

# JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MARCH 29, 2019



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. KRISTIAN CARTER

Air Force Maj. Carolyn Stateczny (right), 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, guides Spcs. Sandessa Jones and Maryssa Alfonso, Brooke Army Medical Center, into a C-130H Hercules aircraft to load a simulated litter patient for air transport at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 20.

**433rd AES participates in national disaster exercises** *Page 18*



**Collaborative medicine saves BAMC patient**  
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**Family keeps daydream going at JBSA-Randolph**  
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# Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month events scheduled for Joint Base San Antonio

JBSA locations will demonstrate support with teal ribbons and flags or special teal lighting

## From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month or SAAPM — an annual campaign to raise public awareness about sexual assault and educate communities on how to prevent sexual violence. The Department of Defense 2019 Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month theme is “I Ask.”

### Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation Ceremony

Date/Time: April 3, 9 a.m.  
Location: Fort Sam Houston Community Center  
Hosted by Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commanding general, senior leaders from each service branch will come together to mark April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month for the Joint Base San Antonio community. Open to the public. Call 210-295-0560 or 210-221-0598 for more information.

### Second Annual Student Poetry Slam

Date/Time: April 6, 5:30 p.m.  
Location: Medical Education and Training Campus Student Activity Center basement, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, this poetry competition will feature original works by METC students while their peers judge from the audience. Army, Air Force and Navy students are all welcome. Free food, drinks and door prizes. For more information, call 210-808-1352.

### Take Back Our City

Date/Time: April 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Location: San Antonio College, 1819 N. Main Ave.

JBSA, in partnership with the Rape Crisis Center and local colleges, host a family-friendly awareness community event to raise awareness about sexual assault. Event includes a community resource fair, art exhibit, activities area, food trucks, a candlelight vigil and more. For more information, call 210-221-7577.

### 7th Annual Drive Out Sexual Assault Golf Tournament

Date/Time: April 12, 11:30 a.m. check-in, 12:30 p.m. start  
Location: JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Club

The tournament is an event to heighten awareness and show support to those affected by sexual assault. The format is a four-person scramble with prizes for first-, second and third-place finishers, longest drive and closet to pin. Golf goodies and chances to win prizes. To more information, call 210-808-8975. Registration ends April 5.

### Escape Room: SAPR Knowledge Challenge

Date/Time: April 12 & 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Location: JBSA-Randolph Health Promotion, next to Rambler Fitness Center

Event has one-hour increments to choose from. Individual or group signups welcome. Join in supporting and bringing awareness to sexual assault prevention by challenging your SAPR knowledge, problem-solving skills and resiliency in an escape room. Call 210-652-4386.

### Strike Out Sexual Assault Bowling Event

Date/Time: April 13, noon at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 4 p.m. at JBSA-Lackland  
Join in the fun at this year's “Strike Out Sexual Assault” bowling event. Open to students only. Awards and door prizes to be given. Open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and dependents. Call 210-221-1469 or 210-671-7273.

### Color Run SAAPM 5K Run/Walk

Date/Time: April 13, 8 a.m.  
Location: JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatics Center

A SAAPM 5K “Paint the Post TEAL!” color run/walk to raise public awareness and spread the message about the prevention of sexual violence. Free race, food, drinks and door prizes; must register online at <https://www.athleteguild.com/running/fort-sam-houston-tx/2016-saapm-5k>.

### S.H.A.R.P. featuring Edward Wilson

Date/Time/Location: April 16, 9 a.m., BAMC Medical Mall; April 17, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Fort Sam Houston Theater  
Brooke Army Medical Center and U.S. Army South present Edward Wilson, who created the HARP video titled “Spoken Word.” Call 210-295-6234 or 210-487-1421 for

more information.

### Ride Against Rape Motorcycle Run

Date/Time: April 19, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: JBSA-Medina Annex  
Open to all military members. Roll out to increase awareness and display zero tolerance for sexual assault. The format is to collect poker cards at each station to see who can get the best hand. To register, call 210-671-7273.

### SAAPM March Against Sexual Assault

Date/Time: April 20, 1-3 p.m.  
Location: Student Activity Center, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

Join the JBSA community for a march against sexual assault. Sponsored by the Peer Advisors for Change, this event is meant to heighten awareness and show support for those affected by sexual assault. Following the march, there will be a gathering for all students at the Student Activity Center that includes music, games and refreshments. Call 210-808-6316 or 210-808-8981 for more information.

### Walk A Mile In Their Shoes

Date/Time: April 27, 9-11 a.m.  
Location: Brig. Gen. Billy Johnson running track, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

Join in the conversation as people trade places walking and talking in their shoes. An event to bring awareness and sensitivity to victims of sexual assault, rape and gender violence. The men will wear their favorite female heels and the women will wear their favorite male combat boots or shoes that are two or three sizes too big for them. For more information, call 210-336-4532.

Sexual assault awareness information will be distributed at various locations throughout April. Staff will share info about sexual assault realities, victim services and prevention tips.

Teal is the color representing Sexual Assault Awareness Month. All JBSA locations will have teal ribbons and flags or special teal lighting to demonstrate support to those JBSA survivors recovering from sexual assault.

The Department of Defense 2019 SAAPM theme is “I Ask.”

The JBSA SAPR hotline number is 210-808-7272. Additionally, the other JBSA numbers are 210-808-8990 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-671-7273 for JBSA-Lackland, and 210-652-4386 for JBSA-Randolph. Soldiers can call 210-221-0598, while Navy personnel can call 210-221-1496.

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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.

## Installation & Facilities

**Q.** Why does it take so long for facility repairs? At JBSA-Lackland, there is a problem in the men's room in building 7025 at 1451 Stewart St. The room has two urinals (both out of service) and two commode stalls. During busy hours and graduations, military members, employees and visitors struggle to use the facility due to limited services. This always causes frustration to all.

**A.** Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention. Bathrooms are always a priority and our Civil Engineers rely on facility managers to communicate issues critical to building maintenance.

For the problems with these specific urinals and commodes, a work request was submitted to 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron Customer Service Jan. 25 and was responded to by our plumbing shop. For these bathrooms, our engineers determined these recurring issues require additional investigation. Our plumbing shop is working on a permanent repair. Manpower limitations and sustainment activities at times impact timeline for repairs.

To assist backlog and mitigate these types of delays, our Civil Engineers are pursuing a trade-craft contract (for summer 2019) that will create contract capability to reduce the backlog of work requests and provide appropriate quality assurance on final repairs.

In general, if you are experiencing recurring facility issues, please contact 502nd CES Customer Service at 210-671-5555.

**Q.** I am hearing rumors that the Department of Defense commissaries may soon be taken over by AAFES and opened up to DOD civilians and

contractors. Is there any truth to that rumor?

**A.** Thank you very much for your question. Both AAFES and the Defense Commissary Agency continuously strive to provide world-class service to all of their customers.

In a Military Times article titled "Defense Department pushing ahead to merge commissary and exchange systems," dated March 6, 2019, DOD officials are expecting to "harvest significant savings" by consolidating commissary and exchange systems into "one defense resale enterprise" such that the benefits would "far exceed the costs."

Any merger will require the approval of Congress because current law requires the DOD to operate separate commissary and exchange systems. Additionally, a request to change DOD policy to extend limited shopping privileges to DOD civilians is currently under review by the DOD, and we hope to hear positive news soon.

**Q.** When will the picnic area and shelter by the airfield and fire station at JBSA-Lackland be completed for military families and the public to use? It's an awesome and beautiful place to hang out and have lunch and watch aircraft land and take off with families after BMT graduations and on weekends.

**A.** Thank you very much for your question. After the pavilion at Upson

Park was damaged by a severe storm, our 502nd Civil Engineer Group approved a self-help repair project to restore the shelter.

During the repairs, we discovered the pavilion had old paint that tested positive for lead. This additional work requires our Civil Engineers to remediate the lead paint through a contract before we can continue with the renovation. The estimated time to restart the pavilion renovation is May 2019.

**Q.** Are there any plans to repair the poor road conditions on Growden Road outside of JBSA-Lackland? Is this road the responsibility of the federal government or the City of San Antonio?

**A.** Great question! The portion of the road outside the gate is the responsibility of the transportation division of the City of San Antonio. There is, in fact, a construction project scheduled that will widen sections of Growden road from two to three lanes. It is scheduled to begin this summer and will provide much needed widening and repairs to improve commercial traffic flow.

