

# JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JULY 12, 2019



PHOTO BY SGT. ANDREW VALLES

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, incoming U.S. Army North commander, accepts the Army North (Fifth Army) colors from U.S. Air Force Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, commanding general, U.S. Northern Command, during the change of command ceremony July 8 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

## Lt. Gen. Richardson takes command of ARNORTH

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# Goldfein strengthens partnerships

By Charles Pope  
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein delivered familiar messages June 17-19 to an influential meeting of air chiefs from 21 nations across the Americas — the United States wants to be your partner of choice, and “we’re stronger together.”

“It’s all about partnerships here in this hemisphere among neighbors,” Goldfein said during a conference call June 17 with reporters after arriving in El Salvador for the annual event that brings together the highest ranking air force officers from Western Hemisphere nations.

“Looking at interoperability, building partner capacity, the extension of engagement that is guided by these interests really reflects our enduring promise of friendship, partnership and solidarity within the Americas,” he said.

Goldfein’s words — and his broader effort — reflected a history of tight bonds and collaboration between the U.S. Air Force and countries as diverse as Brazil, Canada and El Salvador. Air chiefs from each of those countries attended the three-day annual event that was

co-sponsored this year by Goldfein and El Salvador’s Air Chief, Col. Manuel Calderon.

The meeting of air chiefs from the Americas is held under the auspices of the System of Cooperation Among the American Air Forces, an organization based at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, that coordinates military responses and efforts to deliver humanitarian aid.

While the purpose and tenor of this year’s meeting echoed those of previous gatherings, there also were new issues that magnified its importance. The ongoing turmoil and instability in Venezuela is one prominent example. The growing influence of Russia and especially China in the region is also a fresh feature as are the shifting dynamics of immigration and how the United States responds.

The changes extended to the personal as well. Colombia, which is one of the United States’ closest allies in the region, appointed a new chief of its air force in December. Guatemala recently elected a new president and has a new air chief.

Given those circumstances and the importance of the issues, Goldfein said the annual

Conference of American Air Chiefs occurred at a critical time.

“The work we do, shoulder to shoulder, grows more important each year,” Goldfein said. “Many of our allies in the Americas have been bedrock allies for decades. This spirit of cooperation and mutual trust has been a notable trait for many years and it’s clear that that characteristic has never been more important than it is today.”

As in previous years, the topics for discussion spanned a wide range. While the dominant focus was how best to collaborate and coordinate humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, there also were discussions on how to share intelligence and improve joint situational awareness; how to refine ongoing efforts to combat illicit air traffic, and opportunities for joint training and personnel exchange, among others.

Goldfein also said there were discussions about space, particularly each nation’s interest in launch capabilities and satellites. That focus, he said, is a byproduct of a meeting about space April 17 in Colorado with air chiefs from 11 developed nations.

“Each country is moving forward on both of these areas and I had a great conversation (previously) with my fellow air chief from Brazil talking about what Brazil is doing leaning forward in the space business,” said Goldfein.

The United States also provided a demonstration of a new, upgraded radio network that allows pilots to communicate better with officials on the ground. That capability is critical not just for military operations but for humanitarian missions as well, Goldfein said.

The system, called Aeronet, is a resilient “mesh network” that was fitted on a propeller driven aircraft for the demonstration.

In addition to meeting the air chiefs, Goldfein visited the Cooperative Security Location, known locally as “Comalapa.” The facility provides security, logistics, infrastructure and operational support to forward deployed U.S. aviation units participating in interagency counter-narcotics and illegal trafficking operations.

He also met with the Minister of Defense, Colonel Rene Francis Merino-Monroy, U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, Jean Manes, and El Salvador’s new President Nayib Bukele.

# DOD to take over background checks by fiscal 2020

By C. Todd Lopez  
DEFENSE.GOV

By October, the Department of Defense will be assuming responsibility for background investigations for U.S. government personnel and contractors seeking the various security clearances required to do their jobs.

Right now, the Office of Personnel Management conducts those investigations through its National Background Investigations Bureau. But language in the

fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act directed the government to move responsibility for the lion’s share of those investigations over to the Defense Department.

According to one senior defense official, about 4.2 million personnel from the federal government and government contractors are cleared for access to secret and above information. Around 3.6 million of those are DOD employees or contractors.

A presidential executive

order in April 2019 further directed that all of the investigations be done by the DOD. The decision is an “economical, business-smart and process-smart solution,” said one senior defense official during a background briefing at the Pentagon June 24.

By Oct. 1, it’s expected that every security clearance investigation will be conducted by a newly created DOD agency called the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency. The DCSA will be formed from the

existing Defense Security Services, already part of DOD, and the existing National Background Investigations Bureau, which is part of OPM.

As part of that changeover, National Background Investigations Bureau employees will become DOD employees, though they will remain working in the same location, and in almost every case continue under their current chains of command.

The director of the National

DOD CHECKS continues on 6

JBSA LEGACY

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# Feedback Fridays

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

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

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

## Personnel Issues

**Q.** I would like to have VIA bus service on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston during the morning and evening rush hours.

I just got back from Germany, and as you can understand, I was spoiled by the transportation infrastructure. I did note that a VIA USO Bus 16 comes on the base on weekends only. The VIA bus stops seem to be on the perimeters of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, but not on it.

The stops outside New Braunfels (Route 20), Broadway (8/9/14) and Walters (515) are okay, but it leaves a long walk to the workplace. That is not fun in June, July and August.

Fort Belvoir and Fort Meade operate on base a public bus in concert with the DC Metro as part of its regular routes. For security, while the bus is on Fort Belvoir, the non-ID cardholders have to get off the bus and wait for it to exit the base on the continuation route. The Fort Meade bus is an end destination, still only ID cardholders remain on the bus through the gate.

Or perhaps, coordination could be made for a mini-bus as feeders or these buses could have established routes on/around the parade field up to Old BAMC.

**A.** Thank you for your question about VIA bus service on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Our 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron partners with VIA and continuously works to improve the bus services on our installation.

At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the weekend bus you observed is known as the JBSA Express Service with limited stops connecting JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and the RiverCenter USO. This service is restricted to Department of Defense ID cardholders as the only off-base stop is the USO. This service is limited to the weekends as the large student population provides a reasonable level of ridership for VIA to justify the route.

This is why the stops are located near recreation facilities and dormitories, but not the main work centers. Unfortunately, the limited demand for bus support during the weekdays, combined with the restricted base access for non-ID cardholders limits weekday service as the buses need to be open to the public to properly serve the large area in which JBSA employees reside in the San Antonio area.

Another complicating factor is that the military-provided shuttle buses that operate to move employees, students, and temporary duty personnel between work facilities and lodging are not authorized to augment employee travel to and from work.

