

JBSA

LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JUNE 14, 2019



PHOTO BY JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Republic of Korea Army Brig. Gen. Myoung-ok Kwon (center), superintendent for the Korea Armed Forces Nursing Academy, observes a live demonstration of a combat trauma management scenario in a mock aid station conducted by instructors for the Health Readiness Center of Excellence's Tactical Combat Medical Care course during a May visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Former student returns to JBSA-FSH as general officer

Page 7



Port Dawgs hold annual remembrance run for fallen
Page 16



Technology, AFWERX help SF Academy graduates
Page 18

Five things Army officers, units should know about the Assignment Interactive Module

By Nicole Hawk

U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

If you're one of the more than 3,200 active duty officers or warrant officers identified to move, or a unit welcoming new talent to your ranks, you probably have questions about the new Assignment Interactive Module, or AIM.

AIM is a web-based system designed to advance Army talent management, while ensuring readiness. Providing data and tools to help the U.S. Army Human Resources Command place the right officers in the right position at the right time.

The AIM marketplace encourages communication between officers and units and enables them to voice their preferences for one another. Officers get more control over their careers while taking into account family considerations. And, for the first time, units get a say in who fills which positions.

That said, we've come up with the top 5 things officers and units should know about AIM to make the system work for them.

► **#1: GO EARLY AND OFTEN:** The AIM marketplace is open to officers and units at the same time so that officers moving into their next assignment and units seeking to fill assignments can communicate. Units can filter potential candidates by whether or not the officer expressed interest in an assignment by filtering for officers who put the assignment in their top 10 percent. Officers scheduled to move should make their initial preferences early on in the process and check back frequently.

Reaching out to units you are interested in and asking questions about assignments



MASTER SGT. BRIAN HAMILTON

The Assignment Interactive Module marketplace is open to officers and units at the same time so that officers moving into their next assignment and units seeking to fill assignments can communicate.

could help you separate yourself from the crowd.

Even if you're not scheduled to move, the Army's 90,000-plus active duty officers or warrant officers can login to AIM anytime to start learning. In addition to displaying recent and upcoming assignments, AIM increases transparency by allowing you to see every assignment in every career field across the Army.

► **#2: RÉSUMÉ. RÉSUMÉ.**

RÉSUMÉ: Simply put, officers who have a résumé in AIM are more likely to receive a positive vote from units than officers who don't have a résumé. Units can filter officers by specific skills and talents, so take time to build a strong résumé. Don't wait until you're scheduled to move to start working on your résumé.

Officers should also read through their market's rules of engagement, or ROE, prior to preferring units. ROE is how HRC's Officer Personnel Management Directorate, or OPMD, implements proponent and senior leader career guidance. Paying attention to the ROE helps officers figure out which positions they are actually qualified for and

which ones best match their skill set.

► **#3: PREFERENCING MAKES A DIFFERENCE:** In the last moving cycle, 40 percent of officers who preferred units got their most preferred assignment and 75 percent received an assignment in their top 10 percent. Remember #1? Go early and often. The sooner officers preference assignments the sooner units will see that they are interested in them — and you can update your preferences any time until the market closes.

Among units who participated in the market, more than 50 percent of the officers they received were ones they had preferred. Do keep in mind, even if an officer and a unit are a possible market match, meaning the officer wanted to go to the unit and the unit wanted the officer (i.e., the officer and unit preferred each other), there are other considerations including readiness that go into the slating process.

► **#4: BE REALISTIC:** How does hanging out on the sandy beaches of Hawaii or Florida sound to you? Or maybe you'd

prefer hitting the slopes in the mountains of Colorado? Pretty good right? Well chances are there are plenty of other officers who are thinking that same exact thing!

And if you're a unit eyeing one particular officer, there are probably other units interested in them too. Within AIM officers can see how interested their peers are in the positions in their market. The bottom line is officers should preference multiple units rather than focusing on one specific location and units should build a candidate pool by ranking multiple officers.

► **#5: MARKETPLACE 101:**

As with any Army system, you're not going to learn everything you need to know about AIM the first go around. But every new system has a starting point, and for you that should be the Marketplace 101 video on the AIM landing page. It has simple instructions and tips to make the most of AIM including how to filter information, find good points of contact for both officers and units, and share special assignment considerations with your career coach.

OPMD can't guarantee officers will always receive their more preferred assignment or that units will receive all of their preferred officers. Career coaches have to take into account readiness and key developmental opportunities, required skills, and programs like the Exceptional Family Member and Married Army Couples programs.

Look at it this way, would you prefer to have a say in your next assignment, or would you rather sit back and let others decide for you? AIM is your opportunity to highlight your strengths and influence what the right position at the right location and the right time means for you.

JBSA LEGACY

Joint Base San Antonio
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing
and JBSA Commander
BRIG. GEN.
LAURA L. LENDERMAN

502nd ABW/JBSA
Public Affairs Director
TODD G. WHITE

502nd ABW/JBSA
Chief of Command
Information
JET FABARA

Editor
STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff

2ND LT. CHRISTIAN EBERHARDT
MASTER SGT. TYRONA LAWSON
TECH. SGT. AVE YOUNG
STAFF SGT. KRISTAL WRIGHT
SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHELBY PRUITT
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON PARKER

DAVID DEKUNDER
ROBERT GOETZ
MARY NELL SANCHEZ

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

This newspaper is published by EN Communities, a private firm in no way connected with the United States Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the United States military services. Content of the publication is not necessarily the official view of, or endorsement by the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or EN Communities, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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

Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman

502D AIR BASE WING

AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

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

Installation & Facilities

Q. What is the process for trying to add another business on base? I know there are plenty of personnel on base who like to stay in shape and have healthy options, but do not always have the time when it comes to waiting.

I think having something like Smoothie King on base would be beneficial for those who are in a rush, want something healthy, and even use a meal replacement at times when needed.

A. Thank you for your question – the health and wellbeing of our personnel is a top priority. We are always looking for new businesses and opportunities to better serve our Joint Base San Antonio community! Businesses interested in serving as vendors on JBSA can reach out to the Exchange Services Business Office at 210-675-8965 or 210-225-1305.

In the meantime, we currently have juice bars at the Rambler Fitness Center at JBSA-Randolph and the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston that offer fruit smoothies and meal replacement shakes.

Q. I live on JBSA-Medina Annex and tonight we had two coyotes literally sitting on our back porch. I have small animals and two sons that are younger than 4. This brings up questions to me. Why am I not allowed to protect my family from potential attack, with my rights granted to me by the second amendment?

A. Great question. The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution grants citizens the right to bear firearms.

However, discharge of a firearm in a

residential area is potentially dangerous, filled with risk of unintended consequences, and with few exceptions, unlawful according to the Manual for Courts-Martial, Texas Penal Code, and San Antonio City Ordinance.

That said, with JBSA's size and diverse environment, it's common to find wildlife on parts of the installation. But, personal safety is paramount. Anyone who sees wildlife around facilities, homes, or in public areas should contact our Civil Engineer team or Security Forces. They have experts trained and equipped to address wildlife and keep our families and visitors safe.

Q. At JBSA-Lackland, there is no way for children leaving the Youth Center to get to the back housing area (contractor provided housing) without walking in the street, unless they cross the street twice.

The sidewalk next to the youth center along Treumper Road ends at the corner of Service Road R (south side) and there isn't a sidewalk for them to use until they get to the contractor housing office at Kellack Street.

Kids are walking in the street or jaywalking to reach the other sidewalk. I'm not sure why a sidewalk wasn't put in originally. Can a sidewalk (about 50 feet) be poured to cover the gap?

A. Thank you very much for your question. The 502d Civil Engineer team conducted an assessment of the area and have identified a solution to provide a continuous path for that side of the street.

Unfortunately, the abundance of buried infrastructure along the grassy area adjacent to the street is prohibitive of installing a new sidewalk in that location. However, CE can tie into the existing raised sidewalk that is set back from the road by installing a new set of stairs and handrail which will lead to a new crosswalk, in order to provide a safer route for children walking to and from the Youth Center.

CE is already taking steps to prepare for the project, and should be completed by the end of July.

Q. Is it possible to put up signs at the intersections just inside of the Luke West and Selfridge East gates at JBSA-Lackland to direct inbound drivers of their right of way?

Ofentimes – especially Thursdays

and Fridays – drivers stop or yield even though they have the right of way. This causes congestion and eliminates the gaps between inbound vehicles for other lanes to proceed through the intersection.

A. Thank you for your suggestion. We recognize traffic is a significant challenge at all of our JBSA gates, and particularly so when major events at JBSA-Lackland are involved.

Regarding your idea of adding signage, our Civil Engineer and Security Forces experts met and surveyed the intersection to determine feasibility and effectiveness. The initial assessment was not supportive of adding new signage due to the fact that there is already an abundance of entry information signage in that area, and new signage would likely not be well noticed and potentially add more distraction.

Additionally, existing right of way traffic laws already provide the guidance needed. The issue will be officially reviewed as part of our next JBSA-Lackland Traffic Safety Working Group.

