

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

AUGUST 9, 2019



PHOTO BY JASON W. EDWARDS

Sgt. Samantha Delgado, a Brooke Army Medical Center diagnostic radiology technician, tackles the obstacle course during the four-day Regional Health Command-Central Best Medic Competition at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

BAMC team named Regional Health Command-Central Best Medics *Page 11*



Mold remediation in dorms continues throughout JBSA
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149th MG Gunfighters 'All In' for Nevada exercise
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Social media scams are affecting the military

By Katie Lange

DEFENSE.GOV

Nowadays, people have to be cautious of everything they do online. Scammers are always trying to get money, goods or services out of unsuspecting people — and military members are often targets.

Here are some scams that have recently been affecting service members, Defense Department employees and their families:

Romance scams

In April, Army Criminal Investigation Command put out a warning about romance scams in which online predators go on dating sites claiming to be deployed active-duty soldiers. It's a problem that's affecting all branches of service — not just the Army.

CID said there have been hundreds of claims each month from people who said they've been scammed on legitimate dating apps and social media sites.

According to the alleged victims, the scammers have asked for money for fake service-related needs such as transportation, communications fees, processing and medical fees — even marriage. CID said many of the victims have lost tens of thousands of dollars and likely won't get that money back.

Remember, service members and government employees do not pay to go on leave, have their personal effects sent home or fly back to the U.S. from an overseas assignment.

Scammers will sometimes provide false paperwork to make their case, but real service members make their own requests for time off. Also, any official military or government emails will end in .mil or .gov — not .com — so be suspicious if you get a message claiming to be from the military or government that doesn't have one of those



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addresses.

If you're worried about being scammed, know what red flags to look for. If you think you've been a victim, contact the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center and the Federal Trade Commission.

DOD officials said task forces are working to deal with the growing problem, but the scammers are often from African nations and are using cyber cafes with untraceable email addresses, then routing their accounts across the world to make them incredibly difficult to trace. So be vigilant!

'Sextortion'

Sexual extortion — known as "sextortion" — is when a service member is seduced into sexual activities online that are unknowingly recorded and used against them for money or goods. Often, if a victim caves on a demand, the scammer will just likely demand more.

Service members are attractive targets for these scammers for a few reasons:

- ▶ They're often young men who are away from home and have an online presence.
- ▶ They have a steady income and are often more financially stable than civilians.
- ▶ Because of their careers,

they're held to a higher standard of conduct.

▶ Military members have security clearances and know things that might be of interest to adversaries.

To avoid falling victim to sextortion, don't post or exchange compromising photos or videos with anyone online, and make sure your social media privacy settings limit the information outsiders can see — this includes advertising your affiliation with the military or government.

Be careful when you're communicating with anyone you don't personally know online, and trust your instincts. If people seem suspicious, stop communicating with them.

Impersonators

Lately, fake profiles of high-ranking American military officials have been popping up on social media websites using photos and biographical information obtained from the internet. Scammers often replicate recent social media posts from official DOD accounts and interact with official accounts to increase the appearance of legitimacy.

As an example, there are impersonator accounts on Facebook, Instagram and

Twitter for Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. These accounts are also interacting with Joint Staff account followers in an effort to gain trust and elicit information.

The only Joint Staff leader with an official social media presence is Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman Army Command Sgt. Maj. John Wayne Troxell, who is listed as @SEAC.JCS on Facebook and @SEAC.Troxell on Twitter.

Scammers are making these profiles to defraud potential victims. They claim to be high-ranking or well-placed government/military officials or the surviving spouse of former government leaders, then they promise big profits in exchange for help in moving large sums of money, oil or some other commodity. They offer to transfer significant amounts of money into the victim's bank account in exchange for a small fee. Scammers that receive payment are never heard from again.

Here are some ways to lower the chances of you being impersonated or duped by a scammer:

▶ To avoid having your personal data and photos stolen from your social media pages, limit the details you provide on them and don't post photos that include your name tag, unit patch and rank.

▶ If an alleged official messages you with a request or demand, look closely at their social media page. Often, official accounts will be verified, meaning they have a blue circle with a checkmark right beside their Twitter, Facebook or Instagram name. General and flag officers will not message anyone directly requesting to connect or asking for money.

▶ Search for yourself online — both your name and images you've posted — to see if someone else is trying to use your identity. If you do find a false profile, contact that social media platform and report it.

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 using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Mold Issues

Q. There is a huge and very serious issue with mold in building 399 on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Please help, employees have been hospitalized. The 502 Civil Engineers are ignoring the problem.

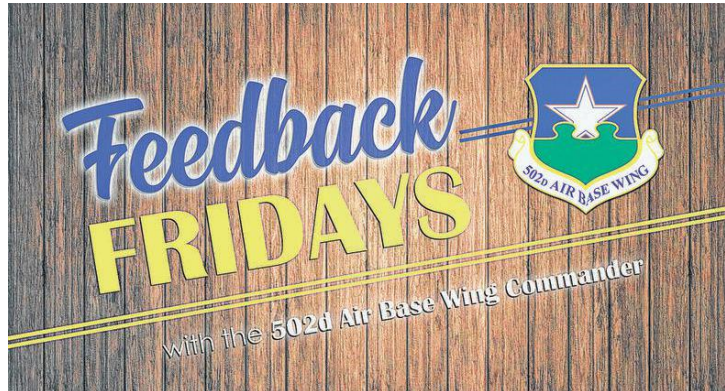
A. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Our Civil Engineer team will coordinate with the Building 399 facility manager to provide a formal assessment. If a situation exists that cannot be readily remedied, the space management team will explore alternatives to relocate impacted occupants.

Q. I've been a federal firefighter at JBSA-Lackland since 2001 and have mold issues that have gone unresolved and tucked away by our management for years. We have pictures and videos of our sleeping quarters and beds that are filled with mold that were ordered to be removed when the base general came for a visit. I can explain more in detail if you're interested to add to the story.

A. It is a top priority of mine to ensure quality work and living environments across JBSA. This is especially important in our emergency responders' facilities where our employees live and work.

Last week, Lt. Col. Joey Tortella assumed command of the 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron and as commander of JBSA fire departments, he will be leading an official assessment of all JBSA fire department facilities. Based on his findings, we will accomplish necessary corrective actions to address your concerns.

Q. I have sent this to inform everyone that is messing with the "mildew" in the dorms, they are risking health problems and terrible long term health problems. That isn't mildew but black mold and is



very toxic if not handled properly.

You need professionals to handle this situation and definitely don't want to scrub this. Once black mold has been distributed, its spores are airborne and if not inside a containment area or have the right filtration system, can scar lungs and neurological damage.

Please, I beg as a veteran of this fine Air Force to please let the professionals handle it.

A. Thank you for sharing your concerns about the dormitories on Joint Base San Antonio and for sharing your health concerns.

The health and wellness of all personnel on Joint Base San Antonio is my top priority. I agree with you, mold in living facilities is unacceptable. My team is doing everything we can to address this issue.

Rest assured that our assessment and cleaning processes are in compliance with federal standards. Employees involved in the clean-up are trained and provided proper Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE, as well as have been monitored by our medical professionals.

As we move into the next phase of infrastructure assessment on Joint Base San Antonio, we plan to thoroughly evaluate community support facilities and workplaces just as we have the dormitories.

