

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

APRIL 5, 2019



PHOTO BY STEVE ELLIOTT

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commanding general and senior Army commander at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, welcomes visitors to the annual Cowboys for Heroes event at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 30.

JBSA-FSH hosts annual Cowboys for Heroes event *Page 6*



S.A. dedicates Tribute to Freedom sculpture *Page 13*



560th FTS honors Air Force POWs from Vietnam War *Page 20*

What is a TRICARE Qualifying Life Event?

Members can navigate QLEs and health changes

From TRICARE Communications

Every year during TRICARE Open Season, you can enroll in or change your TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select health plan.

But did you know that outside of TRICARE Open Season, you can only enroll in or make changes to your TRICARE Prime (including the U.S. Family Health Plan) or TRICARE Select plan following a Qualifying Life Event, or QLE? A QLE is a certain change in your life, such as marriage, birth of a child, change of address, or retirement from active duty. Different TRICARE health plan options may be available to you and your family members after a QLE.

Options Following a QLE

Following a QLE, you and your family members have three options depending on your situation:

- ▶ If you wish to continue your current coverage following a QLE and remain eligible for your current health plan, you don't need to take action. Your coverage will continue uninterrupted.
- ▶ If you want to make a change to your health plan enrollment,

you have 90 days following the QLE to make any eligible changes.

▶ If you're eligible for TRICARE but not enrolled in a TRICARE plan, you have 90 days following the QLE to enroll in a health plan. If you or your family members aren't enrolled in a health plan and don't enroll in one within 90 days of a QLE, you'll only be eligible for care at a military hospital or clinic if space is available.

Remember, a QLE for one family member creates a QLE for all family members.

Examples of QLEs

What counts as a QLE? There are different types of TRICARE QLEs, including military changes, family changes, and government-directed changes. Many of them revolve around changes in job, location, or family status. Some common examples of TRICARE QLEs include:

- ▶ Change in sponsor status that results in ineligibility to continue existing coverage. This includes retiring from active duty, separating from active duty, activating or deactivating.
- ▶ Change in family composition. This includes getting married or divorced, giving birth, adopting a child, placement of a child by a court in a member's home and more.
- ▶ Moving. This includes moving to a new state, a new

ZIP code (plus four), a child moving away to college, and more.

▶ Losing sponsor or family member eligibility. This includes when a Retired Reserve member turns 60 or when the sponsor or any dependent turns age 65, and become eligible for Medicare.

To see the full list of QLEs and examples, go to the Qualifying Life Events section on the TRICARE website.

What to Do Following a QLE

With any QLE, the first step is to update your or your family member's information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You must update DEERS before you contact TRICARE to make the change. Depending on your QLE, you may need to provide official documents, like a birth or marriage certificate, to update DEERS. Find your nearest ID card office and call ahead to make an appointment or to verify which documents you need to bring.

Once your change shows in DEERS, you can then enroll or change your TRICARE coverage. You may make eligible health plan enrollment changes online, by mail, or by phone. Enrollment must be within 90 calendar days of the date of the QLE. Coverage starts on the QLE date. Enrollment fees, if required, begin on the QLE date, not the date the enrollment request is

submitted. Once you enroll, your TRICARE regional contractor can confirm your enrollment.

Making Enrollment Changes When You Don't Have a QLE

If you and your family don't experience a QLE, you can only enroll in or make changes to your TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select health plan during the annual TRICARE Open Season. QLE and open season enrollment rules apply only to TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select.

Premium-based plans (TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, TRICARE Young Adult, and the Continued Health Care Benefit Program) offer continuous open enrollment throughout the year. However, keep in mind that certain QLEs may mean you or your family members may become eligible for TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select (for example, when a Selected Reserve member is called to active duty for more than 30 days).

Life changes are inevitable. When they occur, your TRICARE health options may change too. Knowing how to navigate QLEs with TRICARE can help you take command of your health and the health of your family this year. For more information about QLEs and the impact they may have on you or your family, visit Qualifying Life Events.

JBSA LEGACY

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

JBSA-FSH holds Teen and Young Adult Job Fair

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, located at 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797, will host the Teen and Young Adult Job Fair from 3-7 p.m. April 25.

The free fair is open to teenagers and young adults, ages 15-22, who are dependents of active-duty members, Reservists, National Guard and Coast Guard members, retirees and Department of Defense civilians.

Fair participants will get a chance to meet face-to-face with local employers who are offering

jobs, be able to apply for job openings and receive information on internships.

In addition, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC will host the Prepare For The Fair workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 6. During this workshop, teenagers and young adults will learn skills that will help them for the fair, including how to

write a résumé, preparing for a job interview, the proper attire to wear for an interview, translating volunteer experience to employment skills and learning about social media etiquette.

For more information about the fair and workshop, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC at 210-221-2705.

Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman

502D AIR BASE WING AND

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

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

Personnel Issues

Q. I'm just wondering why there is such a pay disparity between GS positions and NAF positions. The CDC has office automation clerks who are a GS-05 position while SAC has office automation clerks in NF-02 positions. The exact same job is being performed yet the NAF people are paid considerably less with fewer benefits.

A. Thank you for the question. Non-appropriated fund, or NAF, and Appropriated fund, or APF-GS, are two different employment systems that exist in support of Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, which includes Child and Youth Programs.

APF personnel have a standardized pay table set by OPM with benefits and funding sourced from Congressional appropriations. NAF consists of pay band positions, where there are minimum and maximum hourly rates. Hiring officials set the salary within the pay range based on the activity, budget and job requirements.

For further information on NAF jobs, visit the JBSA NAF HR Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/JBSANAFHR/>.

Installation & Facilities

Q. Many of us get to work at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston before 6 a.m. I get to the Walters Gate on most days around 6 a.m. There are four gates at that entrance, but all four gates are NOT open that early in the morning. Usually there are only two gates open, which causes traffic to back up and it



wastes time sitting in line.

I suggest opening all four gates at Walters Gate by 5:45 a.m., if not earlier. By allowing more people to arrive on base and be at their desks, the Department of Defense benefits by obtaining extra hours of work (10 minutes a day extra, times 5 on average week, times 10 days is 100 minutes of free additional work per pay period.)

A. Thank you for your question about the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Walters Gate. The 502d Air Base Wing strives to meet as many mission partner needs as possible at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The 502d Security Forces Squadron recently extended some of its installation gate hours at the South New Braunfels Gate and the Wilson Gate to support senior mission partners' requests, but because of manpower limitations, we are unable to open all four lanes at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Walters Gate before 6 a.m. hours Monday through Friday.

