.0, Airmen can look forward to more roasted nuts,

vegetables and sweet potatoes, and plant-based proteins like tofu and quinoa on menus.

For example, instead of rice pilaf, barley pilaf will be served. Instead of white pasta, Airmen will see a move toward whole grain and wheat pasta. In place of pasta salad, quinoa salad with beans will be available.

“Of course, our customers still want some of those comfort, often less healthy, foods,” Hightower said. “So they will still be able to enjoy those but we want to focus more on moderation when selecting those items. It's making sure we have a balance on our menus and on the plates our customers build for themselves.”

Part of selecting healthier food options is helping customers know how and where to find them.

With G4G, Airmen and their families can, at a glance, tell which menu items are better fuel for their bodies with simple spotlight signage.

“The spotlight method has been in place since 2012 and it's easy to follow and really helps our customers make healthier food choices,” Spencer said.

Choice architecture – product placement, lighting and merchandising – is also used to help customers.

The spotlight system is based on green, yellow and red color schemes.

Items coded as green mean they are good for your body and should be eaten often. Yellow is eat occasionally as they're moderate-performance foods and red is eat rarely because they're low-performance foods that are processed and low in nutrients.

Airmen can look for the G4G Eat Well, Perform Well signage in their dining facilities now to identify and choose foods that enhance performance and overall well-being, Hightower said.

The AFSVA food and beverage team hopes to have all installations operating with G4G 2.0 by the end of this fiscal year.



# JBSA, Lackland ISD promote STEM programs

Numerous AF career fields use robotics, high tech

By Staff Sgt. Krystal Wright

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Col. Robert W. Trayers Jr., Air Force Recruiting Service vice commander, and Lt. Col. Steven Lamb, 502nd Installation Support Group vice commander, viewed two of Lackland Independent School District's award-winning science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, programs Feb. 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

The colonels visited Virginia Allred Stacey Junior/Senior High School's Bots in Blue and CyberPatriot teams.

The Bots in Blue is a FIRST Tech Challenge team, which designs, builds and programs robots to compete head to head against other teams on a special playing field. During the 2018-2019 FTC South San Antonio Metro League Championship, they placed second against 27 teams and earned the Control Award for programming excellence.

The CyberPatriots is a national youth cyber education program that the Air Force Association created to promote cybersecurity and other STEM careers.

"STEM is the framework of how things function," Lamb said. "Understanding STEM empowers individuals to solve the most difficult complex problems."

During the visit, Trayers and Lamb received presentations on the clubs' growth and success, which the presenters contributed to the investment of Air Force partners via volunteer efforts and grants.

In addition, the colonels had the opportunity to watch students code programs, view

multiple robots the students created, and get a sneak peak of the robot currently being built and programed for their next competition. Trayers also had the chance to drive one of the award-winning robots.

"I was blown away by the teamwork and dedication the students and faculty exhibited in their desire to solve complex problems through STEM," Lamb said. "The ability for sixth- to 12th-grade students to excel as well as they have in robotics and cyber tells me that these kids have endless opportunities in any occupation. I am so excited for their future."

Teamwork was a common theme expressed throughout the visit with both clubs, a theme the military shares.

"Teamwork is the key to success," Trayers said to the students. "Nobody can be successful — in the military or anywhere else — without being part of a team."

The students' passion for robotics, cybersecurity and technology overall was evident along with their pride for their achievements and success.

"Watching the students' demonstrate the capabilities of their robots was my favorite part because they were so proud to talk about their team accomplishments and what their robots can do," Lamb said.

Like the students, the teachers expressed passion for what they do and helping guide students into being successful in the future.

"We spend a lot of time and effort doing these things (club activities) and have had some success," said Kenneth Kinsey, Stacey High School robotics/coding/engineering teacher. "It is momentary success. What they are going to be doing 20 years from now ... we are laying down the foundation (for that). This is going to set the tone for the rest of their lives."

The students took turns



STAFF SGT. KRYSTAL WRIGHT

A Bots in Blue club member showcases their robot to Col. Robert W. Trayers Jr. (right), Air Force Recruiting Service vice commander, during a visit to Virginia Allred Stacey Junior/Senior High School Feb. 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

sharing their plans for the future and what they hope to become.

One of the students, Jordan Peterson, son of Maj. Frederick Peterson, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center installation engineer program manager, has already applied to the U.S. Air Force Academy with the goal of learning how aircrafts work by using his robotics knowledge as a foundation and becoming a pilot.

Another student, Madison Sligh, daughter of Chief Master Sgt. Carol Sligh, Defense language Institute English Learning Center superintendent, plans on becoming a veterinarian.

"It seems like a fair reach from this, but I promise it goes hand in hand," she explained. "These guys (robots) have tempers every once in a while and, in the future, I will have to work with machines. Also, this teaches me to work under

pressure and work with a team."