There is a plan for a major redesign and expansion of the Luke East gate, which is JBSA's No. 1 MILCON priority, and should address much of the traffic challenges in that area.

Q. What is the status on JBSA-Lackland Valley Hi Gate construction? It's a terrible mess to navigate through in the morning.

Not only have I witnessed accidents in the line to the gate, but I've been involved in a hit and run there due to the traffic.

A. I am extremely happy to report that the construction at Valley Hi Entry Control Point was completed May 22. Many thanks go to the amazing efforts by the entire Project Delivery Team which included CE, Contracting and Security Forces. I am equally grateful for the patience of those who were impacted by the project. This improvement to our installation's security could not have been accomplished without everyone's support.

Q. Why is the walk through gate at the Quadrangle on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston still open now that the North New Braunfels gate is open? Those personal manning that gate could easily man the Wilson gate instead. It wouldn't be that much farther to walk in the New Braunfels gates and it certainly affects way less people than closing the Wilson gate.

A. Thank you for your question. I asked

the same question myself a few months ago.

The New Braunfels gate is unfortunately not configured to safely process pedestrian traffic based on the sidewalk being on the opposite side of the street from the gate house. People would have to cross traffic to have their identity vetted which places them at risk for injury.

The pedestrian gate is properly configured for the safe entry of personnel who support Army North activities both at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and in the leased facilities adjacent to the post. The good news is a project to automate the pedestrian gate is being designed. Funding for the project is under discussion as well.

Once the pedestrian gate is automated, we will examine what gate capacity increases will best serve the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston community.

Miscellaneous

Q. This is regarding pets in base housing. I live in Frank Tejda West housing JBSA-Lackland on Vosler Loop. In the past two months there has been families moving in with pit bulls. I have contacted Balfour Beatty housing and was told these dogs were either grandfathered in or are service support dogs.

In one case the owner's dog has had two litters of pups in the last year, so it seems that they are breeding their dog. So my main concern is are pit bulls on the list of banned breeds?

A. Thank you for your question. The safety of our base housing residents is of the highest importance. The following dog breeds are not permitted at Lackland Family Homes as pets: Akita, Chow, Doberman, Pit Bull, Rottweiler, American Staffordshire Terriers, English Staffordshire Bull Terriers, wolf-hybrids or any other breed with dominant traits geared toward aggression.

Any mix-breed dog which has 50% or more Pit Bull or Rottweiler breed type is also prohibited. However, the dogs may indeed be grandfathered before the current restrictions were put in place, and dogs designated as service animals are exempt from the restrictions.

In order to determine the exact status, we will look at the details of that particular resident. We also wanted to highlight that our JBSA Military Housing Office at 210-671-2146 is always available to help resolve issues between residents and/or privatized owners of military family housing.

AF officials discuss plan for new officer promotion categories

From Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein shared in a memorandum to wing, numbered Air Force and major command commanders May 31, on a draft plan for new Line of the Air Force officer promotion categories.

The memo explains the proposed change and directs commanders to solicit and provide feedback from officers to major command commanders by July 31, with “a final recommendation due to the secretary and chief not later than Aug. 30, 2019.”

According to the memo, “The reemergence of great power competition, rapid development and fielding of advanced technologies, and new concepts of warfare and competition that span the entire spectrum of conflict demand a joint force structured to match this reality. These trends, if unaddressed, will challenge our ability to fight and win.”

The memo continues, “Over the past 18 months, we have extensively examined how we develop, evaluate and promote officers across our total force. We have concluded that our current system, which has served us well in the past, is not optimized to support future joint warfighting in this new era. Based on our research, extensive discussions with

Proposed Changes

The following are **Promotion Categories** and their **Composition**:

AIR OPERATIONS & SPECIAL WARFARE

Pilot (11X), Combat Systems (12X), Remotely Piloted Aircraft Pilot (18X), Air Battle Manager (13B), Special Tactics (13C), Combat Rescue (13D), Tactical Air Control Party (13L)

SPACE OPERATIONS

Space Operations (13S), Astronaut (13A)

NUCLEAR & MISSILE OPERATIONS

Nuclear and Missile Operations (13N)

INFORMATION WARFARE

Cyber Operations (17X), Intelligence (14N), Operations Research Analyst (61A), Weather (15W), Special Investigations (71S), Information Operations (14F), Public Affairs (35X)

COMBAT SUPPORT

Airfield Operations (13M), Aircraft Maintenance (21A), Munitions and Missile Maintenance (21M), Logistics Readiness (21R), Security Forces (31P), Civil Engineering (32E), Force Support (38F), Contracting (64P), Financial Management (65X)

FORCE MODERNIZATION

Chemist (61C), Physicist/Nuclear Engineer (61D), Developmental Engineer (62E), Acquisition Management (63A)

Note: Under this proposal existing promotion categories for judge advocates, chaplains and medical personnel will remain unchanged.

Airmen across the Air Force (active, Guard, Reserve and civilian), and surveys with joint and inter-agency teammates, we believe it is time to expand the Line of the Air Force promotion categories into more subgroupings. The following categories represent the disciplines

needed for future joint warfighting and allow for developmental competitive pathways that are optimized for each category.”

The memo sets the stage for gathering field input similar to what was done under the Revitalizing Squadrons effort.

The memo states, “While these changes have been reviewed and discussed at leadership levels, we realize this would be a significant change for the officer corps. Rather than make an immediate decision, we thought it best to share the draft with commanders first in order to engage in a dialogue with the officers assigned to you and solicit feedback before proceeding.”

In addition to commander-solicited feedback, Shon Manasco, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, and Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, will be deploying briefing teams to various installations across major commands and functional communities during June and July to brief the proposed changes in-depth, answer questions and capture feedback from Airmen who are able to attend.

Additional virtual venues and online sites will also be available to gather feedback from across the force.

The memo concludes, “For this change to succeed, commanders at every echelon must take ownership, understand and explain why we are proposing this change, listen to the officers entrusted to your care and pass your thoughts up the chain. Our future depends on getting this right.”

The briefing and specific questions and answers will be made available to broader audiences at a later date.

Tuition assistance, Navy College Program Policy updates announced

From Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy announced changes to tuition assistance and Navy College Program for Afloat College Education, or NCPACE, program management May 21 in Naval Administrative Message 114/19.

Beginning Oct. 1, enlisted Sailors and officers must complete a minimum of two years of service before becoming eligible to use tuition assistance, or TA, or NCPACE instructor-led or distance learning, or DL, courses. This requirement may not be waived.

In addition, TA and NCPACE DL funding is capped at 12 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) per fiscal year and a total of 120 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) in a career. Most Sailors in recent years have only used up to an average of nine semester

hours annually.

“Due to unprecedented usage and fiscal constraints, Navy is reshaping how we administer the TA and NCPACE programs,” said Jim Johnson, head of Navy Voluntary Education, or VOLEd. “We want to keep both programs available and sustainable for eligible Sailors, while ensuring our Sailors remain focused on their professional qualifications.”

Navy transformation efforts focused on improving the “Sailor experience” have dramatically improved the ease of access to several technical and education programs, including TA and NCPACE. As a result, fleetwide TA demand in FY19 was 30 percent higher at the mid-year review than the same point in FY18.

TA funding is expected to run out this month with no additional funding to be

made available for the remainder of FY19. Sailors currently taking classes or who are in receipt of a funded TA voucher will not be impacted.

Johnson said that every billet is important to the Navy’s mission and that commanding officers and officers in charge should judiciously manage their Sailors’ education outside of working hours. “A typical three-semester-hour college course requires up to 12 hours of weekly commitment,” he said. “COs and OICs should actively manage their Sailors’ off-duty education to meet their operational commitments when entering a period of increased operational tempo.”

Command leaders should establish benchmark qualifications that first-term Sailors must earn before using TA or NCPACE including damage control, maintenance, primary warfare, watch-station or other qualifications.

Affected Sailors who desire to continue taking courses for the remainder of FY19 should contact the Navy College Virtual Education Center at 877-838-1659 or via MyNavy Portal at <https://my.navy.mil/quick-links.html> to discuss other funding options, such as GI Bill, scholarships or financial aid.

Sailors could experience increased call wait times and are encouraged to use other means to speak with an education counselor including the VOLEd appointment scheduler on MNP, chatting via Live Help Now® or submitting a help request “trouble ticket” on the Navy College Program website.

For complete information on changes to the TA and NCPACE programs, read NAVADMIN 114/19 or visit <https://my.navy.mil/quick-links.html>.

Flight equipment redesigned for females

By Airman 1st Class
 Marcus M. Bullock

633RD AIR BASE WING
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Flight equipment is on its way through a major overhaul. The biggest change coming to the equipment is it is being designed with measurements from female aviators.

Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, held a Female Fitment Event June 4, where Air Force and Navy female aviators gathered to have their measurements taken, which will be used to design new prototypes for female flight equipment.

“We wanted to bring together a large enough group of women to get our different sizing both in our uniforms, helmets and masks,” said Lt. Col. Shelly Mendieta, plans and requirements officer. “When

you go to a squadron to go to a fitment event, there's usually only a couple of women, so to get a full spectrum of what is going to work for women aviators, we needed to bring them all together in one place.”