The reason for this is the midnight shift, which works from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., has fewer assigned personnel because traffic throughput during those hours is lower. However, there are occasions when the midnight shift has additional personnel and we are able to open a third lane at Walters Gate.

All four lanes are opened after 6 a.m. because the day shift begins at that time and has more manpower assigned to ensure the squadron can meet the greater daytime entry requirements. Thank you again for your feedback.

Q. Was wondering if the Texas

Department of Transportation could reprogram the left turn light into the JBSA-Randolph West Gate to a blinking yellow arrow like the one at main gate to allow westbound traffic to enter base when traffic allows. This would keep traffic from backing up on FM 78 and sometimes on Pat Booker Road.

A. Thank you for your suggestion, we are always looking for ways to improve traffic flow at our busy gates. Our Security Forces works closely with the Texas Department of Transportation to determine the best practices that ensure the convenience and safety of the motorists on JBSA and the surrounding communities.

We will work with TEXDOT and local law enforcement to address a possible change to the traffic light at the West Gate. Continue to drive safe and thank you again for your efforts to make JBSA better!

Q. There hasn't been an Auto Hobby Shop at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston since the shop we had was demolished to accommodate the Candlewood Suites Hotel. Is there any plans in the future to have an Auto Hobby Shop built on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston? This facility is a real asset to those of us who do mechanical work on our vehicles and is financially helpful.

A. Thank you for your question. The 502d ABW is committed to providing the best community service support we can to our massive population. Current investment strategies use market research to identify which functions are in highest demand while also taking into

account services available in the local community off base or surrounding installations.

For now, we ask our JBSA service members and their families to utilize the Auto Hobby Shop on JBSA-Lackland as there are currently minimal funds to allocate for the construction of an Auto Hobby Shop on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. We will continue to assess funding each year to hopefully add this resource to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Q. I just recently PCS'd here and went to fill my truck up on JBSA-Lackland, only to realize that there are no diesel pumps on base. What is the chance of talking with AAFES to see if they could install a diesel pump? Two thirds of my vehicles run on diesel and all of my previous bases had diesel pumps on base.

A. This is another great community support question. Similar to NAF-provided operations, AAFES conducts market research to determine the population's need when determining which services to provide.

There are currently plans to construct a new AAFES fuel station at JBSA-Randolph, as well as expand the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston main service station. As these projects are developed, AAFES will employ market research to determine if diesel pumps are cost effective to be added, or if the off-base community provides adequate support to meet the demand.

We will also work with AAFES to reassess the current fuel options at Lackland to explore the possibility of adding diesel pumps.

Army FY2020 budget funds child care, family initiatives

By Gary Sheftick

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Despite budget cuts to almost 200 legacy programs to fund modernization, Army senior leaders told lawmakers their fiscal year 2020 request will not cut any programs supporting military families.

“Due diligence was absolutely applied to ensure that there were no cuts that impacted Soldiers and their families,” Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley testified March 27 to the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Defense subcommittee.

He was referring to the “night court” process in which senior leaders reviewed every one of the Army’s programs to assess how they impacted readiness and lethality.

It was an unprecedented 50 hours of “painstaking deliberations,” Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper said.

“Tough choices” had to be made, Esper said, before submitting the \$182.3 billion budget request for FY20. About \$30 billion was redirected from legacy programs over the five-year defense

plan to fund the Army’s six modernization priorities.

“To deter the growing threat posed by great-power competitors ... we must leap ahead to the next generation of combat systems,” Esper said. In order to fund development of those systems, cuts had to be made to the number of legacy platforms upgraded.

“There were cuts that impacted others, but not Soldiers and their families,” Milley emphasized. “That’s sort of the bargain we struck.”

“No cuts have been made to the child care for our Soldiers,” Esper said. “It’s access that we’re wrestling with. I’m looking at a number of policy changes.”

First and foremost is to give Soldiers priority for child care over civilian employees and contractors. “In many cases, that’s not what’s been happening,” Esper said, citing that about 30 percent of day care centers are filled by “non-priority” personnel.

The Army is looking at expanding capacity at Child Development Centers at some installations, he said.

Esper said he’d also like to look at transitioning to hourly day care, so that

military families would not be required to pay for child care by the month.

The Army recently saved funding by reforming the way parents sign up for child care, Esper said.

“We had a redundant management system in place,” he said. “Rather than going to the day care center to sign up, you went to a separate building with separate people. We got rid of that. Now to sign up for day care, you go just to the day care center.”

Esper said he would like to expand family child care, or FCC, where family members on base provide child care at their homes.

He recently signed a directive that allows on-site supervision of children by Army spouses immediately following their FBI background check. Now spouses can begin offering childcare in less than three weeks from arriving at an installation, he told legislators.

“It’s a great opportunity, but we need to incentivize that program to expand,” he said.

A new Child and Youth Services Employment Tool places the names of

spouses interested in conducting child care into a database following completion of their background check.

“Rather than every time you go to a new assignment — a new installation — and go through the check again, we have your name in a database, we’ll hold it for five years and you can seamlessly move from base to base and get hired immediately,” he said.

Esper said as he travels around the Army and visits installations, two issues that come up all the time are child care and spouse employment. The two are related, he said.

Spouse employment is a “very personal” issue for him, Esper said, dating back to when he served as an infantry officer.

“During my time on active duty, my wife could not get a job when we were at Fort Benning or in Italy, because of frankly discrimination against Army spouses at the time,” he said.

Programs that support spouses and families definitely impact readiness, Milley said.

“We want our Soldiers to focus on their job,” he said.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Cowboys for Heroes cooks up chuck-wagon fare

Thousands attend the popular event at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

By Steve Elliott
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

If your idea of a perfect Saturday afternoon includes tons of tender steak, mountains of fajitas, and cornbread and cobbler as far as the eye can see, then you were at the right place March 30 for the annual Cowboys for Heroes chuck-wagon event at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"If you look at cowboy values, they are pretty close to Army values," said Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, commanding general, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and senior Army commander at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, as he welcomed visitors to the event.

Buchanan also thanked all the volunteer chuck-wagon teams, the companies that donated the food and other items, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston chaplains and others for their help and support.

The annual event drew thousands of aficionados of chuck-wagon cooking and cowboy-style fun.

And not only were there a cavalcade of chuck wagons serving a variety of beef stews, kebabs, chicken, beans, cobblers and more, there were arts and crafts, face painters, a family hayride, mechanical bull rides, pony rides for the young 'uns and even a chance for kids to practice their ropin' skills.