The work is a result of the strong partnership between Joint Base San Antonio and the City of San Antonio and our surrounding communities. As we progress further with the project, we will advertise the construction dates and traffic plan through social media and the JBSA Legacy base paper to inform

motorists and JBSA employees and their families.

## Miscellaneous

**Q.** The Air Force used to have an IDEA program where they would pay you a portion of any cost savings ideas that people came up with. Now it seems that the Air Force still wants good ideas to help save costs on various programs and yet there is no more money award incentive being offered for coming up with these cost savings? Has the Air Force IDEA program changed and no longer offers any type of money rewards for good ideas that save money?

**A.** Thank you very much for your question. The Airman Powering Innovation (API) Program did replace the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) Program.

The new API program is a step in the right direction because it connects Airmen directly to Principal Decision Makers in the Air Force and, the best part, it does provide monetary awards for approved ideas (up to \$2,500).

I encourage everybody to submit their great ideas through the API website: <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af/USAF/ep/globalTab.do?channelPageId=sOECF2BB844E64F620144F48AA2DFOOBD>.

If you have any specific questions about the program, contact our local Manpower Office.



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

# Flight nurse recalls saving lives during WWII

By Kevin M. Hymel

AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE  
HISTORY OFFICE

As a flight nurse during World War II, 1st Lt. Madeline "Del" D'Eletto, saw some of her first action transporting Soldiers wounded in the D-Day landings back to Great Britain via aeromedical evacuation.

From D-Day until the end of the war, D'Eletto spent her days caring for wounded soldiers aboard a Douglas C-47 Skytrain transport aircraft, flying from the battlefields of Europe to the hospitals of Great Britain.

"It was raw, hard work," she recalled.

D'Eletto of New Castle, Pennsylvania, was already a nurse when she joined the Army on April 18, 1942. After serving at the Army Hospital at Key Field in Meridian, Mississippi, she attended the Air Evacuation School at Bowman Field, Kentucky.

Upon graduation, she was assigned to the 437th Troop Carrier Group's 814th Medical Air Evacuation Transport Squadron in 1943, flying out of Royal Air Force Station Ramsbury, Great Britain.

On June 6, 1944, Allied forces assaulted the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. It took three days to build landing fields at Omaha Beach. Soon after, D'Eletto climbed aboard a C-47 for her first medical evacuation mission. After flying over the English Channel, her aircraft landed the Normandy beach.

"I could see Soldiers on the beach, the gold of the sand, the brown of their uniforms, and red blood," she said.

As the plane landed, she saw Soldiers making their way through mud on the flooded plains. Once the plane stopped, she took on her first load of wounded Soldiers.

And so it began. Every morning D'Eletto flew to France, picked up a batch of



U.S. Army Air Corps flight nurse 1st Lt. Madeline "Del" D'Eletto comforts three wounded soldiers on a flight from the East Coast of the U.S. to a Texas hospital during World War II.

wounded Soldiers, and flew them back to England. "It was work, work, work," she said, but the planes would quickly get Soldiers to care.

On the ground in France, she watched medics strap patients

onto stretchers and sometimes lending a hand. The doctors would tell her each patient's injury and possible treatments.

"It was not easy to stand there as the stretchers were readied," she recalled. While

she waited for the next batch, she often observed doctors working on wounded soldiers brought directly from the front lines.

Sometimes D'Eletto talked to her patients but got no

response. "That's when you realized they were in terrible pain," she said.

She kept busy moving from patient to patient, adjusting tourniquets and keeping men from bleeding. More than once, the men's stitched abdomens swelled as the aircraft rapidly ascended, forcing her to cut the sutures to prevent further damage. Once the plane touched down in England, ambulances rushed the patients to the hospital.

"You would get to a point where your mind wouldn't work properly, then someone would say, 'Do this!' and you'd snap back and get to work," she said.

When the Germans launched the Battle of the Bulge on Dec. 16, 1944, D'Eletto and her crew retrieved casualties as the snow fell. At one stop, she saw Soldiers' frozen bodies. "That was a bad sight for me."

As the Allies neared victory in 1945, the war began winding down. With fewer evacuation flights, D'Eletto volunteered at a British military hospital.

Not long after, she woke up to hear people cheering. "It's over! It's over!" It was May 9, 1945, and Germany had surrendered. Celebrations exploded across Europe and the United States.

"There were songs and dances," D'Eletto said. "There was noise on both sides of the Channel."

Four months after the surrender, D'Eletto boarded a ship to go home.

Looking back on World War II, D'Eletto admits that it changed her life.

"You got to know people in a down-to-earth way, where good qualities were brought out," she said. "You got to know others deeply."

When asked what advice she would give someone joining today's Air Force Medical Service, she stressed getting all the training they could. "It really helped me."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELINE D'ELETTIO





COURTESY GRAPHIC

*Know what to do and say during an emergency.*

# The 411 on 911: Be prepared for any emergency

By Richard Campos

502ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON  
FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR

Do you know when to call 911? Do you know what to say when the dispatcher picks up? To help you and your family be prepared in the event of an emergency, know what actually constitutes an emergency.

## **CALL 911:**

- » When there is a police, fire or medical emergency.
- » To report a crime in progress or one that just occurred.
- » To report a vehicle accident, with or without injuries.
- » To report a person hurt and/or injured.
- » To report a natural gas leaks (smell of gas).
- » When facility alarm bells are ringing.

The 911 dispatcher is there to help you.

## **BE READY TO TELL THE DISPATCHER:**

- » What the emergency is.
- » The exact location where the emergency is occurring. Include the building number (aircraft wing number), house number, street name, and any directional information. (i.e., northwest, south, etc.).
- » Your name, address and the phone number from which you are calling.

## **ALSO:**

- » If possible, meet responding emergency response crews to direct to

location.

- » Do not hang up until directed to do so. Stay on the telephone until the dispatcher tells you it is OK to hang up.
- » Answer the dispatcher's questions.
- » If you accidentally call 911, do not hang up. Stay on the phone and tell the dispatcher you did not mean to call.

## **SOME HELPFUL HINTS WHEN CALLING 911 INCLUDE:**

- » No matter what's happening, stay calm. Take a deep breath if needed.
- » Have your building number and/or address and phone number on a piece of paper next to the phone.
- » Know what is going on to explain the problem to the 911 dispatcher.
- » Don't get upset when you are asked questions. The dispatchers are there to help you and are required to confirm information. Dispatchers are people just like you.

In addition, cellphones do not notify dispatchers of your location. When calling 911 from a cellular phone at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston or JBSA-Camp Bullis, your call will be received at the closest off-base 911 dispatch center.

Tell the dispatcher which installation you are calling from. The dispatcher will then transfer the call to your location's JBSA 911 dispatch center. If calling 911 from a landline from one of the JBSA locations, your call will be directly connected to a JBSA 911 dispatcher.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

# Women in the military through the eyes of an MTI

By Airman 1st Class  
Jeremy Wentworth

97TH AIR MOBILITY WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"When you talk about Women's History Month, you get to look at the path that's been paved for us as women," said Master Sgt. Jennifer Martin, the superintendent of the 97th Air Mobility Wing Staff Agency at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma. "But it also gives us a chance to look at each other and ask ourselves what we're doing to set the path for the future to set change in motion for those who will come after us."

Looking to the past is important to Martin, both in trying to make a better Air Force and a better world to live in.

While conducting this interview in her office, a few things stood out regarding her journey in the Air Force, including a large collection of challenge coins and awards from a long Air Force career.

However, they are all overshadowed by the attention demanded from a glass, wooden box in the corner.

Inside that box lies a dark blue hat, broad-brimmed with a high crown, pinched symmetrically at the four corners and centered with a silver flash with a United States insignia. This hat signifies one of the best of the Air Force, one who has have dedicated his or her time turning civilians into Airmen.

"My most memorable moments in the Air Force come from being a Military Training Instructor," Martin said. "To be able to have the impact that MTIs have across the Air Force and in the country is an unbelievable feeling. If you haven't done it, you'll never understand it."

Martin took pride in seeing the trainees under her

becoming Airmen at the end of their training.

"Every time I heard the beating of the drum or the parade music, my heart would just get so excited," she said.

"Excitement for the Airmen, excitement for their future and to see the transition from untrained civilian to a dedicated Airman is simply one of the greatest things ever to me."