In the past, flight equipment has been designed to the measurements of males because there are statistically more male aviators. This means more male measurements were used as opposed to their female counterparts. Department of Defense leadership hopes to change that.

“The chief of staff of the United States Air Force is committed to seeing us make progress and better integrate humans into the machine environment mix,” said Brig. Gen. Edward Vaughan, Air Force directorate of readiness and training, assistant to the director. “What has happened



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MARCUS M. BULLOCK

over the years is that a lot of our data and information we use to design these systems have traditionally been based on men.”

Female aviators using flight equipment designed to the specifications of males presents a problem for their combat effectiveness. When it comes to the mission, the tools Airmen

use play a big role in mission success.

Vaughan explained that if flight equipment, from harness straps to flight suits, does not meet the needs of the human, as well as of the various machines used for our missions, then service members are not going to be as effective and ready for combat.

An Airman gets her head measured at the Female Fitment Event at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., June 4.

The information gathered from the event is going to be crucial in the development of not only female flight equipment, but female aviators as a whole across multiple branches.

“The goal is to ensure that the equipment that we are developing is going to fit properly, so that we have a safe and ready force,” Mendieta said. “By measuring a spectrum of women at different stages in their career, we can ensure that we have better equipment.”

For many female aviators, this marks a monumental push to ensure they are combat ready and their opinions are being heard.

“Women have been flying in the Air Force for a very long time,” Mendieta said. “We have made progress but this is the first time in my 20-year career that we have had the kind of momentum that we have to get this right. We have the opportunity to get this right and we have to grab that and take it for all it's worth.”

JBSA recycling contributes to environmental effort

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

World Environment Day, a United Nations program celebrated annually on June 5, gives people around the globe an opportunity to spring into positive environmental action and sustain that effort on a daily basis.

At Joint Base San Antonio, community members can embrace the message of World Environment Day and make a meaningful impact on the environment in many ways, including participation in a program that diverts materials such as cardboard, plastic containers, metals and paper documents from landfills and incinerators, reducing the amount of harmful chemicals and greenhouse gases that are released into the atmosphere.

The JBSA Qualified Recycling Program, or QRP, which has been operated in-house by Department of Defense civilians for nearly four years, serves all of JBSA, including mission partners, with a recycling facility at each of the main joint base locations, as well as outdoor cardboard receptacles and recycling bins inside and outside buildings throughout the installation.

“Recycling is important for our environment and our communities, including our JBSA community, because it protects and preserves our natural resources, creates jobs and saves money,” said Lisa Copeland, QRP analyst and outreach coordinator.

In addition to keeping recyclable materials out of landfills, recycling reduces the need to make new raw materials, conserving natural resources such as water, air and timber, and reduces energy consumption, Copeland said.

“For every ton of recycled material, 17 trees are spared, 60 pounds of air pollution is prevented, 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity, 7,000 gallons of water and 3 cubic yards of landfill space are saved,” she said.

Recycling’s challenges

Despite its environmental benefits, recycling now faces challenges that are adversely affecting the profitability and viability of the JBSA QRP and recycling programs all over the United States, Copeland said.

“There has been a significant downturn in some recyclable commodity

prices,” she said. “As a result, JBSA has to improve upon and change recycling practices.”

One of those challenges stems from China’s decision in recent years to stop accepting contaminated — or “dirty” — recyclables from the U.S. and other nations, Copeland said.

For more than 10 years, China was the main importer for more than half of America’s plastic, cardboard and mixed-paper recyclables, she said, but the country’s decision to stop accepting contaminated recyclables has left millions of tons of recyclables with nowhere to go.

“Every bale of recyclables that is received in China must consist of no more than 0.5 percent contamination, but locally, contamination levels exceed those that are accepted in China,” Copeland said. “This presents a serious problem for the entire U.S. recycling industry because if there is no market willing to buy these recyclable materials, local recyclers, including the JBSA QRP, cannot sell them.”

Members of the JBSA community can help the QRP meet its challenges, Copeland said.

“Everyone must change and improve the way they recycle and must stop discarding recyclables in the trash,” she said.

Cardboard: an important recycling commodity

Cardboard, one of the program’s most valuable and profit-generating commodities, is one of the recyclables being discarded as trash, Copeland said.

“We estimate that only half of the cardboard generated on base is being recycled,” she said. “The other half is going to the local landfills, so the recycling program is losing the opportunity for this revenue.”

On the other hand, some people are throwing trash — including food, fast-food wrappers, frozen food cartons, half-emptied beverage containers, greasy pizza and doughnut boxes, napkins and plastic cutlery — into recycling bins and trailers.

“When the recycling bins and trailers are contaminated with items such as food, beverages, grease and oil, it contaminates the entire load of recyclables, which turns those recyclables into trash that must be hauled

to the landfills,” Copeland said.

Some members of the base community are also mixing trash, binder clips, document protectors, paper clips and other items with the paper in the locked gray bins reserved exclusively for documents containing personally identifiable information, or PII, and other paper materials covered by the Privacy Act, which significantly slows down the recycling process.

“We need to emphasize that not only are we asking the base populace to stop putting trash in the Privacy Act bins, but also we are asking that they stop putting non-Privacy Act papers and paper products such as books and magazines in them,” Copeland said.

She also noted that electronic waste, hazardous waste and hazardous waste containers, government furnishings and electronics are not items or materials that are recycled by the QRP, and that hazardous waste such as chemicals, solvents, corrosives and non-alkaline batteries must be handled and disposed of properly and can be turned in at the JBSA hazardous waste facilities.

All government-purchased and government-furnished items must be turned in to Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services.

Some plastics no longer accepted

The downturn in recyclable commodity prices has forced the recycling program to cut back on the plastic materials it accepts, Copeland said.

“Instead, we are having to limit plastics to those that are labeled No. 1 or No. 2, which include such items as soda and water bottles, mouthwash bottles, milk jugs, juice bottles, household cleaner bottles, shampoo bottles and others,” she said. “Prior to the downturn, the JBSA QRP accepted plastics No. 1 through No. 7, but buyers and brokers of recyclable commodities are no longer paying for plastics No. 3 through No. 7. In fact, they are having to charge for accepting these plastics, so it will cost the QRP money to recycle plastics other than No. 1 and No. 2.”

In addition to cardboard — which should be flattened and either placed next to the 95-gallon recycling bins at designated areas, in work centers and in designated trailers throughout JBSA for pickup or taken to the recycling centers — and plastics that are labeled Nos. 1 and 2, recyclable items at JBSA include ink and toner cartridges.

“But they have to be boxed and labeled, indicating the type of cartridges to be recycled, and placed next to the 95-gallon

recycling bins for pickup or taken to the recycling centers,” Copeland said.

Other recyclable items include paper materials such as office paper, envelopes, brochures, manila file folders and shredded paper as long as it is bagged and tied tightly.

“Clean, white office paper is the most valuable of the paper recyclable commodities, so it should be segregated and placed in a separate recycling bin for pickup,” Copeland said.

Spent brass ammo casings .50-caliber and below also are recyclable, but only DLA and the QRP are permitted to sell them.

“This message is important because some members of the base community have been taking the brass, selling it directly to recyclers and pocketing the money,” Copeland said. “Not only does this impact the recycling program’s revenue, but more importantly it is illegal — a federal offense that can lead to imprisonment.”

The recycling centers accept all types of scrap metals — not only aluminum cans, but also tin and steel cans, as well as large metal items and appliances, Copeland said.

“However, we are having a problem with people bringing appliances to the recycling center without them being purged of fluids such as refrigerants and oils, so we’d like to remind people that the fluids must be removed from the appliances before being brought to the recycling center,” she said. “But we caution that refrigerants must be purged by certified personnel.”

QRP is self-supporting

The JBSA community’s cooperation benefits the environment and the QRP, which is a self-supporting program that does not rely on tax money, Copeland said.

All of the revenue generated from the sale of recyclable commodities goes back into the program and is used to pay for the maintenance and operational costs of the three JBSA recycling facilities, she said.

In addition, excess revenue generated by the QRP can be used to fund environmental programs such as energy conservation, pollution abatement, and occupational health and safety, as well as morale, welfare and recreation projects for the installation, Copeland said.

“We need to change the mindset of the entire JBSA population about recycling,” she said. “In order for the JBSA QRP to remain robust, viable and profitable, it is essential that we have the support of the entire joint base populace.”

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Student returns to JBSA-FSH as general officer

By Tish Williamson

HEALTH READINESS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A South Korean delegation, led by a former international student trained at the Health Readiness Center of Excellence, or HRCoE, visited Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston recently.

It has been more than two decades since Brig. Gen. Myoung-ok Kwon of the Republic of Korea Army was an international military student at the HRCoE in what is now known as the Captains Career Course, but she still has fond memories of the experience.

Kwon who attended training at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston from July-December 1997 is currently the Korea Armed Forces Nursing Academy superintendent.