Kids also were fascinated by a petting zoo with everything from tortoises to porcupines to alpacas and a friendly boa constrictor.

Whether you enjoy your vittles barbecued or chicken-fried, in a stew or in a tortilla, there were few people in the hungry and appreciative crowd who went away with empty bellies.

And even though the lines could be long, they moved quickly and efficiently and, oh, my, was the wait ever worth it!



PHOTOS BY STEVE ELLIOTT

Visitors line up for a plate of cowboy cooking during the annual Cowboys for Heroes chuck-wagon event at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 30.



A petting zoo, with everything from tortoises and porcupines to alpacas and a friendly boa constrictor were part of the fun at the annual Cowboys for Heroes event.



A family hayride was one way people could get around.



Linda Williams, from the Maxdale Cowboy Church chuck wagon of Killeen, Texas, prepares biscuits.



Grillmaster Steve Kahla made sure the steak for hundreds of beef fajitas was done to perfection.

METC instructors train Fort Hood EMS paramedics

By Lisa Braun

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND
TRAINING CAMPUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Two instructors with the Medical Education and Training Campus Respiratory Therapy Technician program at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston have been traveling to Fort Hood to train emergency medical services personnel.

Petty Officer 1st Class Christian Miranda, a Navy hospital corpsman, and Army Staff Sgt. Modesto Ortega conduct a course on critical care transport and transport ventilators for EMS paramedics at the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center Department of Emergency Medicine. The course is being provided to increase the paramedics' ability to safely transport critical patients on transport ventilators.

A ventilator is the machine used to assist a patient with breathing.



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CHRISTIAN MIRANDA

Staff Sgt. Modesto Ortega conducts emergency medical EMS transport and mechanical ventilation training for EMS/paramedics attached to Fort Hood and the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center's emergency department.

"We introduce equipment necessary for resuscitation, along with basic equipment and oxygen concepts in order to properly treat while conducting a transport on patients requiring assistance breathing," Miranda said.

The duo instructed their second class in early March after initiating the program in February. The intent of the course, which consists of basic anatomy and physiology to understand how the respiratory system works, and

rudimentary interpretation of lab values, is to enable EMS responders to incorporate critical decision skills while in route to the next echelon of care.

Miranda said that in addition to learning the basic components of the ventilator and how to troubleshoot any issues, "the students gain a general understanding of different ventilator modalities and when or how to utilize them for specific patients depending on clinical signs and symptoms."

The course was developed after Miranda and another instructor conducted a round of lectures at the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, or CRDAMC, last fall. They spoke about transport ventilators and critical care transport in the deployed environment for emergency room residents with minimal role II emergency medicine experience to gain a general understanding of airway

emergency medicine. They were subsequently asked to incorporate the lecture into a training program.

"The training provides an outstanding review of respiratory failure and the use of transport ventilators," said Dr. Kevin Schlicksup, CRDAMC director of pre-hospital medicine and the EMS medical director at Fort Hood. "This training greatly improved our ability to handle critical patients in respiratory failure."

Miranda and Ortega are not the only respiratory therapy technician instructors to conduct training outside of METC. Several other instructors conduct training with Special Operations Forces groups around the country to provide instruction on airway management for injuries resulting from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear, or CBRN, exposure.

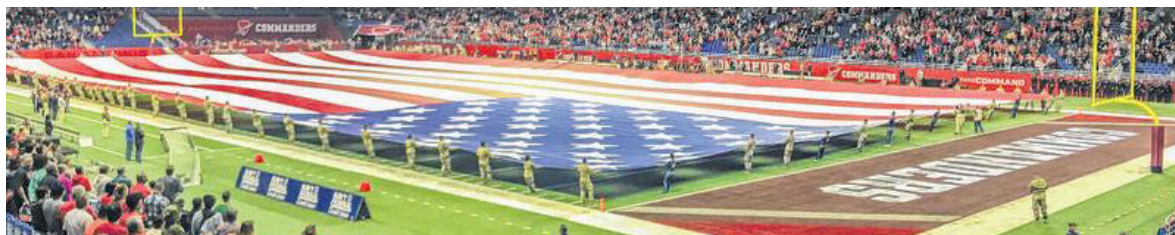
JBSA service members, ROTC cadets present flag at game

By Sgt. Andrew Valles

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To honor military members past and present, service members from across Joint Base San Antonio, as well as ROTC cadets from the University of Texas at San Antonio, presented the American flag during the National Anthem at the San Antonio Commanders football game at the Alamodome in downtown San Antonio on March 31.

More than 100 Service members and cadets participated in the flag-holding ceremony to open Sunday's game.



PHOTOS BY SGT. ANDREW S. VALLES



Hiring Heroes Career Fair draws hundreds of attendees

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hundreds of job seekers visited, explored career options with and handed out resumes to Department of Defense employers at the Hiring Heroes Career Fair held in the Sam Houston Community Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 20.

Approximately 600 attendees came to the career fair that was 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.

Attendees were able to visit and talk to representatives from 52 DOD employers offering jobs, including those from JBSA. A range of jobs and career fields offered by employers included IT, cybersecurity, law enforcement, medical, administrative, mechanical, technical and financial.

The Hiring Heroes Career Fair is held twice a year at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

in partnership with the Transition Assistance Program, located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, and the Defense Personnel Advisory Service.

The Transition Assistance Program provides counseling and job assistance to service members 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.

“We’re excited to see such a high turnout of employers and job seekers at today’s event,” said Hong Miller, DCPAS director of employment and compensation. “We have more than 60 booth spaces occupied by DOD employers today and those DOD employers are actually equipped with new hiring authorities that enable them to expeditiously hire transitioning warriors, veterans and military spouses. Many are conducting on-the-spot interviews and making job offers for cyber, STEM, IT and other jobs across the Department of Defense. The San Antonio community is an enormous supporter of our veterans and we’re grateful for the partnership and support

of the local JBSA command and staff in making this event a success.”

Staff members from the 12th Maintenance Group at JBSA-Randolph conducted interviews for 99 full-time positions, including for entry-level mechanics and technical positions, at the career fair.

Robert West, 12th Maintenance Group director of maintenance, said this year was the first time the 12th Maintenance Group had a presence at the career fair. He said he was pleased with the quality of candidates that applied and were interviewed for positions with the maintenance group.