Please know that we are committed to the health and safety of our personnel and are taking the necessary precautions. Additionally, for specific issues that exceed our in-house capabilities, we will employ contract support vehicles to address.

With your permission, I would like to share your medical concerns with my

partners at the 59th Medical Wing who can follow up with you.

Q. After reading a Facebook post about the mold at JBSA-Lackland, I wanted to reach out as a concerned employee at JBSA-Lackland.

We have a work place that has a consistent mold problem and we feel there's been a number of questionable cover-ups at Fire Station One. We have requested inspections and the areas of concern were not properly identified because members of our department were forced to leave while the inspection took place.

The mold at our work place still exists, we are really concerned, and after seeing an article put out yesterday, I wanted to see if we could get an outside source's opinion. I am concerned about my job going forward, so I do not want to place my name in a report, because reprisal is a real thing at the fire department. However, I'd be glad to answer any questions you may have.

A. It is my top priority to ensure quality work and living environments across JBSA and this is especially important in our emergency responders' facilities where our employees both live and work.

Phase one of this process was assessing and correcting the mold issues in the dorms, and phase two will be addressing the fire houses, youth centers, child development centers, fitness centers and DFACs followed by all of the other facilities across JBSA.

Last week, Lt. Col. Joey Tortella assumed command of the 902d CES and all JBSA fire departments. He will be leading an official assessment of all JBSA fire department facilities. Based on his findings, we will develop necessary

corrective actions to address your concerns and work with leadership to tackle the issues.

Q. What company performed the mold assessments?

A. Thank you for your question. All of the mold assessments to date have been conducted by JBSA CE Environmental and Bio Environmental professionals.

To help augment future assessments where the existence of mold exceeds 25 square feet, we are contracting licensed, professional mold mitigation specialists that reside in the local area, and we hope to have them on contract this week to help assist with mold eradication.

Q. What about the mold at JBSA-Camp Bullis? That mold needs to be taken care of also. Our servicemen did not ask to be put in those moldy buildings. That is a very real health risk to all of our military training personnel.

A. Thank you for sharing your concerns. We completed a 100 percent assessment of all training dorms at JBSA-Camp Bullis July 31. Our cleaning and mitigation teams began their efforts Aug. 1 and are ongoing this week.

As part of our assessments, we are also identifying root causes behind any mold occurrences and will take necessary actions to reduce the chances of future occurrences.

Q. I'm a former C-130 loadmaster that has been out since 1998. I have sent this to inform everyone who is messing with the "mildew" in the dorms are risking health problems and terrible long term health problems.

That isn't mildew, but black mold and is very toxic if not handled properly. You need professionals to handle this situation and definitely don't want to scrub this. Once black mold has been distributed, its spores are airborne and if not inside a containment area or have the right filtration system, can scar lungs and could cause neurological damage. Please, I beg as a veteran of this fine air force to please let the professionals handle it.

A. Thank you for your service and thank you for your concerns about our service members and for your feedback concerning the challenges with dormitories on Joint Base San Antonio.

Importantly, we are not asking any service member staying in unaccompanied housing to remediate existing mold or clean beyond what would be normal or routine. The health and wellness of our Airmen, Soldiers,

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Sailors, Marines, Coastguardsmen, civilians, contractors and their families is my primary concern and one that I care greatly about.

I assure you that we have professionals on the ground who are equipped to mitigate mold, and we are ensuring that they are in compliance with mold removal protocols in order to protect themselves and the surrounding occupants. Mold remediation guidelines are being utilized by our teams who have been instructed use of personal protective equipment to keep themselves safe.

Additionally, medical professionals are supporting our assessment efforts in order to provide expertise and guidance on-site. Please know that I am committed to the health and safety of our personnel and are taking the necessary precautions.

Q. Have you made it to JBSA-Canyon Lake? I went last weekend and there were dead bugs on floor and ceiling fan was filthy. Check out the black mold in in showers.

A. Thank you for visiting our JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake and providing us feedback on your stay.

I regret that you encountered unacceptable conditions. Our 802nd Force Support Squadron leadership team is performing a detailed inspection of all Canyon Lake lodging units and restrooms, looking for any signs of mold or other unacceptable sanitation conditions.

We will aggressively address any discrepancies found, and look for trends on which to focus our resources. We will also provide remedial training to our housekeeping and maintenance teams, ensuring they remain vigilant at all times to cleanliness, insects, mold, etc. and immediately address any health or safety issues in the park. We appreciate your business at Canyon Lake, and hope you'll give us second chance to meet your off-duty recreational needs.

Personnel Issues

Q. Why does it take so long for Finance to approve Defense Travel System, or DTS, vouchers? I came back from a deployment three months ago, my Government Travel Card was overdue for payment, and I had to pay out of pocket. I was one of six personnel having these issues in my unit after our recent deployment).

I went to Finance to ask what the

holdup was since they sent my voucher back repeatedly stating reasons that were incorrect such as not having all my receipts attached.

The Finance personnel told me only one person does DTS vouchers and only one day week, gave me an impromptu briefing on how I should have known this could happen and how it's not their fault, and failed to update us via email personally after they had said they would.

A. Thank you for your question and I sincerely apologize for the delays in approving your DTS voucher. Our goal is to provide a world-class customer service experience for everyone, and we depend on feedback to identify opportunities for improvement.

We have several challenges when it comes to timeliness: voucher volume (30,000 vouchers per year), internal manpower fluctuations (compounded by separation of duties requirements), network downtime and customer education, to name a few.

As you can imagine, a backlog of vouchers compounds all other issues because the same individuals who process vouchers also respond to customer inquiries.

Traditionally, we have addressed these challenges by surging manpower, increasing duty hours, and realigning personnel to meet demand (when manpower is available). The root cause is often related to obtaining accurate and complete data from the customer on the first try.

We're currently developing a customer facing, but Organizational Defense Travel Administrators, or ODTAs, focused, SharePoint site that provides training curriculum necessary to assist customers in providing accurate vouchers on the front end, thereby, decreasing processing time, improving customer experience and bolstering Airman and Joint Partner readiness. Our team will also be conducting assistance visits with ODTAs to improve the disbursed skill sets necessary to serve our distributed population.

Every player in the DTS/Travel process has a role to play in system success. While it won't be immediate, with training and collaborative effort from each person in the process, we will remedy travel voucher delays. Thanks again for your question and the opportunity to respond. Here is a link to ICE: <https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=109438>

Q. I would like to know what is the timeframe for processing beneficiary forms? I submitted my forms (updates

were made) in May and kept calling to find out the status.

The first time I was told that it takes time to process these forms. After a month, I called again and asked if they could check to see if they ever received the forms. I was told again that it takes time to process them. I asked if there was any way for them to check and see if their office had received them and was told no.

After a couple of weeks, I did receive a call and was told that the best thing was to re-accomplish them. I did re-accomplish them and mailed them off (to the address that was listed on the back of the forms) June 20, 2019.

As of today, I still have not received a call or any type of notification that they have been received or processed. Why does it take so long to process these forms?

A. Thank you for your question, and we sincerely apologize for the delays in processing your beneficiary forms. For readers who may not be familiar, the Air Force Personnel Center, or AFPC, receives and processes the following beneficiary forms:

► SF 2823, Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FGLI) Designation of Beneficiary.

► SF 152, Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Civilian Employee Designation of Beneficiary (consists of salary not paid at time of death and lump-sum payment for unused annual leave).

