

# JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

AUGUST 16, 2019



PHOTO BY SGT. ANDREW VALLES

A Soldier with Task Force-51 and an Airman with the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron load equipment on a C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane in preparation to support exercise Vigilant Guard - Ohio at Kelly Field Aug 4.

## ARNORTH Soldiers deploy in support of Ohio exercise

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ESGR flight gives Reserve bosses firsthand experience

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# Taking care of people key to winning the fight

By Sean Kimmons  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Gen. James McConville smiled as he reminisced of when he was chosen to lead the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), before he became its longest-serving commander.

It was the same week in 2011 he commissioned his eldest son into the Army after he graduated as an ROTC cadet from Boston College.

But perhaps the most proud was his father, a former enlisted sailor who had served in the Korean War and then spent nearly 50 years working at the Boston Gear factory.

At the ceremony, his father, Joe, was asked by a local newspaper how he felt about his family's generations of military service.

Sixty years ago, he told the reporter, he was a junior seaman on a ship. And today, his son was about to command a famed Army division and his grandson was now a second lieutenant.

"What a great country this is," McConville recalled his father saying. "I don't think I could have said it better."

McConville, who was sworn in as the Army's 40th chief of staff on Friday, said he credits his father for inspiring him to join the military.

After high school, McConville left Quincy, a suburb of Boston, and attended the U.S. Military Academy, where he graduated in 1981. Since then his 38-year career has been marked with milestones and key assignments.

McConville has led multiple units in combat before most recently serving as the 36th vice chief of staff under Gen. Mark Milley, who will be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also oversaw the Army's G-1 (personnel) and legislative liaison offices.

The idea of serving the country was sparked by his father, who, now nearing 90 years old, still passionately shares stories of his time in the military.

"I was always amazed that a man who I had tremendous respect for, who had tremendous character, just really loved his time serving in the Navy," the general said.

Currently with three children and a son-in-law in the Army, McConville and his wife, Maria, a former Army officer herself, are continuing the family business.

The sense of family for McConville, though, extends beyond bloodlines.

As a father and a leader, McConville



SPC. THOMAS SCAGGS

Gen. James C. McConville (left), new Chief of Staff of the United States Army, discusses progress on a fighting position with a Soldier from 277th Aviation Support Battalion, at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 14.

understands the importance of taking care of every person in the Army, which he calls the country's most respected institution.

"People are the Army," he said of Soldiers, civilians and family members. "They are our greatest strength, our most important weapon system."

Fine-tuning that weapon system means, for instance, providing Soldiers with the best leadership, training and equipment through ongoing modernization efforts.

As the vice chief, McConville and current acting Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy supervised the development of Army Futures Command's cross-functional teams.

Designed to tackle modernization priorities, the CFTs revamped how the Army procures new equipment. The teams allow Soldiers to work directly with acquisition and requirements experts at the start of projects, resulting in equipment being delivered faster to units.

Modernization efforts are also changing how Soldiers will fight under the new concept of multi-domain operations.

"When I talk about modernization, there are some that think it is just new equipment," he said. "But, to me, it is much more than that."

He believes a new talent management system, which is still being developed, will help Soldiers advance in their careers.

As the Army pivots from counterinsurgency missions to great power competition against near-peer rivals, the system could better locate and recognize Soldiers with certain skillsets the service needs to win.

"If we get them in the right place at the right time," he said, "we'll have even a

better Army than we have right now."

The talent of Army civilians, which he says are the "institutional backbone of everything we do," should also be managed to ensure they grow in their positions, too.

As for family members, he said they deserve good housing, health care, childcare and spousal employment opportunities.

"If we provide a good quality of life for our families, they will stay with their Soldiers," he said.

All of these efforts combine into a two-pronged goal for McConville — an Army that is ready to fight now while at the same time being modernized for the future fight.

"Winning matters," he said. "When we send the United States Army somewhere, we don't go to participate, we don't go to try hard. We go to win. That is extremely important because there's no second place or honorable mention in combat."

Readiness, he said, is built by cohesive teams of Soldiers that are highly trained, disciplined and fit and can win on the battlefield.

"We're a contact sport," he said. "They need to make sure that they can meet the physical and mental demands."

To help this effort, a six-event readiness assessment, called the Army Combat Fitness Test, is set to replace the current three-event Army Physical Fitness Test, which has been around since 1980.

The new strenuous fitness test, which is gender- and age-neutral, was developed to better prepare Soldiers for combat tasks and reduce injuries. It is expected to be the Army's fitness test of record by October 2020.

Soldiers also need to sharpen their characteristic traits that make them more resilient in the face of adversity, he said.

Throughout his career, especially in combat, McConville said he learned that staying calm under pressure was the best way to handle stress and encourage others to complete the mission.

In turn, being around Soldiers in times of peace or war kept McConville motivated when hectic days seem to never end.

"Every single day I get to serve in the company of heroes," he said. "There are some people who look for their heroes at sporting events ... or movie theaters, but my heroes are Soldiers."

"My heroes are Soldiers because I have seen them do extraordinary things in very difficult situations," he added. "I'm just incredibly proud to serve with them."

## JBSA LEGACY

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# Feedback Fridays

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

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

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

## Mold Issues

**Q.** Thank you for the statement you made expressing concerns for the Airmen and staff at Joint Base San Antonio.

I recently separated from the Air Force in May 2019 after going to Basic Military Training in March 2019. While at training, I fell ill after getting some procedures done at Brooke Army Medical Center and almost blamed the procedure for my falling ill.

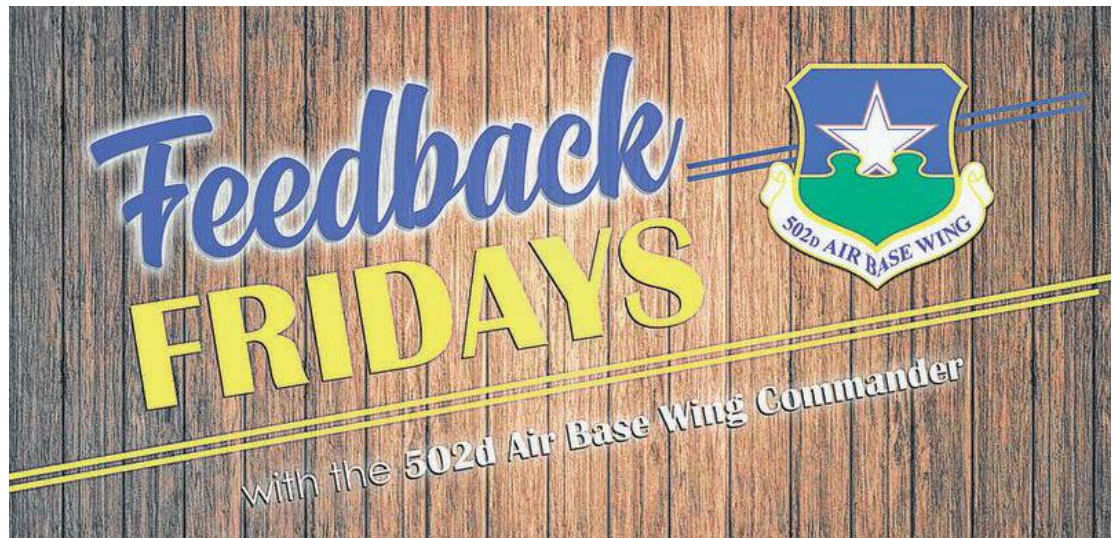
The doctor said I may be allergic to the pollen in San Antonio or to the ragweed and the spores of the mold that's around the base.