The good news is JBSA has a very robust JBSA Rideshare program - the second largest in the DOD - that links DOD employees and military members with vanpools at no cost to eligible participants.

A Rideshare representative helps link the rider with a van in their area, and the rider is provided a debit card to pay their portion of the van's rental/fuel and insurance costs. Each van helps take 5-6 other vehicles off the road each day saving participants wear and tear on their personal vehicles, and reducing traffic and gate congestion while helping reduce the negative impact to our environment.

For more information click on the JBSA Ride Share link located at the bottom right of the JBSA.mil page under "Community Support."

## Installation and Facilities

**Q.** Do you know what the immediate and long-term plan is for the condemned old housing on JBSA-Medina Annex? I noticed over this last year that I've lived on base that the foliage and weeds that were seemingly kept trimmed and under control are now taking over the roads, houses, and soon, the fences.

Not only is it an eyesore, but it is ripe for wild animals (we have several on base) to make their habitat. Once that happens on a large scale, I believe the



environmental folks get involved if you try to cut it all down.

The weeds that were under three to four inches in June 2018 are now easily three feet tall, at least from my guess at a distance. Anyhow, just wondering what the plan is, as I feel it can't be just be ignored.

**A.** Thank you for the question. The property mentioned is owned and managed by Balfour Beatty Communities, or BBC. Our Civil Engineer team has been communicating our concerns and challenges with the site's maintenance. BBC has agreed to mow the perimeter of the homes and maintain grass heights.

As for long-term disposition, the Air Force has identified these homes for demolition. Per the partnership agreement with BBC, the demolition will be planned and budgeted at a later date, but the timing has not yet been determined. CE will continue to monitor the site and lead discussions with BBC on expediting the effort if possible.

**Q.** Blackouts happen - as they did June 9 with the stormy weather. It is a bummer, but we deal with it.

However, I have lived in my home at JBSA-Medina for a year now and have had maybe three to four months of that time with our street lights lit.

I realize there are various reasons why they may be out for a time now and then for repairs or maintenance, but when I drive the entire JBSA-Medina area to get to my home and find that our stretch of the block on Clay Loop is consistently the ONLY stretch without street lights on a consistent basis, I find it troubling.

The stretch that has been blacked out most of the year is from the mailboxes on Clay Loop (midway between the two Maysey intersections) down to the cross-section where Maysey's cul-de-sac is (near 700 Clay Loop). Can someone look into why our street lights are nearly never on and work to have them on like the rest of JBSA-Medina's housing area?

**A.** Thank you for the question as we recognize that street lighting is an

important factor to the safety and security of our communities. Street lighting in our privatized housing on JBSA-Lackland is owned and maintained by Balfour Beatty Community, or BBC.

BBC has a current process to conduct monthly lighting checks across their property, as well as after any significant weather event, and then will prioritize and schedule repairs.

For your specific concern, our CE-led housing team will address with BBC to resolve the issue quickly.

If you identify any further lighting issues in housing, please notify BBC, or contact the CE housing office, which is there to assist with resident issues.

**Q.** The grounds of the new, abstract flying display at the corner of Highway 90 and Military Drive are in dire need of maintenance. Every workday evening, I drive by the display and am dismayed that this expensive and impressive work of art is being overshadowed by weeds, dry grass patches, overgrown grass, tree offshoots and complete dishevelment.

If JBSA-Lackland is the "Gateway to the Air Force," then this display at the forefront of Military Drive should be impeccable, just as the JBSA-Lackland mission.

Also note, this is not due to recent rains, the area has been in this state - and getting worse - going on three weeks.

**A.** Thank you for bringing this concern to our attention. The monument on Military Drive is actually a City of San Antonio, or CoSA, built and maintained property.

We reached out to CoSA and received an update on their plan to reseed certain areas, adjust irrigation intervals and begin mowing to the eight-inch level to try and keep the area looking a little more maintained.

Please continue to provide feedback on those areas where JBSA and Military City USA share a united goal of honoring the men and women of the Armed Forces.

## Miscellaneous

**Q.** My question is regarding the policies for repairs needed on government vehicles, or GOVs.

Our section's GOV has had many problems with one of the tires recently and when I called over there this last time to see when we could bring it in, I was informed that I would need to take the tire off myself and bring it over to them to be repaired.

## FEEDBACK FRIDAYS

From page 3

Coming from Air Force installations in other states and also originally working at JBSA-Randolph before moving to JBSA-Lackland, I found that very odd since I have never been told this before.

After conversing with employees from other sections here at the CE building, I found this is a common occurrence for JBSA-Lackland's Logistics Readiness Squadron office to tell people, with a few people commenting that it "depends on who you speak to."

Can we please get this cleared up? Is this an actual Air Force Instruction policy or is this just their own policy they came up with?

**A.** The LRS Vehicle Management Flight appreciates this feedback! We understand the frustration that unstandardized process can cause. Customer service is our top priority and we will continue to strive to ensure that our processes are standard across Joint Base San Antonio.

AFI 23-203 Vehicle Management is the guiding publication for JBSA's vehicle management. In paragraph 3.19.1.4, it states that it is the operator's responsibility to maintain and change

tires. This includes changing the tire to its spare and bringing the problem tire in for repair or replacement.

Operator maintenance actions like this play a critical role towards our fleet health. It allows our mechanics to focus on the specialized maintenance actions like body work or engine repair instead of common maintenance actions. This time saved goes a long way in maintaining JBSA's 2,000-vehicle fleet.

Vehicle management can provide assistance and equipment to the operator in situations where a vehicle does not have a spare tire or proper equipment, a vehicle has oversized tires, or the operator is not knowledgeable on changing a tire. Thanks again for the question.

**Q.** Any chance of getting a larger U.S. flag in front of the Taj at JBSA-Randolph? I think it would look great!

**A.** Thank you for your question. According to AFI 34-1201, there are two primary factors involved when considering what US flag to fly on an installation's stationary flagstaff, the type of flag and height of the staff. Installations are authorized to display two types of flags.

The Installation Flag, which is currently being flown in front of the Taj, measures 8-by-17 feet, and is typically flown at Air Force installations.

Alternatively, there is the Garrison Flag, which is much larger at 20-by-38 feet.

The Garrison Flag is designated to be flown on holidays and special occasions, but may be substituted with the Installation Flag.

The second factor is the height of the flagstaff. Air Force installations typically use 50-foot flagstaffs, which accommodate an Installation Flag. While the flagstaff in front of the Taj is 100 feet tall, which accommodates flags as large as the Garrison type, JBSA-Randolph typically flies the flag flown at other bases, which is the Installation Flag. That said, we'll be sure to fly our Garrison Flag during holidays and special occasions.

**Q.** The American Legion is the largest veteran's organization in the world and is a 501(c) non-profit. Our four pillars - Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth are as relevant today as when our organization was founded in 1919.

