

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

AUGUST 2, 2019



PHOTO BY SARRINA FINE

U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein (left) presents the Air Education and Training Command guidon to Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, new commander of AETC, during a change of command ceremony July 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

AETC welcomes Lt. Gen. Webb as new commander

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ARNORTH welcomes new deputy commanding general

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Wilcox takes command of AFIMSC at JBSA-Lackland

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Dr. Mark T. Esper newly-approved as 27th Defense Secretary

By Terri Moon Cronk
DEFENSE.GOV

Dr. Mark T. Esper became the 27th Defense Secretary July 23 during an early evening White House swearing-in ceremony.

Earlier in the day, by a 90-8 vote, the U.S. Senate confirmed Esper to serve in the office.

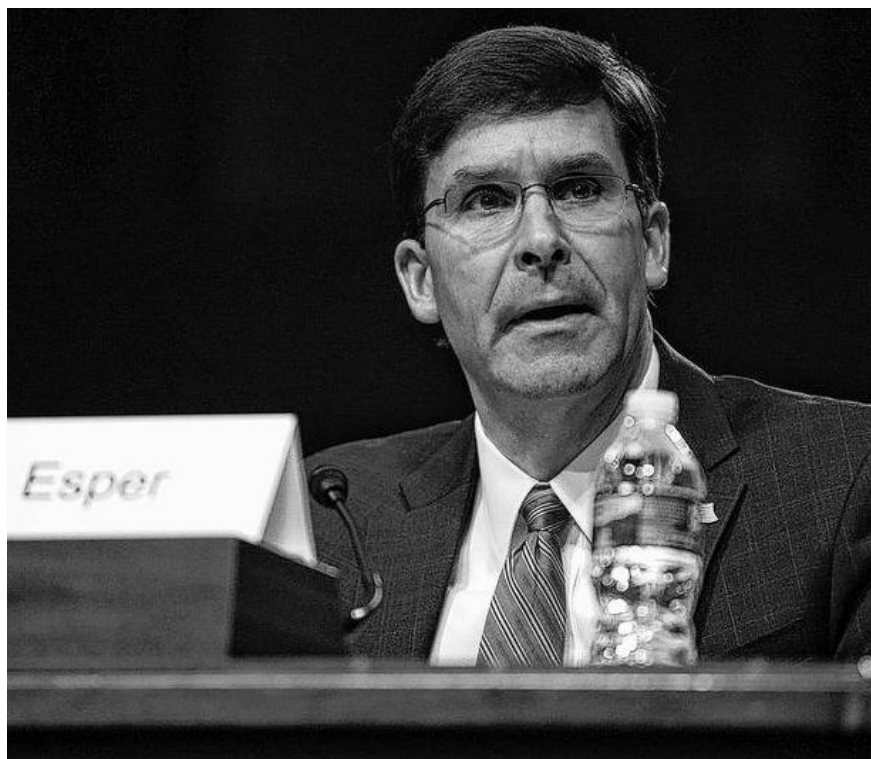
Esper officially became the defense secretary when the president signed the appointment paperwork preceding the formal swearing in.

Esper became acting defense secretary last month after then-acting Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan stepped down from consideration. President Donald J. Trump formally nominated Esper for the top Pentagon job July 15.

Once Esper was formally nominated for the position, he stepped back into his former position as Army secretary. By law, he could not continue to serve as acting defense secretary while under consideration for the permanent job. Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer became acting defense secretary on July 15.

After Esper was confirmed as defense secretary, President Trump formally nominated David L. Norquist for the Pentagon's No. 2 job as deputy defense secretary July 23. Norquist appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee July 24 for his confirmation hearing.

Norquist has been performing the duties of the



AMBER I. SMITH

U.S. Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper answers questions from members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during his confirmation hearing July 16 at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

deputy defense secretary. One of the very first things Esper planned to do as secretary of defense was delegate all duties of the deputy secretary to Spencer, chief Pentagon spokesperson Jonathan R. Hoffman told reporters July 23.

When that happens, he added, Norquist will cease to

perform the duties of the deputy secretary, and he will solely serve as the Defense Department's comptroller and chief financial officer while under consideration by the Senate.

This is done out of deference to the Senate, to not presume confirmation, Hoffman said.

"Mr. Spencer's leadership during this transition period has allowed the department to continue business as usual," he said. "We are fortunate to have such a talented service secretary who's fully capable of assuming these duties during this unprecedented period of transition."

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Joint Base San Antonio HOTLINES

• Sexual Assault Hotline
210-808-SARC (7272)

• Domestic Abuse Hotline
210-367-1213

• DOD Safe Helpline
877-995-5247

• Suicide Prevention
800-273-TALK (8255)

• Duty Chaplain
210-221-9363

Professionals from the 502nd Air Base Wing Civil Engineer Group work to remediate dorms with mold July 29 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



SEAN WORRELL /

AETC commander gets up-close, takes active stance with JBSA-Lackland mold issues

By Jennifer Gonzalez
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, spent his first full day as commander on the job at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland July 29, examining facilities where mold conditions exist.

“Taking care of our Airmen who execute the mission everyday will always be my top priority,” Webb said.

Webb was joined by Chief Master Sgt. Juliet Gudel, AETC command chief; as well as Maj. Gen. John Degoes, 59th Medical Wing commander; Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman,

502nd Air Base Wing commander; Col. Jason Janaros, 37th Training Wing commander. Additionally, the command chiefs from each wing were represented as well.

The 502nd ABW, as the installation’s host wing, is responsible for all of the facilities and infrastructure at JBSA locations.

“Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman and her team are actively working solutions including 100 percent dorm inspections, relocating permanent party and technical training residents as needed, and removing mold from rooms,” Webb said. “I applaud the efforts and actions of the entire 502nd ABW team.”

Residents in facilities at JBSA-Lackland voiced their concerns last week, which led to actions to remediate the buildings most impacted.

Professionals from 502nd Civil Engineer Group are treating rooms with a regimen that includes a bleaching process as well as utilizing dehumidifiers, removing and replacing carpet with vinyl planks, and installing ceiling fans.

Along with 502nd ABW efforts, the new AETC commander is pitching in his support to JBSA to help fix the issues.

“Without exception, our Airmen deserve clean and safe facilities to live and work in,”

Webb said.

To date, the 502nd ABW has relocated about 200 permanent party and technical training residents.

“As we advocate to fund the improvement of all living and working conditions for our Airmen it is important to focus on the way ahead,” Gudel said. “We need to concentrate on the task at hand, which is ensuring all Airmen live, work, train and eat in a pleasant, healthy and safe environment. Now is a time for action.”