If there is mold, why isn't there an investigation because I know mold can be very dangerous. The following day I was sent to the Reid Clinic to do a checkup. There, my wingman decided to do a checkup because she too had a bad cough. The doctors there checked her out and diagnosed her with some respiratory.

We conversed a bit between the two of us and came up with the same conclusion that it was mold affecting us. To make matters worse, the dorm we had just moved into had blocked toilets and bubbling black water and smelly stuff coming from a hole in the floor.

If we want to be the world's greatest Air Force, we need to take care of our fellow men and women. Having mold where we sleep and train is not acceptable and is very discouraging to us out there who want to enlist or reenlist into the Air Force/Armed Forces to defend this great nation.

**A.** Thank you very much for bringing my your concerns about the dormitories on Joint Base San Antonio and for



sharing your health concerns with me. The health and wellness of all personnel on Joint Base San Antonio is my top priority.

Mold in living facilities is unacceptable. At any time, if anyone is experiencing any health issues, I encourage you to go to sick call and/or visit your health provider. Our team is doing everything we can to address this issue.

Mold remediation guidelines are being utilized by our teams who have been instructed on the proper selection and use of personal protective equipment to keep themselves safe.

As we move into the next phase of infrastructure assessment at 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.

**Q.** Dear commander, you are in a bit of a pickle. I am sure a lot of base building work was done before your time.

I am a 70-year-old retired architect who practiced architecture (design, engineering, construction in many building types, including billeting quarters, as well as the historic restoration of the Lt. Eisenhower BQ at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston).

Do your buildings have exterior walls

with 1 ½ inch air space cavity in them with a vapor seal so moisture evaporates? Now with your HVAC units, are they running in the hallway ceilings and are they sweating? Respectfully, good luck commander.

**A.** Thank you so much for your thoughts on this issue, as well as for your years of service to our country. I share your concerns for the well-being of our workforce, and assure you we are doing everything in our power to ensure their safety, both for our dorm residents as well as for the teams assessing and addressing the issues.

We have taken measures to relocate occupants from rooms where there were initially assessed concerns. We are completing follow-on inspections conducted by CE Environmental craftsmen, bioenvironmental, and leadership representatives who are working their way through the rooms.

Included in this assessment is determination of root causes as well as assessment of any suspected mold. Thankfully there have been no instances of black mold identified. We have identified instances where HVAC, exhaust fans and plumbing has been a root cause, and CE is taking actions to address these issues.

Regarding facility designs, JBSA has 77 dormitories of a wide variety of age, design and construction methodology which have absolutely presented

challenges to our Civil Engineers who strive maintain these facilities to support our wide variety of missions here at JBSA.

Thank you again for your advice as well as words of encouragement.

## Personnel Issues

**Q.** Six years ago, my wife retired after 35 years of Department of Defense civil service at JBSA-Randolph.

Back then, certain Air Force employees were allowed to create work-related Facebook pages from their CAC-secured work computers.

We have tried to delete/deactivate the page but cannot since it was tied to the CAC login. Facebook does not answer our requests for help. I think this should be considered a cyber security risk. People still post and comment on the page but my wife cannot access the admin functions.

If this is a problem with one person, then I must assume there are other similar Facebook accounts that make DOD more susceptible to hackers. Who can we contact to resolve this issue?

**A.** First and foremost, we appreciate your wife's service and hope she is enjoying retirement.

We request that you please send a follow up email to our Public Affairs Team at [RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil](mailto:RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil) and

# FEEDBACK FRIDAYS

From page 3

include the name of the page as well as some context regarding its intended use. This allows us to better understand any potential liabilities and work with our contacts at Facebook to voice any concerns and to get this issue resolved.

For all other readers serving and working at JBSA, if you have an interest in standing up an official social media page, please make sure to first contact the host installation public affairs team. Pending review, approval, further training and registration, we can ensure that the page is effectively managed and receives a return on investment. For more information, you can contact our PA office at 210-652-4410.

Q. I was under the impression that part of the joint basing objective was to provide the same services and/or the main services at each main location so that military, family, and DOD members.

Why did CPTS remove DTS services from JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph? There are no DTS Lead Defense Travel Administrators (LDTAs) at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston or JBSA-Randolph to assist the Organizational Defense Travel Administrators (ODTAs), military, and DOD members.

There used to be one at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, but they removed the person and sent them to JBSA-Lackland. As the ODTAs, we are supposed to contact them for assistance prior to calling the DTS helpdesk.

The CPTS LDTAs want you to use their workflow box, which I do, but some questions are simple and need an immediate answer. The majority of the time I send a ticket to the DTS helpdesk because I can get an answer from them faster than from my local office but when I do call the Lackland office the line just rings.

This is the second time I am submitting this issue, with the first time through ICE. Please place at least one DTS LDTA or have a military member that can provide the same service of the LDTA at each location. Thank you for your consideration.

A. Thank you for your question. We strive to provide a representative for all of our CPTS services and we have ensured many of our services (military pay and civilian pay) are provided at each location to ensure DOD members and dependents can utilize the operating location most convenient for them.

While providing a physical body at

each location is ideal, manning reductions have forced us to make calculated trade-offs. The good news is these trade-offs have forced us to seek efficiencies through centralized operations and the use of technology.

You are correct, all CPTS Lead Defense Travel Administrators (LDTAs) are located at Lackland in order to centralize DTS operations and streamline communications with Organizational Defense Travel Administrators (ODTAs). The centralization was necessary to ensure our LDTAs were absolutely synchronized and assisted us in managing DTS voucher workload queries.

Centralization actually allows the LDTAs to pool their talent to improve products to customers. CPTS provides customer service to ODTAs, and thus customers, through a myriad of communication channels. The DTS team conducts visits for each organization and provides mass trainings.

Additionally, we are developing a SharePoint site that enables ODTAs to conduct research and review training to ensure the best customer service experience for those they serve. ODTAs can also send questions to the DTS organization box: 502CPTS.FMFJBASDTS@us.af.mil or as mentioned through ICE.

Unfortunately, some of the frustration may be generated from our current phone capabilities. We have limited phone capabilities while we revamp phone tree connecting options, to include, adapting a voicemail system so customers are not disconnected. The DTS organization box is very responsive and so are the ICE comments. Any ICE comment that requests a reply will receive one.

Thank you for your comments and patience as we seek to maximize technologies to improve services across the Joint Base San Antonio footprint.

## Installation & Facilities

Q. Why is the self-help/U-Fix-It store at JBSA-Lackland civil engineers closed for "Admin" each day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.? Most facility managers need to run errands to utilize the services provided by the U-Fix-It store and closing completely through the lunch hour is the worst possible time. I would like to know if this could be looked into.

A. Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. The good news is CE has been looking into this matter, and is planning to have schedules adjusted by

the end of this month in order to enable the U-Fix-It store to remain open during the critical 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. time block.

Q. When driving on JBSA-Lackland on Kenley Drive, coming from the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center towards Truemper Street, it is always confusing as to which lane I should be in to turn right, left, or go straight at the intersection of Kenley Drive and Truemper Street.

There are no signs until you are right at the intersection, and by that time it is too late to change lanes.

It is a very busy intersection and cars are usually lined up a ways back. Could some large arrows be painted onto the road or could signs be posted farther back to point out which direction each lane goes at the intersection? I am sure I am not the only one that gets confused.

A. Thank you for bringing this traffic concern to our attention. We understand why drivers can get confused when approaching Truemper Street from Kenly Avenue, especially with all of the visitors that come to JBSA-Lackland.