Our Post, Audie L. Murphy No. 336, has donated to the JBSA Annual Awards program, Ops JET and Fisher House. We are "Veterans Still Serving America."

We had previously been allowed to schedule information booths and passed out poppies outside of the commissary ... a tradition. This past year we have not

been allowed to do this. Can you please explain why after we've had this partnership and will this be corrected? **A.** First, thank you for the work your organization performs! We apologize your request was denied this year, but unfortunately the regulations on fundraising changed in October 2018.

Air Force Instruction 36-3101, Fundraising, which previously allowed these activities, was revised and removed the installation commander's authority to allow external non-federal entities, or NFEs, like yours to hold fundraisers on base like your traditional annual poppy sales.

Specifically, the revision includes a provision that explicitly prohibits logistical support to non-federal entities when the proposed event is for the organization's fundraising or membership efforts, unless the NFE is an approved private organization.

You may apply to become a JBSA-approved private organization so that your wonderful organization may be allowed to continue their great efforts at designated locations on base.

Please visit the 502nd Force Support Squadron Private Organizations website at <https://jbsatoday.com/PrivateOrganizations>. There you will find the application instructions needed to apply. Keep up the great work and thank you for all that you do!

# Air Force stands up Air Force Medical Readiness Agency

From Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

In a ceremony June 28 at the Defense Health Headquarters in Falls Church, Virginia, the Air Force Medical Service stood up a new field operating agency, the Air Force Medical Readiness Agency.

Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg, Air Force Surgeon General, and Brig. Gen. Mark Koeniger, incoming AFMRA commander, spoke at the ceremony, heralding a new era in Air Force Medicine.

"We are in exciting and historic times as we engage in multiple lines of effort to transform our organization to support a more ready Air Force," Hogg said. "Activating AFMRA streamlines our organization from a dual-focus on health benefit delivery and



*U.S. Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg speaks at the official activation of Air Force Medical Readiness Agency, at Defense Health Headquarters, Falls Church, Va., June 28.*

readiness, to one laser focused on readiness."

AFMRA increases the Air

Force focus on operational medical readiness and supports the Air Force Secretary's goal of a more ready fighting force. The organization will oversee medical readiness programs, expeditionary medical capabilities, and readiness-related Air Force mission support requirements. It will also assist the Surgeon General in developing the policies to support Air Force major commands and base-level unit missions.

Standing up AFMRA fulfills a requirement from the fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act to establish a readiness-focused organization. The previous two FOAs in the AFMS, the Air Force Medical Operations Agency and the Air Force Medical Support Agency, were stood down at the same ceremony.

"AFMRA lets us be more responsive to emerging readiness requirements," Koeniger said. "AFMRA improves our support to the readiness mission at military treatment facilities and Air Force major commands, while also helping the Defense Health Agency take on management of the health care benefit at MTFs."

Koeniger is coming to AFMRA after commanding the 711th Human Performance Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

To ensure continued support to MTFs, AFMRA will temporarily retain many capabilities focused on managing health benefit delivery at MTFs. These capabilities will move the DHA in future years.

At stand up, AFMRA

headquarters is in Falls Church, Va., at the Defense Health Headquarters. Other AFMRA components are split between Falls Church and the former AFMOA offices in San Antonio. Future locations for the organization are still being determined. AFMRA is expected to reach full operating capability in 2020.

"We activate AFMRA with our eyes on the future," Hogg said. "We will continue to provide world class readiness support, and modernize our capabilities to meet the demands of the Air Force we need."

AFMRA is part of sweeping reform in the AFMS and the overall Military Health System. The next phase of reform is the administrative transition of service MTFs to Defense Health Agency responsibility Oct. 1.

# Air Force officials announce certain tour length changes

By Sarah Loicano

SECOND AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After listening to feedback from Airmen and career field managers, Air Force officials are reducing targeted special duty and instructor tour lengths to create a more ready and resilient force.

The tour length reduction from four to three years for military training instructors, military training leaders, Air Education and Training Command technical training instructors with prefix “T”, “J”, or “X” and stateside professional military education instructors was announced July 1, renewing the focus on increasing operational readiness and improving Airmen resiliency.

“The Air Force is committed to returning our experienced and professional workforce to their operational career fields and reducing the unique stressors associated with these special duty tours,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy Leahy, Second Air Force commander. “The decision to reduce tour lengths is about increasing our readiness and lethality while growing

today’s Airmen for the force we need.”

All special duty assigned Airmen serving as MTIs, MTLs, TTIs or stateside PME instructors on or after July 1, 2019, will receive a three-year assignment. Airmen already serving in one of these positions on or after July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, will have 30 days to either accept a three-year tour or opt to keep their original four-year tour. Airmen assigned to one of the targeted DSDs before July 1, 2018, or in an overseas tour, will finish their original assignment.

Due to the length of time required to get Air Force recruiters trained and certified, the tour length reduction does not currently impact recruiting assignments. Building and maintaining community outreach efforts are critical to Air Force recruiting success, making 48 months the ideal recruiter tour length, according to Air Force leadership.

Restoring readiness is one of the Air Force’s top priorities. The tour length change addresses readiness by responding to career field managers’ concerns over retention, loss of operational expertise and

assignment-related burnout. The unanimous feedback from a January 2019 survey of career field managers’ supports a move to a shorter, more manageable tour length for MTIs, MTLs, technical and PME instructors.

“This change is about ensuring we are creating additional opportunities for professional development, establishing a more resilient force and returning trained Airmen, with newly acquired professional and leadership training, back to their specific operational specialty,” said Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne Bass, Second Air Force command chief. “Reducing special duty tour lengths optimizes Airmen’s experience and performance both during their career-broadening experience and their operational career field reintegration.”

Input from across five Air Force training wings was factored into the decision to reduce tour lengths. A 2019 survey of MTLs and MTIs indicated that while DSD Airmen reported positive experiences with their career broadening positions, assignment fatigue began to sharply increase around the three-year mark. Survey

participants cited a challenging work-life balance including shift work, professional demands and responsibilities outside typical duty hours and the time away from their operational career fields as the primary stressors.

Additionally, a review of across other military branches found that in-service instructors and drill sergeants served three-year tours and Army training special duty assignments are currently restricted to two years, with a highly selective third year option.

The move supports Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein’s squadron revitalization initiative and is part of a recent series of AETC transformations including Basic Military Training curriculum changes and a reduction in computer-based and ancillary training requirements.

“The Air Force needs passionate leaders committed to the development of our Airmen, so to those who serve in these demanding roles — you have spoken and we have heard you. We owe it to you to make this change,” Leahy said.