In addition to moving Airmen, the 502nd ABW, in conjunction with units across the installation, are developing plans to relocate residents to

other on-base facilities and possibly off-base locations. JBSA has the largest dormitory program in the Air Force with 77 dorms and bed space capacity of 27,000.

JBSA-Lackland dormitory residents are asked to raise mold issues to their leadership but if complaints are not satisfactorily addressed, residents are encouraged to go directly to 502nd Air Base Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Lenderman through the “Feedback Fridays” program.

Questions and concerns can be sent to Randolph PublicAffairs@us.af.mil or the 502nd Commander using the subject line “FeedbackFridays.”

Air Force participates in Safe + Sound Week

By Susan Merhege

AIR FORCE SAFETY CENTER

The Air Force will participate in Safe + Sound Week Aug. 12-18. Safe + Sound Week is a nationwide event designed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to highlight the value of safety and health programs in the workplace and to celebrate the institutions that implement them.

The Air Force Safety Center is asking Airmen to take part in OSHA's "Take 3 in 30" challenge as part of the Safe + Sound event. The "Take 3 in 30" challenge is simple: take three actions in 30 days to advance workplace safety or health culture. Some recommended actions include, but aren't limited to:

- ▶ Make safety part of daily conversations with workers.
- ▶ Walk the jobsite to identify hazards.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

- ▶ Conduct a short safety meeting.
- ▶ Request a no-cost, confidential OSHA consultation.
- ▶ Create a safety video.

- ▶ Establish goals and objectives for a safety and health program.
- ▶ Recognize workers who meet or exceed safety and health goals.
- ▶ Find or become a safety

mentor.

- ▶ Display a flyer or poster about workplace safety.

In order to make taking part in these actions easier, AFSEC has posted the necessary

resources on its Safe + Sound public webpage.

Get "coined" by OSHA and AFSEC: Participants are encouraged to list and share the three actions they take by posting them on a list in the workplace and on social media using the hashtags #AFSafeAndSound, #Take3in30 and #SafeAndSoundAtWork. Once participants have completed their three actions in 30 days, they should contact AFSEC at segt.afsc@us.af.mil and they will receive a return email message containing an image of an OSHA coin which can be shared on social media or printed and posted in their workplace or newsletter. Airmen who create safety articles or videos will get a bonus Air Force Safe + Sound virtual coin.

For more information on Safe + Sound, visit: <https://www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek/>.

Air Force Uniform Office seeks feedback on maternity uniforms

By Brian Brackens

AIR FORCE LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Uniform Office has begun surveying female Airmen to collect feedback on Air Force maternity uniform items.

All Air Force women will receive an e-mail from the Air Force Survey Office with a unique link inviting them to take the survey. To determine who should take the full survey, the Uniform Office is asking participants to respond to the first survey question.

"Getting feedback on maternity uniform items is important," said Tracy Roan, chief of the Uniform Office. "Our goal is to make uniforms more comfortable, and provide

a uniform that will sustain Airmen through their entire pregnancy."

Roan went on to add that due to privacy rules, Airmen who have worn maternity items or are currently wearing them are a difficult population to reach and the survey is a great avenue to reach them.

Feedback from the survey will help determine how well maternity uniforms are meeting the needs of pregnant Airmen, and guide the design and development of the uniforms.

The survey is open to active duty, Reserve and Guard and ends Sept. 23.

For questions about the survey or maternity uniforms, send an email to AFLCMC.WNUV:TAC.AF.UniformOffice@us.af.mil.



BRIAN BRACKENS

Stacey Butler (right), a clothing designer with the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's Air Force Uniform Office, measures Capt. Taylor Harrison's maternity Airman Battle Uniform.

Enlisted PME topic of latest 'Developing Mach-21 Airmen' podcast

From Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

A look inside the enlisted professional military education is the topic of the latest "Developing Mach-21 Airmen," Air Education and Training Command's professional development podcast series, released July 19.

On the pod, Senior Airman Francisco Melendez from the Air University public affairs office sits down with Tech. Sgt. Joshua Steward and Senior Master Sgt. Markesha Crawford from the Barnes Center at Air University to talk about the Enlisted Professional Military Education Instructor Course, or EPMEIC.

Topics include what the course is and who has to attend, as well as how it prepares Airmen to become instructors and get comfortable facilitating and teaching in the classroom, along with the curriculum development process. Additionally, Crawford talks to her role as the superintendent of the team that

develops the curriculum across enlisted PME, the continuum of learning & how people grow through education in their life, and a myriad of other education topics.

The professional development podcasts are designed to help communicate and inform Total Force Airmen across the globe on relevant, timely topics related to the recruiting, training, education and development fields and can be listened to on the government network on the AETC website at <https://www.aetc.af.mil/News/Developing-Mach-21-Airmen-Podcast/>, or via mobile application as well as on Apple Podcasts (iTunes). For Android or Google mobile users, the podcast can be found on their favorite third-party podcast phone application.

Future episodes are set to cover a wide range of topics, including joint force training in the civil engineering career field; the classroom of the future at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy and much more.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

DOD implements Women's Health Transition Training Program

By Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs partnered with the Department of Defense to implement the first Women's Health Transition Training. The program is an in-person and virtual course designed to provide a female perspective to active-duty, Reserve and National Guard servicewomen who plan to transition to civilian or Reserve/National Guard status.

According to the VA, women are the fastest growing subgroup of U.S. veterans. They face greater health-related challenges after military service compared to their male counterparts, including: chronic pain, obesity, musculoskeletal issues, depression and suicide. Since 2001, age-adjusted rates of suicide among women veterans have increased by 85.2%, versus 30.5% among men.

"The biggest obstacle that the VA faces is simply awareness

on what they provide to female veterans," said Maj. Alea Nadeem, Headquarters Air Force deputy mission manager and member of the Air Force Women Initiatives Team. "That statistic, it was heartbreaking to learn, and it really drove me to help in developing this program that could potentially save lives."

Data collected uncovered that fewer women veterans seek services and support from the VA. For example, women veterans with a psychiatric diagnosis do not connect with VA mental health care until a median of 2.4 years post military service vs. a median of 2.1 years in male counterparts.

"These trends underscore the need to recruit servicewomen into (Veterans Health Administration) health care and support services immediately after military separation," Nadeem said.

In July 2018, the VA Women's

Women's Health Transition Training

New locations added – sign up now!



Open to all services

DID YOU KNOW?