CE will be adding additional pavement markings (arrows) and signage which will be located about 250 feet before the intersection. As we surveyed the area and compared against traffic standards, we also noticed that a pavement marker was missing just before the intersection, we will be adding pavement arrows at that location as well. This work should be accomplished by mid-September.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping JBSA safe!

Q. As a child, I used to love going to the ponds at the golf course to fish.

However, the lily pads and the moss have taken over those ponds and it's pretty much impossible to fish there anymore. Is there any way to remove all those lily pads and clean up those ponds to make them family-friendly and "fishable"?

A. Thank you for your question. The ponds at the golf course were designed as part of a stormwater system and unfortunately, we're aren't able to remove the lily pads. These ponds are used to hold and distribute rain runoff slowly, which in turn helps prevents flooding.

When stormwater runoff flows into the retention pond, the ponds may accumulate sediment, bacteria and other materials from roadways and yards. The vegetation, to include the lily pads, helps provide a natural filter, and as such, previous efforts targeted for reduction of vegetation were disapproved due to environmental considerations.

Additionally, as a safety precaution, consumption of any fish in the pond or contact with the water is not recommended.

## Miscellaneous

Q. I have recently been reassigned from JBSA-Lackland to JBSA-Randolph after being there for less than a year. After purchasing my home, I was unexpectedly reassigned. My new commute is 75 miles per day.

When I notified my chain of command of potential hardships that this move would cause, the reciprocation I received was that my situation was no different than the officers in my squadron. Unfortunately, I do not have the additional disposal income as the officers I am being correlated to.

At this current time, I am having issues with the adjustments to meet the requirements effectively as this increases my monthly expenses by a substantial amount. Are there any additional resources such as a GOV that can be used from base to base or daily commuter available for this situation?

A. Thank you very much for your question. I am very sorry to learn about the hardship associated with your commute. All JBSA military and civil service employees are authorized use of the 502nd LRS, Vehicle Operations, You Drive it (UDI) fleet for official travel on and between JBSA installations.

Unfortunately, government vehicles are not authorized for travel between your home and place of duty, in accordance with Air Force Instruction 24-306 and AFI 24-301.

However, JBSA has a very robust JBSA Rideshare program — the second largest in the DOD — that links DOD employees and military members with vanpools at no cost to eligible participants.

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

For more information click on the JBSA Ride Share link (<https://jbsa.dod.afpms.mil/Resources/JBSA-Ride-Share/>) located at the bottom right of the JBSA.mil page under Community Support.



# Top AF civilians plan career development sessions at JBSA

By Steve Elliott

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland will host Anthony Reardon, the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, and Gwendolyn DeFilippi, the Principal Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, Aug. 21 and 22.

The purpose of the visit is to communicate and interact with the civilian workforce regarding career and developmental opportunities, paths to senior civilian positions and answer questions in a non-attribution environment.

Reardon, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Air Force's senior career civilian adviser to the Secretary of the Air Force. He performs high-level assignments

following the Secretary's policies, goals, and objectives. He oversees the execution and programming of the Headquarters U.S. Air Force portfolio with an annual budget of \$5.6 billion and 37,000 personnel.

He administratively manages and supports the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, its 1,650-member Secretariat and 2,400-member supported field operating agencies to include manpower, personnel, organization, budget, supply, and the Secretary's contingency fund; information, personnel and industrial security oversight for U.S. treaty issues; Special Access Programs and anti-terrorism.

Reardon is also the Air Force lead for Insider Threat policy and implementation. He establishes policy and oversees worldwide Air Force Departmental Publishing, the Air Force Declassification Office, the Air Force Art



COURTESY PHOTO

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland will host Anthony Reardon (left), the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, and Gwendolyn DeFilippi, the Principal Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, Aug. 21 and 22.

Program and the Air Force Executive Dining Facility.

Reardon served on active duty in the Air Force from 1982 through 2003. In his capacity as a Weapon System Officer flying the RF-4C, and later as a staff officer, he's held numerous key operational and staff positions at the squadron, wing, major command, Army division and Air Staff levels.

DeFilippi serves as the principal assistant to the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower. She is responsible for comprehensive plans and policies covering all life cycles of military and civilian personnel management, including military end strength and civilian work-year execution, education and training, compensation and

resource allocation and the delivery of fully qualified, ready Airmen for the joint warfighter, while also meeting the needs of Airmen and their families.

Appointed to the SES in 2010, DeFilippi graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1996 and has served in numerous leadership positions.

Reardon and DeFilippi will host career and developmental opportunity panel discussions for all GS and NAF civilians at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 21 at the Fleenor Auditorium at JBSA-Randolph and at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 22 at the Bob Hope Auditorium located at JBSA-Lackland.

Directly after each panel discussion, a "sensing," or listening session, for SES civilians, GS-14s and GS-15s from throughout JBSA will be held. The sensing session runs from 10:15-11 a.m. Aug. 21 at the Fleenor Auditorium at JBSA-Randolph and from 10:15-11 a.m. at the Bob Hope Auditorium at JBSA-Lackland.

## New DOD program leaves sexual predators nowhere to hide

By C. Todd Lopez

DEFENSE.GOV

A new Department of Defense program called Catch a Serial Offender, or "CATCH," aims to make it more difficult for perpetrators of sexual assault to evade identification and capture by law enforcement.

While the new tool isn't good news for offenders, it's expected to allow victims making a restricted report of sexual assault — a reporting mechanism that allows a victim to remain confidential — to help investigators do a better job of finding wrongdoers and bring them to justice.

"Victims of sexual assault deserve our best support and resources," said Dr. Nate Galbreath, acting director of the DOD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. "We're excited for the launch of CATCH, which will empower victims to disclose information about their assailant or assault in a safe and confidential way."

Sexual aggressors don't always limit themselves to just one victim, said

Galbreath, a forensic psychologist who has assessed and treated a variety of offenders. What's more typical, he said, is that they tend to commit multiple assaults over time.

"Research suggests that some suspects commit multiple incidents before being reported or caught. With the launch of the CATCH Program, the department has a new tool to identify these suspects," Galbreath said.

DOD's new CATCH Program allows victims of sexual assault who've opted to file a restricted report to anonymously put the details of the assault into an online repository. Details can include such things as the name of the perpetrator, rank, height, tattoos or other distinguishing factors. Both recent victims and those from years past can participate in the program, Galbreath said.

"What's great about this new program is that both currently serving and veteran service members who made a restricted report can participate," he said.

The CATCH Program database is

accessible worldwide. As a new entry into CATCH is created in one location, the details regarding the perpetrator can be compared to the details of other unrestricted reports of sexual assault that have happened elsewhere at other times.

Victims of sexual assault remain anonymous when they volunteer to add information into the CATCH Program. After details of an alleged assault are entered into the system, criminal investigators at the headquarters of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations — not agents at local installations — who analyze suspect information that has been entered. These investigators will never know the name of the victim.

If those agents find a "match," which means that one victim's submission describing a suspect matches the submission of another victim's suspect — then those investigators will notify Sexual Assault Prevention and Response personnel of their findings.

Once that notification is made, a CATCH Program representative or a sexual assault response coordinator will contact the victims to let them know. Victims can then use the new information to decide whether they want to convert their restricted report to an unrestricted report, which will allow a criminal investigation into the assault allegations to go forward.

If victims choose not to convert their restricted report to an unrestricted report, they continue to be anonymous — their names are never revealed. CATCH submissions remain in the system for up to 10 years.