## Understanding the DPS self-counseling process

By Phyllis C. Billingsley

JBSA-RANDOLPH PERSONAL PROPERTY PROCESSING OFFICE  
TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANT

Customers who self-counsel utilizing the Defense Personal Property System, or DPS, are reminded to print, sign and date the Application for Shipment and/or Storage (Department of Defense Form 1299) and Personal Property Counseling Checklist (DD Form 1797).

These forms, along with a complete set of orders,

are required to complete the actions needed to finalize the self-counseling process. An application cannot be processed until these supporting documents are received by the local Personal Property Processing Office, or PPPO, for processing to book a requested move date.

DPS gives the customer the option to upload orders and signed documents (DD Forms 1299 and 1797), and the member must contact requested PPPO to process the shipment. These forms will not be automatically forwarded for booking.

People must hand carry signed documents and a complete set of orders to their local PPPO. It is important that members understand that their dates are not confirmed/booked until the shipment is awarded to a Transportation Service Provider, the TSP contacts them, and the TSP performs a pre-move survey to finalize the actual pack, pickup and any necessary adjustments to the required delivery date.

*For more information, contact your local Personal Property Processing Offices at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph at 210-652-1848, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-1605, or JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2821.*

## DOD CHECKS

From page 2

Background Investigations Bureau at OPM, Charles S. Phalen, has been identified by the secretary to be the acting director of the newly created DCSA agency beginning July 1. Phalen will be dual-hatted until a permanent director can be named.

In early 2018, the bureau had about 725,000 outstanding

security clearance investigations underway, “an all-time high,” said a senior administration official. Now, that backlog has dropped to about 410,000. He said he expects by the end of the year that backlog will drop to about 300,000. He also noted that about 200,000 ongoing investigations would be considered normal.

The agency gets about 50,000 to 55,000 new requests for investigations each week,

the official said, though many of those are not for secret or top secret clearances, but are instead for lower-level investigations to determine suitability for federal employment.

About 60-65 percent of security clearance investigations are performed by contractor personnel, and that is not expected to change. Additionally, said the senior administration official, there’s no expectation that there will

need to be any new hires to staff the new DSCA. “The workforce is already there,” that official said.

A senior defense official also said the National Background Investigations Bureau has been making almost “nonstop” improvements to the process of security clearance investigations, and that those improvements will continue at DOD.

An administration official said the bureau is still not

where it wants to be when it comes to the speed of processing an investigation, though significant improvements have been made. That official said top secret investigations take about 150 days to complete, but ideally, the official said, that would drop to about 80 days. And where it takes about 90 days to complete a secret investigation, the official said the bureau would like to get that down to about 40 days.

# FORT SAM HOUSTON



PHOTOS BY JOHNNY SALDIVAR



*Above: The Salute Battery fires a 15-round salute in honor of Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan during the U.S. Army North change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston July 8.*

*Left: Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, incoming U.S. Army North commander, Col. Niave Knell, U.S. Army North Chief of Staff, and Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, outgoing U.S. Army North commander, troop the line on caisson detachment horses during the U.S. Army North change of command ceremony July 8 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*

## Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson takes command of U.S. Army North during ceremony

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

U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) conducted a change of command ceremony at Staff Post Field on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston July 8.

Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, commanding general, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, presided over the ceremony in which Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan relinquished command to Lt.

Gen. Laura J. Richardson.

In keeping with military tradition, Buchanan relinquished command by passing the U.S. Army North's colors, which symbolize command, to O'Shaughnessy, who then passed them to Richardson, thus endowing her with the authority of command, and formally recognizing her as the commanding general of U.S. Army North.

"We are excited for you to assume command and continue the legacy left before you," O'Shaughnessy said of

Richardson. "NORTHCOM stands ready to assist you and your team in every way and you are taking over an accomplished unit that is eager to respond to today's security challenges. I know you are exactly the right person for the job."

Richardson most recently served at U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where she was the deputy commanding general.

"As I take command today, there's a long, storied lineage of Army North (Fifth Army),"

Richardson said. "The Army North mission as the Army Service Component Command to USNORTHCOM carries numerous critically important responsibilities to our nation's security and I am ready for the challenges we'll face with this great team before you."

Army North is comprised of more than 600 service members and 330 civilians, all partnering to conduct homeland defense, support civil authorities, and cooperate with Canadian and Mexican militaries in order to protect the United States and its

interests.

Buchanan assumed command of U.S. Army North August 2016 and is retiring after a 37-year career.

"Commanding ARNORTH and Fifth Army has been one of the greatest honors of my life," Buchanan said. "It really is a time for a change in leadership and it's changes like this that keep innovation and initiative high. Change is important to the health and well-being of this great command and I cannot think of a better officer to pass the reins to."



*Members of the Brooke Army Medical Center Secretarial Designee Cost Analysis Team receive the 2018 Distinguished Team Award from the American Society of Military Comptrollers at the ASMC Professional Development Institute May 29 in San Antonio.*

COURTESY PHOTO

## Cross-functional team receives national award for BAMC program

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Brooke Army Medical Center Secretarial Designee Cost Analysis Team received the 2018 Distinguished Team Award at the local and national level from the American Society of Military Comptrollers.

The national award was presented at the ASMC Professional Development Institute in San Antonio on May 29.

The Secretarial Designee, or SECDES, program gives BAMC the ability to treat critically injured patients who would not otherwise be eligible to receive care at a military treatment facility.

BAMC is the only Level I trauma center within the Department of Defense and one of two Level 1 trauma centers within San Antonio. Alongside University Health System, BAMC administers lifesaving care to more than 4,000 trauma patients each year, including 750 burn patients, from an area that stretches across 22 counties in Southwest Texas and encompasses 2.2 million people.

Of these patients, about 85 percent are from the civilian sector and 14 percent are military beneficiaries, on average.

A cross-functional team comprised of analysts from Resource Management, Business Operations, Patient Administration and the Trauma and Burn Injury Departments, was formed in 2018 to analyze the training benefits of the SECDES program.

“Their analysis effectively increased the justification for keeping the SECDES program at BAMC. This is a huge impact on sustaining military medical providers’ wartime competencies,” said Army Lt. Col. Kristi Morris, Resource Management Division deputy chief.

Over the past year, blunt injuries from car accidents or other causes were most

common source of trauma, comprising about 85 percent of the patients. The remaining 15 percent had penetrating wounds from a gunshot or stabbing.

“SECDES patients come into the medical center with complex trauma and burn injuries (the most warlike injuries), which give realistic battlefield injury scenarios for military healthcare providers to treat,” Morris said.

“The BAMC SECDES program treats over 91 percent of the entire Army’s SECDES patients and is a pivotal part of BAMC remaining the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the Department of Defense,” Morris said.

BAMC receives these traumatically injured patients through a written agreement with Bexar County Hospital District. The Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council, or STRAC, coordinates the region’s trauma care, ensuring patients are transported to a health facility that will best meet their treatment needs.