“When I knew I was going to travel abroad for business, I was looking forward to visiting (JBSA-Fort Sam Houston) because I have good memories of my time here,” she said through an interpreter.

The HRCoE currently trains more than 220 international students from 54 different allied and partner nations mainly through the International Military Education and Training, or IMET, program.

The IMET program provides U.S. government funds to members of foreign militaries to take classes at U.S. military facilities. The program is designed to assist foreign militaries receive the training, regardless of the country’s financial ability. The ROK training, however, is funded entirely by the Republic of Korea through the Foreign Military Sales program with the Department of Defense.

These programs, and associated training, bolster foreign relationships with the United States as their soldiers learn about U.S. military’s standards and policies related to materiel, leadership, doctrine, training, education, personnel, facilities and organizational structure to foster democratic values in their members. These partnerships help better develop current and future capabilities and improve standardization and interoperability between the U.S. and its allies and partners.

Most of the courses available to IMS at the HRCoE are categorized as Professional Military Education with a focus on leader development like the Basic Officer Leadership and Captains Career Courses; public health courses like Preventative Medicine and Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist Courses; or combat medicine training like the Combat Medic, Trauma Nursing Core and Combat Casualty Care Courses.

Oscar Ramos, director, International Programs Division, who is responsible for the International



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Republic of Korea Army Brig. Gen. Myoung-ok Kwon, second from right, superintendent for the Korea Armed Forces Nursing Academy, observes a live demonstration of a combat trauma management scenario during a May visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Military Student Office, noted that 84 of the more than 380 courses taught at the HRCoE are also available through international partnerships.

“When Brig. Gen. Kwon was a student in what is now the Captains Career Course, we only had about 48 courses available to the international military community under the Security Assistance Training Program,” Ramos said. “Now we have more than 80 resident courses available and will continue to expand opportunities, based on emerging interests by participating countries.”

ROK Army Maj. Jisun Lee recently attended the Principles of Military Preventative Medicine course at the HRCoE and graduated May 17. Lee is an OB-GYN doctor and director of the Health Promotion Center at the Armed Forces Daejeon Hospital located in Daejeon, Korea, and is responsible to provide basic preventative medicine care for her patients.

“The course was really helpful. I learned a lot,” Lee said. “There was a lot of curriculum that I had not studied before like entomology, occupational health, environmental health, radiation and epidemiology. I think it was advantageous for me to attend because in Korea we don’t have a structured preventative medicine course.”

Kwon also believes she had an advantage after completing her IMS training as a captain with the HRCoE. Upon returning to Korea more than 22 years ago, she put her training to use when she was assigned to the Korean Armed Forces Medical School as an instructor of nursing by designing a field training exercise scenario for her students.

“One of the subjects we learned while I was here

was field training and we even conducted a field training exercise as part of the course,” Kwon said.

She described how the field training exercise, or FTX, consisted of a mass casualty scenario with treatment from the point of injury through the medical evacuation. She recalls developing superior teamwork with her classmates during the course, noting that success depended on working as a team on many classroom projects, during the FTX and during the class obstacle course exercise.

The general was surprised to learn that the HRCoE had stopped training students in a field environment nearly two decades ago but was happy to know that the FTX was reinstated this year in an effort to ensure soldier lethality on the battlefield by increasing rigor in the classroom.

“It (the FTX) was very beneficial,” Kwon said. “Based on the knowledge and skills that I learned from here, along with my colleagues, I created a field training exercise course for the medical school.”

She said her efforts to add field training to her curriculum were applauded and she was favorably recognized by the medical school at the time for being innovative and creating the new FTX program in Korea through the knowledge gained during her training at the HRCoE.

During the visit, the delegation received overview briefs on the HRCoE, international programs and preventative health. The group also received a demonstration at the Tactical Combat Medical Care Course and a tour of the emergency department and burn center at Brooke Army Medical Center and visited the Center for the Intrepid.

This visit by Kwon and the entire Korean delegation demonstrates how the IMS program creates long-lasting personal relationships and often includes men and women who later ascend to high ranks and become influential policymakers in their home countries.

The program plays an important role in the United States’ military-to-military relations with many of our strategic partners and allied nations to help understand the operational environment and critical capabilities each brings to the fight.

“What has impressed me during this visit is that there were just a few programs at the time that I studied here but now you have a lot of available programs,” Kwon said.

She believes that this is a very exciting time for the IMS partnership.

“I plan to go back to Korea and evaluate and discuss with colleagues what kind of other programs and additional courses our nursing officers may benefit from.”

Beads of Courage mark milestones for children at BAMC

By Liz Wise

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
RETIREE ACTIVITY GROUP VOLUNTEER

Cancer is a tough row to hoe no matter what age you are. If you're old enough to understand at least some of the things the nurses and doctors tell you, it helps some.

But what if you're a kid? All you know is that people keep poking and prodding and other stuff that's so uncomfortable.

That's where Beads of Courage comes in. For almost every procedure that happens to the little patient while in the hospital at Brooke Army Medical Center, a brightly colored bead is given to the child or their parent. Like the gold star you got as a kid for a job well done, the bead says "that stunk, but I got through it."

The Beads of Courage Program is a resilience-based, arts-in-medicine, supportive care program designed to support children and their families coping with serious illness, according to their website.

Why beads? Like the medals and certificates military members receive showing bravery and the accomplishments of their career, the beads tell the child's medical story and are symbols of courage that acknowledge milestones they have achieved and procedures they have gone through as part of their medical treatment plan.

Here's where BAMC Retiree Activity Group, or BRAG, volunteer Elvira



JASON W. EDWARDS

Brooke Army Medical Center Retiree Activity Group volunteer Elvira Morales sorts beads in the neonatal intensive care unit May 29.

Morales comes in. Morales helps with the beads program by stocking the boxes from which the nurses take beads for their patients in the neonatal intensive care unit, pediatrics ward and pediatric intensive care unit. She's been volunteering at BAMC since March 2014.

"I started in the labor and delivery unit as an escort," Morales said. "When the beads program began in October 2017, I stepped in to help with that."

Besides volunteering with the beads

program Morales is attending graduate school at the University of Texas San Antonio. She already has a bachelor's of science degree in public health and is now majoring in biotechnology to eventually become an obstetrics/gynecology physician.

Morales said she loves what she does and where she does it, and would very much like to return to BAMC to work once she completes her education.

"I love it here; that's why I've been here so long," she said. "I love this

hospital."

According to Amy Beyer, BAMC's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit medical social worker, within a few days of the child being admitted, he/she is issued a drawstring bag, a cord to string the beads on, the proper alphabet beads to spell their name, and what's called a prescription card — a card listing all the different beads and the procedures assigned to them.

As procedures are marked on the card the corresponding bead is pulled and placed in the child's bag. For example, if the child receives a transfusion, he gets a red bead, if he receives wound care he gets a tortoise bead, and if he gets poked he gets a black bead.

When all treatments are done and the child is well enough to go home he is given a bead shaped like a dove.

However, in the unfortunate case the child doesn't make it, the family is given a large colorful butterfly bead to finish his string.

"Children aren't the only ones who benefit from the beads," Beyer said. "Parents enjoy them as well. They find them therapeutic as well as educational. Stringing the beads gives the parents something to do during wait times and allows them to see what their child has been through."

Later, they can show a child, who maybe was too young to understand at the time, what had happened to them, and makes it easier to share with others what the family and the child had gone through," she added.

ARMY NORTH HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMPANY WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Timothy Hickman, center, U.S. Army North Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion commander, stands at attention with Capt. Adam C. Crawford, right, outgoing commander for the ARNORTH Headquarters Support Company, and Capt. Stephanie E. Hecker, left, incoming commander for HSC, after the passing of the guidon during a change of command ceremony at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston stables June 3. The change of command ceremony represents the passing of responsibilities for a unit from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander.



SGT. ANDREW VALLES

Local chamber members learn of JBSA growth, future plans

By Kathy Salazar

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio hosted 16 members of local Chambers of Commerce from cities located near JBSA installations during its first chamber summit at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston on June 4.

Chamber members were told about of the future growth of JBSA, to include more than 800 new people this year and how this will affect JBSA and the surrounding communities. This growth will mean new challenges, but also new opportunities, ranging from infrastructure to community initiatives.

“We need to work together to ensure our growth inside of our fence line and the ongoing growth in the local communities remains compatible,” said Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, 502nd ABW and JBSA commander. “Our partnerships with the Chambers of Commerce play an invaluable role in allowing our military and civilian communities to continue to thrive together.”

To achieve this, Lenderman



TRISTIN ENGLISH

Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman (center), commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, hosted 16 members of local Chambers of Commerce from cities located near JBSA installations during the first chamber summit June 4 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

encouraged the chamber members to become part of JBSA's Public-Public, Public-Private, or P4, Community Partnership Initiative Program.

Other effects of this increased growth include budget constraints, which led Lenderman to discuss how JBSA can partner with the community to benefit both the civilian and government sector.