"We are constantly looking for new ways to empower victims to participate in the military justice process through our Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs," said Elizabeth Van Winkle, executive director of DOD's Office of Force Resiliency. "We encourage greater reporting to hold offenders accountable."

For more information on the CATCH program, go to <https://www.sapr.mil/catch>.

# FORT SAM HOUSTON



SGT. ANDREW VALLES

*A Soldier with Task Force-51 and an Airman with the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron load equipment on a C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane in preparation to support exercise Vigilant Guard - Ohio at Kelly Field Aug 4.*

## Task Force-51 Soldiers from U.S. Army North deploy in support of Ohio exercise

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

Task Force-51 Soldiers from U.S. Army North's rapidly deployable headquarters deployed from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in support of Vigilant Guard-Ohio disaster and emergency response exercise Aug 3-4.

The exercise, hosted by U.S. Northern Command and the National Guard Bureau, tests the state's response capabilities through simulated attacks.

"We are going to replicate that the infrastructure in the cities of Ohio had a data breach or a hacking breach of

their power systems and their entire power grid has been taken out," said Capt. William A. Alvarado, TF-51 Current Operations Battle Captain. "We will be able to work together with the National Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and all the entities there that require federal Title 10 assistance."

Alvarado said this exercise is important because it is a learning opportunity for TF-51 and helps it prepare for future disasters.

"The exercise will prepare TF-51 to be able to rapidly deploy within 24 to 48 hours and have the plans in place to

be able to have a federal military entity to assist in a major disaster," Alvarado said.

Matthew J. Hopper, a telecommunication specialist for TF-51, explained the biggest role as a task force is coordination with the federal, state and local partners to assist with any disaster response.

TF-51 is supporting VG-Ohio with personnel who are subject matter experts in different aspects of a disaster response, including logistics, personnel, medical, aviation or engineer staffs, Hopper said.

"We will be there to replicate what Army North

can do," Alvarado said. "What we can do is be able to tell them this is what your federal forces can provide from this element and how we can help the NORTHCOM commander to better assist you as well in your emergency at the local, state and national level."

Alvarado, who previously came from an infantry background, touched on the impact the U.S. Army and TF-51 have during a disaster event.

"It is great to be a part of an organization that plays an important part in natural disasters and emergency relief," Alvarado said. "When

you are on the ground as a warfighter and do that for so many years then have the opportunity to come over here and see how the Army and TF-51 helps it is pretty incredible to be a part of."

Hopper said he is eager to work with his team during VG-Ohio.

"I am looking forward to this exercise," Hopper said. "We have a new team and everybody seems to be really hungry to learn. The build up to this has been one of the most successful and we have learned more on the prep for this one exercise than we have in a while."

# Fire safety: Cigarettes are the leading cause of home fire fatalities

From the National Fire Prevention Association

*Editor's note: Images and information contained in this article were reproduced in whole or part from <http://www.nfpa.org>.*

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, cigarettes are the leading cause of home fire fatalities in the United States.

From hot ashes dumped into the garbage to a cigarette falling on to a couch cushion, carelessly discarded smoking materials kill 700 to 900 people, smokers and nonsmokers alike, per year.

The following safety tips will help to prevent these fires and possibly save lives:

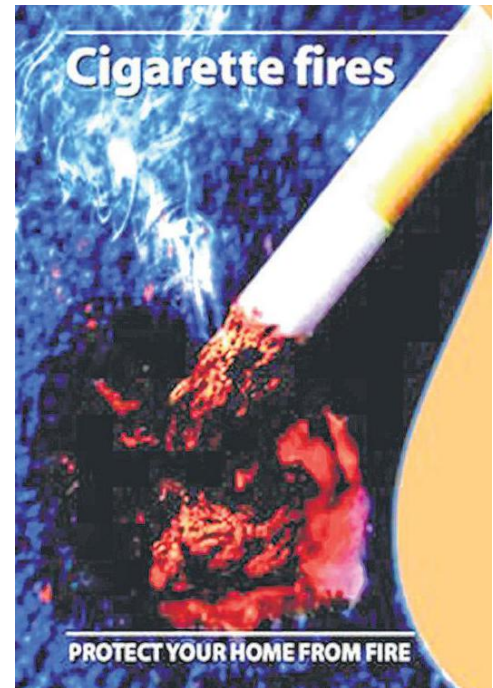
- » Never smoke in bed or while sitting in furniture.
- » Always use large oversized, deep ashtrays with wide edges. While smaller ashtrays may be more attractive, they are not safe. Cigarettes can roll off the edge and the ashes can easily be blown away.
- » Water down your ashes, then empty ashtrays into an airtight metal container. Warm ashes dumped in waste cans can smolder for hours and then ignite into fire.
- » Do not leave cigarettes, cigars or pipes unattended. Put out all smoking materials before you walk away.
- » Do not put ashtrays on the arms of sofas or chairs.
- » If you have a party with smokers, you should always

check between sofa and chair pads because they can drop down and the butts can smolder for hours before you even know the fire has started.

- » Don't leave burning cigarettes in an ashtray.
- » Keep lighters and matches out of sight and reach from children.
- » If you smoke outdoors, be sure to take in all ashtrays and cigarette butts so wind does not blow the ashtrays' contents around your property.
- » If you begin to feel drowsy while watching television or reading, extinguish your smoking materials in a safe container.
- » Close a matchbook before striking and hold it away from your body. Set your cigarette lighter on low flame to prevent burns.

By following simple safety precautions and becoming educated on the dangers associated with careless smoking you can help make your home a safer place.

For more information about smoke alarms or fire extinguishers, visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at <http://www.nfpa.org/education> or contact the Joint Base San Antonio Fire Prevention Offices at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-2727; JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-2921; or JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-6915.



COURTESY GRAPHIC



# MICC commander welcomes all to Women's Equality Day

**By Brig. Gen. Christine Beeler**

COMMANDING GENERAL, MISSION AND  
INSTALLATION CONTRACTING COMMAND

We are your wives, daughters, sisters and mothers. We are also your Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

All women will be celebrated at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Women's Equality Day Observance at 10 a.m. Aug. 22 at the Fort Sam Houston Theater, and everyone is invited.

While the Mission and Installation Contracting Command is hosting the event, all of JBSA, veterans from all the services, and community members are welcome to attend the observance ceremony.

On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution helped to remove a barrier that divided men and women by granting women the right to vote. The passage of the 19th Amendment is a testament to the courage and tenacity of the women — and men — who challenged the nation to live up to its founding principles.

It's a day that is meant to celebrate women's empowerment. By celebrating Women's Equality Day, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston community recognizes not only the significance of women's contributions but also the value of diversity and an inclusive environment.

When I think about diversity, I think of the words American poet Audre Lorde, who said, "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."

If we can recognize and celebrate those differences then we can succeed, and that means we as a nation succeed.



COURTESY PHOTO

We must ensure all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Department of Defense civilians are given the opportunity to maximize their talents and potential.

Since 1775, women have served in the Army and have remained an invaluable and essential part of the Army today.

Women have served in the military for generations and have proven that sacrifices and selfless service are genderless. And more than 288,000 women work as DOD employees today serving right alongside Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

Today, all branches of services ensure there is an equal opportunity to serve for both genders and is consistent with DOD guidance. We have lifted and overturned the 1994 Pentagon decision that explicitly prohibited women from serving in combat. All military

**"It is my hope that you leave the Women's Equality Day Observance with a renewed perspective on gender equality, and just like those women and men before us who recognized their differences and helped get the 19th Amendment ratified that no matter what our differences may be is that we as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen should always be celebrated for what we bring to the fight."**

**Brig. Gen. Christine Beeler,**  
Commanding General of Mission and Installation Contracting Command  
at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston

occupational specialties are now open to anyone who qualifies and meets the specific standards of the job in all services.