“We’ve been actually surprised because this our first time (at the fair),” West said. “We didn’t know what we were going to get. My hiring official who is here, he’s saying he’s excited that he’s filling these positions.”

Ronald Bartels, 12th Maintenance Operations Flight Manager at JBSA-Randolph, said through the interviews conducted at the fair the maintenance group is looking at 13 individuals to fill positions.

One of the career fair attendees who

applied and interviewed for a position with the 12th Maintenance Group was Francisco Furio, a military spouse. An aircraft mechanic, Furio drove nearly 900 miles from Colorado Springs, Colorado, where his wife is the regional director for admissions and an adjunct professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, to San Antonio to attend the fair.

Furio said he found out about the Hiring Heroes Career Fair and the positions for aircraft mechanics through an email sent to him by the Air Force Civilian Service. He said he is seeking a job in San Antonio because he and his wife have just bought a home and plan to move here.

According to DCPAS, employers conducted 201 interviews and made 38 on-the-spot job offers at the career fair, with 55 job offers expected at a later date.

The March 20 career fair was the first one, since it started at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in 2005, exclusively for DOD employers. Previous Hiring Heroes fairs included employers from the private sector and from federal, state and local governmental agencies.

MILITARY TAKES PART IN FIESTA MEDIA DAY

News anchor Steve Spriester of KSAT-12 interviews the 2019 Joint Base San Antonio Military Ambassadors during Fiesta San Antonio media day March 27 at the Pearl Stable. The 128th Fiesta San Antonio takes place April 18-28 and includes more than 100 events that showcase San Antonio's rich multicultural heritage.

Fiesta began in 1891 to honor the heroes of the Battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto. Two service members representing each military service serve as military ambassadors and take part in more than 50 Fiesta events.



DANIEL P. ELKINS

NMETLC Sailors assist with cleanup of community park

By Petty Officer 1st Class David Kolmel

NAVY MEDICINE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LOGISTICS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sailors assigned to Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command, or NMETLC, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, participated in a local community relations project March 28.

Fourteen NMETLC Sailors spent several hours at Martinez Park in San Antonio, picking up trash and sanitizing park equipment to help ensure park visitors have a clean, family-friendly park where children can play safely.

"Helping out at the park was a very cool experience," said Seaman Apprentice Hailey Johnson, assigned to NMETLC. "It made me feel better knowing that this park was cleaner just by us picking up trash and doing what we could. Making even the slightest difference for kids and families means the world to me."

Johnson said the best way for Sailors to show the Navy appreciates the local community's support is with their actions.

"Showing any and all communities that we are here to help and support is something that I've always wanted to do since I joined the Navy," Johnson said. "Any community I am a part of, I



Chief Hospital Corpsman Irene Aguilar, assigned to Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command, disinfects playground equipment during a community relations event held at Martinez Park during a Sailor 360 event.

want to show that the Navy is here to support them. So any chance I get to do so, I am all for it."

The Martinez Park cleanup was one of several projects completed as part of the ongoing NMETLC Sailor 360 COMREL program, said Petty Officer 1st Class Amity Montoya, NMETLC Sailor 360 assistant COMREL leader.



PHOTOS BY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS DAVID KOLMEL

Sailors assigned to Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston receive a safety brief from park officials before picking up trash during a community relations event held at Martinez Park during a Sailor 360 event.

"We are looking at the San Antonio Food Bank as our next COMREL project, but we welcome any projects our Sailors would like to support," Montoya said of the quarterly community projects. "We also look forward to doing more beautification projects at our community parks."

The COMREL event is part of the Navy's Sailor 360 program, a command-level program for junior enlisted, senior enlisted and junior officers designed to strengthen and develop leadership through COMREL events, classroom discussions and physical training events.

BAMC Women's History Month event highlights leadership qualities

By Lori Newman
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center celebrated Women's History Month with a ceremony in the hospital's fourth-floor auditorium March 20.

"Today is dedicated for women who have made significant contributions throughout history," said Army Col. Michael Wirt, BAMC deputy commanding officer, highlighting this year's theme, "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace and Nonviolence," which recognizes and honors women who have led efforts to end war, violence and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society.

"This theme is very close to home for many of us who are military members, and particularly those who are members of the medical profession," Wirt said. "There is a rich history of women leading in both the U.S. military and in military medicine. For example, Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho became the first woman and the first nurse to serve as the Army Surgeon General, and she was followed by our current Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Nadja West."

Wirt introduced Air Force Col. Deedra Zabokrtsky, chief of the Officer Force

Development Division and Director of Air Force Nursing Services at Headquarters Air Force, Office of the Surgeon General, noting that Zabokrtsky is "an exceptional example of a visionary woman."

Zabokrtsky, who is responsible for executing officer force development initiatives and establishing training policy for the Air Force Medical Service, stepped in as the guest speaker when Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg was unable to attend because her plane was delayed.

"Flexibility is the key to air power, and that's exactly what we have today," she joked.

Zabokrtsky began by talking about her upbringing in the state of Washington and the lessons she learned rooting for the local football team.

"I'm fueled by faith and family, but I'm shaped by the little town that I grew up in," she said. "I learned a lot of important lessons there. One of the best lessons I have learned is that you try hard, you play hard, every single day because every now and then, heart beats talent."

Zabokrtsky focused her remarks on topics that apply to everyone including "thinking globally, but acting locally" and



GARRON WEBSTER

Army Col. Michael Wirt, left, Brooke Army Medical Center deputy commanding officer, and BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Oates, right, present Air Force Col. Deedra Zabokrtsky, chief of Officer Force Development Division and Director of Air Force Nursing Services at Headquarters Air Force, Office of the Surgeon General, a token of appreciation during BAMC's Women's History Month observance March 20.

the importance of developing "soft skills."

"In order to succeed you need to think globally, but you need to act locally," she said. "That resonates with everything we are doing today. Soft skills are hard, because we don't always value them. Those soft skills have a huge impact on our work environment."

She spoke about the importance of connecting with one another and retaining skilled people within the military health system.

"Leadership is the number one factor in whether or not an employee or staff member perceives a civil work environment versus an uncivil work environment," Zabokrtsky said. "Joy in work matters. Words matter and actions matter more."

She encouraged collaboration and involving all the members of the team.

"Those are all actions that we can take locally to have a profound impact on the future of the military health system,"

she concluded. "If you are getting anything from my remarks today, I hope you are getting that this is not a woman thing, this is a human thing."

BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Oates closed the ceremony by thanking everyone for their participation. He also cited examples of exceptional women leaders.