► SF 3102, Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) Designation of Beneficiary (consists of a lump-sum payment of your contributions to the retirement system - use only if your current retirement system is FERS); and
► CA-40, Designation of a Recipient of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act Death Gratuity Payment under Section 1105 of Public Law 110-181 (Section 8102a) - to be used by employees performing service with an Armed Force in a contingency operation. More information on this death gratuity can be found on the Department of Labor website.

Although there's no specific timeframe designated for final processing, certifying, submission and uploading of these forms into your eOPF, AFPC's goal is to process these forms as soon as possible.

After they are mailed, the forms are received, vetted and processed through multiple departments. You will receive an email through MyPers providing status of your forms after they have been reviewed and certified. This email will be sent before form(s) are uploaded to

your eOPF, and it will either inform you if your beneficiaries have been updated or if you need to re-submit the forms because there's an issue which needs to be corrected.

As a reminder, you are required to mail the original documents and they must have "wet signatures" and no white-out/cross outs are allowed.

These forms should be mailed to: HQ AFPC/DP1TSC, 550 C Street West, JBSA Randolph, TX 78150. You must mail the following forms directly to the address on the back of the forms:

► SF 2808, Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) Designation of Beneficiary (consists of a lump-sum payment of your contributions to the retirement system - use this form only if your current retirement coverage is CSRS); and

► TSP-3, Thrift Savings Plan Designation of Beneficiary

Once again, there is not a specific designated timeframe for processing, however, you will receive confirmation by email once these forms have been processed.

Q. Now that school is out and summer is here, many young people are using the JBSA-Randolph gym at night to play basketball. Most times, only one of those individuals has a card to get in the gym, while the rest are often civilians (as many as five others).

As a retiree, I find this problematic on two levels. First, they should not be bringing anyone into the gym with them as they are being briefed this when they get their card enable. At that time they have to sign a letter saying that.

Secondly, since most of the people with them are local visitors, they are not allowed to use the gym anytime. I have had my daughter-in-law turned away in the day time with me because she was not authorized.

It is not fair that the rules are not being applied to these people. Furthermore, there are dependents using the sponsor's card to get in and also other dependents, retirees and active duty members are loaning their and other dependents their cards.

This is not a safe situation and is a misuse of the fitness facility. What can be done to help enforce the rules at our fitness centers?

A. Thank you for bringing this to our attention as this is both a safety and security concern.

Currently, all JBSA fitness centers are governed by the same "guest policy" to help manage the amount of non-DOD

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patrons that are utilizing our facilities. Current guest policy specifies that your guest must live outside a 50-mile radius before granted access to fitness center for typical operating hours.

After hours, when utilizing Fitness Access, the rule is very clear as “guests are not permitted into the facility during unmanned hours” and “CAC/Swipe sharing (piggybacking) is strictly prohibited and is viewed as theft of services.”

This is based on the integrity of the person granted the Fitness Access privilege and will result in revocation of their privileges.

Please help us help you as this is another case of “if you see something, say something.” Please report this to manager during normal duty hours with day/time of the occurrence as it can be reviewed by the access system which includes cameras.

Security Forces Squadron also does do periodic patrols through the Fitness centers during the 24/7 period and will do random ID card checks, this helps to ensure only authorized patrons are using the facility after-hours.

Installation & Facilities

Q. We have two major construction projects on Wurzbach Road on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston which are going to cause very lengthy traffic delays.

The first is the Scott/Burr road project that ran for most of July 2019. The second will be the Wurzbach/Austin Highway SPUI interchange project which will run through 2021. Are there any plans to offer limited Pershing Gate egress in the afternoon rush hour to alleviate the traffic congestion that is going to occur at that gate?

A. Thank you for highlighting potential concerns regarding traffic access during our JBSA Fort Sam Houston road improvement projects.

JBSA Security Forces, Force Support Group and Civil Engineer teams closely monitored the first phase of the Wurzbach Road improvement project to assess traffic impacts.

Based on our current review, we did not observe significant traffic delays during rush hour that would warrant a change in the Pershing Gate egress hours. We plan to continue to closely monitor the traffic patterns, and if the situation changes to a point where the gate hours need to be adjusted, we will take action at that time.

Thanks again for sharing your concern with regards to our road improvement projects and potential traffic/gate impacts.

Miscellaneous

Q. This fall I will be unable to drive for approximately four weeks. In order to avoid constantly asking co-workers for rides, I would like to get a 30-day pass for a Yellow Cab driver who has been cleared to drive on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Is this possible?

A. Great question — we have good news for you! At this point in time, several taxi cab companies are able to obtain a Defense Biometric Identification System, or DBIDS, card for their drivers.

If you need to obtain access to the base using a taxi, please ask the taxi company to send a credentialed DBIDS driver. I hope you find this information helpful.

Also, please don't hesitate to contact your local JBSA Visitor Control Centers (VCC) if you have additional questions regarding access to our JBSA installations.

Q. I'm involved with a bed down of a Naval Criminal Investigative Service detachment at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in building 1001.

They have a Secure Network

requirement and when I spoke to the 502nd ABW/IP office, they informed me that they only support or provide oversight for Air Force units on JBSA installations as outlined in JBSA MOA, Section M-3.

My question is if there's an installation protection incident on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston or CB that pertains to a non-AF DOD organization, how can the 502nd ABW — who provides overall installation security — not also provide Installation Protection Support and oversite to all DOD managed/owned facilities & DOD entities/assets on/inside the fenceline JBSA installation properties?

A. Great question. When JBSA stood up in 2010, the Army retained ownership and management of the Army Network which services units across JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis.

Information Protection Security, to include security incidents, was also retained by the Army Support Activity at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis. As a result, 502nd ABW/IP is only able to provide Information, Personnel, and Industrial Security support to units on the Air Force Network, or AFNET.

If you have any additional questions regarding IP support, our POC is Patricia Harris at 210-221-2280.

JBSA activates webpage to disseminate most current mold mitigation information

From 502nd Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

The 502nd Air Base Wing has activated a new page on their website to address mold concerns at Joint Base San Antonio. Here, residents can find information on what to do if mold has damaged their property, background information on the issue and what the command is doing to remediate the matter.

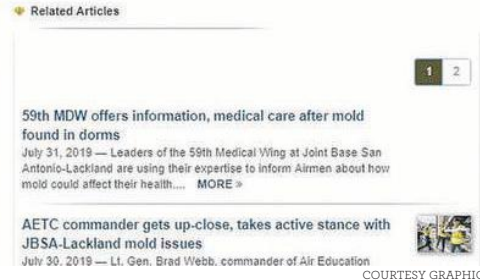
“The health and well-being of our Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and civilians at JBSA is essential,” said Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, 502nd Air Base Wing commander. “Mold in living facilities is unacceptable. To residents who have voiced their concerns and brought attention to this much needed call to action, I thank you.”

The 502nd ABW is not requiring Airmen to clean up the mold, however residents are still asked to perform their normal cleaning procedures as any resident is expected to do in their own home. The 502nd Civil Engineering Group is properly equipped to handle this responsibility and clean up impacted facilities the safest and most efficient ways possible.

Joint Base San Antonio dormitory residents are asked to raise mold issues to their leadership and if complaints are not satisfactorily addressed, residents are encouraged to go direct to the 502nd Air Base Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Lenderman through the



“Feedback Fridays” program. Send your email to RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil using the subject line “Feedback Fridays.”