VA provides reproductive health services, including maternity care

You can use Tricare AND VA healthcare when you retire

Those not retiring but separating can be eligible for healthcare at VA

VA has women specific primary health care providers

Topics Covered

Preparation for Health Transition

Women Specific Services at VA

Perceptions of VA and Culture Change

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Health Transition Training Program started as a pilot at five Air Force bases. By June 2019, the training began operating as an official VA program and expanded to Army, Navy, and Marine Corps installations. The training is expected to transition

ownership to the Veterans Benefits Administration in 2021.

"By providing relevant VHA health enrollment information, and describing the extent and depth of services offered at VHA related to women's health, women veterans will

learn how to access the health care services that they need and want at the VA in a timely manner," Nadeem said.

The in-person courses are currently being provided in multiple national locations and the virtual offering is expected to be deployed August 2019.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

ARNORTH welcomes new deputy commanding general

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

Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, U.S. Army North Commanding General, welcomed Maj. Gen. David P. Glaser, the new U.S. Army North Deputy Commanding General-Operations, during a ceremony at the Quadrangle at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston July 23.

"Today is a great day for U.S. Army North as we welcome Maj. Gen. David Glaser to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and the ARNORTH command team as our deputy commanding general," Richardson said.

Glaser most recently served as the Provost Marshal General of the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C., concurrently serving as the commanding general, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command. He

was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1985 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. His career spans more than three decades and includes key command and staff positions, as well as three deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"When I was asked if I'd consider serving as the DCG for Army North, I'll be honest, my heart leapt knowing the mission, the opportunity to work with state and Federal agencies as well as partnering with our neighbors in Canada, Mexico and the Bahamas," Glaser said.

Glaser thanked the group and the local community for an incredible welcome. He said he and his family look forward to being an active part of the San Antonio community and the mission success of Army North.



SGT. ANDREW S. VALLES

Maj. Gen. David P. Glaser, the new U.S. Army North Deputy Commanding General-Operations, speaks during his welcome ceremony at the Quadrangle July 23 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Army releases housing survey results

By Lauren Padden
U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army recently released the results of two housing surveys in order to better understand the overall experience of residents who live in Army housing.

The resident survey results show a drop in overall satisfaction rates from last year and come amid a months-long effort by the Army to improve housing conditions after learning of residents' concerns.

Across the Army more than 100,000 residents were invited to participate and 25,414 responded, although participation rates were lower than last year.

"Feedback from residents is extremely valuable for measuring and improving the quality of housing on Army installations," said Alex Beehler, Assistant Secretary for the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment. "The results of this year's survey will be used to continue identifying concerns of our residents."

At Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, 308 of the 871 distributed surveys were received.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's residents' overall satisfaction rate was 76.3 percent for 2019, just above the Army average of 74.6 percent. However, that reflects a decline in satisfaction from 2018 when JBSA-Fort Sam

Houston scored 78.6 percent.

A majority of respondents, 92 percent, reported satisfaction with the courtesy of maintenance personnel and 87 percent of respondents said they were satisfied with the responsiveness and ease of contacting maintenance.

Eighty-eight percent of respondents said they were satisfied with the professionalism with which they were treated during the last twelve months of move-in or lease renewal.

Areas with the lowest satisfaction include:

▶ Appearance/condition of the community: landscaping and road/parking areas/sidewalks/common area

conditions

▶ Characteristics of the homes: overall condition, landscaping, appliances, move in conditions, pest control

▶ Only 59 percent of those surveyed believe this is the best managed community of those they have lived in

▶ Sixty-nine percent of respondents said they would seek housing in this community again and reported they are satisfied with this privatized community

"Since the housing crisis we have implemented several quality control mechanisms," said Mark Greszler, Army Support Activity manager. "The Army RCI team conducts routine spot checks on five percent of all maintenance calls and takes part in 100 percent of all move-in and move-out

inspections."

Noted improvements indicated by the survey include readiness to solve problems, responsiveness and follow-through.

Greszler directly attributes those trends to the increased emphasis of quality control and increased oversight by Army leaders and the ASA's Residential Communities Initiative Office staff.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston was ranked 17th out of 43 privatized housing installations, earning an overall rating of "good."

However, as Greszler noted, "we still have work to do. The Army Housing Campaign is enduring and several issues such as our worn out historical housing and sustainment maintenance requirements need to be addressed."

BAMC volunteer honors his calling by helping others

By Olivia Mendoza

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Brooke Army Medical Center volunteer found his spiritual calling at age 50 and has been giving back ever since.

Phillip Lewis has been a BAMC Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care volunteer since July 1996 and was recognized as the 2018 BAMC Volunteer of the Year for his dedication and selfless service to others.

He's come a long way since his youth as an Army "brat."

Lewis was born in 1946 in New Mexico. His mother, Marian Lewis, was a stay-at-home mom and his father, Col. Arden Lewis, was a World War II veteran who retired after serving 33 years in the Army.

After graduating high school, he decided to follow in his footsteps, joining the Army three days after his 18th birthday.

"Dad was a very good man. That is the one thing I remember from him was that he loved serving his country," Lewis said.

The young enlisted infantry paratrooper headed to Vietnam with his unit, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles, in the spring of 1965.

"I served with the 1st Brigade as an infantry reconnaissance squad leader," Lewis said. "At 19 years old, I was promoted to sergeant and was in charge of leading my Soldiers in the battlefield."

He joined the Army with the hope of attending the U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point, but that all changed when he was wounded by machine gun fire and medically evacuated to an Army hospital in Japan.

He vividly recalls that day because two of his Soldiers, who were on each side of him, were killed.

The dream of attending West



OLIVIA MENDOZA

Phillip Lewis, right, on-call chaplain and post anesthesia care unit volunteer, talks with a family in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit at Brooke Army Medical Center, while Air Force Maj. Katherine M. Slogic, pediatric anesthesiologist, listens to the patient's lungs April 16.

Point was gone, but a Veteran Affairs program supporting wounded Soldiers helped him to go to school through the vocational rehabilitation program. He was accepted to Trinity University in San Antonio and was hired by the VA to assist other Soldiers.

Lewis met his wife, Susan, in 1967 and they were married in 1968 at the Alamo Heights Presbyterian Church, where they first met. They have been happily married for 51 years and have two adult children and two grandchildren.

In 1971, Lewis decided on a career in law enforcement. He became the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms resident agent-in-charge for the San Antonio area and retired after 25 years of service. He was also

a certified crisis and hostage negotiator.

"Law enforcement is to serve and protect the people like the Army serves and protects our country," Lewis said.

A turning point in his career came during the 1993 Branch Davidian standoff in Waco.

"We lost four special agents and 20 others were wounded that day," Lewis recalled. "I was there and watched special agents get killed in a line of fire, while others were badly wounded. The bomb explosions going off reminded me of the war zone in Vietnam."