Other students cited dreams to become music composers, surgeons and biomedical engineers. Others plan on work in the cybersecurity field and astronomy. Some, like Peterson, plan to join the military.

"I am very grateful to the school faculty and all the volunteer mentors who dedicated so much time to assist our students in mastering cyber and STEM activities," Lamb said. "It is apparent from today's visit that this next generation of STEM professionals will evolve our military into a futuristic environment normally considered science fiction."

STEM programs such as Bots in Blue and CyberPatriot develop skills the students that the military looks for.

The Air Force has a wide range of STEM and computer-related career fields and professions, ranging from aerospace and operational physiology to bioenvironmental engineering to computer system programming.

Numerous Air Force career fields also use robotics. For example, security forces use drones for patrolling the perimeter of bases while the explosive ordinance disposal unit uses robots to safely inspect and deal with explosive devices.

Various medical fields also use robotics and technology in surgeries. Furthermore, sensor operators perform surveillance and reconnaissance, as well as provide close air support with remotely piloted aircraft.

"The Air Force is well known for our technological advances, and we would have never seen such improvements to our capabilities without the dedication and sacrifice of so many students, professors and scientist pushing the limits on what is possible," Lamb said.





TECH. SGT. CARLOS J. TREVIÑO

*Pete Peterson, an 89-year-old Navy vet, seated, listens as Airman 1st Class Ryan Biggs, 68th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, describes the many features of the cargo deck on the C-5M Super Galaxy Feb. 25 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.*

## Navy vets explore C-5M Super Galaxy at 433rd Airlift Wing

By Tech. Sgt. Carlos J. Treviño

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A group of 33 Navy vets and their families from the USS Lloyd Thomas Reunion Association visited the 433rd Airlift Wing to tour the C-5M Super Galaxy Feb. 25 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The former sailors, now in their 70s and 80s, were in San Antonio for their annual reunion.

For some, like Scott Sheffer, the reunion coordinator, seeing the largest aircraft in the United States' inventory, was a reunion of a different sort.

"I saw one (a C-5) in the 1970s going into Clark Air Base in the Philippines," said Sheffer. "It was the biggest thing I ever saw. We really enjoyed our trip here today. We enjoyed the Airmen helping us out. It was a much better tour than we expected."

The group was hosted by aircrew from the 68th Airlift Squadron. They spent an hour learning about the aircraft's cargo-carrying capabilities, the glass

cockpit, the plane's exterior and missions the Airmen have flown around the world.

"The size of it and all this stuff," Andy Vargo said, as he motioned to the panels in the flight engineer's area on the flight deck. "I was a throttle man in the Navy for the ship's engines. This is fascinating," the native of Pasadena, Md., said.

For one Airman, a tour like this is not a one-way experience.

"I enjoy being able to talk with the people of the past who have come before us and have seen a lot of the different things, it's different, but it's the same today as it was when they were serving," said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Meredith, 68th AS flight engineer. "It's fun to see the similarities years later. It's good to see the older generation still excited about the things we do today. It's not lost on them, as it is lost on the general population today."

"Being part of a military unit, you have that esprit de corps, and we enjoy supporting our military," Sheffer said.

# AER

From page 2

Mason said nearly constant deployments in the past two decades and the economic downturn of 2008-09 also generated requests for assistance, as did the 35-day government shutdown which ended Jan. 25.

The organization made several changes to its program guidelines for this year:

► Expanded assistance on

dental care for dependents.

► Added grants for cranial helmets and children's car seats.

► Raised the cap on funerals for dependent spouses.

► Added new grant assistance for passports and special medical needs equipment.

Educational scholarships for spouses and dependent children based on need also are available through AER. The organization awarded more than \$8 million in scholarships in 2017.

Its goal is to inform 100 percent of Soldiers about AER programs and benefits, and offer Soldiers the opportunity to join the legacy of "Soldiers Helping Soldiers." Mason stated, "It's not the dollar amount a Soldier donates, it's more about the Soldier's awareness of AER and helping their teammates."

Mason said less than 10 percent of the Army contributes to AER for various reasons.

"Our Army has been very busy over the past 18 years of

combat. Additionally, prior to 9/11 most leaders would spend two to three years at one installation. With the demands of OIF/OEF, leaders have not spent that amount of time; they arrive at a post, train-up for their combat mission, deploy, come home, reintegrate and PCS to another post. The current generation of Soldiers grew up with multiple deployments, frequently serving on the battlefield with units that were not part of their home station chain of

command. All this churn had the unintended consequence of 'breaking' the bonds and knowledge of Soldier/family programs like AER."