"The most fundamental aspect of leadership is presence; leaders have to be present to lead," Oates said.

JBSA leaders recognize Month of the Military Child

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio leaders recognized the contributions of military children and families during a proclamation ceremony designating April as Month of the Military Child at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston on March 29.

The ceremony was held in the Texas Room at the U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) Headquarters. Signing the proclamation were Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman, JBSA and 502nd Air Base Wing commander; Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, ARNORTH commanding general; and Capt. William Leonard, Navy Medicine Education and Training Command deputy commander.

Started in 1986, Month of the Military Child is sponsored by the Department of Defense and recognizes the important role of military children and families worldwide in the armed forces, acknowledging the sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome on a daily basis.



KAREN LLOYD

From left, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, U.S. Army North commanding general; Capt. William Leonard, Navy Medicine Education and Training Command deputy commander; and Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, Joint Base San Antonio and 502nd Air Base Wing commander, sign the proclamation designating April as Month of the Military Child on March 29 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Also attending the proclamation signing were five students from the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District and their parents.

Attending the proclamation signing were five students from the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District and their parents, along with Dr. Gary Bates, Fort Sam Houston ISD superintendent; Dr. Joseph Cerna, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School principal; Tonya Hyde, Lackland Independent School District assistant

superintendent for curriculum and instruction; and Quiana Abner and Nita Ford-Hightower, JBSA school liaison officers.

The schoolchildren at the ceremony wore purple shirts, signifying the combination of colors for all branches of the military, and reminding JBSA members to wear purple on April 12, "Purple Up! For

Military Kids" day, to recognize military children for "their personal sacrifices and their unwavering courage," in supporting their military parents, according to the proclamation signed by the JBSA leaders.

Buchanan said as someone who was raised in a military family and is a father of military children, he knows

the experiences military children go through in moving from one place to another.

"I know something about your life," Buchanan said to the military schoolchildren. "It's important for your dads and moms that they have pride in you and everything that you do, whether it's membership in school or sports teams, Scouts. You need to know that they care for you and by your resilience, you actually help them in a lot of ways.

"Having raised military children, I can tell you that my kids, who are now in their 30s, are some of the most resilient people that I know," Buchanan said.

Leonard also remarked about the importance of family in a servicemember's life.

"There's nothing that melts a Sailor's heart more than a ship pulling back into port and having a family lined up on the piers," Leonard said.

Information on Month of the Military Child can be found at the Department of Defense Education Activity website at <https://www.dodea.edu/dodea Celebrates/Military-Child -Month.cfm>.

COMEDIAN BERNIE MCGRENAHAN HEADLINES 'READY AND RESILIENT'

U. S. Army North hosted a "Ready and Resilient" event with comedian Bernie McGrenahan for military members, Department of Defense civilians and family members at the Fort Sam Houston Theater on March 29. The event provided resiliency support to the military through Bernie's "Comedy for a Cure" stand-up show and his personal life testimonial.



LAUREN PADDEN

LACKLAND

San Antonio dedicates Tribute to Freedom sculpture

**By Airman 1st Class
Dillon Parker**

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

The city of San Antonio celebrated the completion of phase one of the Lackland Corridor Gateway Project with the dedication of the Tribute to Freedom sculpture March 27 at the corner of U.S. 90 and Military Drive.

George Schroeder created the sculpture in honor of the military. It includes five forms representing the five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. The central obelisk is modeled after the Washington Monument. The other four figures surround the central obelisk, representing the military's protection of the United States.

"Today is not only an opportunity to celebrate an incredible work of public art, but also the hundreds of military men and women who will see it every day," said San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg.

In addition to honoring the military members of Joint Base

San Antonio, the sculpture also illustrates the importance of cooperation in the city of San Antonio, added Col. Scott Thompson, 502nd Installation Support Group commander.

"While this freedom tower represents the five branches of the Armed Forces, I believe it means much more," Thompson said. "It stands for pride, power and unity. Not only between our services, but between our service members and the city of San Antonio. This endeavor shows the commitment this city has to our servicemen and -women."

In addition to recognizing the military and the relationship between San Antonio and JBSA, the sculpture is also part of larger effort to revitalize the Military Drive corridor.

"This artwork is a great example of the power of public art to not only transform public spaces, but to bring communities and groups together," said City Councilman Rey Saldaña. "But it's only the beginning. Military Drive used



PHOTOS BY SARAYUTH PINTHONG

Students from John F. Kennedy High School ROTC participate in the Freedom sculpture grand opening, March 27 at the corner of U.S. 90 and Military Drive in San Antonio.

to be the main highway in San Antonio, there used to be businesses and restaurants teeming with the flavor and zest of San Antonio. This is the first phase of a long project, which is the rebirth of the Military Drive corridor."

The Lackland Corridor Gateway Project also includes

an entry plaza, picnic unit with a shade canopy, portable restroom, 100-foot-long pedestrian bridge, and monarch butterfly garden area. The total project will encompass a 5-acre site and will be built with low impact development features to capture, filtrate and treat



Councilman Rey Saldaña, San Antonio District 4, presents closing remarks during the Tribute to Freedom sculpture grand opening, March 27 in San Antonio.

stormwater runoff from the site to protect local rivers and reduce flooding.

"This transformative project is a testament to the military as a major contributor to the economic development and spirit of our city," Nirenberg said. "It's going to have a citywide impact for generations to come."

For more information on the Lackland Corridor Gateway Project, visit <https://www.sanantonio.gov/TCI/Projects/Lackland-Corridor-Gateway-Project#22811582-work-updates>.

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

Senior Master Sgt. Aaron Hartzler (center), 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 for enlistment in the U.S. military.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KATIE SCHULTZ

Defense Language Institute builds bridge with English

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Defense Language Institute English Language Center, or DLIELC, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is focused on providing English training relating directly to military content for students from around the world.

DLIELC is preparing future fighters to work alongside each other with a common thread: a critical connection of understanding each defense-related term in a universal language.

The center, established in 1964, initially started as the U.S. Force Language School with a primary mission to teach English to Allied pilot candidates. The mission expanded in 1966 to include other career fields and the school moved under the 37th Training Wing.

Not only do students become proficient English language speakers, foreign nationals are also exposed to American customs and culture, according to DLIELC's website, <http://www.dlielc.edu>.

"Sometimes people may have a pre-conceived idea of Americans, but then they come here and interact with us," said Veronica Marco, DLIELC administrative assistant.