Lewis and his fellow agents struggled with their emotions after the traumatic event. He realized that some of the agents were experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder,

or PTSD. This drove him to give back in return for his life being spared and to help ease the lives of those who were suffering.

Lewis joined a peer support group with a small team of senior special agents professionally trained to help those suffering from PTSD.

Throughout his life, Lewis was committed to serving God and helping others. His calling steered him to Brooke Army Medical Center to volunteer in the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care in 1996.

In 1997, he was commissioned as a chaplain.

"I'm so thankful that the law enforcement provided training and experience as a peer support counselor to fit very well into my work as a chaplain," Lewis said. "It was

"I feel honored and humble to function as a chaplain at BAMC. I don't consider what I do is work, it is a privilege to volunteer at the hospital because I am just one amongst many who share their time and energy to support BAMC."

**Phillip Lewis, BAMC
Department of Ministry and
Pastoral Care volunteer**

especially helpful after 9/11 when BAMC began receiving wounded warriors and I was in a position to interact with them and their families during their stay."

Lewis thought he would follow his father's path of being a Soldier, traveling to different locations with his family. He never imagined his life would guide him to become a dutiful chaplain and a volunteer at BAMC.

"I feel honored and humble to function as a chaplain at BAMC," Lewis said. "I don't consider what I do is work, it is a privilege to volunteer at the hospital because I am just one amongst many who share their time and energy to support BAMC."

He describes himself as "grateful and blessed" for his upbringing and thankful to be alive and serving God and his country.

Today, Lewis continues his devotion doing virtuous work in helping others by providing comfort in listening, visiting and caring.

Regional Health Command-Central holds change of command ceremony

By Erin Perez

REGIONAL HEALTH
COMMAND-CENTRAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Regional Health Command-Central held a change of command ceremony at the Quadrangle at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston July 16, with Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Johnson passing the reins of command to Brig. Gen. George “Ned” Appenzeller.

Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, Army Surgeon General and commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command, and the ceremony’s host, praised Johnson for his hard work and commitment to readiness.

“I thank Jeff for his vision to enhance the quality of care for our Soldiers and to ensure the medical readiness of our Soldiers,” West said.

During his 15-month tenure as the RHC-C commanding general, Johnson focused on Army Medicine’s lines of effort through specific command priorities that helped the command build and maintain partnerships with III Corps, U.S. Army South, U.S. Army North, U.S. Army Africa and U.S. Army Reserve Medical Command.

That collaboration led to a total of 150 personnel, from RHC-C headquarters and medical treatment facilities inside the Region, participating in Expeditionary Health Readiness Platforms and Medical Readiness Training Exercises in austere, multi-domain battlefield environment that focused on medical readiness using only local resources in Honduras, Chad, Senegal and Ghana directly supporting U.S. Army South and U.S. Army Africa.



Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West (center), Army Surgeon General and commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Command, passes the guidon to Brig. Gen. George Appenzeller (left) during the Regional Health Command-Central change of command ceremony July 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

ERIN PEREZ

In addition, seven of the medical treatment facilities under the RHC-C footprint were inspected and accredited by The Joint Commission.

“As I have travelled around this region, I’ve personally seen the driving force behind our successes,” Johnson said during his remarks. “It is those, represented by their command teams, back at each installation — the Soldiers, Civilians, contractors and volunteers working together to ensure the success of Army and Military Medicine.”

Appenzeller is the former deputy commanding general of RHC-C and commanding general of Brooke Army Medical Center. He was commissioned a medical service corps officer after graduat-

ing from Tulane University in New Orleans. As a recipient of the Health Professions Scholarship Program, he attended medical school and completed an internal medicine internship at the Medical University of South Carolina in Mount Pleasant, S.C. He then completed a residency in emergency medicine at the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium. He is a Board Certified Fellow in Emergency Medicine.

“I want to thank you for the opportunity for being allowed to continue to serve alongside all of these awesome Soldiers, civilians and civic partners in a city my family and I truly love, Military City, U.S.A.,” Appenzeller said at the end of his remarks.

RHC-C is the Army’s largest geographical medical region, with 12 military treatment facilities and 44 dental clinics across 20 states, as well as 29 public health and veterinarian facilities on each military installation within their geographic footprint.

BAMC unveils painting by wounded warrior

By Daniel J. Calderón
BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center recently hosted an unveiling ceremony in the Medical Mall for a painting donated by former United Nations Ambassador Warren W. Tichenor.

"I'm very honored to be invited to be with you for this very memorable occasion," Tichenor said during his remarks. "Mario, and to everyone at BAMC, this is your day because today we're here to unveil a painting by Sgt. Mario Lopez that will hang here at BAMC for all time."

Retired Army Sgt. Mario Lopez, a former BAMC patient, painted the stylized image of the American flag on canvas.

Lopez took time to speak with the audience about his

time at BAMC after being injured in Afghanistan in 2008. The vehicle he was riding in hit an improvised explosive device. He sustained a head injury, lost his right arm and the fingers on his left hand, and was burned over more than 50 percent of his body. He had three surgeries in Germany and was flown to San Antonio to complete his rehabilitation at BAMC.

"Being here in this facility brings back so many memories — some bad, but mostly good," Lopez said. "I'm alive. I'm alive because God wanted me here, but I'm also alive because of the exceptionalism of this country, the exceptionalism of this facility and the exceptionalism of the individuals who occupy this place. I'm standing here because of your training, your experience and your love."

Lopez thanked everyone who



Retired Sgt. Mario Lopez (center) gathers for a photo with Brooke Army Medical Center staff members after his painting of the American flag is unveiled in the Medical Mall of the hospital at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

assembled for the ceremony and said he hoped his painting will positively influence staff, patients, and family members who see it, and he hopes it reminds them all that life

"really is worth living."

Tichenor, who served as the U.N. ambassador under President George W. Bush, read a letter from the former president to Lopez which

"The painting is a testament to your resilience and I am grateful that art helped you heal your wounds of war."

Former President
George W. Bush in a letter to
retired Army Sgt. Mario Lopez

congratulated him on his painting's unveiling.

"The painting is a testament to your resilience and I am grateful that art helped you heal your wounds of war," the letter from Bush read. "I know your artwork will be a source of inspiration to those at BAMC for years to come."

The painting is displayed on the wall across from the Medal of Honor display in the Medical Mall.

Accreditation of BAMC lab services spans more than 50 years

From Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center Department of Pathology and Area Laboratory Services has been recognized as one of the longest College of American Pathologists-accredited laboratories in the United States.