While we have certainly come a long way in the fight for equality since the 19th Amendment was ratified, we must remain dedicated to the idea that our nation is not complete until every American receives equal treatment and opportunity under the law.

It is my hope that you leave the Women's Equality Day Observance with a renewed perspective on gender equality, and just like those women and men before us who recognized their differences and helped get the 19th Amendment ratified that no matter what our differences may be is that we as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen should always be celebrated for what we bring to the fight.

Remember, we are all created as

equals and no one can take that away from you without your consent.

Headquartered at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the Mission and Installation Contracting Command consists of about 1,500 military and civilian members who are responsible for contracting goods and services in support of Soldiers as well as readying trained contracting units for the operating force and contingency environment when called upon. MICC contracts are vital in feeding more than 200,000 Soldiers every day, providing many daily base operations support services at installations, facilitate training in the preparation of more than 100,000 conventional force members annually, training more than 500,000 students each year, and maintaining more than 14.4 million acres of land and 170,000 structures.

## JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO HOTLINES

Sexual Assault Hotline - 210-808-7272

Domestic Abuse Hotline - 210-367-1213

DOD Safe Helpline - 877-995-5247

Suicide Prevention - 800-273-8255

Duty Chaplain - 210-221-9363



# Former USAISR research fellow takes unique path to becoming a critical care physician

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The path Natalie Koons, a former research fellow at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, has followed in studying to become a critical care physician is a unique one.

Koons, who was an intern and then a research fellow at USAISR from 2017-18, is going to medical school at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Maine, where she is working toward her doctorate in osteopathic medicine.

"I had an interesting pathway to science," Koons said. "I actually started as a dance major (in college). I was heavily into ballet."

Koons, 23, attended Mercyhurst University, a private Catholic college of more than 2,700 students in Erie, Pennsylvania, on a dance scholarship and was a member of the school's dance department. However, during her freshman year, an injury forced her to give up dancing, an activity she had been involved in since the age of 8.

"I tore up my hip labrums," Koons said. "It was an overuse injury. I had double hip surgery; it all occurred within six months."

Her experience as a dancer made her become interested in the physiology of the human body, and it was because of this that Koons had a goal of becoming a doctor, even before the injury that ended her dancing career.

"As a dancer, I was always attuned to my body," Koons said. "I have always been interested in the scientific aspect of it, the movement, the muscles. The way the human

body moves. I believe there is a science to that. All of those things are connected to dancers."

By her junior year in college, Koons decided she wanted to learn and gain experience in medical research. She applied for a handful of internships, including with USAISR. In February 2017, she was one of 13 students nationwide selected for a summer internship with USAISR out of a pool of 1,500 applicants.

During her internship, Koons was assigned to the Blood and Coagulation task area under the direction of Dr. Daniel Darlington and Dr. Xiaowu Xu, USAISR research physiologists. Koons and the other interns were able to shadow the physicians at the USAISR Burn Center and participated in a weekly journal club. In addition, the interns volunteered at the Warrior and Family Support Center.

Koons worked on a research project to evaluate the effectiveness of intracellular mechanisms controlling aggregation in platelets that could lead to a resuscitative strategy to mitigate coagulopathy, an abnormality in the clotting process of the blood. Her findings were put on a poster presentation in one of the rooms at USAISR, along with those of other interns, for USAISR instructors and personnel to view.

In addition, Koons helped initiate and conduct several other collaborative research projects as an intern at USAISR.

Koons said one of the important things she learned during her internship is how the findings of each of the research projects at USAISR are brought together to improve treatment of combat casualties.

"We were doing small aspects of one big picture," she



COURTESY PHOTO

*Natalie Koons interned at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in the summer of 2017 and returned to USAISR as a research fellow from July 2018 to April 2019.*

said.

After graduating from Mercyhurst, Koons came back to USAISR and did a nine-month stint as a research fellow, from July 2018 to April 2019, in the Battlefield Health and Trauma Center for Human Integrative Physiology. She worked under the guidance of Dr. Victor Convertino, USAISR Senior Scientist for Combat Casualty Care and Director, Battlefield Health & Trauma Center for Human Integrative Physiology.

As a research fellow, Koons authored two research papers that were published in medical journals on blood volume in humans and hemorrhagic shock. Convertino said Koons' paper on hemorrhagic shock was groundbreaking because she was able to establish that the critical delivery of oxygen that initiates the point an individual goes into shock is 5.3 milliliters of oxygen per kilogram per minute.

"Natalie was the first one to define that," Convertino said. "Using this data, the paper outlines that we can provide a way for clinicians to resuscitate patients who have lost blood with accurate blood transfusions."

Koons was involved in the writing of eight articles that were published in medical journals, three as the first author and five as the co-author.

Following up on her research of hemorrhagic shock, Koons was a lead investigator of a study conducted with combat medics at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to determine if they would intervene early in prohibiting blood loss among casualties.

Convertino said in order to improve clinical outcomes of casualties on the battlefield, it is critical that combat medics recognize an unstable patient and perform early prevention of blood loss from the body.

When Koons tested combat medics who had information on the patient's compensatory reserve measurement, a new technology for measuring an individual's ability to compensate for blood loss, she showed having access to this data helped the medics decrease their amount of time to recognize an unstable patient by more than 40 percent.

Convertino said Koons is a skilled researcher.

"It's not just intelligence, but it's having the ability to synthesize and integrate information and think about the big picture," Convertino said. "Basically, to see the big picture, to take information and put it into a context where there is a thinking process involved is key, and she has that gift. That's really the essence of research."

Koons said working with researchers such as Darlington, Xu and Convertino convinced her that medical research was the field she wanted to get in.

"I was able to spend a year with Dr. Convertino," Koons said. "Just working with him alone, he is an accomplished researcher for the Army and listening to his expertise and his advice in general, that made me want to pursue research as a career in the medical field."

Koons said she is working on her doctorate with the goal of becoming a physician investigator in the field of critical care medicine. She wants to work in the critical care field because she wants to help improve care for wounded service members and veterans.

"The mission of the Army has really resonated with me," Koons said. "That was a huge development for my love of research. I'm hoping to continue this passion and to serve the U.S. Army and combat casualty population through research."

# Love of America inspires calling to Army chaplaincy

By Leanne Thomas

5TH MEDICAL RECRUITING  
BATTALION PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"It was 14 years of really dedicated work to prepare, and so that's why I'm really passionate about the chaplaincy," stated Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Cloyd L. Colby, chaplain for the 502nd Force Support Group and Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

During a recent encounter with chaplain recruiters from the 5th Medical Recruiting Battalion, Colby, who served in the Army for nearly four decades, felt compelled to share his journey to becoming a U.S. Army chaplain.

Colby, who joined the Army National Guard as a teletype operator in 1981, stated, "The initial passion that I had was the love for America."

It wasn't long before Colby realized he was called to serve both God and country.

"During basic training, I started noticing my chaplain was a side-by-side leader and I



LEANNE THOMAS

*Sgt. 1st Class Brian Jones (left), chaplain noncommissioned officer in charge, 502nd Force Support Group, serves with Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Cloyd Colby, chaplain, 502nd FSG and Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, at the 502nd FSG headquarters building Aug. 2.*

just gravitated toward that model of leadership, a servant leader. I said to him one day, 'I think I want to be a chaplain,' " Colby explained. "And he said, 'Pvt. Colby, I want you to talk to the first chaplain you see when you get to AIT (Advanced Individual Training) at Fort Gordon and let them know you're interested in the chaplaincy.'"