One opportunity is the Intergovernmental Support Agreement, or IGSA. IGSA's allow military bases to purchase commodities and services from local municipalities, counties, and states. One of the first projects to be completed utilizing this program was

the paving of a street at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. The Air Force's first IGSA paving project provided a 25 percent cost reduction and took 45 days instead of the usual 120 days.

“Adding military value is exactly what we aim to do,” said retired Marine Maj. Gen. Juan Ayala, director of the Office of Military Affairs for the City of San Antonio. “We are putting our money where our mouth is by providing infrastructure support to our military. We also need community support, and that's where the chambers come in.”

“The West San Antonio Chamber of

Commerce is supporting the military and their family members by providing self-development education and workforce opportunities through our membership,” said Kristi Villanueva, West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce president and CEO.

“Spouse employment has become one of the top priorities for the Department of Defense,” said Serafina De Los Santos, 502d Force Support Group deputy commander. “We are working very closely with the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to ensure spouses have the certifications the state requires.”

“The Career Skills Program is another great program across the Department of Defense that partners with local businesses to provide apprenticeships to our spouses and our transitioning service members,” De Los Santos added.

The program also provides internships, employment skills training and job shadowing. Service members that are within 180 days from transitioning out of the military are eligible to participate in the program.

CHAMBERS continues on 10

BAMC volunteers earn presidential award for devotion to patients, staff

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A select group of Brooke Army Medical Center volunteers received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award May 30 for their thousands of service hours aiding patients and staff.

The award is presented to individuals who have contributed 4,000 or more hours of service in their lifetime.

"We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers," said Brig. Gen. George Appenzeller, BAMC commanding general.

Last year, BAMC volunteers gave more than 79,000 hours of their time, he noted. And since BAMC started tracking hours in 1994, volunteers have given more than 2 million service hours — an "incalculable" contribution to service members and their families, he said.

"I can't think of another place with this kind of commitment," the general said. "What you give to us is immeasurable."

While all of BAMC's award recipients had contributed well over 4,000 hours, a few volunteers managed to clock an astounding 12,000 hours of service to BAMC, said Michael Dulevitz, chief, Office of Volunteer Services.

Shirley Adcock, age 92, has served more than 12,000 hours since 1996. She has volunteered



PHOTOS BY GABE WEBSTER

Shirley Adcock, left, and Jerry Day have volunteered more than 12,000 service hours each at Brooke Army Medical Center.

as a tour guide, a ward listener and currently serves as a greeter for the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center intensive care unit. Adcock has also crocheted hundreds of dolls for pediatric patients.

"Shirley has an irrepressible spirit and strives to make the world around her a better place for all," Dulevitz said.

"This is my way of saying thank you," Adcock said.

Jerry Day, a ward clerk for the 2 North surgical ICU since 2001, also has contributed more than 12,000 hours to the BAMC mission. Along with the presidential award, Day received the Commander's Award for Public Service for his many hours of selfless service.

A few husband-and-wife teams also have clocked an

impressive number of hours. Carl and Rieko Johnson are dual-hatted as Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care's Post-Anesthesia Care Unit greeters and Fisher House hospitality volunteers. Between both jobs, they have each given more than 7,000 hours of service.

Ed and Barbara Bowles, library technicians, have followed the medical library through four moves, each contributing over 4,100 hours of service. Jack and Martha Rips also have given 4,100 hours of service as Fisher House volunteers.

These are just a few of the many exceptional volunteers at BAMC, Dulevitz noted. "I want to thank all of our volunteers for what they do and have given on behalf of our health care mission," he said.

Other recipients of the President's Lifetime Achievement Award include:

► Dr. Hal Allen, ward listener trainer and ward listener, Department of Nursing, 5,000 hours

► Debra Aparicio, clerk, Nursing Operations, 5,073 hours

► Diana Battan, Hematology/Oncology Clinic and patient transport, 6,000 hours

► Marguerite Blankenship, Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care greeter, post-anesthesia care unit, 5,100 hours

► Aida Braley, Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care greeter, post-anesthesia care unit, 7,000 hours

► Ron Burc, information desk greeter, 6,000 hours

► Joe Campbell, Red Cross volunteer, BAMC's Optical Fabrication Lab, 6,800 hours

► Will Salvador Campos, ward listener, 6,000 hours

► Joyce Earnest, ward clerk on 2T and president, BAMC Retiree Activities Group, 5,900 hours

► Erika Feaser, information desk greeter, 4,800 hours

► Ann and Stan Fritz, greeters, Burn Center Intensive Care Unit, 5,500 hours each

► Dr. Joyce Habina, Caremobile driver, 6,000 hours

► Robert. T. Hansen, clerk, Internal Medicine Clinic, 7468 hours

► Ursula Hoglund, main pharmacy greeter, 6,500 hours

► Heidimarie Hundley, patient library, 4,400 hours

► Jerry Jarvis, ward listener coordinator/ward listener, Department of Nursing, 5606 hours

► Curtis Jungman, Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care administrator, 6,700 hours

► Catherine Killinger, ISR Burn Center ICU greeter, 4,400 hours

► Phil Lewis, PACU greeter and on-call chaplain, 7,058 hours

► Torrance McKenna, main pharmacy greeter, 4,587 hours

► Tony Meyer, Center for the Intrepid tour guide, 7,500 hours

► Willie Noles, greeter/medic, Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic, 5,500 hours

► Irene Orozco, greeter, Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion for Catholic patients, 4,320 hours

► Margarita Potter, Fisher House, 4,084 hours

► Pedro Rivera-Ortega, patient transport, 5,100 hours

► Norbert Schneider, Caremobile driver, patient transport, 7,800 hours

► Patrick Spencer, Medical Mall information desk greeter, 10,200 hours

► Margaret Swartz, clerk, Logistics, Materiel Branch, 5,323 hours

► Josephine Twedell, BRAG volunteer, 3 South ward clerk, 6,500 hours

► Barbara Williams, community/refill pharmacy volunteer, 4,800 hours

For more information about volunteer service at BAMC, call 210-916-5388/5381.

CHAMBERS

From page 9

"This is a great program that allows our transitioning service members and employers to go for a 'test drive,'" De Los Santos said.

"We have put on a job fair for the past four years for the transitioning military members and their spouses," said Maggie Titterington, Schertz-Cibolo-Selma Area

Chamber of Commerce president. "These job fairs are organized by our Chairman of Military Affairs, Ivory Freeman. As a veteran himself, Mr. Freeman went through the transition from active duty military to civilian life, and he knows firsthand just how difficult this can be."

Another way that JBSA is partnering with the surrounding Chambers of Commerce is a direct outreach to small businesses to aid them

in navigating the military's contracting process.

"We have two people within the 502d Contracting Squadron who are small business specialists," said Col. Paul Porter, 502d Contracting Squadron commander. "Any business that wants work with the government can receive help with the process."

"The majority of our small business owners are women from our chamber," said John Agather, from the San Antonio

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors. "One of the things we are going to do this year is concentrate on the basics of how to become a military contractor."

Overall, the summit further solidified the relationship between San Antonio and the surrounding cities with JBSA.

"The Department of Defense is the largest employer in the region," Ayala noted. "We want economic impact. We

want to grow."

"From my years in the military, I can't recall a single installation that touches as many entities as JBSA, whether it's civic, business, or the indirect economic impact that the military has on this community," Ayala added.

"That's where the local chambers come in. We need that regional support to ensure we advocate for the military. We need to ensure we sustain their missions."

Veterinary Corps marks birthday with new textbook

By Ernest J. Barner

BORDEN INSTITUTE PUBLIC AFFAIRS, HEALTH READINESS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The Borden Institute, an agency of the Health Readiness Center of Excellence, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, released "Military Veterinary Services" as a part of the Textbooks of Military Medicine series June 3.

This textbook is the first publication dedicated solely to veterinary services in the military and the institute released it on the 103rd anniversary of the

U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

With more than 120 contributors, the textbook highlights the overlapping scope of veterinary readiness services. It includes topics on food protection, animal health, veterinary public health, research support, research development, training and education. The foreword was written by Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, the surgeon general, U.S. Army, and commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command.

Retired Brig. Gen. John L. Poppe, the 25th chief of the Army Veterinary Corps, was the senior consultant and editor for the publication.

"This is the first textbook that captures the truly unique mission and practice of military veterinary medicine," Poppe said. "Veterinary service support is directly tied to the overall readiness of military service members and the Department of Defense."

Department of Defense personnel can request a complimentary copy at <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/borden>.



COURTESY PHOTO

Retired Brig. Gen. John Poppe, left, 25th chief of the Army Veterinary Corps, presents the first copy of the "Military Veterinary Services" textbook to retired Brig. Gen. Charles Elia, the 15th chief of the Army Veterinary Corps.

Law enforcement officials share perspectives on opioid crisis

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Representatives from federal, local and military law enforcement agencies discussed the causes and effects of opioids and illegal drug use on society and strategies to combat it at a community forum at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston June 7.

The forum, "The State of the Community Report: Understanding the Opioids and Illegal Drug Crisis from a Law Enforcement Perspective," was hosted by the Joint Base San Antonio Substance Abuse Program at the Fort Sam Houston Theater.