"BAMC's continuous CAP accreditation is a testament to the sustained quality of our staff and their commitment to patient safety," said Army Col. David H. Duplessis, BAMC's deputy commander for patient services. "BAMC's Department of Pathology and Area Laboratory Service performs more than 12,000 laboratory tests per day, consisting of the highest complexity testing conducted within the Department of Defense. Continuous CAP accreditation

is even more impressive given the high test volume and complexity."

According to its website, more than 20,000 laboratories around the world partner with the CAP. BAMC is one of only 41 laboratories that have continuously met the highest standards of laboratory quality and proficiency testing for more than 50 years. Since the CAP began its Laboratory Accreditation Program in 1964, BAMC has ensured that patients are receiving the best medical care and most accurate diagnosis and treatment possible.

"The expertise and teamwork of our DPALS physicians and staff ensure we meet the CAP benchmarks for high quality patient care and patient safety practices for our active duty service members, their dependents and our veterans," said Air Force Lt.



COURTESY PHOTO

Brooke Army Medical Center Department of Pathology and Area Laboratory Services has been recognized as one of the longest College of American Pathologists-accredited laboratories in the United States.

Col. Samantha Butler-Garcia, DPALS program director. "Our patients can be confident they will be receiving premier laboratory testing through our department."

Pathologists are on the cutting edge of medicine, diagnosis and treatment. Their work is often the most crucial piece in understanding viruses, infections and disease, making accurate diagnoses and working side-by-side with

the health care team in recommending the best treatments. A more precise diagnosis means a faster, more accurate treatment, putting patients on the road to recovery sooner.

"For the best testing and diagnosis, pathologists and laboratory technicians need to meet the highest standards of laboratory quality and proficiency testing set by the College of American

Pathologists," said Dr. R. Bruce Williams, CAP president. "To achieve this standard, and maintain it, for more than 50 years is a momentous achievement because CAP accreditation is an incredibly rigorous, ongoing process."

To consistently meet the high standards of CAP accreditation, laboratories must prove they are using the latest technologies and best practices to deliver faster, more accurate results for better patient care every day.

"Patients are the CAP's number one priority, and we equip our member laboratories with the knowledge, skills, and resources to remain current and relevant in an evolving health care landscape," Williams said. "We're changing lives by presenting patients with the answers they need to guide their care."

M&FRC hosts 'TAP Too' workshop for spouses

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Spouses of transitioning service members will learn about resources and programs that can help them as they enter civilian life at the TAP Too workshop at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 28.

TAP Too will include topics and issues that impact spouses of transitioning service members covered by subject matter experts from programs and organizations throughout JBSA and the local community. TAP, or Transition Assistance Program, provides counseling and job assistance to

servicemembers who are preparing to leave the military.

Yasmine Gutierrez, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC work/life consultant, said the workshop will assist spouses of transitioning servicemembers in connecting them with resources that will help them during the transition process.

"TAP Too is a program that is geared specifically towards our transitioning spouses," Gutierrez said. "The Military & Family Readiness Center organization with the Transition Assistance Program hope to prepare the spouses for that military to civilian transition period."

The workshop agenda covers phases of transition and includes topics on finances, education, family, health care

and Department of Veteran Affairs benefits.

Representatives from various organizations that help military families will provide information and answer questions about their programs and services.

In addition, the workshop will have a panel of spouses who have gone through the transition process who will share their experiences.

"We want to create an environment where spouses can feel comfortable coming in, asking those questions and getting those resources firsthand," Gutierrez said. "This is an environment where people are all going through the same thing and we hope to bring together a community resource for spouses who are transitioning."

Elizabeth Treon, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC director, said as a spouse of a service member who retired four years ago, she understands the challenges spouses go through during the transition process.

"The workshop is going to give them an idea of what to expect," Treon said. "We don't think about the impacts we are going to face when separating or transitioning: what is our medical coverage going to look like, what are we considering in our budget. It's a complete acclimation process and it's not going to happen in a day. With TAP Too, we want to hone in on the key things that we see the military spouses struggle with."

Treon emphasized the importance of being prepared for the transition period and

that TAP Too can be part of that preparation process.

"A family in transition trained to navigate potential obstacles, having awareness of the cycles of transition and being able to identify signs of depression and suicide will not only save money and marriages but potentially a life," Treon said. "As you can see, the added value of an emboldened transitioning spouse is immeasurable."

Plans are for the TAP Too workshop to be held on a quarterly basis, four times a year. If spouses aren't able to attend the Aug. 28 workshop, the next one will be Nov. 27.

For more information or to register for TAP Too, call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC at 210-221-2705 or go to e.afit.edu/gghdd7VV.

Navy Medicine commands host educators for STEM tour

By Petty Officer 2nd Class
Shayla Hamilton

NAVY MEDICINE TRAINING SUPPORT
CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Navy Medicine Training Support Center cohosted Bexar County educators for a tour of the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston July 15.

This is the second consecutive year Navy Medicine commands have hosted this event as part of Alamo Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM, Workforce Coalition efforts, which included a visit to the Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio, or NAMRU-SA.

Upon arrival, the educators were able to speak with a Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, or NRD-SA, recruiter, who is among the Sailors who service the area of the schools represented. This brief was structured to allow the educators and counselors an opportunity to ask questions

about initial-entry requirements, incentives and education benefits offered to their students upon enlisting. The briefs following allowed the educators to receive insight on the training Sailors, Airmen and Soldiers receive at the Medical Education and Training Campus.

"Here at the METC, we focus a lot of attention on making sure the service members still know how to be a Soldier, Sailor, Airman," said Keith Hall, Strategic Planning and Partnerships Program manager. "We are training them to understand rank structure, training alongside other branches of services helping them to be comfortable when it matters. We train for the mission and educate for a lifetime of service. METC has 49 programs of instruction. On any given day, we see about 5,500 students, which translates to enough people to staff about four 300-bed hospitals."

Hall also informed the educators about the 36



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS SHAYLA D. HAMILTON

Seaman Emille Sichz and Seaman Apprentice Ciaran Braswell, students in the Surgical Technician program at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, perform a mock surgery during a tour.

consolidated programs and the credentials students are eligible to receive while training at the METC.

"We work with colleges and universities in the nation to develop degree bridge pathways

for our service members," Hall said. "This means they'll allow military students who graduate from the METC to attend their colleges and universities and not have to do the same work that they've already done here.

They go into these colleges with a 'head start' already being pregranted 18-30 credit hours, depending on their program, so they can continue where they left off."

After the briefs, the visitors spoke with Navy instructors from the Radiology and Surgical Technologist programs and observed students performing mock surgeries in the operating rooms.

The last stop on the METC tour was Military Instructional Facility Four, named Anderson Hall, where the educators were presented an overview of the Tactical Combat Casualty Care, or TCCC, portion of the Hospital Corpsman Basic program and toured the spaces where the students put all their training into action during a simulated mass casualty event.