A few days after Colby arrived at AIT, in line at the chow hall for Thanksgiving dinner was an Army chaplain.

"I introduced myself and told him, 'I think I want to be a chaplain,' " Colby said. "And you know what he told me? He said, 'I believe you are going to be a chaplain one day.'"

Looking back, Colby realized it was a mixture of his desire

and God's intervention that got him to where he is today.

"That feedback that I got from the chaplain at Fort Gordon when he said, 'I think you are going to be a chaplain,' gave me sustaining strength for 14 years. I kept going back to that," Colby said.

Those 14 years were spent meeting the various requirements to become an Army chaplain while Colby served in the Active National Guard Reserve program.

To help accomplish his goals, Colby also relied on the guidance and support provided by his U.S. Army recruiter.

"My chaplain recruiter encouraged me along the way," Colby added.

Once Colby completed the academic and religious requirements in 1995, he commissioned as an active-duty Army chaplain and attended the Chaplain Basic Officers Leadership Course at the U.S. Army Chaplain School and Center at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

"One thing about basic officer training for the chaplaincy is that you become so aware of the variety of faith groups and the differences, but what comes out also is the similarities," Colby said.

When Colby was asked what his most rewarding experience was as a chaplain, he said, "There are so many. I got to lead the 10th Mountain Division Brigade Combat Team into Iraq, leading 10 military ministry teams. That was very rewarding. You have ministry opportunities every minute of the day."

From ministering in contingency operations around the world to serving stateside at post chapels, hospitals and unit ministry teams, the Army chaplaincy has many career opportunities available to serve the spiritual needs of Soldiers and their families.

"I've given a lot to it (the U.S. Army chaplaincy), but I've received so much in return, and I just want to pass that legacy on," Colby added.

## Youth volunteers gain valuable experience at BAMC

By Natalia Turner  
and DeSean Valverde

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Brooke Army Medical Center's Youth Volunteer Program provides teens ages 14 to 17 with military medicine experience.

The program is unique to San Antonio and is sponsored by the San Antonio American Red Cross.

"The partnership with the American Red Cross is an offshoot of the commander's community outreach program," said Michael Dulevitz, chief of BAMC's Office of Volunteer Services. "This program enables students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to witness the military and military medicine up close and personal."

Youth volunteers gain valuable experience which can tie in with their future academic and career goals.

"I've talked to a lot of the techs and other staff," said Nathaniel Santos, youth volunteer in the Inpatient Orthopedic Medical/Surgical Ward. "They've recommended routes that I should be taking or classes I should be taking."

BAMC staff members mentor the volunteers and help provide a memorable learning experience.

"My experience here was very good," said Catherine Clay, youth volunteer at the Provost Marshal Office. "They kept us busy and we learned a lot of new stuff here."

Volunteering at BAMC has helped previous youth volunteers make career decisions.

"We've had quite a few post-program



MADDISEN CONTRERAS

*Youth volunteers Sierra Trapolsi and Amber Miller intubate a simulated pediatric patient in the Simulation Center at Brooke Army Medical Center July 9.*

contacts wherein a youth will return to us to say that it was this program that made the difference in their career choices," Dulevitz said. "It was their

summer or summers at BAMC that guided them into the military and military medicine or into civilian healthcare focus/role."



# LACKLAND

## Air Force trainees spread inspiration through murals

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

Red and white stripes with white stars painted on a blue background stretch across the length of an entire corridor. Helicopter silhouettes against an evening sky are painted at the corner of a hallway, while silhouettes of launching fighter jets decorate another. Along another corridor is an image of cyber security specialists at work, along with a picture of security forces members and a military working dog.

Trainees with the 321st Training Squadron volunteered to paint the murals throughout the unit.

The project began July 4, 2017, with the American flag painted across the hallway of several classrooms. It took about 2 ½ months and about 12 gallons of paint.

"The trainees were really excited for the 4th of July and kept asking what they were going to do, so I said 'we're going to paint a flag,'" said Lt. Col. Journey Meekins, former 321stTRS commander. "Before I said that, I hadn't actually gone to look at the hallway to figure out how long it was going to take."

The mural project then evolved and expanded with the enthusiasm of the trainees into a two-year project.

"They loved it," Meekins said, and not only facilitated the project, but also assisted with the designs and helped paint the mural. "They were happy to put something on the wall that inspires other people and themselves. They said it was very stress relieving, but also a lasting mark they would be happy to see years from now."

"Other trainees got excited with what they were seeing on the walls and wanted to contribute," she continued. "It was weird having just one long, giant flag on one long hallway and I had so many teams that wanted to paint, we decided to make it a more structured project."

The next mural project was of accurately rendered medals in the atrium in honor of Chief Master Sgt. Duane Hackney, a pararescueman who earned more than 50 medals during his career and was the namesake of the airman training complex.

Hackney is heralded as one of the most decorated enlisted Airmen in U.S. Air Force history. The atrium honors his legacy by displaying specifically selected medals that are to educate and inspire, according to the plaque displayed in the atrium.

Afterwards, the project further expanded throughout the unit to the hallways, stairways and dormitories.

The goal was to "inspire current and future trainees to keep looking up, stay focused, and connect with each other, patriotism, heritage and talent inside and around them," according to a memorial plaque displayed in the ATC.

"I really wanted to tap into Air Force heritage, history and really highlight as many career fields as I could," Meekins explained. "It has been a very educational project, not just for the trainees, but for the staff and visitors as well."

While trainees designed the majority of the artworks, some were based off of pictures. One such mural is based on a historical photo from the Berlin Airlift. Others include renderings of aircraft, portraits and military members



STAFF SGT. KRISTAL WRIGHT

*Lt. Col. Journey Meekins, former commander of the 321st Training Squadron, stands in front of a mural of the American flag July 17 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.*

completing the mission.

"It is good for trainees to see these murals (because it) piques their interest in history and what this stuff stands for," said Tech. Sgt. Brittany Skyles, 321st TRS military training instructor. "They are more intrigued to look up the history of these things they are painting, whether it be an aircraft, a person or medal."

In addition to honoring the past, it also provides the opportunity for trainees to leave a legacy of their own. Leaving art and motivational messages in the dorms for other trainees is a tradition within basic military training.

"Even 30 years ago they were painting murals, quotes and stuff in the old dorms," Skyles said, who recalled that her flight did the same 11 years ago. "It is important because they are stressed out and it is a way for them to get their minds back where it needs to be and to focus."

Creating murals are not just

a tradition within BMT, but across the military.

"Even in deployed locations, people do murals to pay tribute," Skyles said. "There are murals everywhere and I think it is an outlet for everybody. It also shows that 'we were here' and what we represent."

In addition to beautifying barriers downrange, military members also leave their mark in other artistic ways, such as painting nose and tail art on aircraft they maintain.

Everyone has a way to destress. For some, it's physical training, while for others, it may be church attendance. There are some who need a creative outlet. Having different ways to manage stress in a healthy manner helps build resiliency, Skyles said.

Building resiliency, fitness and fortitude are the goals of Comprehensive Airmen Fitness, or CAF, which is accomplished through the strengthening of the four pillars of wellness. The pillars are

mental, spiritual, physical and social. The murals not only tie into mental well being, but also social, as they require teamwork.

Teaching trainees about CAF and different outlets to help them improve resiliency is part of MTIs' responsibilities, Skyles explained.