To help increase donations, AER launched a fundraising partnership with Army and Air Force Exchange Service and engages with corporate military affinity groups and American civilian citizens. The organization also encourages Army leaders to communicate with their troops about financial resiliency.

# RANDOLPH

## Flight chief earns Air Force-level honor

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On a visit to the 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph the morning of Feb. 15, the 359th Medical Group commander provided a technical sergeant who serves as the flight's chief with news he truly was not expecting.

Col. Wayne Peters offered his congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Joseph Santiago, informing him he had been selected by the Air Force Medical Service as the 2018 Air Force Aerospace and Operational Physiology NCO of the Year.

"I had no idea his visit was for this," he said of Peters' appearance at building 747 that morning. "I was surprised, definitely, but it was a good surprise."

It was also a good surprise to Santiago's wife, Melissa, who was asked to come to the flight but was as unaware as her husband that he had earned this prestigious award.

"She was hiding in back, but she didn't know what she was here for," Santiago said.

Peters' announcement was not a surprise to other members of the flight, including Maj. Danielle Tuttle, 359th AMDS Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight commander, who nominated Santiago for the award.

"I am so incredibly excited for him," she said. "Traits that Tech. Sgt. Santiago brings to his job are humility and energy like no other flight chief."

Among Santiago's accomplishments are securing \$80,000 worth of contracts for the flight's night-vision-goggle course, \$250,000 in building modifications and new memorandums of understanding with training units, Tuttle said.

"He has done this all while balancing family life, too," she said. "He is incredibly well-rounded."



COURTESY PHOTO

*Tech. Sgt. Joseph Santiago, right, 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight chief, performs seal checks for Airmen who are part of the Aircrew Fundamentals Course to make sure their masks are tight enough so that no ambient air can enter into their masks.*

Santiago said his work ethic contributes to his success, but he emphasized that the 18 enlisted members he supervises helped make his award possible.

"Everybody had a part in this," he said. "These guys are on the ground doing the brunt of the work; they make me look good. It's an honor to lead them."

Santiago has earned the respect of the Airmen he leads, Tuttle said.

"Our Airmen want to work for him," she said. "I want to work for him. Tech. Sgt. Santiago has extremely high expectations and motivates everyone to

push themselves a little harder to reach their goals. Our flight had an incredible last year, and we couldn't have done it without his leadership."

Santiago is both "extremely likeable and hard on the Airmen at the same time," Tuttle said.

"You are just as likely to see him take the time to help out with a flight or helping Airmen with their CDCs as he is to cut loose and challenge them to a game of tiger ball," she said. "He is the fastest in the flight; our Airmen challenged him to a sprint and he's still got it."

A native of Eagan, Minn., Santiago said he thought about joining the military after graduating from high school, but went to college in Wisconsin for almost a year before enlisting in the Air Force right after his 19th birthday. The health care career field was one of the options that appealed to him.

"I didn't know what aerospace physiology was, but it was on my top 10 list," he said. "It was medical and it sounded cool, so I thought I'd give it a try."

Santiago did not intend to stay in the Air Force beyond his original commitment, but his experiences altered his vision for the future.

"I was presented with some cool opportunities, like working with U2s at Beale Air Force Base," he said. "It's 12½ years later; I'm in it for the long haul."

Santiago said he enjoys his current job, but he is also looking ahead, hoping to commission and align his career with the business degrees he has earned.

He is proud of the award he has won with the help of his flight, which he called the busiest unit he has ever been assigned to – responsible for training 4,500 aircrew members per year to handle extreme physiological conditions and other stressors while in flight.

"It's an honor to be recognized," he said. "I haven't won an award like this in my career. The hard work paid off, but I have to put my head down and keep working."

## AETC recognizes 2018 Outstanding Airmen of the Year

By 2nd Lt. Kayshel Trudell

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Education and Training Command honored 11 Airmen and eight civilians as the command's 2018 winners of the Outstanding Airmen of the Year Feb. 26 during a ceremony in Orlando, Fla.

The OAY awards are presented annually, recognizing the top officer, enlisted and civilian members of the command. Winners will compete at Air Force level. Aspects of consideration for Airmen to

be nominated for OAY include superior leadership, job performance, community involvement and personal achievements.

The 2018 AETC Outstanding Airmen of the Year are:

- Airman of the Year: Senior Airmen Gary G. Jeffrey III — 81st Medical Support Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.
- Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Marcus J. Bernard — 42nd Security Forces Squadron, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Master

Sgt. Thomas E. Kasten — 71st Security Forces Squadron, Vance Air Force Base, Okla.