About 3,000 students from more than 100 countries enroll in DLIELC resident training programs annually. The center instructs students annually with a 98 percent graduation rate. DLIELC instructors also travel to partner countries to host courses while its JBSA-Lackland campus sees a steady flow.

"When I come to work and sit at my desk, I get exposed to that," Marco said. "I get to meet so many different people

"English is the language of international business, international travel, sea-faring nations and research and development."

Col. Sean Raesemann, DLIELC commandant and 637th Training Group commander

from so many different countries from all over the world right here."

So why is the demand for English instruction so strong?

"English is the language of international business, international travel, sea-faring nations and research and development," said Col. Sean Raesemann, DLIELC commandant and 637th Training Group commander. "Chinese, Spanish and English are the most widely used languages and English trumps them all as the international language."

Many countries are incorporating English into their educational curriculum and they're even looking at alternatives such as language education software.

What separates DLIELC from education software and makes it more effective is that it focuses on vocabulary in a military content, Raesemann added.

Countries that utilize software may still have to send their student to follow-up training to learn how to fix a jet or maintain an aircraft system. He cautions that word

meanings could get lost in translation. Being accurate is key.

There are differences in words like "battery" and "apron" when having a regular conversation versus using them in military context.

"The [word] 'battery' is a military formation and an 'apron' is somewhere you park jets," Raesemann said.

Because DLIELC is geared towards military instruction, they'll continue to adjust their approach so understanding, cooperation and success can be achieved.

Not only is a command of English important, it is vital that in times of war, Raesemann added. Students need to operate in a military environment with allies with perfectly matched language skills because every word counts.

DLI ensures there is "no mission failure," he said.

JBSA Family Advocacy Program keeps families safe

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The largest family advocacy program in the Air Force, which is located at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, provides a steady hand when life's plans go off the rails.

"We can't have successful missions if families are suffering and struggling," said Capt. Isaiah Carter, 59th Mental Health Squadron family advocacy officer.

The FAP is ready to assist families in several areas, which include maltreatment, emotional education, marriage counseling, building healthy relationships and new parent support.

"Any sort of maltreatment like domestic abuse, child abuse, neglect, sexual abuse —

it's all under our umbrella," said Dorrie Budde, 59th Mental Health Squadron domestic abuse victim advocate and licensed social worker.

The program works alongside military and local community agencies to put a plan in place to restore calm after an something like a dispute, or violent or verbally abusive incident, or a concerning situation involving a child.

They may work with Child Protective Services, victim's advocacy groups, law enforcement, military security forces and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations to establish a safe environment for families during their trying times.

"We're like the cabdrivers on this crazy journey," Budde said.

Advocates step in to educate,

empower and navigate the rocky road, Budde explained. For one incident, up to four agencies can be involved in remedying the problem.

"We start looking for ways to ensure that the victims are protected and also provide treatment for the individuals involved," Carter said.

Advocates help victims find new housing if needed, search for employment, and file for protective orders or even divorce. If a victim has to flee their home without any money, advocates are even able to get them military financial assistance, especially if violence is involved, Budde said.

"Anytime anyone is the victim of a physical crime, they can be reimbursed for certain expenses that came as a result of the crime," said Budde, adding those could include

relocation and moving expenses.

Intervening during maltreatment situations are not the only way FAP provides support to the base populace.

Being a parent may be overwhelming at times, and FAP can help. It has a wide range of services, and some can even be provided in-home.

Family advocacy nurses can provide in-home counseling on childhood development, breast-feeding strategies and helping new parents cope. They are able to teach parenting techniques and give guidance on how to meet the needs of children living in two homes due to divorce or separation. In addition, there are infant massage and car seat classes.

Along with the services assisting parents with struggles

they may face rearing children, there are also resources for mental and emotional health.

There are classes on conflict resolution, coping with anger, communicating effectively, managing emotions and improving marital relationships

"We want to prevent issues when we can," Carter said. "At some point all of us will need help, and mental health is no different than seeking treatment for some kind of physical ailment in the family health clinic."

The FAP is located in Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center on the third floor and is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information on the Family Advocacy Program, call 210-292-0418. In the event of an emergency, call the 24-hour crisis hotline at 210-367-1213.

Civil Air Patrol cadets fly on C-5M Super Galaxy at JBSA-Lackland

By Master Sgt. Kristian Carter

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Forty-three Civil Air Patrol cadets and adult leaders received an incentive flight March 12 on a C-5M Super Galaxy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The group included cadets from two South Texas CAP squadrons, the David Lee "Tex" Hill Composite Squadron in San Marcos and Pegasus Composite Squadron in Austin.

The cadets received the Alamo Wing's mission brief prior to boarding the Air Force's largest aircraft.

The cadets took turns observing operations on the flight deck during the flight over the West Texas area and back.

Many of the cadets have flown on smaller aircraft, but this was their first time in the Super Galaxy.

"I've never flown in a C-5

before," said Cadet Col. Chuck Baker, David Lee "Tex" Hill Composite Squadron chief meteorological advisor. "The only Air Force aircraft I've flown in was a KC-135. This was the first time I've ever flown in something this big."

The flight even made an impression on one of the cadets whose focus is not on aviation.

"It was a very good experience," said Cadet Tech. Sgt. Elsie Harris, David Lee "Tex" Hill Composite Squadron flight sergeant. "I personally enjoyed it.

"I want to be a paramedic. Emergency services training really drew my attention," Harris added. "I'm focused on getting all the training I need to get certified to go on a mission if one comes up."

The CAP, a congressionally chartered organization, provides aeronautic, cadet and emergency services training to youth ages 12-21.



MASTER SGT. KRISTIAN CARTER

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Senior Airman Allen Doroshko, Cadet Airman Basic Caleb Wood and Cadet Lt. Col. Jackson Baker observe operations on the flight deck during an incentive flight over West Texas on March 12. The cadets flew with the 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Twenty-Fifth Air Force reaches out to small businesses

From Twenty-Fifth Air Force Public Affairs

The Twenty-Fifth Air Force at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland sponsored a Small Business Day March 18 where 50 individuals representing 32 small businesses from across the United States presented products or services to headquarters staff in support of The Small Business Act of July 30, 1953.

The Act created the Small Business Administration to “aid, counsel, assist and protect, insofar as is possible, the interests of small business concerns.”

“We have a small business and four socioeconomic goals we are trying to meet in terms of the contracts we award to small businesses,” said Dr. Lisa K. Anderson, small-business professional



COURTESY GRAPHIC

and procurement analyst with the Air Force Acquisition Management and Integration Center, Detachment 2. “This

Small Business Day provided an opportunity to meet these goals, and to identify and match capable small

businesses with Twenty-Fifth Air Force mission requirements.”