The visit concluded with a panel sat by five Hospital Corpsman Basic instructors. The instructors opened the panel with introductions and gave the guests a brief overview of their Navy careers to better direct their questions.

LACKLAND

Wilcox takes command of Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center

Wilcox replaces Maj. Gen. Brad Spacy, who is retiring

By Shannon Carabajal
AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Tom Wilcox said he is excited to join the team revolutionizing installation and mission support after taking command of the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center during a ceremony at the Gateway Club at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland July 25.

"To all the warfighters of AFIMSC, (Marian and I) are honored and humbled to be on your team and look forward to meeting you and getting to know each one of you," Wilcox said.

"You are the experts at integrating installation and mission support across the Air Force and your knowledge is unmatched. I am excited about identifying additional synergies across the enterprise as we work to provide robust, affordable and innovative options to our Airmen."

Wilcox replaced Maj. Gen. Brad Spacy, who is retiring after 32 years of service.

Gen. Arnold Bunch Jr., commander of Air Force Materiel Command, officiated the ceremony. He said Wilcox would build upon Spacy's success of fanning innovation and transforming installation and mission support for the Air Force.



Maj. Gen. Tom Wilcox, right, receives the unit flag from Gen. Arnold W. Bunch Jr., commander of Air Force Materiel Command, to become commander of the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center during a ceremony July 25 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

"You are getting a great leader, you are getting a servant leader, you are getting a team builder and you are getting a man who is unapologetically himself," Bunch said. "He will take this organization to even new heights; he will drive it even more into the future."

One of six specialized centers assigned to AFMC, AFIMSC provides installation and mission support capabilities to 77 Air Force installations, nine major commands and two

direct reporting units with an annual budget of approximately \$10 billion.

Over the past few years, AFIMSC has tackled some of the biggest challenges in the Air Force and led the way into a new world of innovation and combat support, Bunch said, stressing that the center plays a vital role in AFMC and Air Force missions.

In the future, Wilcox said the center will be key to achieving national security objectives in

defense of our nation.

"Lethality and readiness must be at the core of our efforts as we work to attain national defense strategy objectives in a near-peer environment," he said.

"A conflict in the future with a near-peer competitor will look radically different than the violent extremist organization operations of the last 30 years. And as (Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein) says, we have from now until go to get

"You are getting a great leader, you are getting a servant leader, you are getting a team builder and you are getting a man who is unapologetically himself."

Gen. Arnold Bunch Jr.,
commander of Air Force
Materiel Command

ready. It's our job to make sure our support forces are ready and our bases are operationally resilient and able to produce continuous airpower."

Wilcox is a career security forces officer who served in a variety of operational assignments — including squadron, group and wing command — during his career. Prior to taking command of AFIMSC, he was the director of operations and communications at Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

JOHNNY SALDIVAR

Arts in the Armed Forces visits 433rd Airlift Wing

By Minnie Jones

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Arts in the Armed Forces visited the 433rd Airlift Wing and got an up-close look at the wing's massive C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft, and experienced a simulated flight in the wing's C-5M simulator at Joint Base San

Antonio-Lackland June 28. The AITAF group was here to perform a reading of "True West," to San Antonio's local military personnel, veterans and their families.

San Antonio-based Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors sponsored the group to San Antonio, and the Alamo Wing was the first stop the actors and the support team visited.

During their visit, the AITAF group toured a C-5M Super Galaxy and experienced virtual flying in a C-5 M simulator.

"We are deeply grateful to



Actor Michael James Shaw sits in the cockpit of a C-5M Simulator during a tour of the 433rd Airlift Wing June 28 at Joint Base San Antonio.

the team at the 433rd Airlift Wing for taking time to give our team an in-depth overview of their impressive scope of work and tremendous aircraft," said Lindsay Miserandino, Arts in the Armed Forces executive director. "Touring a C-5 and experimenting in a flight simulator was an incredibly unique experience; one that left us all with a profound sense of

appreciation and admiration for their service and sacrifice."

The AITAF Team, including the staff from the Cohen Military Family Clinic, along with the 802nd Force Support Squadron's Exceptional Family Member Program, JBSA-Lackland, were met by Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd Airlift Wing commander, and Col. Scott Thompson, 502nd

Installation Support Group commander, representing the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio.

"Being able to connect with the 433rd and seeing the enormous plane and hearing about the ways that the plane supports missions around the world was fantastic," said Jill Palmer, DSW, LCSW, Cohen Military Family Clinic senior director, clinic operations. "During the tour, we were able to talk to the men and women who operate the plane, which allowed me, and I believe the whole group, to understand the commitment and dedication they have to their work."

On June 29, San Antonio's local military personnel, veterans, and their families, were treated to a reading of "True West," a play written by American playwright Sam Shepard. The play is a character study that examines the relationship between Austin, a screenwriter, and his

older brother Lee.

Artists L. Scott Caldwell, Chad L. Coleman, Chris Lowell, and Michael James Shaw performed the play at the Charline McCombs Empire Theatre in downtown San Antonio. At the end of their performance, the actors took questions from the audience, making it night to remember.

According to the AITAF's website, Arts in the Armed Forces, Inc. is a non-profit based in Brooklyn, N.Y. Its mission brings high-quality arts programming to active-duty and Reserve service members, veterans, military support staff, and their families around the world free of charge. The Arts in the Armed Forces serve all branches of the military at U.S. installations domestically and abroad. They choose content that features diverse themes, ages, ethnicities, and experiences to create a complex and unique experience for our audiences. Actors Adam Driver and Joanne Tucker founded the organization in 2006.

Retired MWDs looking for homes, families

Older retired military working dogs are well trained, bringing great obedience and good manners

By Mary Nell Sanchez

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fida served her country for almost five years as a military working dog. During the German shepherd's career, the European-born canine served as a combat tracker for the Marines and worked in detection training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland before medically retiring in 2013.

Thousands of MWDs are stationed around the world placing themselves in harm's way detecting bombs, land mines and subduing threatening people; all in the name of keeping Americans safe.

When it was time for Fida to retire, professor Robert Klesges stepped up to the plate to adopt her and took her home to Tennessee.

"She was almost like a human with fur; she was that smart," Klesges said. "She deserved to be treated like a queen."

During her time with Klesges, Fida loved walks in the parks and playing with children.

"She was the sweetest thing in the world," Klesges said. "Fida was a child magnet."

During one outing, Klesges recalled another dog trying to attack him and Fida sprang into action to protect him. Once the incident was over, he said Fida wanted to go and play with children again.