A Level I designation signifies the highest level of trauma care. BAMC’s state designation also has been verified by the American College of Surgeons, which confirms the presence of resources required to be considered Level I.

“A Level I Trauma Center is capable of providing total care for every aspect of injury — from prevention to rehabilitation,” according to the American Trauma Society. The ACS re-verified BAMC as a Level I center last year.

“We not only are serving our community with trauma care, but also are serving our nation by ensuring our military health care professionals are equipped with the skills needed to serve around the world at a moment’s notice,” said Air Force Col. Patrick Osborn, Deputy Commander for Surgical Services.

# BAMC receives multiple environmental awards at CleanMed

By Daniel J. Calderón  
BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The staff at Brooke Army Medical Center received three Practice Greenhealth Environmental Awards at the CleanMed 2019 conference in Nashville, Tennessee, for their efforts in innovating sustainability and environmental best practices throughout the facility.

BAMC received the Greening the OR Award for the second time and the Partner for Change for the third time. This year, BAMC also received its first Circle of Excellence-Chemicals Award.

"It is important that BAMC works toward the goals covered by the Greenhealth awards because we are recognized as the flagship of Army Medicine and have a responsibility to set the example for all other military medical sites to follow," said Kevin Nikodým, BAMC facility manager.

Practice Greenhealth's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize health care facilities, health sector suppliers and member organizations for making a commitment to and progressing toward environmental stewardship and sustainability.

According to Army Capt. Jennifer House, BAMC Environmental Health chief, each Circle of Excellence award highlights the efforts made by hospitals driving innovation in



DANIEL J. CALDERÓN

*Margarita Reed, a cook at Brooke Army Medical Center's dining facility, cleans the flattop cooker following breakfast June 21.*

sustainability performance across an array of categories.

The chemicals category honors hospitals where staff work to address toxicity through greener cleaning programs and avoidance of chemicals of concern in purchasing products, services and equipment.

"The Department of Nutritional Medicine continues to only purchase safe chemicals needed to wash and sanitize our food service areas," said Army Maj. David E. Elliott, Department of Nutritional Medicine deputy chief. "We don't use bleach. We have zero mercury-containing thermometers."

The Partner for Change Award recognizes health care facilities that continuously improve and expand upon programs to eliminate mercury, reduce and recycle waste, source products sustainably, and more.

Winning facilities must demonstrate that they are recycling at least 15 percent of their total waste, have reduced regulated medical waste, are on track to eliminate mercury, and have developed successful sustainability programs in many areas.

The Greening the OR category honors hospitals for leadership in implementation and innovation in the surgical

department. Winners demonstrated innovative approaches to waste minimization, clinical plastic recycling, reformulation of operating room kits, and a range of other programs and associated metrics.

House said there are five new goals for continued improvement in 2019. These are: ▶ Reduce facility energy use intensity and facility potable water use intensity. In addition, ensure construction and renovation projects achieve LEED Silver, or equivalent.

LEED, or the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an industry standard set by the U.S. Green Building Council, which provides a framework for creating efficient and cost-effective "green" buildings. The rating system, which runs from Certified all the way to Platinum, is the most widely used rating system of its type in the world.

▶ Increase community outreach programs to develop stakeholder partnerships.

▶ Enhance indoor air quality and reduce other exposures through reduction in use of hazardous and toxic materials found in furnishings, building materials, and cleaning supplies.

▶ Implement an electronics life cycle management plan and data center "energy management place" in support of energy use reduction and waste diversion goals as detailed in the Strategic

**"It is important that BAMC works toward the goals covered by the Greenhealth awards because we are recognized as the flagship of Army Medicine and have a responsibility to set the example for all other military medical sites to follow."**

**Kevin Nikodým, BAMC facility manager**

Sustainability Performance Plan.

▶ Reduce waste by 10 percent through recycling and management of pharmaceuticals.

Although the awards are appreciated, Elliott said they are of secondary importance.

"Awards aren't that important," he said. "Sustainability is a priority for us all to ensure a future for our children and continue to provide a fit and ready force."

# JBSA officials host event for Native American tribes

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Establishing and strengthening relations between Native American tribes and Joint Base San Antonio officials was the focus of a tribal conference held at JBSA-Camp Bullis June 25-27.

Representatives of three Native American tribes from New Mexico and Oklahoma attended the three-day conference.

On the first day of the conference, members of the Native American tribes visited JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and met with Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, and took a tour of the Quadrangle and Fort Sam Houston Museum.

Other locations in the area conference attendees visited were the University of Texas at San Antonio Center for Archaeological Research and the Eagles Nest Cave located at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

The tribes that attended the conference are federally recognized tribes and are considered sovereign nations. The tribal conference was the first ever hosted by JBSA and was spearheaded by Arlan Kalina, JBSA archaeologist and cultural resources manager.

Dayna Cramer, JBSA chief of environmental conservation and cultural resources manager, said the conference was held to fulfill both an Air Force and Department of Defense requirement that each installation establish relations with representatives of federally recognized tribes and meet with them on an annual basis.

"One of the big goals for this meeting is to establish those

relationships, figure out a plan for how we should work together, how we want to maintain those relationships and then how we will proceed whenever there's things of interest happening on the installation," Cramer said.

Cramer said those things of interest between JBSA and the tribes include potential new construction or new training activities that could affect Native American archaeological resources, cultural properties or burial sites located on JBSA installations.

Archaeological sites have been found at JBSA-Camp Bullis, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Lackland Annex. Cramer said the sites the tribes would be most interested in are at JBSA-Camp Bullis, some of which contain remains of Native Americans, and sites at JBSA-Lackland Annex, which show that area had been occupied by Native Americans for a long time.

Cramer said the Air Force conducted a nationwide study looking at the associated lands for each of their installations and found that four federally recognized tribes, the Mescalero Apache, the Comanche, the Wichita and the Tonkawa had connections to lands within JBSA.

"This was aboriginal land for them, which means they didn't necessarily settle here, but they traveled through here or they came through here to collect animals, minerals, plants or raid," Cramer said.

Kalina said the majority of the items discussed at the conference are included in Air Force Instructions, or AFIs, and that the goal coming from the conference is to affirm previous standard operating procedures for the Native



PHOTOS BY DAVID DEKUNDER

*Attendees of a tribal conference hosted by Joint Base San Antonio view an exhibit at the Fort Sam Houston Museum at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston June 25.*

American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA, and develop new understandings and processes concerning tribal concerns and the mission of JBSA.

NAGPRA is a federal law that requires federal agencies to establish a process to return certain Native American cultural items, including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony, to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Native American tribes.

Lloyd Heminokeky, elder and spiritual leader for the Comanche Nation in Oklahoma, said the tribal conference was important for his tribe in establishing good relationships with military and JBSA officials. Heminokeky, whose great-great grandfather was a Comanche bandleader, said by establishing relationships with JBSA leaders, the Comanche Nation will be able to have access to areas and places within JBSA where his tribe inhabited long ago.