"Some of the people who got involved didn't picture themselves as artistic, but they did it to help and realized it was kind of therapeutic and felt good," she added. "They liked how rewarding it felt."

"They said the murals inspired them when they were having a gloomy day; they would see something that made them smile and remind them to keep getting up," Meekins said.

Meekins, Skyles and the other MTIs hope that both current and future trainees are able to take away valuable lessons from the project such as teamwork, stress management, resiliency, Air Force heritage, pride and motivation.

# Lackland EFMP, Lighthouse for the Blind assist Alamo Wing

By Master Sgt. Kristian Carter  
433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Exceptional Family Member Program and the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind & Vision Impaired teamed together at JBSA-Lackland Aug. 4 to provide no-cost backpacks and back-to-school supplies to Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 433rd Airlift Wing.

The venture was an opportunity not only to help Reserve Citizen Airmen and their families to prepare for the return to school, but also to promote other available services for military families, including those with special needs.

“We reached out to the Exceptional Family Member Program to talk about children they were serving who could benefit from our services,” said Tiffany Walker, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind & Vision Impaired senior director of rehabilitation services. “When we heard about this opportunity to partner and give back to these children with backpacks and supplies, we knew we



TECH. SGT. IRAM CARMONA

*433rd Airlift Wing members pick up school supplies Aug. 4 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland for the Exceptional Family Member Program and San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind & Vision Impaired program to provide no-cost backpacks and school supplies to Reserve Citizen Airmen with the Alamo Wing.*

could introduce ourselves and offer for some children to take part in our programming.”  
“We saw that as a natural partnership

because of our employment contracts and our children programming, which helps to support families of children with vision-impairment,” Walker said.

One hundred backpacks stuffed with school supplies were given out on a first-come, first-served basis to Alamo Wing members. For those who missed the backpacks, there were boxes filled with school supplies, such as notebooks, pencils and other supplies that were also passed out to the remainder of the military members.

Valerie Barber, EFMP family support coordinator, who planned the event, visited with some of the members who came to pick up supplies and discussed the mission of the EFMP, which provides support to all branches and components of the military.

“This year, we wanted to reach out to the Reserve and to support them as well,” Barber said. “Typically, what we do is support the school liaison office, but the Lighthouse for the Blind wanted to partake in this event as well.”

“Our program supports the total force (Army, Navy, civilians) including Reserve families,” Barber said. “We do a lot of outreach for military families. We don’t only support families of special-needs children; we support all military family members.”



# Starbase Kelly summer camp students visit Southwest Research Institute

By Tech. Sgt.  
Samantha Mathison

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Students participating in the Starbase Kelly summer program at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland toured the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio July 31. They received instruction and demonstrations in how the institute's scientists use science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

According to Kathy Spalding, Starbase Kelly director, this is the first time Starbase Kelly has toured the institute.

"Starbase Kelly is about introducing children between the ages of 9 to 12 years old to STEM, also known as science, technology, engineering and mathematics," Spalding said. "So of course we had to take

advantage of this wonderful opportunity."

The Southwest Research Institute is a nonprofit organization that focuses on revolutionary advancements in science and technology as a service to government and commercial clients around the world.

The range of projects within the institute covers everything from earth, space and the environment, to physics, biology, robotics, national defense and more.

The Senior Program Manager of the Space, Science and Engineering Division, Gregory Fletcher, welcomed Starbase Kelly students to the institute and took the time to show them some of the projects taking place there.

The children got to see first-hand a shop focused on providing vehicles with the

capabilities to drive themselves, a vacuum chamber the size of a small room, a real-life micro-satellite, a functioning 'clean' room and a demonstration on the properties of liquid nitrogen.

Fletcher said that he is all about getting kids involved in STEM, because it's the way of the future.

"It's important to bring kids here and show them what STEM can do," he said. "If we can get them excited about these fields, it's only going to result in a better future for all of us."

The Starbase Kelly program has a similar mentality. Their goal is to motivate children to explore STEM by engaging them with hands-on experimental and experiential activities. For instance, the current Starbase Kelly students are building rockets.



TECH. SGT. SAMANTHA MATHISON

*Gregory Fletcher (left), Southwest Research Institute Space, Science, and Engineering Division senior program manager, guides Starbase Kelly summer camp students through an experiment at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio July 31.*

Each program and class is varied, depending on location, timing and opportunities available. For more than 11 years, Starbase Kelly has provided a fun interactive

experience in STEM for children in the local community.

For more information about Starbase Kelly call 210-925-3708 or email [starbase@stic.net](mailto:starbase@stic.net).



TECH. SGT. IRAM CARMONA

Employers of 433rd Airlift Wing Reserve Citizen Airmen prepare to board a C-5M Super Galaxy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Aug. 3. They were invited to take an Employer Support of Guard and Reserve Bosslift tour to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

# ESGR flight gives TR bosses firsthand experience

By Tech. Sgt. Iram Carmona  
433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Thirty-four civilian bosses of Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 433rd Airlift Wing got an opportunity to fly on a C-5M Super Galaxy at Joint base San Antonio-Lackland Aug. 3.

The Bosslift event, which was sponsored by the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve program, flew employers from JBSA-Lackland to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma to see the mission of another Air Reserve Wing.

Before departing, bosses received a welcome from Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd Airlift Wing commander, and a mission brief from Maj. Douglas P. Schoenenberger, 68th Airlift Squadron pilot, who also was the flight commander for this flight.

The tour at Tinker began with the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex, which is one of the largest units in the Air Force Materiel Command. It employs more than 9,800

military and civilian personnel who perform programmed depot maintenance and modifications on KC-135, B-1B, B-52, E-3, and Navy E-6 aircraft and maintenance, repair, and overhaul for F100, F101, F108, F10, F17, F18, F19, F135, TF33 engines, and a wide variety of commodities for the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and foreign military sales.

Charles Hughes, one of the representatives from the complex, who assisted with the tour said, "This is great because it gives us an opportunity to show people what we do here."

After the tour of the complex, the employers headed over to the 507th Air Refueling Wing to get a close-up look at the KC-135R Stratotanker, a military aerial refueling aircraft.

Col. Miles Heaslip, 507th ARW commander, gave the group a mission brief, and some of the wings' aircrew members gave them a tour of the refueling aircraft.

**"This Bosslift is eye opening and really put into perspective how much our Reservists contribute to not only their individual units, groups and squadrons, but to our country."**

Andrea Knight, Frost Bank

"I think it's important for the employers to see what the service members do when they go to their weekend drills so that the civilian employers know that these Airmen do real honest work," Heaslip said.

"This Bosslift is eye opening and really put into perspective how much our Reservists contribute to not only their individual units, groups and squadrons, but to our country," said honorary commander Andrea Knight, Frost Banking, Investments, Insurance assistant vice president/group financial center manager.

After returning to JBSA-Lackland, employers met with ESGR support staff. Caryl

Hill, Texas ESGR, Area 4, San Antonio chair, talked about the purpose of the tour and the mission of ESGR. Then the bosses were presented with ESGR certificates, indicating that they are now "ESGR Bosslift Veterans." They were then dismissed to tour work centers with their Reserve Citizen Airmen.

"I think what we saw today was just a small piece of the step in their (our reservists) shoes and I appreciate getting a look through their eyes," said Ashley McCoy, Methodist Texan Hospital director of orthopedics.

ESGR, a Department of Defense program, was

established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

A network of more than 3,750 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands supports ESGR. Volunteers, hailing from small business and industry, government, education, and prior military service, bring a vast wealth of experience to assist in serving employers, service members, and their families.