Leslie Noel, Joint Base Substance Abuse Program prevention coordinator, said the forum was the first ever at JBSA to bring local, federal and military law enforcement officials together to talk about the opioids and illegal drug use crisis locally and nationally.

"The purpose is to actually bring the law enforcement and military community together so they can actually talk about understanding the opioid and illicit drug crisis in San Antonio, Texas and nationwide," Noel said. "We want to develop a relationship between our federal and local police departments in law enforcement. We want to actually give our community, the military community, the opportunity to know what is actually going on."

A panel of law enforcement officials answered questions presented by Staff



DAVID DEKUNDER

Shane Bonnette (left), South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program training coordinator, and Sammie Anderson (right), U.S. Custom and Border Patrol assistant chief patrol agent, discuss the causes and effects of opioids and illegal drug use on society and strategies to combat it during a community forum June 7 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Sgt. Tonya Ross, Company B, 187th Medical Battalion instructor and Sgt. Joni Reyna, 106th Signal Brigade behavioral health NCO in charge, on various topics and issues about opioids and illegal drug use.

The panel included Armando Talamantez, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration special agent for the San Antonio District Office; Shane Bonnette, South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, or HIDTA, training coordinator; Sammie Anderson, U.S. Custom and Border Patrol assistant chief patrol agent; Sgt. Brian Bielefeld, San Antonio Police Department; and Richard Grose, JBSA Criminal Investigation Division assistant special agent in charge.

Bonnette said the opioid and illegal drug crisis has had negative repercussions in the local community, adding that Bexar County makes up 17 percent of adults in Texas seeking

treatment for heroin addiction. In addition, there has been a 300 percent increase in Bexar County in the number of youths using synthetic opioids, making up 16 percent of youths in the state who use synthetic opioids.

Another disturbing trend of the opioid crisis locally is the affect it is having on newborns.

"Bexar County leads the nation in opioid-addicted babies," Bonnette said. "That is crazy."

Talamantez said the opioid crisis is made worse because many youth are abusing pharmaceutical drugs that were prescribed to their parents or grandparents, taking them out of medicine cabinets to use.

He said youth abusing opioid and pharmaceutical drugs is a big problem he has heard and seen at high schools he has visited while conducting drug prevention education. Talamantez said these students mistakenly believe

taking the prescription drugs are safe because they have been prescribed by a doctor.

"When students believe it is safe or not as bad for them, they're going to try it," Talamantez said.

Answering a question from a community member in the audience, Talamantez said the opioid crisis affects every age, demographic and profession throughout the nation.

"Opioids don't discriminate," he said. "It hits everybody, teenagers, stay-at-home moms, the working community ... everybody from the blue collar workers to our doctors. Even those in our medical profession are getting addicted to some of these substances they are prescribing. This is across the board."

Bielefeld said the key to drug prevention starts at home. He said the San Antonio Police Department has mental health units that help and assist children and parents who are having issues.

Gross said the local U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Command is trained what to look out for when it comes to opioids and narcotics. He said there has not been an increase in opioid and illegal drug usage at JBSA installations, but that CID is prepared to deal with the problem.

He said the best way to prevent the problem from growing at JBSA is through education and prevention at the unit level, including having an effective drug detection program and communicating with service members.

LACKLAND

Air Force medic trainee saves choking toddler

From 59th Medical Wing
Public Affairs

An Airman from the 59th Medical Wing performed lifesaving intervention on a choking toddler at a local restaurant in San Antonio March 30.

Airman 1st Class Tobias Titus, an aerospace medical technician in training, and his wife were having dinner when he noticed a mother and grandmother at an adjacent table attempting to dislodge a piece of food from a toddler's airway.

After hearing the mother say the child was not breathing and

noticing the toddler beginning to turn blue, Titus quickly positioned himself to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

"I trusted my training," Titus said. "I saw someone who was in need of help and responded accordingly. I received great training from an exceptional team of instructors who taught us the skills we would need to save a life if such a situation should occur."

After delivering the first back blow, Titus saw a piece of food expel from the toddlers' mouth and the child began to cry.

"It didn't surprise me that Titus was the Airman who stepped up when duty called,"

said Tech. Sgt. Asia West, Aerospace Medical Service Apprentice Phase II course supervisor. "The best learning experiences come when you least expect it, and in this case, Airman Titus is a prime example of always being vigilant."

Titus was recognized for his swift actions by Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes, 59th MDW commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Frizzell, 59th MDW command chief May 22.

He is set to graduate from AMSA Phase II training in June and will be stationed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, as a certified Air Force medic.



STAFF SGT. AMANDA STANFORD

Airman 1st Class Tobias Titus, an aerospace medical technician in training at the 59th Medical Wing, is recognized by Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes, 59th MDW commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Frizzell, 59th MDW command chief, for performing lifesaving intervention on a choking toddler at a local restaurant March 30.

SERE training detachment gains new commander

By 1st Lt. Kayshel Trudell

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialists and their friends, family and fellow Airmen gathered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 7 to witness the symbolic passing of the guidon, as Lt. Col. Patrick Graham transferred the authority and responsibility of leading Det. 3 of the 66th Training Squadron to Maj. Toby Andrews.

Lt. Col. Andrew Perven, 66th Training Squadron commander, who presided over the change of command ceremony, spoke of his appreciation for Graham, who led Det. 3 to a number of milestone achievements.

"Your command tour will go down in the record books," Berven said. "You have been an inspirational leader, an Airman's Airman who touched



JOHNNY SALLIDVAR

Lt. Col. Andrew P. Berven (left), 66th Training Squadron commander, passes the guidon to Maj. Toby A. Andrews, assuming command, during the 66th TRS Detachment 3, change of command ceremony June 7 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

lives. You handled everything we threw at you with grace, professionalism, courage and level-headedness and inspired those under your command."

Prior to relinquishing command, Graham, who is headed to 366th Training Support Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, took the opportunity to address his team one last time.

"It has been an absolute honor to serve as your commander," Graham said. "This team's constant dedication, unwavering drive to operate effectively and ability to consistently excel has been impressive. Being part of this awe inspiring enterprise the last two years has truly shown me what it means to be prepared to 'Returning with

Honor.' Thank you."

Before Andrews addressed his team for the first time as Det. 3 commander, Berven took a moment to convey the trust and confidence he has in him to take the reins and continue to move the detachment forward.

"[Andrews] brings a wealth of knowledge that will directly translate into the SERE mission," Berven said. "I have full faith in you and your abilities, and will always trust and empower you as you take the helm today."

In his first address to his new unit, Andrews relayed his admiration for both the Airmen in the unit and its mission.

"I am humbled to have been entrusted to lead such a unique and elite team of specialists," Andrews said. "This team is inspiring and each of you heroic. The delicate way you balance training America's warfighters who are heading

into harm's way and training the future of the SERE community is the embodiment of excellence. Thank you for this opportunity to serve alongside you."

A pilot, Andrews has flown the UH-1N Twin Huey, HH-60G Pave Hawk, UH-1 Huey helicopters and the T-6A Texan II throughout his career. Andrews graduated from the University of Miami in 2006 and earned a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati in 2010.

Det. 3 is a diverse group consisting of SERE specialists, individual duty medical technicians, psychology specialists, and contractors. It is responsible for two main missions: supplying quality SERE specialist candidates to the career field's training pipeline and teaching military and civilian personnel with high risk of isolation or capture the skills they need to survive in any environment or situation.

AF BMT fine-tunes program with major modernizations

U.S. Air Force basic military trainees practice assembling and disassembling their M16 trainer weapon at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland May 2.



PHOTO BY SARAYUTH PINTHONG

From Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

As part of the Basic Military Training curriculum revamp centered on readiness and lethality, airmanship, fitness and the warrior ethos, multiple changes to training are set to begin this summer.

BMT is set to receive close to 9,000 M4 training rifles, and after renovations to the combat arms range are completed, BMT will switch from the M16 weapons familiarization course to the M4 weapons qualification course.

Also starting in the summer, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response curriculum will incorporate technology to create an interactive learning environment. The tablet-based approach will leverage both a podium instructor and electronic scenarios, which trainees can interact with for an immersive learning experience.

"The smart infusion of technology will provide more of an opportunity for more powerful learning outcomes going forward," said Col. Jason Corrothers, 737th Training Group and Basic Military Training commander.

Meanwhile in the fall, BMT will have embedded exercise physiologists in every squadron. These sports medicine experts will train permanent-party staff, and coach and council trainees to help prevent injury and injury rehabilitation.

In addition to embedded exercise physiologists, BMT has incorporated hand-to-hand combative training. Since incorporating more physical fitness into BMT, Corrothers said, the BMT attrition is down from 6.5 percent to 5.5 percent, and he credits the reduction to the construction of the more challenging program.

Alamo Wing hosts clergy from throughout Texas

By Tech. Sgt. Carlos J. Treviño
433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Twenty clerics from different faiths and from all over the state of Texas endured the South Texas summer heat and humidity arriving here at sunrise June 1 to participate in the 433rd Airlift Wing's Clergy Appreciation Day.