"The areas that San Antonio is now located in, one of our larger (Comanche) bands was here," he said. "Yes, the conference plays a big part of our locating possible remains



*Dr. Bryan Howard, right, Fort Sam Houston Museum curator, speaks about the history of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston during a tour of the Quadrangle for attendees of a tribal conference hosted by JBSA June 25-27.*

or items that may have existed at that time."

Larry Brusuelas, a member of the Mescalero Apache Tribal Council in New Mexico, thanked Lenderman and JBSA for hosting the conference and inviting the tribes to participate.

"For a long time, the relations between the general public and Indian reservations have been strained," Brusuelas said. "So, to see the outreach from the military base and other surrounding communities means a lot to the native people. Just the fact you are taking that initiative to move forward with the

preservation of a lot of what has been lost and bringing back what hasn't is so meaningful."

Kalina said JBSA and tribe representatives will be working on a schedule to decide how often and where future tribal conferences will be held. He said representatives of the tribes extended an invitation to JBSA staff members to visit their reservations.

"All in all it went extremely well," said Kalina about the conference. "I believe both sides came away with the feeling that each side was receptive to the other party's concerns and thoughts."

# BAMC offers new treatment option for certain tumors

By Lori Newman  
BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Brooke Army Medical Center Nuclear Medicine Department at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston now offers a new treatment for certain types of neuroendocrine tumors.

The use of lutetium Lu 177 dotatate, a radioactive medicine that binds itself to a specific part of certain tumor cells, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in January 2018 for the treatment of somatostatin receptor-positive gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors, or GEP-NETs, including foregut, midgut, and hindgut neuroendocrine tumors in adults.

"BAMC is the first military treatment facility to provide this type of therapy and the first center in San Antonio," said Air Force Lt. Col. Penny Vroman, Nuclear Medicine Department chief.

"Until this treatment was created and approved patients have been getting other treatments that were not as effective," Vroman said. "Data has shown that this therapy reduced the risk of this type of cancer spreading or growing, and some patients even had their tumors shrink."

The inpatient procedure consists of four IV infusions spaced eight weeks apart, which must be administered by specially trained staff in a dedicated radiotherapy room.

"It's a radioactive substance that is injected through an IV into the patient," Vroman said. "It's targeted molecular therapy, or theranostics."

Theranostics is a field of medicine that combines specific targeted therapy based on specific targeted diagnostic tests. With a key focus on patient centered care, theranostics provides a transition from conventional medicine to a contemporary

personalized and precision medicine approach.

"The patient receives two IVs during the treatment," Vroman explained. "One is an amino acid infusion to protect their kidneys and the other is the peptide receptor radionuclide therapy drug. The process takes about five to six hours to complete."

Only two patients have started this course of therapy at BAMC to date. Not all patients meet the criteria for the treatment. A hematology/oncology doctor makes the referral to the Nuclear Medicine Department for a consultation. If the patient is a candidate for the treatment, Nuclear Medicine personnel will order the medicine and begin the process of scheduling the procedure.

One of the patients who is currently receiving the therapy was referred by Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Lindsey Graham from the Hematology/Oncology Department.

These types of tumors are slow growing and someone's best chance is if they are found early and can be surgically removed, Graham explained. There isn't a cure for this type of neuroendocrine tumor, but it can be controlled with medications.

"It's like a chronic disease that may over time get worse, but if you take your medicines you can keep it from getting bad quickly," Graham said. "We really don't have a chemotherapy that will cause reliable shrinkage of these tumors."

"This type of therapy has been talked about in literature and presented at conferences for a while," Graham said. "Studies have shown this is an effective therapy for neuroendocrine tumors."

Before offering this treatment at BAMC, a comprehensive team of personnel from several departments throughout the hospital was formed. Staff members were training on the



PHOTOS BY LORI NEWMAN

*Air Force Lt. Col. Penny Vroman, Brooke Army Medical Center Nuclear Medicine Department chief, checks the scans of a patient suffering from neuroendocrine tumors June 26 to determine if the radiopharmaceutical drug is targeting the tumors.*

use of the drug, and checklists and policies were created to ensure the safety of staff members and patients because this medicine uses radiation to kill cancer cells.

"We make sure the radiopharmaceutical being used for treatments and diagnostic purposes are used safely," explained Dexter Brathwaite, physical science technician, Health Physics Service. "My role was to train the staff before we started to administer this therapy to the patient."

A dedicated radiopharmacist, who has had several years of additional training in nuclear medicine, handles these types of radiopharmaceuticals. A radiopharmaceutical is a radioactive drug used for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

"It is very much a team approach to this treatment," Brathwaite said. "We are working urgently to make sure it is a smooth process, and are



*Danielle Gonzales and Ric Torres, nuclear medicine technologists, demonstrate how the lutetium Lu 177 dotatate is administered to a patient in the Nuclear Medicine Department at Brooke Army Medical Center June 27.*

hopeful this treatment will be a main staple offered here."

Graham and Vroman agree.

"I definitely love my team members in Nuclear Medicine," Graham said. "I'm so thankful they found out all the steps and hoops they had to go through to

get approved to do this here."

"We are all very excited because we have been waiting for this type of targeted molecular therapy to treat these patients who have metastatic neuroendocrine tumors," Vroman said.

# LACKLAND

## JBSA-Lackland CDCs receive re-accreditation

By Mary Nell Sanchez  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The National Association for the Education of Young Children, or NAEYC, recently awarded the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland child development centers a five-year re-accreditation for its efforts in assuring adolescents reach the required milestones.

Representatives from the NAEYC visited the three facilities to observe how educators help each child evolve during the first five years of their life.

The CDCs support Department of Defense employees' children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. When a child is still an infant, markers in cognitive areas and movement are observed closely to ensure they stay on track in reaching those goals. Language, communication, and social and emotional milestones become more significant to their development as they get older because those markers influence how successful their transition into more structured education is.

"We would not expect a 6-week-old child to understand or respond the same way as a 5-year-old, so as we identify and connect with this child, we help them to move up to the next level," said Sherrie Walker, 502nd Air Base Wing child development center director.

The NAEYC requires 10 standards, which include forming positive relationships between staff and families, teacher curriculum, child progression and identifying individual challenges with each child. The NAEYC's



PHOTOS BY SARAYUTH PINTHONG

*Stephanie Salazar, 502nd Force Support Squadron child development program assistant, helps children create a fireworks painting June 11 at the Gateway Child Development Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.*

accreditation is in line with the Air Force and Department of Defense guidelines.

"The accreditation covers a whole area of quality care, from the care and support of the staff to the support of the children and their families," Walker said.