Annually, goals are

established between the SBA and agencies within the federal government, to include the Air Force, Air Combat Command, and the Acquisition Management and Integration Center, Anderson said.

The SBA's charter not only requires consideration of small businesses, but ensures small businesses receive a “fair proportion” of government contracts and sales of surplus property.

Accordingly, the Secretary of the Air Force's Office of Small Business Programs promotes a culture that looks to small businesses first for innovative, agile and affordable solutions to meet warfighter needs.

To learn more about Air Force efforts to utilize small businesses, visit <https://www.airforcesmallbiz.af.mil/> or read the eProgram Guide.

U.S. CYBER COMMAND TOP ENLISTED MEMBER VISITS AFCYBER



Master Gunnery Sgt. Scott Stalker, U.S. Cyber Command and National Security Agency command senior enlisted leader, greets members of the 834th Cyberspace Operations Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, on March 21. During his visit, Stalker met with cyber Airmen to learn more about their unit's missions.

TECH. SGT. R.J. BIERMANN

RANDOLPH

560th FTS honors Air Force POWs from Vietnam War

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The commander of Air Force Personnel Center last week praised the Air Force aircrew members who returned home from North Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camps nearly 50 years ago for holding “strong to American principles and values in the face of the harshest possible conditions.”

“You kept faith with each other, you never gave up and you returned home with honor and pride,” Maj. Gen. Andrew Toth said during a wreath-laying ceremony March 29 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph’s Missing Man Monument, one of the highlights of the 560th Flying Training Squadron’s 46th annual Freedom Flyer Reunion.

Toth’s remarks came on the second day of the two-day reunion, which pays homage to the Air Force pilots and other aircrew members who were shot down and imprisoned by the North Vietnamese but were later retrained by the 560th FTS to fly again for their country or given the opportunity to experience their fini flight.

Other highlights of the Freedom Flyer Reunion were the 22nd annual POW/MIA Symposium on the afternoon of March 29, which featured the stories of aircrew members who endured the hardships of the POW camps; a “missing man” formation flyover with T-38C aircraft during the wreath-laying ceremony; and freedom flights for four aircrew members on March 28.

Toth focused on the



SEAN WORRELL

sacrifices of those four aircrew members who became Freedom Flyers 201, 202, 203 and 204: Lt. Col. James Williams, retired Lt. Col. Thomas Hanton, retired Maj. Peter Camerota and retired Capt. Thomas Kломann. Williams and Hanton served as weapon systems officers, Camerota as an electronic warfare officer and Kломann as a navigator on aircraft that were shot down over North Vietnam.

“Four men, four hometowns, four heroes – sons of this nation who teach us about honor, courage and service,” Toth said. “Four men with extraordinary stories.”

Williams, an F-4D WSO with the Triple-Nickel fighter squadron at Udorn, Thailand, had to eject on May 20, 1972, and was taken prisoner. After his repatriation, he became an Air Force pilot, flying the F-4 and F-16, and, following

retirement in 1995, became an Air Force Junior ROTC instructor in Tucker, Ga.

Hanton, an F-4E WSO with the 4th Tactical Fighter Squadron in Da Nang, ejected on his 135th combat mission June 27, 1972, and was taken prisoner. Following his repatriation, he served as an EWO until he retired in 1993.

Camerota was forced to eject over North Vietnam on Dec. 22, 1972, while serving as a B-52 EWO with the 2nd Bomb Squadron, but evaded capture for nearly two weeks. Like Williams, he attended pilot training after repatriation and flew the C-141 and C-21 until he retired in 1987.

Kломann was a B-52D navigator on a bombing mission out of Utapao, Thailand, on Dec. 20, 1972, one of three B-52Ds on that mission, when his aircraft was one of two shot down by surface-to-air missiles. He and

his co-pilot, 1st Lt. Paul Granger, who became the 196th Freedom Flyer three years ago, were the only members of the six-man crew known to have been captured and survived. Interestingly, Kломann and Granger didn’t actually meet each other until they attended a dinner at the White House honoring Vietnam War POWs in May 1973; Kломann had been a substitute on the aircrew.

Toth also paid tribute to the approximately 30 Freedom Flyers on hand for the reunion as “national treasures” and recognized retired Maj. Gen. Kelly McKeague, who also attended the reunion and leads the efforts of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, an organization that is dedicated to accounting for the nation’s missing personnel from past conflicts.

“Our families send their loved ones into danger

Military and community members gather at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph during the Freedom Flyer Reunion wreath-laying ceremony March 29 to honor prisoners of war and those missing in action.

trusting that our nation will bring them home,” Toth said. “This is one of the most important pledges we make, and we must take every opportunity to reinforce this fundamental trust.”

Lt. Col. William Johnson, 560th FTS commander, said the squadron’s relationship with all American flying POWs from the Vietnam War is part of its tradition.

“After Operation Homecoming, when all the POWs were returned home and released from North Vietnam, the 560th Flying Training Squadron was tasked with being the unit to reintegrate them back into flying status for those who could, but also reintegrate them back into military life and American life in general,” he said. “As time went on, it transitioned from a reintegration program more to a fini-flight mechanism from where we are able to give a fini flight to individuals who were never given a chance to fly again once they returned home.”

Initially focused on pilots only, fini flights are now open to other aircrew members, including the four POWs who became Freedom Flyers last week.

It’s important for the “Chargin’ Cheetahs” of the 560th FTS to continue honoring the POWs who sacrificed so much for their country, Johnson said.

“That’s where we came from, that’s what our mission still is today – to fly, fight and win,” he said. “For those who went and did that, I believe it’s important for us to honor what they did and what they sacrificed.”

Royal Air Force partners with PTN for innovative pilot-training

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It's been said that "seeing is believing," and after a visit last May to the Pilot Training Next facility in Austin and facing a pilot shortage, the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force is taking innovation to the next level with the inclusion of a student and an instructor pilot in the second iteration of the class.

Pilot Training Next 2.0 is the continuation of the Air Force's experimental environment that integrates various technologies to produce aviators in an accelerated, cost-efficient and learning-focused manner.

"The RAF needs to reduce

the time it takes to train a pilot, as well as increase our overall pilot numbers because we have pilots leaving faster than we can produce them," said British Army Col. Paddy Logan, assistant director for flying training of the Headquarters 22 Group. "Our RAF Chief of the Air Staff has given us the go-ahead to push the envelope and innovate our pilot training pipeline. We don't have the capacity to experiment this way, so having this partnership and having people here to learn what the U.S. Air Force is doing is invaluable."