The event, hosted by the 433rd AW Chaplains office, was to provide clerics who were each nominated by their 433rd Airlift Wing Reserve Citizen Airmen an opportunity to learn about the Air Force Reserve, the Alamo Wing and more importantly, receive a better understanding of the Air Force Chaplain Corps' mission.

"This is really an important event that we have here because we only have our Reserve Citizen Airmen here for two days a month," Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ted Nicholson, 433rd AW chaplain said. "They, the civilian ministers, have them for 28 days during the month."

The group was served a hot breakfast and was welcomed by Col. Terry McClain, 433rd AW commander. Lt. Col. James "J.C." Miller, 433rd Operations Group deputy commander, gave the wing's mission briefing, and then Nicholson briefed the group about the Air Force Chaplain Corps and the role

they play in the Air Force. He also spoke to the clergy to better equip them to minister to the needs of the Reservists at their places of worship.

Before boarding the aircraft, one of the local clergymen, Chaplain Josue Tapia, with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, volunteered to say a prayer for safe flight. They then boarded a bus to the flightline for a flight on a C-5M Super Galaxy.

"I wanted to experience firsthand what happens militarily to our chaplains," said Senior Pastor Jerry Dailey, Macedonia Baptist Church. "I have members who are Air Force and this gave me a closer connection, by personally experiencing it as a civilian pastor.

"Number one, I have never been in the cockpit before and that was amazing," said an impressed Dailey. "Being able to look out and see God's handiwork first hand as a pastor was amazing. To see how awesome this aircraft is, that five Greyhound buses can get on this aircraft."

Once aboard, the flight traveled south flying over the Texas coast before turning around at Brownsville. During the 1 1/2-hour trip, guests took turns filing from the troop compartment to the flight deck to observe the pilots and flight engineer work and marvel at the scene



TECH. SGT. CARLOS J. TREVIÑO

Tech. Sgt. Eric Ganley, right, 68th Airlift Squadron flight engineer, uses an electronic tablet to show Josue Tapia, Bexar County Sheriff's Office chaplain, their location in-flight on a C-5M Super Galaxy during the 433rd Airlift Wing's annual Clergy Day flight June 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

below.

"This clergy appreciation day was for pastors and clergy to know what their Reserve Citizen Airmen members are going through and how to support them through contingency operations," said Chaplain (Maj.) Jesse Howard, 433rd Airlift Wing chaplain.

"They may need to be supporting their families, and Clergy Day gives them an idea of what Reservists do," Howard said. "This was a fun and short trip to what we all do and see the hecticness of

what we do."

Clergy Day's success could be summed up by Dailey.

"The heavens declared the glory of God, so I had a chance to experience that firsthand on the C-5, and I got to be with other pastors who, likewise, had that same encounter and experience," he said.

"I now have a greater sensitivity to the tremendous work of a chaplain and how a chaplain ministers to the military and to those families," Dailey said. "I will never forget this."

Inspector General: fact finders for customers, commanders

By **Mary Nell Sanchez**

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The inspector general's office at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is charged with facilitating the commander's inspection program and operating the complaints resolutions program to help the mission continue successfully.

"Our primary mission is to investigate cases of reprisal or restriction," said Samuel Nunez Jimenez, 37th Training Wing director of complaints and resolutions.

While complainants are encouraged to seek assistance through their chain of command first, Nunez says the IG office is always ready to help.

All cases are kept confidential. Department of Defense employees and contractors may also file a complaint. If a complainant feels their concern isn't getting addressed by the chain of command, they have the option to contact the IG office.

"Once you have reported a wrongdoing, you are protected by the whistleblower's protection act. If anybody takes any action against an individual reporting any wrongdoing,

that's called reprisal," Nunez added.

Anytime someone experiences some kind of work conflict or wrongdoing, the IG office steps in to gather information with the hopes of getting some kind of resolution for the parties involved. Some examples include a toxic work environment, abuse of authority, inappropriate counseling, an erroneous evaluation or unfair disciplinary action.

"They go from reprisal all the way down to 'my boss does not like me,'" Nunez said. "Sometimes people fear addressing their issues with the chain of command, so the IG offers a venue for them to address their issues with some sort of protection."

If the request comes from a unit outside the IG's responsibility, it is referred to the appropriate IG office to handle.

"We have to own the person or the program that the complaint is about," said Eva Rutledge, 502nd Air Base Wing director of complaints and resolutions, who added their office handles about 100 complaints a year.

Once the complainant has found the right avenue to address and possibly resolve their issue, an investigation is

conducted and a report is submitted to the appointing authority.

"We analyze it and if it's something that's the responsibility of the commander, we refer it to that command," Nunez said. "If the Department of Defense approves the investigator's findings, then the case is sent back to the unit and referred to command for action."

While the complaints resolution side of the IG works on its fact-finding cases, the other side of the IG office is focused on inspections, conducting exercises and dealing with special interest items.

The wing inspections team is charged with looking at an item or items within a group or squadron to assure it is operating as it should be. An example would be unit training management. As part of that, they conduct horizontal inspections. They include physical training programs, records management and any other program that touches everyone in the wing.

There are also vertical inspections which assess a unit's performance. The IG office validates a unit's compliance in executing the mission, improving the

unit, leading the people and managing resources.

"They submit a report to the wing commander to give them an idea of health, assessment and verification of where their wing is at as far as training," Jimenez said.

The IG office also conducts exercise inspections to insure squadrons are ready for severe weather or natural disaster response.

"Readiness is huge," Jimenez said. "IG's are trained and focused on helping units without affecting their daily product or organizational flow."

For both inspections and complaints resolutions the IG office has a sole purpose in mind.

"We're not there to cause trouble or to point out deficiencies or problems; we're there to help commanders solve the issues so their people are ready and their missions are being executed as directed," Nunez said.

For more information, call the IG office at JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3363, JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-2451 and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-808-0169. To make an anonymous complaint, call 210-808-1000.



STAFF SGT. KRISTAL WRIGHT

Members of the Air Forces transportation community participate in the 6th annual Port Dawg Remembrance Run May 18 at Joint Base San Antonio -Lackland. Before the run, they shared memories and held a moment of silence for every aerial porter, or Port Dawg, lost.

Port Dawgs hold annual remembrance run for fallen

By Staff Sgt. Krystal Wright
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the Air Force air transportation community, also known as Port Dawgs, gathered here with their families to honor fallen aerial porters with the 6th annual Port Dawg Remembrance Run May 18.

Before the run, they took the time to share memories and held a moment of silence for each fallen Port Dawg.

"We want to come together and show the families that we still care about them," said Tech. Sgt. Dominic Wimsatt,

322nd Training Squadron military training instructor trainer. "This is a time for us to really reflect, take a step back and relax, and share stories."

Aerial porters conducted memorial runs across the Air Force as a sign of unity.

"It is pretty awesome that we come together as a community far and wide to memorialize the folks we have lost this past year," said Chief Master Sgt. William Villarreal, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center major command functional manager for air transportation. "Active duty, reserve, guard - it doesn't

matter; we got Port Dawgs everywhere running."

The event was held in coordination with National Transportation Week, which celebrates U.S. land, air and sea infrastructure, and those who build and maintain it.

"If something needs to get somewhere, cargo or passengers, we get it there," said Staff Sgt. Michael Harrison, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron passenger services supervisor.

"We do everything from passenger terminal to cargo loading to air drop deliveries to handling munitions - anything

that goes into the world we have a hand in and we take pride in our logistical prowess," Wimsatt added.

As they remembered their comrades and honored their sacrifices, the Port Dawgs spoke for pride of their work.

"I absolutely love the fact that we can be called in a moment's notice to go do humanitarian relief or be sent down range to make sure that the warfighters on the ground that need ammunition, food and water (get what they need)," Wimsatt said. "For me, I have a lot of pride in our country and in making sure

that our individuals are taken care of."

"I love this career field; we're loud and proud, we play hard and work hard," Villarreal said. "We have that sense of community; we are all brothers and sisters."

Everything came back to their camaraderie. Each person echoed how tight knit the community was.

"We may be spread out (all over the world), but we are all Port Dawgs," Harrison said. "This is a time we get together, boost the moral and remember everything that has happened and (who we've) lost."

RANDOLPH

JBSA-Randolph's Flag Plaza a fitting symbol for Flag Day

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On June 14, 1885, school teacher Bernard J. Cigrand organized a group of Wisconsin school children to observe the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of the stars and stripes as the national flag.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 as a nationally observed event. But it was not until Aug. 3, 1949, that Congress designated June 14 of each year as National Flag Day.

Flag Day continues to stir the emotions of Americans as they reflect on "Old Glory" as an enduring symbol of the country's ideals.

At Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, as motorists pass through the Lindsey Gate to enter the installation via Harmon Drive, a striking visual image catches their eyes. Old Glory, flying high atop a flag pole in front of the Taj Mahal, overlooks a median lined neatly on two sides with the flag of every state in the Union.

Dedicated on April 4, 1985, Flag Plaza also symbolizes America's ideals, honoring the home state of everyone who has served their country as a member of the U.S. Air Force.