A veterinarian told Klesges Fida would live about two more years before her body simply wore out, but the retired four-legged warrior instead remained an important member of Klesges' family for almost five.

Fida crossed the rainbow bridge earlier this year and Klesges decided to adopt another MWD to honor her. He returned to JBSA-Lackland in June 2019 to meet up with Jerry Britt, 37th Training Wing MWD dispositions coordinator.

"You get the satisfaction of giving the retired military working dog a good place to spend the twilight years," Britt said.

Prospective adopters must fill out paperwork that includes questions about where the dog will live and if they will be cared for with necessary medications throughout their lives. The adoption process is different for every dog and can happen almost immediately or take up to

two years.

Each dog's welfare is important when it comes to making a good match. Since they can't speak for themselves, Britt represents their interests. Canines are screened for aggressiveness, how they interact with people, children and other dogs before that final match is made, he said.

To be approved for a MWD adoption, applicants must have a six-foot fence, no children under the age of five and no more than three dogs already in the home. They must also have a veterinarian listed on the application and two references.

Once paperwork is completed, the dog's microchip ID number should be registered with a data base prior to the dog leaving and potential adopters must also have an approved crate to transport them home.

Some of the adoptable canines come from the MWD puppy foster program, breeding program eliminations and training program. Retired and medically released canines are also eligible for adoption.

While there is demand to adopt puppies that don't advance in the training program, older retired dogs bring great obedience and good manners even though they have limited longevity, Britt added.

No matter what amount of time Klesges will have with his next canine companion, he is ready to adopt the dog who deserves a great retirement. He will allow Britt to make the final pairing, he said.

"It will have to be a dog that has very good obedience," said Britt, who watches over countless dogs every day as he looks for the right one for Klesges and other adopters.

For now, Klesges will wait for the call that will tell him his next walking canine partner has been selected. He'll return to JBSA-Lackland and fly back home with his new companion seated next to him as retired MWDs are permitted to travel in the cabin. Once they land, they'll head off to the park and start a new chapter together.

For more information on the MWD adoption program, email mwd.adoptions@us.af.mil or call 210-671-6766.



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

Jerry Britt (left), 341st Training Squadron adoptions and dispositions coordinator; professor Robert Klesges; and Melissa Little, 59th Medical Wing behavioral health preventive medicine researcher, gather for a photo with Military Working Dog Sofi June 26 at Joint Base San Antonio.

RANDOLPH

AETC welcomes new commander

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb took the reins of Air Education and Training Command from Lt. Gen. Steve Kwast during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph July 26.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein presided over the ceremony and emphasized the importance of the AETC mission and he commended members of the command for their efforts.

He listed Pilot Training Next, force development, a campaign of learning, squadron commander school and the overhaul of the officer and enlisted promotion systems as “future game changers for our Air Force and joint teams.”

“This command has fundamentally changed how we develop Airmen to deliver joint warfighting excellence,” Goldfein said.

During his remarks, Goldfein spoke about Webb's distinguished career, highlighting his career, as well as his leadership across the Air Force and joint special operations communities.

Expressing his confidence in Webb's ability to lead AETC, Goldfein referred to Webb as the obvious choice for commanding AETC.

“He's a mature, calm, seasoned and focused warfighter who has participated in almost every combat operation we have waged across the globe, as a special operator,” Goldfein said. “From humanitarian relief for Hurricane Andrew, to saving a downed pilot behind enemy lines in Bosnia, he actually



PHOTOS BY SEAN WORRELL

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, speaks after taking command of AETC during a change of command ceremony July 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

hasn't missed a fight. Many know him as our point man for the takedown of Osama bin Laden. I cannot wait to watch this command flourish under your steady and quietly confident hand.”

Taking the podium to speak to his command for the first time, Webb talked about the command's people and the responsibility to defeat our country's adversaries.

“Achieving victory takes hard work, training, good equipment, and most importantly, it takes unique people,” Webb said. “Air Education and Training Command, the First Command, for our Air Force, simply must arm our Airmen to out-think,



Hangar 4 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph was filled with members of Air Education and Training Command along with local, state and civic leaders for the AETC change of command July 26.

out-perform, out-partner, and out-innovate any potential adversary. We must do this with commitment to values because military prowess and economic might alone are not enough to secure our blessings of liberty. Our values, our character will be our guiding beacon. This is the mindset we must continue to instill here at the First Command, and we will.”

Prior to becoming the 34th commander in AETC's history dating back to 1942, the 1984 Air Force Academy graduate and native of Austin, Texas, spent the previous two years leading Air Force Special Operations Command, overseeing approximately 19,500 active-duty, Reserve, Air

National Guard and civilian professionals that make up the Air Force component of U.S. Special Operations Command.

Webb is a command pilot with more than 3,700 flying hours in the CV-22 Osprey, UH-1N Huey, MH-53 Pave Low, MC-130H Combat Talon II and MC-130P Combat Shadow, including 117 combat hours in Afghanistan, Iraq and Bosnia.

Among Webb's career achievements is being named winner of the 1996 Cheney Award for most valorous flight of the year in a humanitarian effort when he was involved in the search and recovery efforts for then-Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown in Croatia in April of that year. Webb also showed

leadership during “Operation Assured Response,” a non-combatant evacuation operation in which his MH-53 team helped evacuate 2,126 people from 76 countries from the fighting that was taking place in Monrovia, Liberia.

AETC includes the Air Force Recruiting Service, two numbered air forces that oversee flying training and technical training, as well as Air University. The command operates more than 1,400 trainer, fighter and mobility aircraft at 23 wings, 10 bases and five geographically separated groups. It trains more than 293,000 students per year with about 61,000 active-duty, Reserve, Guard, civilian and contractor personnel.

Technology changes training, recruiting at AETC

By Jennifer Gonzalez

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen from the 330th Special Operations Recruiting Squadron, Special Warfare Training Wing and Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape are working together to recruit, train and create better Airmen for special warfare and combat support specialties with the help of big data.

"We needed to come up with a better way to find candidates who can handle the rigors of training for career fields like pararescuemen, combat controllers and SERE," Lt. Col. Heath Kerns, 330th Special Operations Recruiting Squadron commander, said. "SOR (Special Operations Recruiting) is working with experts from these career fields to determine key characteristics in successful candidates."

Part of spotting a quality candidate means recognizing a candidate's potential according to Chief Master Sgt. Joshua Smith, Special Warfare Human Performance Squadron superintendent.

"Up until this point it was strictly about someone's physical ability," Smith said. "We now know we can get that person to where they need to be physically, but we can't help if the candidate has a cognitive road block."