As the RAF transitions this fall from the Tucano to the T-6 Texan II as its primary trainer aircraft, its goal is to incorporate PTN lessons learned into its



DAN HAWKINS

Royal Air Force Flight Lt. Darren French (left), Pilot Training Next 2.0 instructor pilot and the RAF's senior national representative, briefs British Army Col. Paddy Logan (center), assistant director for flying training for RAF Headquarters 22 Group, on technology lessons learned at the PTN facility at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Austin March 18.

undergraduate pilot training program almost immediately.

"We are just now about to introduce the T-6 Texan II into our flying training program, so this is the ideal opportunity to begin weaving things learned here at PTN into the curriculum

at the same time we are standing up vice incorporating them in later on," said RAF Wing Commander Christopher Pote, Headquarters 22 Group. "So we are looking at what we can do with the resources we have and use lessons from PTN

to fill in the gaps that allow us to accomplish milestones like earlier solo flights or fewer sorties to achieve competencies, while at the same time maintaining our standards and quality."

Another aspect of the PTN program that stands out to the RAF is the human performance element.

"The integrated approach to sleep, fitness, health and diet together is what we should be doing," Logan said. "We are treating them like high-end athletes, which shows our Airmen how much we value what they are doing and in turn can help with retention."

For the PTN 2.0 team, the opportunity to have an international student and instructor pilot in the class has opened the aperture on learning even further as both countries face some of the same challenges in pilot production and retention.

"We're excited to have RAF participation in this class," said Lt. Col. Paul Vicars, PTN director. "This strengthens the partnership with one of our closest allies by continuing to share best practices and tackling difficult problems together."

Randolph student earns Texas Military Youth of the Year title

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Eighteen-year-old Ryann Jackson has grown up right before the eyes of the staff at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Youth Programs, her home away from home during much of her formative years.

So it was only natural that a longtime staff member — Andrea Black, JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs program director — beamed with pride when Ryann was announced as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Texas Military Youth of the Year and winner of a \$5,000 scholarship March 19 at a banquet in Austin.

"I was so excited when



COURTESY PHOTO

Ryann Jackson, a senior at Randolph High School, was selected as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Texas Military Youth of the Year.

Ryann's name was called," Black said. "I've known her since she was 9. I've seen her grow from a young girl into a young woman — a leader with vision and goals."

For Ryann, a Randolph High School senior who competed against students from Air Force and Army installations in

Texas, the announcement was unexpected.

"I was shocked, but extremely honored to receive such a title," she said. "I was also ecstatic that all of my hard work had paid off."

Ryann, the daughter of retired Air Force Col. Robert Jackson and retired Air Force Master Sgt. LeReina Jackson, was one of two students chosen for the top honor in the state by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

In addition to Texas Military Youth of the Year, the organization selected the Texas Youth of the Year from candidates representing clubs across the state that were not associated with military installations.

Ryann moves on to compete

for the title of Southwest Region Military Youth of the Year on June 5 in Dallas; the National Military Youth of the Year will be announced at an event Aug. 16 in Washington, D.C.

Ryann and other candidates for Texas Military Youth of the Year were judged in four categories: candidate essays, which included essays about their club experience, vision for America's youth, personal brand and military youth experience; a 15-minute personal interview with judges; a speech based on the content of their essays; and overall application quality, which included three letters of recommendation from individuals who can personally attest to the candidates' achievement and potential.

The candidates also filled out

a qualifications form, providing three reasons why they should be chosen National Youth of the Year and three examples of their academic excellence, service, commitment to healthy lifestyles and what they hope to accomplish as National Youth of the Year.

Examples of Ryann's community service include setting up a tutoring program at her school with the Spanish Honor Society to help struggling Spanish 1 and 2 students and serving as a volunteer at the Haven for Hope shelter with the Keystone Club, a Boys and Girls Clubs of America that promotes leadership. She also serves as Keystone Club president at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs.

Air Force's Personnel Center hosts Squadron Commander Course

By Angelina Casarez

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force's Personnel Center hosted its second squadron commander course at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph March 18-22.

After a six-year hiatus, the course was reinstituted in January and redesigned to provide new and sitting squadron commanders a firsthand opportunity to learn about key issues and processes about AFPC's key programs and processes for talent management and care for Airmen and families.

"I'm most excited that AFPC leadership empowers our course briefers to dynamically adapt, even throughout the course week, to focus on current content for squadron commanders that is relevant to their responsibility of ensuring AFPC supports their Airmen and unit missions," said Lt. Col. Joshua Hawkins, AFPC squadron commander course director.

Throughout the week, commanders

met with AFPC senior leaders and subject matter experts, covering topics that focused on commander roles for officer and enlisted evaluations, promotions, force development, assignment management, fitness management, civilian human resources, unit deployment readiness, casualty support, the disability evaluation system and exceptional family member programs.

"The course helped us see what AFPC does for us, how they operate and what kind of services they provide," said Lt. Col. Nicholas Rowe, 423rd Mobility Training Squadron commander, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

"Providing an open dialogue for squadron commanders to share their thoughts and for them to feel confident in the AFPC team is crucial not only for the success of this course but for the success of our Air Force," said Col. Julie Boit, AFPC director of military personnel operations. "Through this course, our experts help equip commanders with AFPC-specific information that they can use as they

"The course helped us see what AFPC does for us, how they operate and what kind of services they provide."

Lt. Col. Nicholas Rowe, 423rd Mobility Training Squadron commander

lead Airmen in operational squadrons across the Air Force."

While major commands offer squadron commander courses focused on commanders' functional roles in their respective MAJCOMs, the AFPC course is designed to focus on resources available to help commanders take care of Airmen and their families, regardless of functional specialty or MAJCOM.

"The AFPC squadron commander course is different in that it focuses on how commanders take care of their people and the resources available to them," said Lt. Col. Redahlia Person, 723rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia.

"This course taught us a lot of good skills and gave us some of the background on why (AFPC) processes work the way they do to directly help our Airmen. I would highly encourage any first-year sitting commander to attend this course," said Rowe. "This is a very valuable course for the Air Force."

AFPC's mission involves every Airman, military and civilian, and family members. The AFPC squadron commander course runs throughout the calendar year. Those interested in attending may contact their MAJCOM/A1 team for details on upcoming class dates and registration.

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