Martin was able to stand out in her first few months as an MTI, honoring the path paved for her. She did not let her gender define her effectiveness — she was simply an Airman doing the best job she could do.

"When I became an MTI, I was the only female in my squadron for six months," Martin said. "Near the end of that six months, I received my first dorm ahead of some of my male peers who had been there a little longer. It was my way of saying yes; I'm female, yes, I'm here to stay and you can't take that away from me."

Martin joined the Air Force 23 years ago and enlisted as a medical administration specialist. She was recently selected for the rank of Senior Master Sergeant.

"They try to stick you into a major command at senior master sergeant," said Martin. "I asked to not do that. I want to spend my last assignment and my last few years helping Airmen."

When confronted with difficulties, many people look at the source of their challenges. Martin never did that. Instead, she set her mind to the goals of the Air Force and stayed committed to success.

"When people talk about adversity because they're female, I don't remember ever facing it," Martin said. "That's not to say it doesn't exist, but I don't listen to adversity. When I set my mind to something, I'm going to get it done. No one can stop me, and I won't listen when I'm told no."

**"When people talk about adversity because they're female, I don't remember ever facing it. That's not to say it doesn't exist, but I don't listen to adversity. When I set my mind to something, I'm going to get it done. No one can stop me, and I won't listen when I'm told no."**

Master Sgt. Jennifer Martin, 97th Air Mobility Wing Staff Agency superintendent



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JEREMY WENTWORTH

Master Sgt. Jennifer Martin, 97th Wing Staff Agency superintendent, stands behind her desk and Military Training Instructor campaign hat, March 13 at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

# Guard members to see changes in GI Bill transfer benefits

By Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

Provisions allowing Guard members to transfer some or all of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their spouse or children are set to change, limiting the time frame Soldiers and Airmen can transfer those benefits.

“You have to have a minimum of six years in service in order to be eligible to transfer benefits, and after 16 years you’re no longer eligible,” said Don Sutton, GI Bill program manager with the Army National Guard, describing the changes set to go into effect July 12.

The six-years-of-service rule isn’t new, Sutton said.

“You’ve always had to have a minimum of six years of service in order to transfer your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits,” he said, adding the big change is the cutoff at 16 years of service.

“You’ll have a 10-year window in which to transfer benefits,” he said, stressing that Guard members won’t lose the benefits after 16 years of service, just the ability to transfer them to their spouse, children or other dependents.

“The Post-9/11 GI Bill and the transfer of benefits are two entirely different and separate programs,” Sutton said. “Even though Soldiers may be ineligible to transfer benefits, they still have the Post-9/11 for their own use.”

For those interested in transferring their benefits, an additional four-year service obligation is still required.

“The transfer of benefits is a retention incentive,” Sutton said. “It’s designed to keep people in the service.”

Being able to transfer benefits to a dependent may have been perceived by some service members as an entitlement, said Sutton, adding that was one of the reasons for the time frame change.

“In law, transferring those benefits has always been designed as a retention incentive,” he said.

The exact number of Guard members who may be impacted by the change wasn’t available, Sutton said, adding that among those who could be affected are those who didn’t qualify for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits until later in their career.

“We do have a small population of Soldiers who are over 16 years (of service) before they did their first deployment,” he said.

Some Guard members who may have earned the benefits early on but didn’t have dependents until later in their careers may also be affected.

“They joined at 18 and now they’re 15, 16 years in and they get married or have kids later on in life,” said Sutton, who urged Guard members who plan on transferring their benefits to do so as soon as they are eligible.

“If you wait, you’re potentially going to miss out,” he said.

Some Guard members may have been waiting to transfer the benefits until their children reach college age.

“There sometimes are some misconceptions that they have to wait until their kids are college age or that they’re high school seniors in order to do the transfer,” said Sutton, adding there is no age requirement to transfer Post-9/11 benefits to dependent children.

“As soon as a child is born and registered in DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System), you can transfer,” he said.

After that transfer has been completed, Guard members can still make changes to how those benefits are divided between dependents or which dependent receives those benefits.

“Once the transfer is executed, and you’ve agreed to that service obligation, you can add dependents in, and you can move months around between dependents,” Sutton said. “It’s just that initial transfer has to be done before you hit 16 years of service.”

However, there is one group of Guard members who will not be affected by any of the changes: those who have received the Purple Heart since Sept. 11, 2001.

“The only rule around transferring benefits that applies to those individuals is you have to still be in the service to transfer them.”

Regardless of status, Sutton reiterated that Guard members are better off transferring those benefits sooner rather than later.

“Transfer as soon as you’re eligible,” he said. “Don’t miss the boat because you’ve been eligible for 10 years and you just didn’t do it.”



# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## JBSA-Fort Sam Houston leaders host second town hall to address family housing issues

By Sgt. Andrew S. Valles  
U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The second Army Family Housing town hall was held at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center on March 20 to address housing concerns from Soldiers and their family members living on the installation.

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, U.S. Army North commander and senior Army commander for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, joined other leaders and Lincoln Military Housing to provide feedback to Fort Sam Houston residents about steps taken to address concerns brought up in the initial town hall and during command visits

“One of the consistent feedbacks we got in the first town hall was reinforced during the home visits I personally went on was that we need to do things right the first time,” Buchanan said. “There is an across-the-board sense that we are treating the symptoms rather than the disease.”

The Army, as well as the other JBSA-Fort Sam Houston leaders, are taking immediate steps to identify and fix problems and give residents the quality of life commensurate to their service to the Nation, but some issues still linger.

“We have a good response time for emergency work orders, and we can look across the board at other installations and we are doing well on our response,” said Mark Greszler, Army Support Activity Manager. “The bad thing of it is



SGT. ANDREW S. VALLES

*Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan (center), U.S. Army North commander and senior Army commander for Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, gathers with other JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and Lincoln Military Housing leaders to address additional housing concerns at the second Army Family Housing town hall.*

that our follow-up isn't any good, our quality assurance and follow-up needs to be better, and we realized that and we will get at that.”

The Army and other services are working to develop a Tenant Bill of Rights. They are also working to improve procedures for oversight and develop other feedback mechanisms for voice residents' issues.

“The first town hall was mandated and the second follow-up was not,” Buchanan said. “I think it is a good idea to stay in better contact with our residents and do these probably once a quarter, so we can make sure we are meeting everybody's needs.”

Soldiers and family members

are encouraged to use existing reporting systems to request maintenance of their homes, and are encouraged to bring issues to their installation leadership and chain of command.

“I really want to keep encouraging the feedback on how we are doing,” Greszler said. “We need to get in a functional steady state of good performance, and the way we can do it is if we keep at this and we keep on getting the feedback.”

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston housing service requests can be submitted 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling “Lincoln at your Service” at 210-225-5564 or they can submit a routine request online directly at

[www.lincolnmilitary.com](http://www.lincolnmilitary.com).

If assistance with online access is needed, call the LMH office at 210-270-7638. Residents who reside in Watkins Terrace can call 210-832-8104. In-person service requests are taken at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Residence Center on Dickman Road and at the Watkins Terrace Community Center on Frazier Road between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Additionally, the Army established a responsive 24-hour hotline at each installation for housing issues. The local hotline for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston is 210-221-0891.

For all maintenance emergencies, call Lincoln at Your Service at 210-225-5564 or the LMH office.

**“I really want to keep encouraging the feedback on how we are doing. We need to get in a functional steady state of good performance.”**

**Mark Greszler, Army Support Activity Manager**



# Collaborative medicine saves BAMC sickle cell patient

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Imagine being alone at home lying in bed, your loved one hundreds of miles away, and experiencing debilitating pain in both legs. You call 911 for help and crawl down a flight of stairs so paramedics don't have to break down the door.

This is what happened to 36-year-old Alexis Piper, who has been battling sickle cell anemia since she was 7 years old.

"The pain in both my legs was severe," Piper said. "It kept getting worse. I couldn't move my legs. I couldn't walk."

Sickle cell anemia is an inherited form of anemia, in which there aren't enough healthy red blood cells to carry adequate oxygen throughout the body.

People who have sickle cell anemia often experience pain and other serious problems, such as infection, lung-related complications and stroke.

"I have noticed that as I get older the episodes have decreased, but they have become more severe when they do happen," Piper said.

Her husband, Air Force Master Sgt. Antwan Piper, had left that morning for a business meeting out of state. He was having dinner with his co-workers when he received his wife's phone call.