The site can be found at https://www.jbsa.mil/Information/JBSA_Mold_Remediation/.

59th MDW offers information, medical care after mold found in dorms

From 59th Medical Wing
Public Affairs

Leaders of the 59th Medical Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland are using their expertise to inform Airmen about how mold could affect their health.

“One of the ways the San Antonio Military Health System contributes to the JBSA mission is by optimizing the health of Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers and Marines whether they are students in training or permanently assigned here,” said Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes, 59th Medical Wing commander.

While no health-related issues have been identified at this time, Airmen who do feel that there is a health issue are encouraged to reach out to their dorm managers and chain of command with those concerns at any time.

“Any Airmen with a health concern, mold related or otherwise, should seek medical attention from their primary

care manager or from our 24/7 Family Emergency Center at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center or Brooke Army Medical Center's level 1 emergency room,” DeGoes said.

As new military members, most dormitory residents here are healthy adults without any of the indicators – asthma or immunodeficiency -- that could cause potentially serious side-effects. DeGoes said there may be a risk that someone does not know they are asthmatic until these conditions trigger symptoms. He encourages anyone experiencing difficulty breathing, chest pain or tightness, to seek immediate medical attention.

The health effects that have been linked to mold exposure are typically upper respiratory illnesses, eye and skin irritation. People who are sensitive to mold, have a mold allergy, are immunocompromised or have asthma may experience those symptoms. Those who are not, will most likely not

experience any ill effects at all.

Here in South Central Texas, mold most often begins to appear in the spring and summer, when air conditioning units are turned on and condensation accumulates in places without appropriate ventilation. This coincides with the prevalence of other environmental allergens in the area, like cedar, pollen and grasses, making it difficult to directly link symptoms with the presence of mold.

Exposure to mold or damp environments can cause a spectrum of health effects, or no effects at all, depending upon the health of the person and their sensitivity to mold.

Anyone experiencing symptoms is encouraged to seek treatment with their primary care physician. If their physician thinks it appropriate, they may provide a referral to an allergist who can more specifically determine what allergens are causing those symptoms.

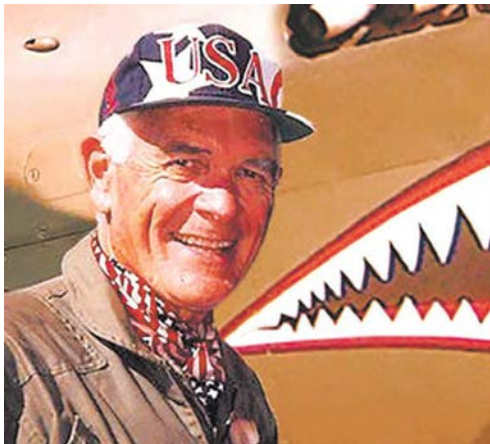
As always, dormitory residents should notify their chain of command of any potentially unsafe or unhealthy living conditions. Leaders of the 502nd Air Base Wing, who are responsible for the facilities in which JBSA Airmen live, have encouraged Airmen to elevate issues through their command chain. For any issues that are not satisfactorily addressed, residents are encouraged to go directly to 502nd ABW leaders through Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman's “Feedback Fridays” program.

Patients interested in making an appointment with their physician can call the appointment line at 210-916-9900. Questions and concerns about facilities can be sent to RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil or the 502nd ABW commander using the subject line “FeedbackFridays.”

For more information on mold and mold exposure visit, <https://www.cdc.gov/mold/faqs.htm>

FORT SAM HOUSTON

IN MEMORIAM



COURTESY PHOTO

Oliver "Ollie" Crawford, pilot, advocate for the U.S. Air Force and one of the charter members of the Air Force Association, was instrumental in the formation of the Air Force Memorial Foundation and his efforts led to the dedication of the Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C., in October 2006.



Retired Lt. Gen. John Bradley (right) presents the American flag to Oliver "Ollie" Crawford's surviving wife, Nancy, Aug. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio -Fort Sam Houston.

SEAN WORRELL

AF advocate laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Oliver "Ollie" Crawford, pilot, advocate for the U.S. Air Force and one of the charter members of the Air Force Association, was laid to rest with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Aug. 5.

Crawford died July 21 in San Antonio, two days after turning 94 years old. Born on July 19, 1925, in Amarillo, Texas, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II at the age of 18 as an aviation student, earning his wings and commission in early 1945. Crawford served in the U.S. Army Air Corps Reserve, later the U.S. Air Force Reserve until 1957.

He was a charter member, along with other Airmen, of the Air Force Association in 1946. Crawford became president and then chairman of the

board of the organization.

Crawford was instrumental in the formation of the Air Force Memorial Foundation and his efforts led to the dedication of the Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C., in October 2006. Gen. Michael Moseley, former U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff said, "without Ollie, there would not be an Air Force Memorial."

Retired Gen. Ronald Fogleman, former U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff from 1994-97, attended the funeral services for Crawford. He said Crawford, who he knew since the 1980s, was a great American patriot who was a strong advocate for the Air Force and its servicemembers.

"He was not only an inspiration to individuals," Fogleman said, "but, he put his entrepreneurial skills, his business skills, organizational skills and his political skills out there to advance not just the Air Force Association, but to

advance the whole United States Air Force. For that, we owe him a deep debt of gratitude."

Retired Air Force Col. James Clark, director for the Q Group, Air Force Warfighting Integration Capability, deputy chief of staff for Strategy, Integration and Requirements, knew Crawford for 35 years. He said Crawford made many contributions to help raise awareness for the "Flying Tigers" and the Curtis P-40 Warhawk, which Crawford flew and was affiliated with for 60 years.

"Ollie was always the person who always worried about others with the Flying Tigers, with Airmen," Clark said. "Ollie was always giving. I think in all the 35 years I knew him, I can't remember any time when Ollie wasn't doing something for the benefit of others."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David

Goldfein praised the Air Force legacy left by Crawford.

"Ollie Crawford made remarkable contributions to the Air Force throughout his entire life," Goldfein said. "His advocacy and ambassadorship for airpower are part of our Air Force history. His passion for flying and the well-being of our Air Force will truly be missed."

Crawford logged more than 13,000 hours in nearly 100 different types of aircraft. He was an aviation entrepreneur who formed Crawford Technical Services Inc., in Austin in 1974.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Belle Crawford, and his eldest daughter, Lynda Crawford. Crawford is survived by his wife, Nancy Crawford; son, Alan Crawford and his wife, Sherri; daughter, Carolyn Pederson; and numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Joint Chiefs Chairman's senior enlisted advisor visits METC

By Lisa Braun

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CAMPUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The highest ranking enlisted member in the Department of Defense spent the afternoon at the Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, during a visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston July 17th.

Command Sgt. Major John Wayne Troxell, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the senior noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Armed Forces, met with Chief Master Sgt. Joshua Barr, METC senior enlisted advisor, and several METC instructors at the Slagel Dining Facility, where they ate lunch and engaged in constructive discussions.

"I was highly impressed," stated Troxell about his meeting with METC instructors. "During the luncheon, sitting with those mid-range, noncommissioned officers and petty officers, I was just highly impressed with not only their level of understanding of the current operational environment and their role in it, but also their level of understanding about what they were doing to develop trained medical professionals to come behind them for employment in the field or in hospitals or on ships."