To ensure candidates have the mental grit to make it through the extensive training, the recruiters at the 330th SORS enlist retired special operations Airmen who now act as coaches and mentors to candidates before the candidates enter the Air Force's Basic Military Training. These developers act as coaches and mentors and also provide professional development to ensure candidates understand the full range of what training will entail.

"These developers help to cultivate that stronger why, that



KEMBERLY GROUE / U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY KEMBERLY GROUE/RELEASED

Tech. Sgt. Cornelius Bostic (left), 330th Special Warfare Recruiting Squadron recruiter, briefs Claire Stewart (right), University of Houston Air Force ROTC cadet, on equipment worn by special operations members during the fifth annual Pathways to Blue April 5 at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

passion behind what they do to endure," Kerns said. "We all recognize that you can't just meet the skills requirement, you have to have a passion for the job."

Kerns says the future candidate pool for special warfare and combat support is small but highly developable and trainable and will ultimately be successful.

"So far with the help of SOR, technology and big data, we have increased production by 21 percent in 18 months," Smith said. "Technology is showing these candidates scientifically how much their bodies are capable of accomplishing."

Over the eight-week Special Warfare Preparatory Course, which is conducted five times a year, special warfare trainers collect about 400 data points per day on each of the 150 candidates using seven different sensors.

Those data points are fed

into one secure central database where trainers can see candidates' info to include sleep quality, calorie burn and G-force impact from exercise.

"These technologies, like biometrics, are helping trainees understand their bodies like machines," Smith said. "We can put them in a stressful situation, see their heart rates spike and teach them how to bring it down so they can focus and accomplish the task at hand. Otherwise, they are bound to get flustered, frustrated and fail the test."

The Special Warfare Human Performance Squadron's sole purpose is to look at performance of special warfare Airmen and determine how to optimize training time. SWHPS is the first squadron of its kind in the Department of Defense.

Similar to members of the Special Warfare Human Performance Squadron, SERE Airmen are also incorporating

technology and data to enhance training. SERE cadre monitor heart rates during solo training exercises and screen core body temperature as a preventative tool to ensure each trainee is safe during secluded exercises.

"Seclusion is a key factor in SERE training because it gives our candidates experiences to draw from when teaching warfighters down the road," Master Sgt. Daniel Jones, SERE Standards and Evaluations Detachment 3, 66th Training Squadron, said. "We must ensure that our candidates have the confidence, tools and knowledge necessary to teach others how to get themselves back to friendly control should they find themselves isolated."

In addition to heart rate and body temperature, SERE is also tracking location and cognitive ability.

"We're trying to get a peek behind the curtain as to what's actually happening in that

"We needed to come up with a better way to find candidates who can handle the rigors of training for career fields like pararescuemen, combat controllers and SERE."

Lt. Col. Heath Kerns, 330th Special Operations Recruiting Squadron commander

person's mind," Jones said. "There is a lot of mental resiliency that goes into our career field and we all must function properly under high stress situations."

Air Force Special Warfare includes combat controllers, tactical air control party, pararescuemen, and special reconnaissance (formerly special operations weather). SERE specialists are instructors who are experts on how to survive in the most remote and hostile environments in the world.

"The Air Force is the only military service to designate SERE specialists as a full-time duty, not special duty assignment," Jones said. "At the end of the day, we're training our replacements. I want my replacement to be better than what I was when I was in their shoes and if big data helps us to create better SERE specialist it's a win."

"Special warfare and SERE career fields are stressful and physically demanding," Kerns said. "Both career fields face high attrition rates and probable injuries during technical training. With the combination of technology, big data and developers, we are confident we can find the best candidates and create better operational warfighters."

AETC Airmen visit PACAF to enhance warfighter alignment

By Staff Sgt. Mikaley Kline
PACIFIC AIR FORCES PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the 12th Operations Support Squadron and 559th Flying Training Squadron, both assigned to the 12th Flying Training Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, visited Pacific Air Forces headquarters July 8-10.

The immersion allowed members from Air Education and Training Command to take a closer look at Pacific theater operations and to build a relationship with PACAF as a component major command, or C-MAJCOM.

“This relationship is important because the National Defense Strategy puts a priority on the threats in the Pacific. PACAF with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command have developed plans to defeat those threats,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Cameron, 12th OSS commander. “In AETC, we

need to find opportunities to organize, train and equip in such a way that supports PACAF to execute those plans.”

At Air Education and Training Command, members are tasked with force development for all Airmen and providing multi-domain, joint warfighting-capable Airmen to combatant commanders to meet the needs of the national security environment.

“The main focus of our visit is to establish the connections and fundamentally understand what the challenges are for PACAF and the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies,” said Maj. Joseph Visalli, 12th OSS director of staff. “Many of our pilots and operators are familiar with the Middle East conflicts, but it’s totally different out here in the Pacific. We’re trying to understand the differences

and challenges that PACAF and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command have undertaken.”

One of the goals for the visit was for the 12th OSS to better align and train to the Pacific warfighting plan to include dispersal operations and the Agile Combat Employment, or ACE, operating concept.

“Some of the most pressing challenges with ACE will come in the form of operations support,” Cameron said. “We have sent our most experienced senior civilian service members forward to gain critical insight that helps us identify opportunities in our training, in order to introduce basic elements of ACE early in Air Force training. We understand the way we train America’s Air Force, even at the most basic level, sends a powerful strategic message to our adversaries and our allies and partners.”

Cameron added the 12th

OSS is actively looking for opportunities to better align operations support and training efforts to the operations support and training needs of our Air Force’s combatant commands.

“It’s neat to see the wheels turning during cross-major command dialogues, especially with AETC, on how they fit into the picture of training our MAJCOM Airmen,” said Lt. Col. Winfield Scott, PACAF Strategy and Policy branch chief. “It is important for them to see the greater picture of how significant their training is to the mission of the C-MAJCOM and inevitably the combatant command.”

Members from the 12th OSS received orientations from PACAF experts to enhance their understanding of theater strategy in order for them to better align AETC training.

“At the end of the day, we just want to see what we can do at Randolph, or at any

AETC squadron that will pay dividends to what PACAF is trying to accomplish with new training or new operations concepts,” Visalli said. “The idea is for agile combat employment to no longer be a foreign concept to our students and for us to provide our students with a fundamental baseline understanding of the concept and how it comes together.”

Cameron highlighted the importance of aligning AETC training with actual joint forces operations in order to produce lethal and ready warfighters.

The visit helped Airmen at the squadron level gain an understanding of how PACAF and USINDOPACOM operate. During the immersion, the group attended various briefings, toured PACAF and USINDOPACOM facilities, and received both a Hickam AFB and World War II history tour.