"Talking to her on the phone was so hard," he said, remembering his feeling of helplessness. "It hurt me even more, because she crawled from upstairs to open the door. Words can't even explain that."

Once Alexis Piper arrived at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, the doctors began treating her with the normal protocols for a patient with the disease.

"I thought it would be a simple case of her just needing intravenous fluids, pain medications and potentially a blood transfusion," said Air



COREY TOYE

*Air Force Master Sgt. Antwan Piper listens to his wife, Alexis, during a video interview about her disease and recovery at Brooke Army Medical Center. Alexis Piper has had sickle cell anemia since she was 7 years old. She nearly died in 2018 after developing a rare condition called hyperhemolysis.*

Force Capt. Dr. Lauren Lee, the hematology/oncology fellow who was on the inpatient service the next morning. "It's not uncommon for sickle cell patients to come in with a lot of bone pain. We treat them supportively, sometimes with a blood transfusion, and they go on their way. That's what I expected with Alexis."

Alexis was given a blood transfusion, but her body did not react as expected.

"We noticed that her blood counts didn't change," Lee said. "In the absence of bleeding, normally we would expect to see the hemoglobin rise after a unit, but hers didn't improve."

She had developed a rare condition called hyperhemolysis.

"With hyperhemolysis, the body not only breaks down all of the transfused blood, but it begins to break down the patient's own blood, and this is what happened to Alexis," Lee explained.

"Approach to therapy is challenging because it's such a rare condition," Lee added. "Generally speaking, these patients respond to steroids and intravenous immunoglobulins (antibodies)."

It became clear after about three days that treatment was not working. At this point, Alexis' hemoglobin count was about three. A person with sickle cell anemia normally has

a hemoglobin count of seven to eight. A healthy person's normal hemoglobin range is 12 to 14.

After days of steroids and intravenous immunoglobulins, the doctors decided to give her an additional unit of blood, but about 20 minutes into the transfusion, Alexis started experiencing severe pain and her hemoglobin continued to decrease. She started to become confused and showed evidence of heart failure.

"Things were only getting worse, by the minute, really," Lee said. "A hemoglobin of two is essentially incompatible with life."

"Somehow Alexis survived, but her body could not tolerate this for a prolonged period of time," she added. "Her heart was working very hard, and she was not getting enough oxygen to her brain."

During this time, Antwan and Alexis' family were at the hospital night and day, hoping and praying for a miracle.

"Every day we were hoping, but every day things were decreasing, not getting better," Antwan Piper said. "During that time, I really, really depended upon my faith."

Lee began researching other treatment options. She contacted an expert in England, Dr. Win Nay, who had published extensive research about sickle cell patients with

hyperhemolysis.

After discussing the treatment options with a multidisciplinary team of doctors and Alexis' family, they decided to try an off-label drug primarily used to treat other conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis.

"This was a situation where we clearly had to think outside the box," said Air Force Maj. Dr. Brad Beeler, hematology/oncology fellow and Alexis' primary hematologist.

The drug was successful in stopping Alexis' body from breaking down the red blood cells; however, her body was not producing new red blood cells fast enough to recover.

This is when the use of bovine hemoglobin came to mind, because of the extensive research being done on the use of hemoglobin-based oxygen carriers for injuries received on the battlefield.

Lee reached out to one of her former professors, Dr. Mark Zumberg, a sickle cell specialist at the University of Florida. He described a similar case in which they supported a patient with a hemoglobin-based oxygen carrier. Currently, the medication is approved for use in South Africa but is only available under investigational status through the Food and Drug Administration in the United States.

"Within 24 hours we were able to get FDA compassionate release and hospital approval to use the drug and had it flown in from across the country," Lee said.

Alexis was given four infusions of the drug.

"Her response was pretty remarkable," Lee said. "She went from being nonresponsive to lucid."

However, shortly afterward, Alexis started having seizures that weren't responding to the typical medicines.

"In order to control the seizures, we had to put Alexis into a medically induced coma and insert a breathing tube for

support," said Air Force Capt. John Hunninghake, pulmonary and critical care fellow.

After talking with the doctors, her husband agreed to keep treating her with the drug, because he believed that if the treatment didn't work for her, the lessons they learned could possibly help someone else.

"Her family was exceptional in this situation," Lee said. "They never once doubted our ability, they had faith, and they continued to encourage every one of the providers. They kept a positive outlook the entire time."

Miraculously, after seven infusions of the drug, Alexis made a full recovery.

Antwan praised the doctors for their compassion. "They would answer all of our questions. Take time to pray with us. To give me a hug. To cry with me. What doctor would do that?"

"I don't consider them just doctors, I consider them now my friends," he said. "That's beyond a doctor. That's the love they had. That's the love we have for them."

Alexis agreed.

"They were all understanding, not just from a medical perspective, they stood down and got to my bedside with me and helped me journey through this," she said. "I'm very appreciative for all of them, the whole team."

Alexis described hearing Lee's voice each morning and Beeler coming to see her each evening.

"I remember him (Beeler) saying, 'It's not a setback, it's just an obstacle,'" she said tearfully. "I began to call him my doctor angel."

The Pipers continue to maintain a close relationship with Alexis' doctors.

"I am a miracle," said the self-proclaimed sickle cell warrior, survivor and military spouse. "My health and strength are back. I'm stronger now actually, in more ways than one."



# Joint Base San Antonio FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

## Monthly Events

## April

### Aquatics

#### Lifeguard classes offered

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center offers an American Red Cross Life Guarding class April 6-7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$160. Participants must be 15 years or older. For more information, call 210-221-4887.

#### Youth search for Easter eggs underwater

Join the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatic Center for an Underwater Easter Egg Hunt April 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., for children, 5-11 years. The cost is \$2 per participant and includes a prize for the children and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The egg hunt for children 5-7 years is 11 a.m. to noon, children 8-10 years hunt noon to 1 p.m. and children 11-13 years hunt 1-2 p.m. For more information, call 210-671-3780.

### Bowling

#### The Easter Bunny joins in bowling fun

Come to the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center April 13, noon to 3 p.m., and bowl with the Easter Bunny. Cost is \$10 per child and includes two games of bowling, rental shoes, a picture with the Easter Bunny and a goodie bag. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

Join the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center April 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., to bowl with the Easter Bunny. The cost is \$5 per child and includes one game of bowling, rental shoes and a bag of treats. For more information, call 210-671-1234.

#### April brings bowling specials

Hop on over to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center throughout April for budget-friendly fun. Every Sunday, in recognition of the Month of the Military Child, youth, ages 18 and younger, can bowl two free games and get free shoe rental. Come in on Good Friday, April 19 or Battle of Flowers day, April 26, to bowl for \$2.50 per person per game and \$2.50 shoe rental. On Easter Sunday, April 21, buy one game of bowling and get the second game free. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

#### Bowlers play in a 9-pin, no-tap tournament

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center hosts a 9-Pin, No-Tap Tournament April 20, 5 p.m. The entry fee is \$20 if paid by April 18. After the deadline, the cost is \$25. Prizes for both men and women categories are awarded immediately following the completion of the tournament. For more information, call 210-671-1234.

#### Easter bowling buy-one, get-one special offered

Spend Easter at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center April 21, during normal operation hours. Bowl one game

and get a second game free. This special does not include rental shoes. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

#### Military children honored with a bowling special

The JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center celebrates the Month of the Military Child with child discounts Sundays in April, 1-4 p.m. Children, 12 years and younger, bowl up to three free games when accompanied by an adult, 18 years and older, who bowls the same number of games. Adults may bowl for the special rate of \$2.75 per game. This special does not include rental shoes. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

### Clubs

#### Bingo fun is at the club

Bingo at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club takes place Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. and Sundays, 3 p.m., in the ballroom. Admission is free to members and \$10 for nonmembers. Play Tuesdays and Wednesdays to qualify for the monthly club member prize giveaways.

Join the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club for Bingo Extravaganza April 1 and 15 with \$15,000 in total jackpots, a complimentary buffet at 5 p.m. and Early Bird bingo at 6 p.m.

Birthday Bingo is held April 9, 7 p.m., at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club. Birthday members receive one free machine and cake. This event is for Randolph Club members only and an ID card is required.