After lunch, Troxell arrived at METC headquarters where a mission video and brief were presented by Barr and Keith Johnson, METC deputy commandant, to explain more about the medical training that enlisted Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard students receive on the joint training campus.

At METC, service consolidation in the classroom is the norm. More than half of METC's 49 programs of instruction are combined with students from two or more services. However, outside of the classroom, students continue to reinforce their service's culture, customs and

standards.

Following the brief, Troxell recalled a question that came up during the lunch with METC instructors, asking why, since they are training jointly as medical professionals, they are not all wearing the same uniform?

"We will always be joint warfighters so providing medical education in the joint environment is the right direction," he said.

However, he also explained that there are some things that military professionals will do in their particular service that may be different in the other services.

"There has to be service identity for the particular way we employ those service's forces, Troxell added. "In the end, we will fight as a joint multinational force, but it's imperative, especially when we organize, equip and train forces for the particular service, that service identity is important."

Barr explained to Troxell how METC trains its approximately 5,500 students on any given day in its consolidated and single-service programs, the efficiencies gained with consolidation and where there is room for more, programmatic accreditations and METC's initiative to enable its students to earn college credits and certifications through partnership programs with colleges and universities across the country.

"It's all about training for the mission. That's a priority, but we really want to educate for a lifetime as well," Barr said. "We want to give students a skillset so that when they leave the military they have something to lean back on or be on track for a degree."

Barr pointed out that education is important to today's generation.

"With our college partnerships throughout the country, that's an opportunity



LISA BRAUN

Command Sgt. Major John Wayne Troxell (right), senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the senior non-commissioned officer in the U.S. Armed Forces, observes Army Combat Medic Training trainees conduct an exercise in the Combat Trauma Patient Simulator constructed to resemble a Middle Eastern marketplace in the aftermath of an explosion set off by a suicide bomber.

for a Soldier, Sailor or Airman to get some more education. If you were to go into a new class here and ask the students why they came into the military, 60 percent of them will tell you that they joined for educational opportunities. So that education is important."

After the presentation, Troxell toured two METC programs. Starting at the Biomedical Equipment Technician, or BMET, program's field training site, instructors demonstrated a virtual interactive classroom modality that the program is testing as a training tool for repairing Expeditionary Deployable Oxygen Concentration System, or EDOCS, units. Master Sgt.

Wesley Reid, Army service lead for the BMET program, explained the purpose for utilizing VR technology in the classroom.

"This VR environment allows students to learn at their own pace and review the learning objectives as often as needed," Reid said. "This has received very positive feedback from the students that have experienced the lessons. It includes an increase in troubleshooting confidence and functional knowledge of the equipment."

Reid also added that the module can be shared remotely with BMETs who are geographically separated from a physical EDOCS unit to train on. It can also decrease low-value "down-time" between hands-on experiences, improve information retention rates, yield improved test scores and, ultimately, impact graduation rates.

Master Sgt. Christian Bond, a BMET instructor, shared that another benefit of the modality is cost effectiveness.

"The virtual environment multiplies the available resources within the DoD inventory without increasing costs," he explained.

Troxell was shown an actual EDOCS device and explained its function before departing to the Department of Combat Medic Training, or DCMT, program.

At DCMT, Troxell observed combat medic students conducting an exercise in the Combat Trauma Patient Simulator, or CTPS.

The CTPS is constructed on one side to resemble a Middle Eastern marketplace in the aftermath of an explosion set off by a suicide bomber. The "casualties," which are life-like manikins called human patient

simulators, appear to have received several traumatic injuries including amputations and gunshot wounds.

The combat medic trainees assessed the injuries and took actions to treat them while sirens blared, the room filled with smoke, and the lights were dimmed.

"This is where we want students to make their mistakes," said Don Parsons, DCMT program director. "They can't harm a manikin if they do something wrong, and they'll get the experience they need to be effective on a real patient."

Troxell was impressed by the realistic training conditions.

"When we talk about being prepared for major combat I have not seen many facilities or programs that come so close to true combat conditions. I had chills going up and down my spine because I felt like I was back in Diyala Province in Iraq or in the Hindu Kush in Afghanistan."

He added that, when being prepared and ready for what we have to do to defend our nation and our way of life, "facilities like that go a long way in building the sets and repetitions that our medical professionals need to be prepared to treat those kinds of wounds and casualties in real life."

The visit concluded with Troxell watching as combat medic students conducted casualty triage training during a simulated mass casualty situation in an outdoor environment.

Troxell said the visit exceeded his expectations.

"One of the things I talk about all the time, and the Chairman does too, is that our greatest competitive advantage over any adversary is our people," Troxell said.

"Specifically within our people is our noncommissioned officer and petty officer corps who are the backbone of our military. The NCOs and petty officers I met with at METC were truly indicative of that greatest competitive advantage."

FSH ISD offers free, reduced-price meals for qualified families

**From Fort Sam Houston
Independent School District**

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District recently announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under current income eligibility guidelines. Each school/site or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by anyone on request.

FSHISD will begin distributing letters to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply for these benefits. Applications also are available at the Child Nutrition Office or Administration office of each school or can be downloaded and printed at <http://www.fshisd.net>.

Criteria for free and reduced-price meal benefits
The following criteria determines a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

Income

▶ Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

Categorical or Automatic Eligibility

▶ Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Program Participant

- ▶ Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster
- ▶ Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must fill out free and reduced-price meal application and return it to the school or campus cafeteria. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

- ▶ Names of all household members.
- ▶ Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
- ▶ Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number."
- ▶ Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct.

Categorical or program eligibility

Fort Sam Houston ISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible and will notify the households of these children that they don't need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact Brenda Rodriguez, Child Nutrition Director, at 210-368-8745. Any household that wishes to decline benefits should also contact Rodriguez.

Applications can be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications can also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

Determining Eligibility

The housing allowance for military personnel living in privatized housing will be permanently excluded from income when determining household eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the child nutrition director will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis.

Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Julie Novak, Chief Financial Officer, 4005 Winans Road, San Antonio, Texas 78234, or call 210-368-8700.

Unexpected Circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the current income eligibility guideline.

Have a good idea for the Army? Here is your chance to shine

By Antonieta Rico
SR2 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Think you have a great idea that will revolutionize Army readiness and resilience? The Army wants to boost your chance at making it happen.

The Army has implemented a formal process to capture and evaluate grassroots, personal readiness and resilience initiatives, before considering the idea for potential Army-wide use.

The new process, outlined in the just released Initiative Evaluation Process technical guide (linked below), is designed to ensure ideas can demonstrate results, have applicability Army-wide and avoid duplication or unintended consequences.

"Not every good idea, even if it's a great idea, may hit the mark," said Joe Ezell, a

Management and Program Analyst at the Army's G-1 SHARP, Ready and Resilient (SR2) Directorate. "Sometimes people don't quite understand the second and third order effects associated with their good idea ... and the execution of that idea might not quite evolve into what they are looking for."

Previously, the Army may have implemented ideas sent by local installations, but without thorough analysis or resourcing, those initiatives fell by the wayside. The new technical guide, developed jointly by SR2 and the Army Public Health Center (APHC), requires that proposed initiatives undergo a five-step screening process to assess effectiveness and Army-wide applicability.

Army program managers, Army leaders or anyone with a great idea to improve Soldier,



COURTESY PHOTO

The Army has implemented a formal process to evaluate grassroots ideas for potential Army-wide use.