Together with Headquarters ESGR staff and a small cadre of support staff for each state committee, volunteers work to promote and enhance employer support for military service in the Guard and Reserve.



# RANDOLPH

## Military service, American Indian heritage span generations for AETC civilian

By 2nd Lt. Robert Guest  
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military tradition and American Indian heritage go hand-in-hand for Edward Blauvelt, during both his military and community service.

Blauvelt's family line has U.S. military members going back eight generations. Both of his parents grew up as military children, as did Blauvelt before enlisting in the Air Force at age 17. Today he's the manpower operations program manager for the Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron, part of Headquarters Air Education and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Blauvelt served on active duty in the Air Force for 27 years, 10 as a crew chief and 17 years as an aviation resource manager. While serving, Blauvelt maintained and shared his cultural heritage while encouraging others to do the same.

Blauvelt, who is a member of the Mohawk and Muscogee tribes, was recently presented the 2019 Society of American Indians Government Employees Meritorious Service Award. SAIGE is a federal non-profit organization that represents American Indian government employees.

"Blauvelt's public service has been extensive and unparalleled. He inspires, encourages, and counsels his peers, fellow Airmen, and youth to be lifelong learners as he continually motivates them to become engrossed in community service," said Rick Jellison, AFSAT executive



PHOTOS BY MELISSA PETERSON

Edward Blauvelt stands in his American Indian regalia at the 502nd Air Base Wing public affairs office. Blauvelt was recently presented the 2019 Society of American Indians Government Employees Meritorious Service Award.

director.

Blauvelt's involvement includes serving as the chairman of the JBSA-Randolph National American Indian Heritage Month committee, coordinating events such as a "gourd" dance and flag ceremony event recognizing American Indian Heritage Day in Texas, and serving as the co-founder of the Traditional American Indian Society to promote and educate American Indian culture within Texas.

"One of the things I find most rewarding is high school visits as part of TAIS," Blauvelt said. "It helps us identify kids who would

qualify for our American Indian Heritage Scholarship Fund. Being part of NAIH also allows me to honor family and tribe during the gourd dance and recognize military veterans who have served their nation and serve their communities today."

The dual heritage of military service and American Indian culture didn't end with Blauvelt; the tradition continues with his children.

"My son is my hero," Blauvelt said. "He's been in the Army for a couple years now and he still dons his American Indian regalia and comes out and dances with me each year. I'm proud of my entire family, past and present."



Edward Blauvelt stands in his American Indian regalia at the 502nd Air Base Wing public affairs office.

# Two days could mean a lifetime to a Wingman

By Tech. Sgt. Ave I. Young

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The hardest question any Airman can ask — “Are you thinking about suicide?” — could be the most important one an Airman ever asks.

Airmen can find the courage to help from Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, or ASIST, a suicide intervention skills training offered every month at Joint Base San Antonio. ASIST helps participants become more willing, ready and able to intervene with someone at risk of suicide.

“Depression, suicide and stress do not see our uniforms,” said Walt Myhre, ASIST trainer at the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program, or AFW2, at the Air Force's Personnel Center Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. “ASIST training gives the Air Force a way forward with the process to make discussion about the topic more comfortable. It will



Armando O. Franco, Air Force Wounded Warrior Program wellness team lead, instructs unit and service members during an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training session, July 31 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

improve your confidence as an attendee.”

In an ASIST workshop, Airmen learn to recognize signs, provide a skilled

intervention and develop a safety plan to keep a potential suicide alive.

“I gained some great tools to help with intervention and the

biggest takeaway for me is following up with members who have major shifts in their lives like divorce, PCS or custody issues,” said Master Sgt. Aisha Thomas, a wing career advisor at the 340th Flying Training Group at JBSA-Randolph.

ASIST trainees can keep their communities safer from suicide by providing life-saving interventions. They become a vital resource that peers and leaders can call to help others.

“Having been in the Air Force for 25 years, this is the most personal and interactive subject related material I have seen,” Myhre said. “It is very personal, very connected and it is impactful.”

Program trainers realize how hard it can be for someone to ask something so personal.

“My hope is that the ASIST program will help destigmatize the subject of suicide and bring the conversation about behavior health issues out into the open,” Myhre said.

Airmen don't need special

training to show genuine concern for someone in crisis. They do need training in the right skills to do so.

“I think that people shy away from just asking ‘are you thinking about suicide?’, and I have no issue asking now. I thought it was taboo but I see it is not,” Thomas said.

ASIST helps participants become more willing, ready and able to intervene with someone at risk of suicide.

“Any one of us, regardless of AFSC or position, could find ourselves in a situation where our actions could prevent a Wingman, co-worker, family member, friend, or even a stranger from taking their life,” said Master Sgt. Dawn Bogardus, 91st Cyberspace Operations Squadron first sergeant. People can sign up for ASIST training by sending an email to AFPC.DPFWWellnessTeam@us.af.mil

If you or someone you know is dealing with suicidal ideation or behavior, contact the Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, then press 1, or access an online chat by texting 838255.

## BASH Program promotes safety at JBSA-Randolph

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

In an ongoing effort to reduce airfield obstructions at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, the Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard team has an approved plan for the pruning and removal of selected trees at JBSA-Randolph. Trees that impose a significant risk to aviators, and the families they fly over, will be modified to improve aviator and community safety.

The focus of the Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard team, or BASH, is to mitigate hazards caused by wildlife. Among these hazards are bird strikes to aircraft with JBSA-Randolph averaging 38 strikes every year. Across the

nation, these strike cause more than \$75 million in damage to Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps aircraft.

Landscaping will most likely begin in August and proceed based on priority. The first hazards scheduled for mitigation are the trees located along 5th Street East. Roughly 40 trees between North Perimeter Road and New B Street East will be removed in order to reduce airfield obstructions.

“The goal is to make this airfield unattractive to wildlife,” said Bryan Wilmunen, 502nd Air Base Wing aviation safety program manager.

Nearly a dozen trees will remain to provide shade for the bleachers of the adjacent ballpark.

**The first hazards scheduled for mitigation are the trees located along 5th Street East. Roughly 40 trees between North Perimeter Road and New B Street East will be removed in order to reduce airfield obstructions.**

“Our goal is to continually balance the needs of our community with the safety of our aviators,” said Maj. Joshua Leibel, 12th Flying Training Wing safety officer and BASH program manager. “Aviator safety and community health and wellness can be balanced to ensure the Air Force mission is always achieved.”

Additional areas where landscaping is proposed include Eberle Park, the Randolph Golf Course,

portions of the Randolph Clinic parking lot and trees in the vicinity of airfields.

“One of the key hazards to flying operations are birds crossing the airfield during takeoff and landing,” Leibel said. “In light of this, we're prioritizing hazards that are closest to pilot training to quickly and effectively improve safety.”

Although the Randolph Golf Course has already completed an initial phase of landscaping,

a follow-up project is due to further improve flight safety.

“Our guests can expect to see some landscaping near hole five but can rest-assured that the course will remain open to play,” said Clayton Kauh, 502nd Force Support Squadron Pro Shop supervisor. “There are close to 2,000 trees on our course, so the estimated removal of 60 should have minimal impact on the positive golfing experience our customers have come to expect.”

Project start dates remain pending but will be sent to base personnel and residents by email once finalized. Additionally, newly discovered hazards may lead to further landscaping to improve flight and community safety.

For additional information on BASH initiatives, contact the 12th Flying Training Wing safety office at 210-652-2224.