Bring the children to the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club to play bingo with the Easter Bunny April 14, 10 a.m., with the chance to win prizes. Doors open early for members at 9:30 a.m. and at 10 a.m. for all others. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

#### Variety night entertainment offered at the club

Join the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club for entertainment throughout April. DJs play a wide variety of music at Variety Night, 5-10 p.m., in the Lone Star Lounge. DJs include DJ J Rock April 5, DJ Tony Style April 12 and 26 and DJ LJU April 19. Relax in the lounge or enjoy the cooler weather out on the patio with pool tables and big-screen televisions. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

#### Guests fly into the Auger

Join the party at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Auger Inn for "old school" camaraderie, free light refreshments and great music April 19, 5 p.m. Meet neighbors, folks from other squadrons and leadership. There is no cover to join the fun. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

#### Easter brunch includes a special visit

Join the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club for Easter brunch April 21, with seating times at 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,

12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. Members can make reservations beginning April 9 and nonmembers beginning April 16. The Easter Bunny passes out candy and children, 12 years and younger, may be entered into a drawing to win free Easter Baskets. The price is \$29 for adult members, \$15 for members' children, 6-12 years, \$33 for adult nonmembers and \$17 for nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children 5 years and younger eat for free. Dress attire is business casual. Reservations and prepayments are required. The last day to cancel a reservation with a refund is April 18. Coupons, Club bucks or gift certificates are not accepted. To make reservations, call, 210-658-7445 between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Easter Sunday brunch buffet offered

Bring the entire family to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club for Easter Sunday Brunch April 21, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$25.95 for adult members, \$11.95 for members' children, 6-11 years, \$27.95 for adult nonmembers and \$13.95 for nonmembers' children, 6-11 years. Children 5 years and younger eat for free. No coupons are accepted for this event. For more information, call 210-645-7034 or stop by the cashier's cage.

#### Club appreciates members

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts Customer Appreciation Night in the Fiesta Ballroom with entertainment provided by DJ LJU April 23, 5-7 p.m. The cost for members is \$12.50 and nonmembers pay \$15.50. The menu features a salad bar, Champagne brie soup, spicy grilled shrimp kabobs, chicken Gentle Home, rosemary crusted prime rib and a variety of sides and desserts. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

#### April birthdays are celebrated with a buffet

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club offers a complimentary buffet every month for members with birthdays in that month. Members with April birthdays are honored April 24, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This is free for birthday members. Cost is \$10 for members without a birthday in March, \$5 for members' children, 6-12 years, \$12 for nonmembers and \$6 for nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children, 5 years and younger, eat for free. Coupons are not accepted. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

#### Mother's Day reservations start now

Show mothers they are loved and purchase tickets for the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Mother's Day Brunch May 12, with seating times at 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. Members can make reservations beginning April 30 and nonmembers beginning May 7. The price is \$29 for adult members, \$15 for members'



# JBSA FSS

children, 6-12 years, \$33 for adult nonmembers and \$17 for nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children 5 years and younger eat for free. All mothers and grandmothers are entered into a drawing for a chance to win a gift basket. Drawings are held the following day and winners are notified. Reservations and prepayments are required. Refunds are issued no later than May 9. Coupons are not accepted. To make reservations or for more information, call 210-658-7445 between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Community Programs

### Musical production continues at the theatre

Come out and enjoy award winning director Shawn Kjos's musical production of *Deja Vu*, Thursday through Saturday, until April 13, 8 p.m. Hear favorites from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s in this upbeat and toe-tapping event. This show is sponsored by The Gunn Automotive Group. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Make reservations today. Group rates are available. For more information or to make reservations, call 210-222-9694.

### Dogs participate in Easter egg hunt

Bring the dogs out to hunt for Easter eggs filled with treats as the JBSA-Lackland Arnold Hall Community Center hosts the Annual Doggy Easter Egg Hunt April 19, 6-7:30 p.m. The hunt takes place on the grounds between Arnold Hall, building 5506, and the Bob Hope Theater. The free event is open to all JBSA members. Prizes for best costume, best basket, most eggs found and best Easter bonnet are awarded. Water and snacks for the dogs and owners are provided. All dogs must be on a leash and must be up to date with all shots. Please bring shot records to the event. For more information, call 210-671-2619.

## Equestrian Center

### Horseback riding lessons offered

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers horseback riding lessons for beginners and advance riders in both English- and Western-style riding by appointment only. Therapeutic riding lessons are also available and taught by certified instructors. Lessons are available during the week, afternoons, evenings and on weekends. Patrons must be at least 7 years old. The cost is \$40 for group lessons, \$50 for semi-private lessons and \$60 for private lessons. A package of five lessons is available at a discounted price. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

### Trail rides are for all ages

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers trail rides for patrons 7 years and older for \$30. Adults must accompany children under 13 years. Riders must be at least 4 feet, 6 inches tall and weigh no more than 200 pounds. Call to make reservations. For more information or to make a reservation, call 210-224-7207.

### Pony rides available

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers parent-led pony rides Saturdays and Sundays for patrons 6 years and younger for \$10 for a maximum of 20 minutes. Adults must accompany children and availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

### Children's pony ride parties available

Parents can rent the Covered Deck at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center for a party. The cost is \$50 for two hours. Parent-led pony rides are available for \$10 per child. Adults must accompany their children. Deck set-up and clean-up is the renter's responsibility. For more information and reservations, call 210-224-7207.



502 FSS and USAA presents the 6th Annual  
**JBSA HALF MARATHON**  
Hosted by the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center

**13.1 FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED**

**APRIL 28 7:30 A.M.**

Heritage Park

USAA

\$30 early entry by April 5, \$35 after.

For more info or to sign up, go to [JBSAtoday.com](http://JBSAtoday.com)

AAAFS will be on site with a variety of vendors.

QR code

## Fitness

### Customers are appreciated

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center hosts Customer Appreciation Day April 5, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to thank customers for choosing the Rambler Fitness Center for workouts. Tours of the facility are available for guests to become more familiar with various workout areas. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Fitness Center events are open to all valid Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 210-652-7263.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center shows its appreciation for all its patrons April 10 during Customer Appreciation Day. Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments, facility tours, equipment tutorials and special activities during the following times: 6 a.m., 11:30 a.m. or 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 210-221-1234.

### Patrons learn to increase endurance and core strength

The JBSA-Lackland Medina Fitness Center invites patrons to learn how to increase endurance and core strength April 6, 10-11 a.m. during the hands-on Total Resistance Exercise Training session in the TRX Arena. For more information, call 210-671-4477.

### Wallyball tournament held

The JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center hosts a Wallyball Tournament April 12, 6:30-9 a.m. Each team in this double-elimination tournament must have five players to participate. Register no later than April 10. For more information or to register a team, call 210-977-2353.

### Half Marathon held

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center hosts the sixth annual JBSA Half Marathon April 28, 7:30 a.m., starting on Harmon Drive. To register go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/RandolphAFB/HalfMarathonJBSA>. The registration deadline is April 23. This event is sponsored by USAA and Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended. Fitness Center events are open to all valid Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 210-652-7263.



JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center

**Bowl** with the **Easter Bunny**

**April 20 • 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**\$5 per child ages 12 and younger**  
(includes one game and shoe rental)

Skylark Bowling Bldg. 6476  
(210) 671-1234

## Golf

### Golfers compete in a scramble

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course hosts the Warrior Scramble April 5, 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. The fee includes green fee, golf cart, prize money and a social after the round. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

### Golfers compete in a pick a pro tournament

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course hosts the Master's Week Pick a Pro, a Ryder Cup format tournament, April 11-14 and is held in competition with JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland. The cost is \$10 per person plus green



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9:30-11:30 a.m., to provide information on humanitarian reassignments, secondary dependency, cyber care-giving options, stress management, TRICARE for Life and more. To reserve a seat, call 210-671-3722.

#### Registration ongoing for Military Spouse Conference

Kicking off with a mixer, emBOLDen is packed with multiple conference sessions, workshops and networking opportunities for JBSA military spouses May 10-11, in honor of Military Spouse Appreciation. By building confidence, courage, and strength, emBOLDen supports military spouses in avenues such as employment, transition, retirement, healthy living, and self-improvement. Seating is limited, and registration runs through May 3. For more information, call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center at 210-221-2705.

### Outdoor Recreation

#### Patrons enjoy recreation park events all month long

The JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake celebrates kite flying month April 6. The first 100 participants receive a kite to fly in the park.