Civilian and Family member personal readiness and resilience can begin the process of fielding it by reaching out to their Commander's Readiness and Resilient Integrator, or CR2I.

This first step in the process provides the individual leader or organization proposing an idea with the backing of a work group that will help them gather

effectiveness data, walk them through the other steps in the process and, if the idea has merit, put together the proposal package for submission to the local installation commander. The initiative will then undergo review at several echelons before it is potentially forwarded to the Army G-1 level.

Although the process may seem cumbersome, it is not intended to inhibit innovation, instead it is meant to refine it, said David Collins, Evaluations Branch Chief at SR2.

"As with any good ideas, it has to be well thought out," Collins said. "It forces people to think about outcomes. Oftentimes we just think about execution, we never really think about the impact."

The end result will be that the best ideas will rise to the top and get pushed through up to

the highest levels for evaluation and possible implementation Army-wide, Collins said. Other ideas may work better at the local or regional level, and commanders can still count on the IEP process to validate those initiatives.

The proposal package the CR2I puts together is intended to show the quantifiable impact an idea has, and gather objective evidence that will reinforce the value of the idea so that when a new program is presented to senior Army leaders, they will be able to make evidence-based decisions.

The IEP will "save time, energy and effort across the board," Ezell said.

Grassroots efforts have traditionally driven innovation in the ranks, so if you are ready to submit your idea, download the technical guide and reach out to your local CR2I now.



JASON W. EDWARDS



ERIN PEREZ

Above: Brig. Gen. Ned Appenzeller (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Cecil (right) hand trophies to Sgt. Samantha Delgado (center left) and Sgt. Kevin Ramirez (center right) at the Regional Health Command-Central Best Medic ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Left: Sgt. Samantha Delgado, a Brooke Army Medical Center diagnostic radiology technician, tackles the obstacle course during the four-day Regional Health Command-Central Best Medic Competition at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

BAMC team named RHC-C Best Medics

By Erin Perez

REGIONAL HEALTH

COMMAND-CENTRAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After four days in the grueling Texas heat and pushing through events designed to task the participants both physically and mentally, the Regional Health Command-Central named Sgt. Samantha Delgado and Sgt. Kevin Ramirez as the Region's Best Medics at a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis July 26.

Both Soldiers are from Brooke Army Medical Center and will go on to compete at the U.S. Army Medical Command Best Medic Competition in the fall for a chance to compete at the Army level.

Brig. Gen. George "Ned" Appenzeller, RHC-C commanding general, congratulated all the competitors for their perseverance through the events and requested two things from them after they go

back to their commands.

"I have two things I am going to ask of you," the general said. "One: Save lives. You are the reason we have such a low mortality rate for our deployed Soldiers. It's not the doctors or nurses — it's the initial care they receive from the medics deployed with their units. It's because of each of you. Number two: Pay it forward. Train those Soldiers who are coming up behind you to take your place."

Each of the winners received a trophy and an Army Commendation Medal from both Appenzeller and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph L. Cecil, RHC-C command sergeant major.

Cecil also thanked the participants for their tenacity and resilience throughout the last 96 hours.

"Be proud of yourself," he said. "This was a difficult competition. It's meant to be that way. As you move up to the MEDCOM and Army competitions, it will be even

"I have two things I am going to ask of you. One: Save lives. You are the reason we have such a low mortality rate for our deployed Soldiers. ... Number two: Pay it forward. Train those Soldiers who are coming up behind you to take your place."

Brig. Gen. George "Ned" Appenzeller, RHC-C commanding general

harder."

Of the eight competing teams, only five made it to the finish line: Brooke Army Medical Center, Irwin Army Community Hospital, Evans Army Community Hospital, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center and Munson Army Health Clinic.

"The competition was extremely hard," said Delgado, a BAMC radiology technician. "They packed so much into every day, and it physically

exhausting and mentally draining."

"It was definitely challenging. They packed so much into it, I don't know how we got through it," said Ramirez, a medical laboratory specialist. "There were no sure winners throughout the entire course, and we were fighting for the lead the entire time; even after this morning no one knew who won. It was definitely a competition."

Some of the events the

Soldiers were required to do were the Air Assault course, the obstacle course, the Army and the Marine Corps World War II physical fitness tests, combatives and more, followed by a 12-mile road march that started before dawn.

Both Ramirez and Delgado were proud of their accomplishments and to represent BAMC. When asked what they thought was the most difficult event, they both agreed that the Land Navigation event was the most difficult due to the large area it covered and the full rucksack they had to carry.

"We came out way off on one of our points," Delgado said. "We had an hour to make it to the finish line between 3 or four miles away, and we wound up running the entire way back so we could finish on time," Delgado added.

"I enjoyed it," Ramirez said. "It was hard a lot of times, but winning it makes all of it worth it. I'm very proud and thankful I could be a part of it."

Health Readiness Center of Excellence command team visits San Antonio Lighthouse

By Jose E. Rodriguez

HEALTH READINESS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, Health Readiness Center of Excellence command team paid a visit to the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind & Vision Impaired July 19.

Mike Gilliam, SA Lighthouse CEO/President, provided Maj. Gen. G Patrick D. Sargent and Command Sgt. Maj. Buck O'Neal, the AMEDDC&S HRCoE Command Team, a tour of their manufacturing facility on Roosevelt Avenue.

SA Lighthouse employees produce inclement weather trousers, extreme weather trousers, combat shirts and more for the U.S. Army, more than 195,000 total units each year. Many know the SA Lighthouse for the writing utensils and office supplies they manufacture and ship to the entire U.S. military.

Manufacturing products at the SA Lighthouse provides more opportunities to employ both blind and vision-impaired individuals with competitive wages and full comprehensive benefit packages. They employ more than 250 individuals who are blind or severely vision impaired.



CAPT. KYLE H. HASHIMOTO

Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Sargent, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School Health Readiness Center of Excellence, visits with Roberta, a machine operator, while she sews the sleeve of an Army Combat Shirt. Roberta has very little vision and is in the Lighthouse Choir.

LACKLAND

Webb gets firsthand look at BMT, international training during 37th TRW immersion

By 1st Lt. Kayshel Trudell

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 37th Training Wing Warhawks hosted Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Julie Gudel, command chief of AETC, for a two-day immersion here Aug. 1-2, 2019.

After taking command of AETC on July 26, the general chose the 37th TRW to be his first visit into the field and went full speed over the two days they were here, leaving with a new appreciation for the wing's commitment to training to the standard of excellence and for the elite team who executes the mission every day.

"This is where it starts," said Webb. "We are the First Command and it all begins right here with the Warhawks at the 37th Training Wing. When you see the varied missions here, it is eye opening. I am really proud of everything that is going on here."

The 37th TRW commander, Col. Jason Janaros, and command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Philip Eckenrod, welcomed Webb and Gudel to the Gateway Wing bright and early, introducing them to the rest of the wing's leadership.

"It is impossible to express the magnitude and significance of what this wing accomplishes in just two days," said Col. Jason Janaros, 37 TRW commander. "However, at our very core, this team trains, educates, develops, and inspires Airmen and strengthens partnerships with our joint warfighters and allies across



SARAYUTH PINHTHONG

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, addresses Airmen during basic military training graduation Aug. 2 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

the globe. Every day we endeavor to be the Department of Defense's training standard of excellence and we're grateful for the advocacy of Lt. Gen. Webb and Chief Gudel as we continue to refuel our Air Force with more ready and lethal Airmen."