On that day, as chronicled by the Wingspread newspaper in the April 5, 1985, edition, Air Force officials accepted the gift of Flag Plaza from the Air Force Sergeants Association, which raised \$26,000 from private individuals, groups and area businesses to buy the flags and create the plaza:

"Chief Master Sgt. Thomas C. Nesbit, president of AFSA chapter 1075, formally presented the plaza to the Air Force during the 45-minute ceremony. Gen. Andrew P. Iosue, commander of Air Training Command, accepted the plaza for the Air Force. Chief Master Sgt. Robert Carter, ATC's senior enlisted adviser, said the Flag Plaza honors Air Force men and women, past and present, for their commitment and sacrifice while in service to their



RICH MCFADDEN

The flags on Harmon Drive — one for each state of the 50 U.S. states — complement the landmark Taj Mahal building at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

country."

In that same edition, Col. Bob Rohatsch, 12th Flying Training Wing commander, said in a commentary that the plaza came about through the teamwork of everyone who took part in the project, from AFSA and the flag donors to engineers who designed the plaza, construction and maintenance workers, and airmen who volunteered to set up and take down the flags.

"And isn't that exactly what our 50 state flags represent?" he said. "Our country has, and will continue, to demonstrate to the world that as a team the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This is the lesson for all of us. From the youngest airman to our most senior officer, we are each a valuable part of the Air Force team. As a team we can make things happen."

In the plaza's early days, the flags only flew on special occasions such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day and other significant days, but today they fly daily.

The responsibility of maintaining,

ordering and replacing all 50 state flags, the American flag in front of the Taj and the POW/MIA flag in Heritage Park now belongs to the 502nd Security Forces Group, which has been taking care of the flags since 2011, said William Conshue, 502nd SFG JBSA-Randolph executive agent.

"Flags are inspected twice a year and replaced as necessary," he said. "However, if we notice a flag that needs to be replaced sooner because of its condition, we will replace it at that time. Normally our front office staff will replace flags, but on occasion we have asked the Junior ROTC students at Randolph High School to help since they earn community service hours."

The only significant changes to Flag Plaza since its dedication occurred in 2008, when the plaza was renovated and given the name Avenue of American States.

New poles replaced the original poles and a new bronze plaque with the names of all the original donors was installed in an area in front of the flags

"Our country has, and will continue, to demonstrate to the world that as a team the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This is the lesson for all of us. From the youngest airman to our most senior officer, we are each a valuable part of the Air Force team. As a team we can make things happen."

Col. Bob Rohatsch,
12th Flying Training Wing commander

near the main gate, flanked by plaques commemorating the plaza's dedication in 1985 and directly behind another plaque honoring Lt. Gen. Millard Harmon, for whom Harmon Drive was named.

On Nov. 17, 2009, the renovated display was rededicated by Gen. Stephen Lorenz, commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Col. Jacquelyn Van Ovost, 12th Flying Training Wing commander.

Scott Shepherd, 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron cultural resources manager at the time, designed the plaque that listed all the donors who contributed to the project in 1985.

"It was a really great idea (putting up Flag Plaza)," Shepherd told the Wingspread. "For the few who were on Randolph during that time, there are a lot of memories to be had.

"Twenty-seven years later, the flags are creating new memories," he said. "It just wouldn't be Randolph without them."

Technology, AFWERX help SF Academy graduates

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Recognizing the pace of change is accelerating, the Security Forces Academy at Joint Base San

Antonio-Lackland has taken full advantage of an opportunity to help field tomorrow's Air Force faster and smarter by adding innovative technology into its apprentice course to help produce more lethal and ready Airmen.

For arguably the most critical skills a Defender must possess – how and when to employ the use of force – the 343rd Training Squadron schoolhouse recently acquired six Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives, or MILO, simulators, as well as a VR-based training system facilitated through an AFWERX partnership, to help them learn how to employ both lethal and non-lethal force.

“Both of these tools have shown to be valuable assets in helping teach our Airmen how to make critical, life and death, decision-making skills,” said Master Sgt. Justin Consley, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Security Forces apprentice course. “Using this immersive training technology to train on law enforcement specific scenarios is definitely helping us produce more lethal and ready Defenders.”

The opportunity to partner with, Street Smarts VR, a New York-based vendor who specializes in creating interactive law enforcement training scenarios through motion capture technology, on this beta-test came about after the vendor contacted the schoolhouse to inquire about their interest in field testing a system aimed at putting trainees in scenarios they will find themselves when they arrive at their permanent duty stations at no cost to the unit.

“With some of the standard procurement processes, by the



DAN HAWKINS

Airman 1st Class Valric Suyom, a recent graduate of the Security Forces apprentice course, participates in a use-of-force training scenario in the Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives, or MILO, simulator as Staff Sgt. James McKinney, 343rd Training Squadron instructor, guides the training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland May 29.

time we acquire certain technologies, they're obsolete,” said Capt. Zachary Watkins, officer in charge of the Security Forces officer technical training course. “With the help of AFWERX, what we are doing through this one-year partnership is removing the barriers to getting that leading-edge technology into the schoolhouse now before it becomes obsolete and giving our commander no-risk flexibility to decide if this is technology we need long-term.”

The opportunity to create realistic training scenarios using the VR system that are stressful, including both the law enforcement and air base defense environments, that allows Defenders to learn the proper application of force based on the priority level assets involved or the rules of engagement is a huge gain for the students and the instructors.

“This system limits us to only our imagination to create scenarios, so we can place students in situations which differ from the public law enforcement side,” said Tech. Sgt. Jesse Bechtel, 343rd TRS instructor supervisor, who has been overseeing the use of the VR system in the apprentice course. “The immersion this

system provides the students enables them to become fully involved in the scenario and assists in creating a stressful environment, much like it would be in a real-life response.”

Using the VR system, the instructors have noted the value of the immediate feedback the system provides to students, as well as the control they have over the actors in the scenarios and can change the tone of a scenario at the click of a button.

“Unlike with real role-play scenarios, if a student is not giving the right verbal commands to the subject, as an instructor I can easily click a button and have the subject become more aggressive,” Bechtel said. “If the student is using good verbal commands then I can have the subject become compliant. This immediate feedback is important for students to understand how their actions play a part in the response.”

After each scenario, students also get the opportunity to view their actions from an “outside the body” viewpoint, and if the student had to utilize deadly force, the system shows them the trajectory of their shots, giving them that additional feedback on whether or not

they made a good shot.

“As the student is viewing this, we the instructors will talk them through their reactions and ask them to explain why they used the level of force they did,” Bechtel said. “It is extremely helpful for the students to be able to see their mistakes to be able to learn from them.”

With the Security Forces career field currently in transition from the M9 Beretta pistol to the M18 SIG Sauer Modular Handgun System as part of the Air Force's Reconstitute the Defender Initiative, the vendor created an M18 handgun model to use in the VR environment, giving future Defenders a first look at the weapon they will soon be carrying.

A key part of the partnership is the ability for the schoolhouse to provide feedback to the vendor in real-time and in turn, the company can make changes inside the virtual environment that can put an Airman at a certain Air Force base all the way down to very specific details.

“At our request, the vendor built a mockup of the Shaw Air Force Base main gate, including a beret-wearing Airman inside the scenario, as well as 3D printing an M-4 rifle to use in different scenarios to add realism,” Bechtel said. “Moving forward, we are hoping to get further into the use of the big data points, like how many students are using lethal force in certain scenarios and when, to see how we can further maximize each training event.”

The VR training has also created excitement amongst students, and for many, injected a natural learning tool.

“This is really cool training,” said Airman 1st Class Valric Suyom, a recent apprentice course graduate headed to Kadena Air Base, Japan. “I grew up playing video games and to be able to inject VR training into an operational setting was a natural transition

for me.”

The MILO system was acquired by the Academy to put students in various interactive use of force training scenarios, including the potential application of deadly force, through the use of enhanced video screens.

“The MILO really adds multiple dimensions to the training and helps present training in a way that is learner-centric,” said Tech. Sgt. Kathryn James, 343rd TRS instructor supervisor at the Security Forces apprentice course. “All of our students learn differently and we can incorporate different types of learning styles in one scenario, such as visual, auditory and kinesthetic.”

The SF Academy has six MILO systems in place at the JBSA-Medina Annex training campus, including two 180-degree video theater systems, as well as four single-screen systems, James said.

A key feature of the system is that gives instructors the ability to dictate a scenario's outcome in terms of what level of force is needed to be executed by the student as the exercise unfolds based off the student's responses, which prevents them from having the ability to act in a pre-prescribed manner.

“This element really helps prepare our future Defenders for real-life scenarios because you never know what is going to happen when you respond to a situation,” James said. “Being able to inject outcomes into the scenario without the student being aware vice trying to direct role players as the scenario plays out personalizes each scenario, maximizing training.”

As part of the three-day use of force training, students are expected to explain the decision-making process they used when determining the amount of force applied in the scenario. With the MILO, instructors can pinpoint exactly when certain decisions were made by the student in reaction to the scenario on the screen.