Eggstravaganza is at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake April 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and includes egg hunts, face painting and free paddle boat rentals. DJ music and egg hunts are divided by age groups. The egg hunt for children, 6 years and under, is on the Hancock Cove side of the park and the egg hunt for children, 7-12 years, is on the Sunny Side of the park.

Bring the pups and join the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake for Adventure Pups April 20, 4-5 p.m. Go on a guided hike with the pups through the trails of the park. Free treats available while supplies last.

Come to the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake April 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., for an Earth Day clean up and recycling volunteer event.

The JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake offers free paddle rentals April 27, 1-3 p.m. For more information, call 1-830-226-5357 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

#### Texas license to carry classes offered

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center offers Texas license to carry classes April 13 and 27, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$75 per class. Successful completion of this class is required for a Texas LTC. To register for a class, visit <http://www.chlregistration.com>. Once on the website, select "register for class." Then select "Dan Willis-Leatherneck Arms." Class details are available online at <https://www.jbsatoday.com>. For more information, call 210-295-7577.

#### Archery takes on another dimension

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center hosts a three-dimensional archery competition April 27 and 28, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is 8-10 a.m. The Fun Shoot registration is 8-11 a.m. Fun shoot cost is \$5 for E1-E4, active duty or medically retired, \$15 per person for all others 13 years and older and youth, 12 years and younger, shoot for \$5. The competition fee is \$10 for E1-E4, active duty or medically retired and \$20 per person

for all others 13 years and older. For more information, call 210-295-7577.

### Youth and Children

#### College trip offered

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs invites youth, in eighth grade and above, to visit Texas A&M University in College Station April 6, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Deadline to sign up is April 4. For more information, call 210-221-3630.

#### Month of the Military Child is celebrated

Celebrate the Future with the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs April 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the Month of the Military Child Celebration, which includes the Baseball Opening Day. The event includes class demonstrations, crafts, games, music, food and fun. The baseball opening ceremonies begin at 9 a.m., with games beginning immediately after the ceremony. For more information, call 210-221-3502.

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs hosts Famaganza April 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in celebration of the Month of the Military Child. All Department of Defense ID cardholders can bring their families to enjoy activities including face painting, inflatables, games, arts and crafts, information booths, giveaways, demonstrations and more. For more information, call 210-652-3298.

Join JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs in recognizing and celebrating military youth April 12, 4:30-8:45 p.m. during the Celebrate Kids Fair and Purple Up. All youth and families are invited to participate in games and activities, visit support agencies, enjoy a purple parade, purple prizes and purple promises to engage in the lives of military children and their families in the North gym. When the sun sets, head outside to the front lawn to enjoy a movie. This event is free and open to all families. For more information, call 210-671-2388.

#### Parents offered a break

JBSA Youth Programs offers parents a break through the Give Parents a Break or Parents' Night Out program April 12, 6:30-10:30 p.m., at JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs, April 27, 6-10 p.m. at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs and April 27, 6:30-10 p.m. at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs. Children, 5 years, and in kindergarten, through 12 years, are provided snacks and entertained with activities and games. The cost is \$25 per child with a multiple-child discount or free with a GPAB referral. For JBSA-Lackland, call 210-671-2388 to register children 5-12 years, and to register children 6 weeks to 4 years, call 210-671-2366. For JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 210-221-5151 to register children 5-12 years, and to register children 6 weeks to 4 years, call 210-221-3835. For JBSA-Randolph, call 210-652-2088 to register children 5-12 years, and to register children 6 weeks to 4 years, call 210-652-1140.

#### Youth skate the night away

Skate the night away with JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs April 13, 5-7 p.m., at the Patch and Chaffee Youth Center, building 2515. This is a free family event

and skates are provided, if needed. For more information, call 210-221-3630.

#### Teen camp registration begins

JBSA Youth Programs Teen Camp registration begins April 15. Teens, 13-18 years, participate in Fun-da-Learning activities like digital photography, videography, improvisation, coding, music and dance and more. Each themed week is limited to 24 participants and spots fill up quickly. Register at the Youth Programs front desk. For more information, call 210-671-2388.

#### Youth participate for free

Celebrate recreation and fun and participate at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs for free April 15-20. Youth can participate in clubs, activities and open recreation. If youth want to become members the cost is \$40 per year. Stop by Youth Programs, building 585, to check out everything offered. For more information, call 210-652-3298.

#### Basketball is played

Youth are invited to participate in Midnight Madness April 20, 7-10 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston W. Ed. Parker Youth Center with snacks, music, basketball and fun. Youth, 9-13 years, play 7-8 p.m. Youth, 14-18 years, play 9-10 p.m. For more information call, 210-221-3502.

#### Basketball is played

To celebrate the 49th year of Earth Day, JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs needs assistance completing plant beds and planting 49 Texas drought tolerant plants April 22, 4-7 p.m. This is stage one in establishing a Texas Wildscape Garden, stay tuned for the next steps in the project. For more information call, 210-221-3502.

#### Youth participate in mega teen lock-in

Youth, 13-18 years, are invited to come out and experience a Mega Teen Lock-in with all three JBSA Youth Programs April 27-28, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Patch and Chaffee Youth Center, building 2515. The cost for this event is \$15 per youth. Sign up no later than April 20 at any JBSA Youth Programs. Youth must be a registered Child Youth Services Member. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs at 210-221-3630, JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs at 210-671-2388 or JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs at 210-652-3298.

## STAY CONNECTED

Stay current on Joint Base San Antonio 502d Force Support Squadron events, specials and daily activities.

<https://www.jbsatoday.com>



# Fort Sam Houston Museum planning exhibit improvements

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Fort Sam Houston Museum is updating and adding new exhibits that will help visitors expand their knowledge of the post's history and U.S. military history.

New and updated exhibits that are planned for the museum in 2019 cover a range of historical topics and artifacts related to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and the military, including the role of Army units and commands from the post during World War II and the story behind a gift from famed Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa to a U.S. Army general.

Museum director Jacqueline Davis said the addition of the new and updated exhibits are aligned with the museum's mission of presenting a complete, detailed history of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

"It adds to the intricacy of tapestry that is the history of Fort Sam Houston," Davis said. "Our job is to elaborate. We've set the framework out, now we have to fill it in."

The museum started updating its exhibits in January with additional interpretation and details about the history of the U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), or ARNORTH, which is headquartered at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The additional interpretation was added to a current exhibit about ARNORTH and includes details about the Fifth Army's role in leading the invasion of Salerno, Italy, in September 1943, the first Allied land invasion of Europe during World War II.

Also, the expanded interpretation covers the time period for the command that is now ARNORTH from when it established its headquarters in

Illinois in the late 1940s to its move to Fort Sam Houston in 1971.

Included in the ARNORTH exhibit is a uniform worn by Lt. Col. Charles Ellis, who served in counterintelligence with the Fifth Army in Italy during World War II. After his service in the military, Ellis eventually moved to San Antonio, where he became the special agent in charge of the local Secret Service office. He retired here.

A serape, a brightly colored shawl or blanket given to U.S. Army Gen. Hugh Scott by Villa in the mid-1910s, has been put on display next to an interpretative panel about Villa and the troubles along the U.S.-Mexico border during the Mexican Revolution (1910-20). At the time he received the serape from Villa, Scott was the commander of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade stationed in the Southwest.

The approximately 100-year-old serape includes several striped combinations of red, yellow, orange and white, and was woven using natural fibers from cotton and wool. In the middle of the serape is a blue field with the American seal and eagle with Scott's rank and name woven into it. Bordering the field are green, white and red, the colors of the Mexican flag.

The interpretative panel about Villa explains how the Mexican revolutionary leader and the U.S. started out as allies and the reasons why Villa turned against the U.S. In March 1916, Villa and 500 of his men raided Columbus, New Mexico, killing eight civilians and 10 Soldiers from the 13th Cavalry and burning several buildings. In response to troubles and incidents on the border, President Woodrow Wilson ordered the military to pursue Villa, an expedition that was led by Gen. John Pershing.



DAVID DEKUNDER

*An exhibit focusing on the Army in Texas during World War I is displayed at the Fort Sam Houston Museum. The museum will be updating current exhibits and installing new exhibits throughout the year to give visitors a more complete, detailed history of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*

The serape is one of two given to Scott by Villa in the museum's collection. The first serape to be put on display had Villa's name woven on it. The photo of the first serape will be displayed next to the Villa interpretative panel.