After observing portions of BMT's Basic Expeditionary and Advanced Skills Training, or BEAST, focused on mock deployment conditions and combatives training, Webb and Gudel attended the coining ceremony where, after eight and a half grueling weeks, trainees are presented an Airman's coin. Receiving this coin symbolizes a

trainee official earning the title of "Airman."

"It's an awesome moment when they receive that coin. Not only does it mark a tremendous accomplishment — making it through BMT — but it marks a transition into an Air Force family that will be with them for life," said Chief Master Sgt. Lee Hoover, 737th TRG superintendent. "They may not understand that yet, but it's true."

At the BMT graduation parade, Webb served as the graduation ceremony reviewing official and re-administered the oath of enlistment to 787 of the Air Force's newest Airmen

before addressing the newly graduated Airmen and attendees.

"To the veterans in the audience, they (the Airmen) are your legacy. To the MTIs, well done. You are second to none. And to our new Airmen, you are the secret ingredient to the success of your Air Force," said Webb. "Though we have our challenges leading in a time of great power competition, you make certain America is equipped to handle it."

In addition to training all military working dogs for the Department of Defense and Transportation Security Administration, the 37th

Training Group operates the Security Forces Training Center that produces security forces specialists. Webb and Gudel were able to meet and interact with both these two legged, and four legged, defenders.

Instructors and students from both the Defense Language Institute English Learn Center and Inter-American Air Forces Academy had an opportunity engage with the AETC leadership. Both campuses were filled with a variety of military uniforms of joint warfighters and partner nation militaries who are at the 37th TRW to improve English language proficiencies, learn operational military communication skills and maintain strong partnerships.

"I am very proud of the Warhawks," said Webb. "I need you to keep after it. Our nation is counting on our Air Force, our Air force is counting on us, right here. Thank you Warhawks."

The 37th TRW is comprised of four groups. Collectively, the wing is responsible for Basic Military Training for all of the Air Force's enlisted corps, Military Working Dog training for all of the Department of Defense and the Transportation Security Administration, technical training school for nearly half of the Air Force's enlisted career fields, English language training for U.S. and international students in support of the Department of Defense Security Cooperation at the Defense Language Institute English Language Center and is home to the Inter-American Air Forces Academy.

Air Force military ambassador program accepting applications



COURTESY PHOTO

As San Antonio prepares for Fiesta 2020, each military service at Joint Base San Antonio begins its search for a male and female military ambassador.

By 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

As San Antonio prepares for Fiesta 2020, each military service at Joint Base San Antonio begins its search for a male and female military ambassador. The Air Force Military Ambassador Program will feature two Airmen, one female and one male, to represent the service.

All E-4 to E-7 Air Force members, 21 years old and older and assigned to JBSA, are eligible to apply to become a military ambassador. Nomination packages will be distributed to public affairs offices across JBSA Sept. 1.

"The program plays an essential role in promoting the Air Force global community relations program and promote the military's commitment with the local communities around South Texas," said Kathleen Salazar, 502nd Air Base Wing Public

Affairs. "The ambassadors are given the opportunity to showcase the professionalism and skills of the Air Force, while fostering a positive rapport in the community."

Nominations are due to the 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office, at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston by close of business Oct. 4. Nominees must provide a letter of recommendation from their unit commander.

Once nominated, candidates appear before a selection panel of chief master sergeants and former Air Force ambassadors. The selection panel reviews applications, conducts interviews and selects the ambassadors.

Contact the 502nd ABW PA Office at 210-221-0536 for more information or email usaf.502.pao@mail.mil. An application packet can also be found on the JBSA website at <https://www.jbsa.mil>.

149th MG Gunfighters ‘All In’ for Nevada exercise

The 149th Medical Group Gunfighters from the 149th Fighter Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland honed new skills during Exercise “All In” July 18 at Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

Staff Sgt. Alisha Ayon (left), Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hughes (right) and Sgt. Kimberly Gaona, all members of the 149th Medical Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, practice a medical evacuation during Tactical Combat Casualty Care training.



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT AGUSTIN G. SALAZAR

Members of the 149th Medical Group participate in Tactical Combat Casualty Care training at Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe, Nevada.



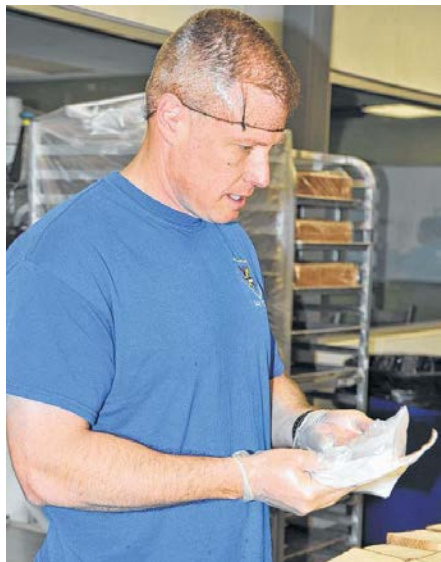
Lt. Col. Charles Biediger, a flight surgeon, assigned to the 149th Medical Group, Air National Guard, demonstrates the proper technique to suture a patient during Exercise ‘All In’ at Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe, Nevada...



Tech. Sgt. John Castillo applies a tourniquet to Staff Sgt. Kimberly Gaona. Castillo and Gaona are both search and extraction medics assigned to 149th Medical Group and participated in the Tactical Combat Casualty Care training at Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

RANDOLPH

Col. Allen Duckworth, 340th Flying Training Group commander, prepares sandwiches in support of the Million Summer Meals for Kids campaign July 12 at the San Antonio Food Bank.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE GILDEA



Lt. Col. Samuel Moore (left) and Tech. Sgt. Christian Delgado, from the 340th Flying Training Group headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, prepare sandwiches for nearly 1,000 lunches July 12 in support of the San Antonio Food Bank's Million Summer Meals for Kids campaign, which provides meals to food-insecure children in the San Antonio region during the summer.

340th FTG members volunteer at S.A. Food Bank

From 340th Flying Training Group Public Affairs

Volunteers from the 340th Flying Training Group joined the San Antonio Food Bank's effort to wipe out hunger when they participated in the Million Summer Meals for Kids campaign.

For many food-insecure children, meals provided in school during the school year are the only meals some kids will get, and summer is a dangerous time for those kids.

"Children should not be hungry and they should not have to worry or fear where their next meal is coming from," said Col. Allen Duckworth, 340th FTG commander. "The few hours our team volunteered, with volunteers from other local organizations, represented tens

of thousands of meals for kids in need, which is incredible. Time committed to this effort is truly time well spent."

Duckworth and two members of the team joined volunteers from a local department store chain to prepare nearly a thousand bagged lunches which would be packed and delivered to various locations in the multi-county support area.

The remaining group volunteers prepared hundreds of trays of chicken strips for the oven, and cleaned and sterilized equipment and racks in preparation for the next round of meal preparation.

For Reserve Citizen Airmen, this is more than a community outreach project.

"For most of my team, this area is home, and since we don't move around like active

duty, we are able to develop long-term relationships with our neighbors, and are able to commit time and energy to support critical programs, like the food bank," he explained, adding "We are honored to be allowed to play a role in taking care of our community kids."