Because many of the children who attend the CDC have parents serving in the military, there's always change. That's why educators must make sure the curriculum is laser-focused on each child's needs.

The evaluation of each child's progress can vary as each makes their own journey through important milestones.

"They are so transient and a different variety of things are happening in their lives," Walker said. "We have to

support the parent, whether the parent is deployed, is here or is a single parent."

Many situations present themselves in the development of a child during the first five years, said Vina Stroud, 502nd ABW CDC training and curriculum specialist, so the curriculum is aimed at providing individualized care for each student.

"A lot of parents expect their children to do phenomenal things at a year old," said Lucia Sadler, 502nd ABW CDC training and curriculum specialist. "They're not all the same, and they develop differently."

Sadler wants to make sure every person at the CDC is recognized for their role in the re-accreditation honor.

"We work really hard here

**"The accreditation covers a whole area of quality care, from the care and support of the staff to the support of the children and their families."**

Sherrie Walker, 502nd Air Base Wing child development center director



*Tonya Smith, 502nd Force Support Squadron child development program lead technician, plays games with toddlers June 11 at the Gateway Child Development Center.*

and we all come together to make sure we're all on the same page," Sadler said.

The CDCs continuously maintain NAEYC standards so

the quality of care is always the best and children are continuing to get the best support possible, Walker added.

# Air Force BRAC program reaches innovation milestone

By Steve Warns and Malcom McClendon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Installations Directorate recently reached a significant innovation milestone stemming from a five-year effort.

AFCEC's Base and Realignment Closure team developed and transferred geospatial data for 39 BRAC installations onto the Air Force GeoBase program and was the first organization to complete the Air Force-wide task.

"I'm extremely proud of the team and their commitment and dedication to get this done," said Fernando Rodriguez, BRAC program management division post transfer manager. "It will aid

leadership in data-driven decision-making and reporting, ultimately saving taxpayer dollars for the Air Force enterprise."

The GeoBase program centralizes all geospatial data and utilizes modern information procedures and technology to display and query data quickly and accurately. The program's website also states that it delivers and optimizes agile combat support from a basing space to battle space and minimizing operational risk for the warfighter.

While BRAC bases do not have any active warfighters, the Airmen known as BRAC environmental coordinators find this



MALCOLM MCCLENDON

*Christiana Hewitt, a BRAC environmental coordinator with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Base Realignment and Closure program, accesses GeoBase at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 20.*

new centralized platform useful for their daily contributions to the force.

"It gives me easy access to geographic information system (GIS) data for the BRAC installations I manage," said Christiana

Hewitt, a BEC for the former Galena Air Force Base. "I use it to look at real property from all different angles; it quickly identifies base boundaries and gives me a picture of where things

are located, such as environmental sites, which helps me with remediation projects."

Before this task was complete, BECs would have to search in different archives, talk to historical

base personnel and refer to old data to make potential environmental remediation decisions.

"GIS data available before this effort was rustic, not precise and definitely not up to date with current needs like Land Use Controls, parcels or new environmental issues," Rodriguez said. "The project allowed BRAC to look at the future needs and decide on what layers are important for project decisions and for future maintenance needs of BRAC installations."

Rodriguez's team began three initiatives to revitalize, update and improve BRAC GIS data as a pilot effort in 2014. The team collected spatial information for mission critical layers, completed an accurate geospatial inventory of sites and real property affected by Land Use Controls and established GIS data management processes and standards in a guidance document.

"The BRAC GIS data was deemed necessary to consolidate and update for better situational awareness and reporting to the Pentagon and other government agencies such as the EPA," said Sophia Rodriguez, GIS team lead.

"It also ensures accountability of real property and real estate that have been transferred, as well as environmental issues that need to be addressed. Many believe that once the installation is transferred, we are done, but we are still managing them and encountering new environmental issues. We are never free of the liability created by our past usage of the installations."

# AFIMSC redesignates contracting, services units

By Debbie Aragon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland formally redesignated two of its primary subordinate units June 25 to bring them in line with Air Force naming conventions.

AFIMSC Commander Maj. Gen. Brad Spacy redesignated the organization's contracting and services operations as the Air Force Installation Contracting Center and the Air Force Services Center. Those units were previously designated as activity and agency respectively.

The services and contracting mission areas

now join AFIMSC's other two subordinate units — the Air Force Civil Engineer Center and Air Force Security Forces Center — that were already designated as centers when AFIMSC activated in 2015.

Although the redesignation ceremony took place June 25, The name changes for AFSVC and AFICC became official June 1.

The renaming is a result of AFIMSC's founding document, Program Action Directive 14-04, which required the names of all subordinate units to be in compliance with Air Force Instruction 38-101, Air Force

Organization. As a new organization, AFIMSC was given until now to complete the redesignations.

Finding the right name to fit the functions of AFIMSC's subordinate units was a challenge, Spacy explained during his remarks, because they had to fit all of the mission sets and be right for today.

"As I thought about it, it started to fit," Spacy said. "We are an installation and mission support center — Air Force level, enterprise level — because we touch everybody and we are the center of this capability. There is no other center for installation and mission support. So when you take Air Force contracting and Air Force

services — both Air Force capabilities — they are the center of that activity, there is nobody else."

In addition to having all PSUs now named alike, the general said he also sees the June 25 ceremony as another milestone in AFIMSC's journey, tying directly to the

organization's priority to function as a center.

"Becoming a center, acting as a unit is so critical to what we bring to the fight and that's attaching all of you, all of our PSUs, our headquarters people together in like effort," Spacy said. "What better way to do

that ... centers working for centers to bring Air Force-level capabilities across the entire enterprise.

"I challenge you to embrace the new names like you did the old," Spacy said, adding. "The future is bright and this is just the beginning."

# RANDOLPH

## Build-A-Backpack helps families overcome ‘money crunch’

By Robert Goetz  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the Joint Base San Antonio community will soon have an opportunity to provide some of its schoolchildren with the tools they need to start the new school year.

During the week of July 22-26, the JBSA Child & Youth Education Services School Liaison Office's Build-A-Backpack program will accept backpacks filled with school supplies for distribution to students in financial need.

Now in its ninth year, the program has given more than 6,000 fully filled backpacks to military families and youth in local communities from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade.

"Many families, especially those in the lower and mid-grade ranks, can see a real money crunch at back-to-school time," said Angela Green, JBSA-Randolph school liaison. "Our goal is to give the children of military and local community families the opportunity to start school with all the supplies they need to be successful."

Students who are eligible for backpacks are children of active-duty members E-5 and below with potential financial hardship risk; active-duty members E-6 and above with more than three dependents and potential financial hardship risk; members who are actively deployed, on extended temporary duty or on a remote tour of duty; members of Air Force Families Forever or service equivalent; wounded warriors; and members with unique circumstances or



JOEL MARTINEZ

*The Joint Base San Antonio Child & Youth Education Services School Liaison Office assists children from military families in financial need. It will accept backpacks filled with school supplies during the week of July 22-26.*

hardships.