Upcoming new and updated exhibits include a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in June 1944, focusing on what past and present units stationed at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston were doing during the time of the invasion, and new exhibits about members of the Women's Army Corps and German prisoners of war at Fort Sam Houston during World War II.

In addition, a pre-Civil War period field howitzer cannon has been placed in the foyer of

the museum. The historic cannon had been in storage in a warehouse at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston before being moved to the museum. It is one of two cannons that had been put on display inside the Quadrangle for years.

The cannon will become the centerpiece of an exhibit about artillery that will explain the differences between cannons, howitzers and mortar.

Updates that are going to be made to exhibits containing military artifacts include adding interpretation and photos to a Hiram Steven Maxim machine gun display and installing a display about Soldiers and their gear, including how the Army in 1911 changed from requiring troops to carry haversacks to backpacks and exploring the origins of how troops got their

food and stored it in the field, and the development of the mess kit.

Davis said the feedback she gets from visitors who come to the museum is that they always learn something new about JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and find the exhibits very interesting.

"There's a lot of history out there, and hopefully we're presenting it in a manner that is entertaining, enjoyable and educational," Davis said.

Located in the historic Quadrangle at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, the Fort Sam Houston Museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday.

The museum is closed Sunday and federal holidays.



# Regional Health Command-Central telehealth expert retires

By Karla Gonzalez

REGIONAL HEALTH COMMAND-CENTRAL  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Regional Health Command-Central health systems specialist who has impacted virtual health for beneficiaries from all services of the Armed Forces — both stateside and deployed — retires from Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston this month.

Over the past 47 years, Charles “Chuck” M. Lappan spent time as a Peace Corps volunteer, an Army officer, a drilling Reservist, a member of the Active Guard Reserve, military contractor and an Army civil service employee.

All told, he has more than 22 ½ years of active federal service. He began his career as a postal supervisor at the 5th Women’s Army Corps Training Brigade, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, before going to Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. His first assignment after OCS was at Fort Polk, where he served under Capt. Glen Taplin, now retired Col. Taplin, RHCC Director of Strategy and Innovation.

Lappan began his tenure with RHCC

in 2002 following his retirement from the Army when he was contacted by Gary Crouch, Telehealth Systems director, to “see if I was interested in a temporary position with the fledgling tele dermatology program. I took the position thinking I would move on within a year or two,” he said.

Nearly 17 years later, Lappan retires as the program manager of two programs: teledermatology and an email-based consultation program.

The email teleconsultation program, Lappan says, was his favorite job.

“When we started the program in 2004, we always envisioned it as a temporary telehealth solution until something better, more robust came along. We thought the program would probably end in about two or three years,” he said. “Little did we realize the program would last 14 years. We started with one specialty — dermatology — and within two years, expanded to almost 20 with formal email groups and another 14 plus other specialties.”

Although the program required seven-day-a-week monitoring, Lappan liked the work because it provided



COURTESY PHOTO

*Chuck Lappan is retiring as a Regional Health Command-Central health systems specialist.*

variety and he knew he was making a difference in the lives of medical professionals and their patients.

“It was humbling to be accepted as a colleague by the medical community because I do not have a medical degree,” Lappan said.

The email consultation system facilitated 14,739 consultations from more than 3,755 different providers between April 2004 and October 2018. The consultations prevented more than 332 evacuations and saved more than \$6.6 million in transportation costs.

Under Lappan’s management, the tele dermatology program has been equally successful, but he is quick to share the spotlight with others.

“The success of the teledermatology program is due in large part to several visionaries, including retired Col. Ron Poropatich, retired Col. Hon Pak and retired Lt. Col. Gary Crouch,” Lappan said.

He has built a great rapport with Crouch. “I have worked with Gary Crouch longer than many marriages last. I could not have asked for a better supervisor,” he said.

That teamwork paid off as programs at other commands began to rely on Lappan’s program at RHCC for support.

“At one point we were supporting medical treatment facilities in every regional medical command,” he said. “As telemedicine grew in importance, other facilities developed their own tele dermatology program.”

As he leaves federal service, Lappan offers this advice: “Do not be afraid to innovate. Be leaders. Sometimes we have to make decisions with only 70 to 85 percent of the information. If the outcome is less than expected, learn from it and move on. Sometimes we learn more from our failures than successes.”

# LACKLAND

## 433rd AES participates in National Disaster Medical System exercises

By Master Sgt.  
Kristian Carter  
433RD AIRLIFT WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Reserve Citizen Airmen of the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron participated in two National Disaster Medical System exercise events at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on March 20.

In the morning, Brooke Army Medical Center medical personnel set up a patient reception team, working with multiple military branches and civilian emergency management and medical organizations.

Later in the day, the 59th Medical Wing personnel exercised their NDMS capability.

The 433rd AES team supported both events by assisting with loading ambulatory and litter patients on a C-130H Hercules aircraft.

"Today, we are assisting the 59th Medical Wing with their unit type code training and on- and offloading patients on an aircraft for their exercise scenario," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy Morton, 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron superintendent-chief

**"There were a lot of different groups coming together (during Hurricane Harvey) to serve in the same purpose. It is the same as what I saw here today."**

1st Lt. David Renteria, 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse

enlisted manager. "When we fly our training missions, we simulate a lot, so when we get to work with the ground medical folks, it is all value-added training."

The 433rd AES team had a mix of qualified and still-in-training members.

"We have three qualified crew members and six who are waiting for qualification training," Morton said. "The new members are getting familiarization training, so when they go to flight school, they will have a better understanding of the process when they arrive at their school."

One of the AES team



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. KRISTIAN CARTER

Personnel from the 59th Medical Wing and 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron load simulated patients into litter stanchions in a C-130H Hercules during a National Disaster Medical System exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on March 20.

members, 1st Lt. David Renteria, 433rd AES flight nurse, is still waiting to attend his technical school. Renteria is a flight nurse with a local civilian air ambulance company. This isn't his first experience on this flightline.

"During Hurricane Harvey, we were staged here with military personnel," Renteria said. "We were all tied together to take missions to pick up patients in the Houston area and take them to hospitals throughout Texas. There were a lot of different groups coming together to serve in the same purpose. It is the same as what I saw here today — Army medical units teaming together with Air Force units, and a Texas Air Guard unit all working together for the same purpose, getting patients where they need to go. Working together as a cohesive unit."



Personnel from the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 59th Medical Wing, and Brooke Army Medical Center prepare to unload simulated litter patients during the National Disaster Medical System exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



# All on board with IAAFA's classroom of the future

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Inter-American Air Forces Academy instructors, or cadre, are throwing out the whiteboards, trashing dry erase markers and tossing the multiple computer screens aside.

The academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, has revamped 15 classrooms with new technology to enhance students' education experience, which they began using in January as part of a six-month test.

Not only are they piloting it for the Air Force, but IAAFA is also the first one in the Department of Defense to have this technology, said Staff Sgt. Monserat Bravo Ponce, IAAFA NCO in charge of the commander's action group.

The classrooms were installed with 12-foot-wide huddle boards that utilize the software on web-enabled devices. Tablets with the software are provided to the IAAFA students for their course.

Class materials are displayed on the board and can be interacted with and modified through touch, Bluetooth active sensor pens and patterned paper.

In addition, guest instructors from partner nations can plugged in from their respective countries during class.

"It used to be a board on the wall; now it's a board all over the world," said Staff Sgt. Antonio Balderas, IAAFA aerospace propulsion and software technical instructor.

The new tool is a combination of multiple screens, which can feature a variety of setups. Students are able to share their work with the class on the huddle boards in real time, giving instructors the opportunity to follow their work and better address academic problems.

"If a student does a math problem and gets it wrong, I can play it back and I can see where they made the mistake and point it out to them," Balderas said.

For users with less-than-perfect writing skills, the huddle board is able to fix their scribbles with a couple of



COURTESY PHOTO

*The Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland has revamped 15 classrooms with new technology to enhance students' education experience — huddle boards that utilize the software on web-enabled devices.*

clicks, converting it to readable text.

"Once I hit that little 'turn it into text' (button), it changes into computer text," said retired Master Sgt. Mateo Gonzalez, IAAFA aircraft maintenance officer course instructor.

As students and instructors become more immersed with the technology, they are discovering additional tasks it

can perform.

"The sky's the limit, and we're exploring how far we can take it," Balderas added.

And while the learning experience continues to evolve, students say they are all in for the ride.