One group volunteer supported the food bank activity with the same purpose and focus he brings to his daily mission in financial management.

"I believe in always helping others, no matter what," said Anthony Smith, 340th FTG travel lead.

It's a perspective his teammates share. According to one group volunteer, it was a fulfilling, but sobering activity.

"This is an issue that is very close to my heart," said Senior Master Sgt. Kwame Tawiah,

group logistics plans superintendent.

For Tawiah, who also volunteers at a local animal shelter, this was his second visit to the food bank, but won't be his last.

"I'm lucky that I never had to think about when — or if — I'd be able to eat again, and to know that one out of four kids will go hungry today is heartbreaking. If I can help in some small way, then maybe we can all help and change the future for these kids," he said.

Group volunteers sign up quarterly to help sort and box food, work in the community kitchen or lend a hand wherever there is a need.

Tawiah helped sort and box food his first visit, and helped prepare meals in the community kitchen for his most recent visit.

"I had fun during both events - you know, they're all for the same cause, and we get to do something valuable while enjoying time together. The first time, we got to meet a lot of people from around the city, which was interesting, as well. Whatever we do to support the food bank, I'll be there," he said.

The 340th Flying Training Group, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, supports Air Education and Training Command's Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Joint Primary Pilot Training, Pilot Instructor Training, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Basic Military Training and the United States Air Force Academy's Airmanship Programs.

JBSA Airman, AF's best paralegal, looks beyond law to medicine

By Brian Lepley

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Parents have big career dreams for their children.

"You could be a doctor, a lawyer!" they'll say.

So when Patricia Jimenez' daughter Savannah told her mom she was joining the Air Force, well ...

"I felt my heart skip a beat," Jimenez remembered. "My first thought was, 'no, not my daughter. I then realized that she had grown up and became a very strong, intelligent, independent woman right before my eyes and I knew she would make the right choices in life."

Savannah Perez hoped for aerospace medicine tech school on her open enlistment. She ended up with her third choice, paralegal, which is also her mother's career.

"She's done that job her whole life, all my life and I'd been to work with her a few times," Perez said. "I knew what she did and I thought it was interesting."

The Air Force's choice for Perez of the law over medicine is working out.

After earning the Joint Base San Antonio Top Paralegal Award for 2017

and 2018, the San Antonio native is now the best in the Air Force, winner of the 2018 Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Castleman Award.

The work is interesting, Perez says, but she appreciates the skills she's developed at the Joint Base San Antonio Staff Judge Advocate's office: research, analysis and dealing with people.

Demonstrating those abilities has made a real-world difference at JBSA, according to Staff Sgt. John Wallace Jr., the SJA's Military Justice NCOIC.

"She assisted in recovering evidence for a wrongful death claim in 2018 and her efforts helped us find a key piece of evidence that had gone missing for two years," he said. "Ultimately the Air Force did not have to pay the \$10 million dollars alleged in the claim."

Jimenez' apprehension over her daughter's military choice is now appreciation.

"I am very proud of her and everything she has accomplished in the Air Force," she said. "I taught her to be the best at what she did, to never doubt herself, and to always know what she wanted."

Perez's three 502nd Force Support Group Airman of the Quarter awards during 2017 and 2018 prove her drive for excellence extends beyond the SJA



Senior Airman Savannah Perez

office at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

"She's an impressive Airman, performing far above her grade and skill level, which has been recognized with these awards and her below-the-zone promotion," said Staff Sgt. Savella Conancio, the SJA Legal Office NCOIC.

"She back-filled two vacant NCOIC slots for months."

One of those assignments was four months at the Medical Education and Training Campus as the SJA liaison.

"Perez was the legal assistance for thousands of military cycling through the METC, every Wednesday, impacting the morale and welfare of those students," Conancio said. "Trainees just aren't able to get to the SJA office. Perez provided the necessary legal work they commonly need over there: powers of attorney, notaries, assistance with child custody and divorce issues and finances."

As successful as her law career has been, Perez has not given up on medicine.

"I'm getting prerequisite classes completed at St. Philips College in

order to apply for the Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program," Perez said.

It's been a journey for the 2014 Harlandale High School graduate who decided in late 2015 to aim high.

"I joined for a lot of reasons ... travel, the GI Bill, but I woke up one day and decided that I was going to join the Air Force," Perez said. "I'm surprised how much I love it. I plan on being in a long time."

Travel has moved to the forefront of her goals since she's serving in her hometown.

"I ended up back here after tech school in Alabama. I've been to Florida," Perez said. "That's it. I'd like to get overseas."

An Airman paralegal studying to become a nurse, Perez also volunteers for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, mentoring a nine-year-old San Antonio girl. The senior airman also has personal roles: a wife, marrying her high school sweetheart Rogelio after completing boot camp and, this November, she becomes a mother.

"She loves children and to be able to love one of her very own is going to make her the happiest that she has ever been," Jimenez said. "I know that she will teach her daughter to be the woman that she has grown to become."

AFPC hosts 2019 Civilian Personnel Training Summit

By Angelina Casarez

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 250 civilian personnel professionals from across the Air Force gathered for the third annual Civilian Personnel Training Summit in San Antonio July 22-26.

The event was hosted by the Air Force's Personnel Center Civilian Personnel Programs division in the Personnel Programs Directorate.

"It is important for the Air Force's Civilian Human Resources professionals to come together each year to share best practices, latest processes and discuss policy changes that impact our community so we can better support the mission," said Sonja Crowmover, AFPC deputy director for civilian

programs. "Our team has received such positive feedback from attendees pleased with the tools and resources they're taking back to their staffs."

Civilian personnel offices at installations around the world play a critical role supporting more than 170,000 Air Force Appropriated and Non-Appropriated Fund employees.

"Conferences like these provide an opportunity for a professional, collaborative dialogue of new ideas, best practices and lessons learned, which is not only invaluable for the Air Force, but to the Department of Defense as well," said Dr. J. Bryant Rushing, U.S. Space Command, human resources division chief.

During the conference,

participants discussed topics including hiring policies and practices, employee relations, diversity in the workplace, talent acquisition and process improvement.

"We're in the people business," said Chris Parrett, business reform specialist on the Department of Defense Human Resources Transformation Team. "People are not numbers. We've got to be able to learn how to manage the human aspect in order to get back to being the strategic mission partner putting the right people in the right places at the right time to be the most effective in our missions."

In conjunction with AFPC and Air Force Materiel Command, local civilian personnel flights provide the civilian workforce services including employee suitability

for a position; position classification; requests for personnel actions; benefits, entitlements and earnings and labor and employee management relations.

During the summit, participants used an app to provide feedback and ask questions.

"This summit has been the best one so far. I appreciate AFPC capturing the initiatives and being transparent," one attendee posted.

Other attendees were particularly impressed by the Civilian One Link tool, developed in-house by AFPC team member Dustin Erpelding. The tool reduces the need for multiple continuity binders and ensures HR professionals have the most accurate and up-to-date information at their

fingertips.

Participants also heard from AFPC leadership about maintaining communication with the field.

"We're focused on improving the way AFPC is doing business," said Maj. Gen. Andrew Toth, AFPC commander. "Our roadshow team is meeting with employees at installations who are at the forefront of providing services to civilian and military Airmen. By hitting the road, we can engage in critical two-way dialogue between employees at the installation and the center, to see how we can better support the warfighter."

"AFPC's job is to support you. It's a team effort," Toth added.

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