► First Sergeant of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. John C. Quinley — 42nd SFS, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

► Honor Guard Member of the Year: Tech. Sgt. John A. Parris — 366th Training Squadron, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

► Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year: Master Sgt. Phillip W. Acord Jr. — 82nd Force Support Squadron, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

AETC 2018 AWARDS continues on 17



# Innovation, scalability and data the focus as PTN 2.0 begins

**By 1st. Lt. Geneva Giaimo**  
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The second class of students participating in Pilot Training Next at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Austin began Jan. 17.

During the program, student pilots will learn to fly the T-6A, leveraging off-the-shelf training aids and virtual reality simulators. The instruction in this second version is shaped from the success of and lessons learned from the first PTN program, where 13 officers graduated in June 2018 and progressed to advanced training across multiple platforms.

This class is comprised of 26 students, including 16 active duty officer students (six of whom are participating in a remotely-piloted aircraft-only track), two Air National Guard officers, two U.S. Navy officers, one Royal Air Force officer and five enlisted Airmen.

Instructor pilots from across AETC were selected to

train the new students based on their skills and fit with the goals of the PTN team.

"Innovation and change are necessary," said Capt. Calogero San Filippo, PTN instructor pilot. "The freedom of movement in this program offers us the opportunity to really explore different avenues, and that is exciting. We are going to do the best we can as instructors to make sure our training is beneficial down the road."

The five enlisted Airmen participating in the class, similar to the first iteration, are part of the effort to understand how people from non-traditional talent pools perform in this environment.

AETC senior leadership has challenged Airmen at the squadron level to take a deep look at their current curricula and procedures to find the best way to inspire and develop Mach-21 Airmen. The PTN cadre has played a major role in this effort, studying both how students learn and how to effectively teach flying training.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS PEDRO TENORIO

*Pilot Training Next program students experience being in a parachute while 82nd Aerospace Medical Squadron physiology technicians supervise them at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Jan. 29.*

"We have three focus areas for our team during this iteration of training," said Lt. Col. Paul Vicars, PTN director. "First, we must empower our instructors and Airmen to be able to innovate by providing them the resources and authority to fail fast and learn. Second, we need to capitalize on that learning by scaling as rapidly as we can. Finally, we need to collect, analyze, understand and use the data to build a process of continual improvement."

Like the first version of

PTN, the second iteration is working collaboratively with AFWERX, building connections with industry to help them work solutions to issues they encounter as they develop the program.

"AFWERX hosted a pitch competition where we were able to look at available commercial solutions to some of our technology needs," Vicars said. "They also supported us with two small business innovation research programs. The connection with AFWERX has been

essential to our ability to rapidly advance."

During his welcome to the new pilot students and cadre, Vicars highlighted the incredible amount of talent in cadre and student class and charged the whole PTN program to further innovate and refine how we teach and learn.

"What you decide this will look like, it will look like," Vicars said. "You are building the foundations for what flying training will look like long into the future."

## AETC 2018 AWARDS

From page 16

- Military Training Instructor of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Eric J. Garza — 323rd Training Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas
- Military Training Leader of the Year: Master Sgt. Sean K. Brasier — 2nd Air Force, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.
- Recruiter of the Year: Master Sgt. Gervacio A. Maldonado — 318th Recruiting Squadron, Penn.
- Company Grade Officer: Capt. Elmer J. Lustina — 336th Recruiting Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.
- Field Grade Officer: Maj. Steven J. Schuldt — Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
- Civilian Non-Supervisory Category I: Brian Louis — 81st Comptroller Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.
- Civilian Non-Supervisory Category II: Bridgett N.

Davis — 502nd Air Base Wing, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Texas

- Civilian Non-Supervisory Category III: Sharon P. Lewis — 42nd Medical Support Squadron, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- Civilian Non-Supervisory Category IV: Derrick V. Frazier, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- Civilian Supervisory Category I: Jason G. Medenwaldt — 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.
- Civilian Supervisory Category II: C. Michael Gann — 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Texas
- Civilian Supervisory Category III: Jeffery T. Wilkins — 17th Civil Engineer Squadron, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas
- Civilian Supervisory Category IV: Jeffrey M. Reilly — Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Senior Master Sgt. Israel Del Toro Jr., 98th Flying

Training Squadron Accelerated Freefall Training Program superintendent, spoke to the honorees, commending them for their continual service and dedication to the mission throughout 2018, as well as urging them to use the power of the award to touch people's lives moving forward.

"When you return to your base people will think 'that OAY winner is squared away,' so use this recognition to touch people's lives, be there for one another and make a difference," Del Toro said. "Congratulations ... go out there and keep getting after it!"

Maj. Gen. Mark Weatherington, AETC's deputy commander, spoke to the importance of teamwork allowing Airmen to make an impact.

"The people being recognized here made a big difference for AETC, but each and every one of them would say there's a huge team behind them that help them make an impact," Weatherington said. "Thank you for making a difference in our Air Force and for AETC."