Build-A-Backpack supports JBSA families "first and foremost," Green said, but the program also provides backpacks for students in financial need from school districts in surrounding communities.

Those who can refer a member to receive a backpack are first sergeants or their equivalent, Military & Family Readiness Center financial counselors, Family Advocacy Program representatives, Military and Family Life Counselors, and school district counselors and administrators, Green said.

"Referral agents are asked to contact the School Liaison Office at their location with the names of potential families to receive a donated backpack," she said.

Individuals, groups, squadrons and offices are all encouraged to donate backpacks, Green said.

They can choose from four separate supply lists — List A for pre-kindergarten through third grade, List B for grades 4-5, List C for grades 6-8 and List D for all high school grades — that detail all the items to be bought and placed inside the backpack. Grade-appropriate items range from pens, pencils, crayons and highlighters to rulers, glue sticks, folders, paper and spiral notebooks.

"The age group listings provided are a general idea of what is needed," Green said.

Supply lists are available from referral agents or by emailing the school liaison office at [jbsa.slo@us.af.mil](mailto:jbsa.slo@us.af.mil), or by calling 210-652-3081 or 210-671-3963.

Donors are encouraged to purchase all listed items for their group, but the program will accept all donations, including purchases above and beyond the required numbers as long as they fit in the backpack, she said. Monetary donations and gift cards are not accepted.

Green also noted that some school districts are requiring clear backpacks this year for safety purposes.

Donors should ensure all backpacks have a form or label distinguishing the age group designation or use the strips in the packet to identify the age group and, as an option, include a supportive note or card of encouragement for the student.

The backpacks will be accepted July 22-26 at the following locations:

- ▶ JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC, 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- ▶ JBSA-Lackland M&FRC, 2160 Kenly Ave., building 1249, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- ▶ JBSA-Randolph M&FRC, 555 F St. West, building 693, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- ▶ JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, 3011 Harney Path, building 1222, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.
- ▶ JBSA-Lackland Library, 1930 George Ave., building 614, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday.
- ▶ JBSA-Randolph Library, 5th St. East, building 598, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

Backpack distribution is tentatively scheduled for the week of Aug. 5-9, Green said.

"We'll arrange the time and place for pickup at the convenience of the families receiving the backpacks," Green said.

Families that benefit from the program are grateful for the community's support, Green said.

"People tell us how much this means to their families," she added. "Without this program, they didn't know how they'd be able to afford school supplies."

The program reveals the level of caring in the community, Green said.

"It shows the compassion families at JBSA have for one another," she said. "Supporting the program is rewarding, ensuring that all children are given a great start at the beginning of the school year."

# JBSA presents flag to local World War II POW

By Airman 1st Class Shelby Pruitt  
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Robert C. Bueker, a local retiree and former World War II prisoner of war, celebrated his 95th birthday a day early with the help of Joint Base San Antonio July 3, 2019.

First Lt. Christian Eberhardt, 502d Air Base Wing Public Affairs Officer, presented him with a personalized letter from Col. Mark Robinson, commander of the 12th Flying Training Wing, and a flag that was flown onboard an F-16 during 2017 support operations in Afghanistan.

Bueker started his Army Air Corps career as a navigator, serving from 1942-1969. He parachuted from a damaged B-24 bomber over Hungary and was captured by the German military on Nov. 20, 1944.

He was held as a POW until

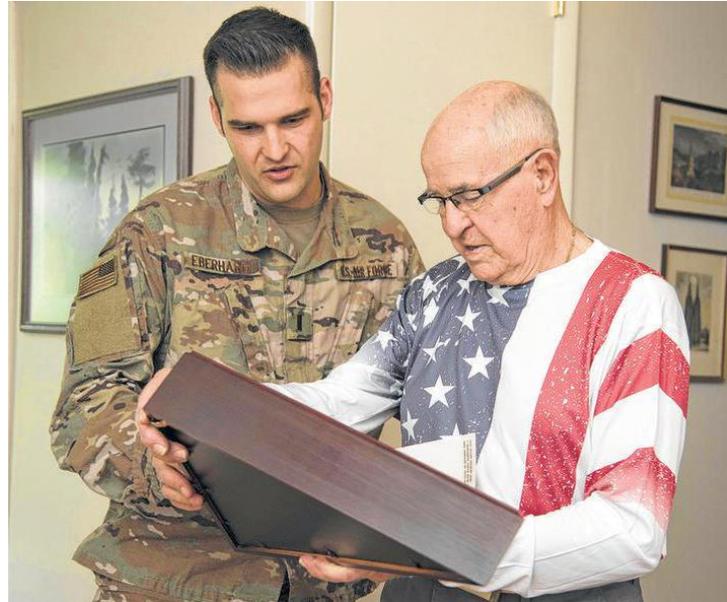
his return to the United States' Military control at the end of aggression in May 1945.

As a senior master sergeant, he retired as a public information specialist at JBSA-Randolph.

Retiring didn't stop Bueker from work, though. Following his departure from military service, he spent two years as Schertz city manager. He was elected mayor of Schertz in 1972, serving his community from 1973-1980.

Bueker and his wife, Mary, then started a real estate business, eventually opening four offices around San Antonio. Childhood sweethearts, Bueker and Mary were married 68 years, until Mary's passing in 2012.

Now, remarried to Brooke, he continues his life in Schertz.



Robert C. Bueker, a local retiree and former World War II prisoner of war, looks at the flag that was presented to him with First Lt. Christian Eberhardt, 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs Officer, at his home July 3.

SHELBY PRUITT

## Football star Lamar Miller hosts youth camp at JBSA-Randolph

Houston Texans running back Lamar Miller, left, hosts a football camp for about 150 Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Air Force Base youth July 1-2.



MARISA WOLFE

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Houston Texans running back Lamar Miller hosted a football camp for about 150 Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph youth from the first through eighth grades July 1-2.

Miller, who has been with the Texans for three seasons, led the football camp to help military children to learn the game of football and live healthier lifestyles. He taught football basics, ran drills, encouraged kids to stay active and healthy and also took questions from the camp participants.

"I try to get one percent better every day and outwork the guy next to me," he advised one child who asked how he handles competition.

Miller, a seven-year NFL veteran, also signed autographs for JBSA-Randolph Airmen and their families.

"It's always a privilege for the Army & Air Force Exchange Service to hold these events for military children," said Marc Floyd, general manager for the Exchange, which hosted the ProCamp in conjunction with the commissary. "We're grateful to Lamar Miller to give these kids a really special memory."

The camp was provided free of charge, as JBSA-Randolph won the camp for the installation through a contest earlier this year.