"It's good to interact with students from other countries in real time and hear different opinions, not only in the classroom, but from around the world," said Colombian Navy Lt. Mario Rodriguez, IAAFA student. "We interact with other military students, hear their experiences and see how they solve their problems."

IAAFA is planning to continue to integrate new technology into its education program. The new software will continue to evolve with time, giving IAAFA an edge with the teaching experience, creating a connected environment, as well as bringing countries together, Gonzalez said.

"Technology is the key to success," said Capt. Angelica Cubillos-Fonseca, IAAFA CAG director.

## AIR FORCE SEEKS TRIATHLETES FOR ARMED FORCES COMPETITION



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The Air Force is looking for men and women for the 2019 Armed Forces Triathlon in Ventura County, California, June 19-23. Applications are due April 26 for coaching staffs and May 3 for athletes. Active-duty, Guard and Reserve members can apply through the APPTTRAC system at <https://cloud.mwr.army.mil/appttrac/atwsc/appttrac.wsc/wb1000.html?wbp=5>. Commanders, supervisors, athletes, coaches and trainers must create an account to complete the application process using APPTTRAC. Continued support of the Air Force Fitness and Sports Program enables the Air Force to build strong, competitive teams who showcase the service at Armed Forces Championships and tournaments, Air Force Services Activity officials said.

## FORMER MTI FROM 149TH FIGHTER WING PREPS AIR NATIONAL GUARD RECRUITS



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KATIE SCHULTZ

Senior Master Sgt. Aaron Hartzler, aircrew flight equipment superintendent with the 149th Fighter Wing, prepares future Air National Guard student flight members for their upcoming basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on March 23. Hartzler previously worked as a military training instructor and was asked to conduct on-campus training with 149th Fighter Wing recruits during regularly scheduled drills to give them a better understanding of their commitment.

# RANDOLPH

## Family keeps daydream going at JBSA-Randolph

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A family whose journeys in their recreational vehicle to places as far-flung as Alaska and New Zealand are captured on their popular YouTube channel will soon show their 100,000-plus viewers how the 12th Flying Training Wing's aircraft simulator innovations are transforming pilot training.

The Leach family — father Marc, mother Tricia and sons Carson and Caleb — visited Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph on March 11 and experienced simulated flight in virtual reality trainers at the 12th Training Squadron simulator facility and the 559th Flying Training Squadron's home in Hangar 64.

The video featuring their trip to JBSA-Randolph and their simulator experiences will be presented on the Season 7 premiere of their YouTube series, "Keep Your Daydream," in the coming weeks.

"This is such a big opportunity for the 12th Flying Training Wing and the Air Force," said Maj. Zach Thuli, 559th FTS instructor pilot. "The YouTube video will help us get our message out to the Leaches' big following, which is about half the size of the active duty Air Force."

The Leach family, who is based in Scottsdale, Arizona, but spend much of their time traveling the country in "Ginger," their RV, started living their dream on the road nearly three years ago — on May 27, 2016, to be exact.

Since that time, they have journeyed to destinations all over the United States — from



SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER

*Members of the Leach family experiences a virtual reality trainer March 11 at the 559th Flying Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.*

California to Maine and numerous places in between — and into Canada and Mexico.

Their trip to New Zealand is featured on Season 6 of "Keep Your Daydream."

The family's adventures have also included their oldest child, daughter Victoria, but she has left the road to attend college.

The Leach family started with "big lofty dreams" that they thought would take a long time to realize, but they kept their daydream by starting small and starting "now," Marc said.

"So we went out for six months, and that was three years ago," he said. "That's

really the message we convey to everyone we talk to — what could you do right now to make it happen?"

It is also a message that Marc and Tricia have conveyed to their children.

"I think that we've shown them by example that you have to step exactly out of your comfort zone in order for new things to come into your life, and that can be scary," Tricia said. "It takes courage, and so that's what we say to a few people who follow 'Keep Your Daydream' every single day. Go ahead and grab on to that courage and maybe you have to

close your eyes, but you need to take the leap. It takes discipline and a lot of things, but it's that first step that's the most important."

In addition to starting their YouTube channel to inspire others with their daydream, the Leaches have their own website at <http://www.KeepYourDaydream.com>, where their videos and podcasts can be viewed. Their website also features merchandise and a course on how to create a successful YouTube channel.

Thuli started following the Leaches' RV odyssey more than two years ago and met them

when they visited Austin about a year ago, soon developing a friendship with them. The Leach family came to JBSA-Randolph at his invitation.

The visit to JBSA-Randolph held special significance for 15-year-old Carson, who hopes to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and become an Air Force pilot.

"Ever since I was little, I wanted to be in the military," said Carson, who will leave the family's journeys this fall when he attends Culver Military Academy in Indiana. "And as

**RANDOLPH continues on 22**



# Famaganza returns for celebration of Month of the Military Child

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Famaganza, a springtime festival that has been a fixture at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph for more than two decades, will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 6 at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs on Main Circle, buildings 584 and 585.

An event that celebrates the Month of the Military Child, Famaganza appeals to children and adults with activities ranging from face painting and games to military working dog demonstrations. It also features information booths that provide a wealth of information about resources available at JBSA and in the surrounding community.

"Each year we strive to grow our event to make it bigger and better than the last," said Andrea Black, JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs program director. "Any services that we can provide to our military families in support of their careers and individual success is of utmost importance. Youth Programs is part of the 502nd Force Support

Squadron, and we dedicate ourselves to the service of our armed forces service members."

The program works with multiple organizations and vendors to coordinate a fun and informative festival where military families can meet and greet each other while enjoying games, interactive information booths, a petting zoo, snow cones, food and more, Black said.

"This event also kicks off the start of JBSA-Randolph's baseball, softball and T-ball season," she said. "Baseball, softball and T-ball players will be introduced during the event's opening ceremony at 10:30 a.m."

Also during the opening ceremony, Youth Programs' Youth of the Year will be honored with a plaque, Black said.

Scheduled activities during the day are lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a 902nd Security Forces Squadron military working dog demonstration at 11:30 a.m., a dance class performance at noon, the fourth annual hot dog-eating contest at 12:45 p.m., and a Youth Programs fashion show and talent showcase at 1:15 p.m. Attendees will also have a chance



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS LAUREN ELY

*Members of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph joust during Famaganza at the Youth Programs Complex on JBSA-Randolph in 2016.*

to win door prizes – gift cards – by getting their Famaganza brochure stamped at 12 booths and completing a survey.

Information booths set up on Youth Programs' grounds will represent JBSA helping agencies, medical units and

professional groups, as well as organizations from the greater San Antonio area. Many of the booths will offer giveaways and demonstrations.

The event is free to families of Department of Defense cardholders.

## RANDOLPH

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time went on, I switched from wanting to be in the military to directly dialing down on being in the Air Force. I've just been taking it step by step, knowing what I want to do and what plane I want to fly."

The family's visit to JBSA-Randolph has provided them — especially Carson — with insight into what it means to be on an Air Force base and experience pilot training, Tricia and Marc said.

"It's given Carson, I believe, a perspective on what will be expected, what he can learn and how he can grow," Tricia said.

"I think it's one thing to say that you want to go to the Air Force Academy and you want to fly," Marc said. "It's another thing to really see what that means when you see it firsthand and you're able to be on a base and say, 'Hey, that's what I might be doing.'"

Carson was especially impressed with the technology he encountered when he took the controls of a virtual reality trainer.

"I feel like this experience really did make me more excited to go to the academy and be a pilot because the

technology's only getting better for aviation and it's more fun learning how to fly than it used to be," he said. "I feel that it's getting us more excited to go out and fly."

Lt. Col. Joseph Stallings, 12th FTW chief of innovation, said the VRTs are just one example of the wing's innovation efforts to increase effectiveness across its diverse mission sets.

"Empowering airmen to take risk at the lowest levels and experiment with emerging technologies is proving successful in several grassroots projects," he said. "The wing's 360-degree videos and virtual reality flight simulators have been publicized recently, but numerous other projects are also underway."

Thuli said he was excited to share the 559th FTS' efforts to leverage new technology that can augment existing training mediums to train pilots with the Leach family — and soon with their tens of thousands of YouTube viewers. He also hopes their brief immersion in the new technology — training in the VR simulator — will inspire Carson.

"Carson's visit allowed us to share our ideas on how we use this technology, fueling his dream to serve as an Air Force officer and pilot, while also generating valuable feedback," he said.