

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

AUGUST 23, 2019



PHOTO BY ARMANDO PEREZ

Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman (center, in uniform), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, participates in a ceremonial dig Aug. 7 to start the San Antonio Water System sewer pipeline project that will improve service for more than 500,000 people, including Airmen and civilians working and living on JBSA-Lackland. Joining Lenderman during the ceremony are: Mark Correll (third from right), deputy assistance secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety, and Infrastructure; San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg (far left); U.S. Congressmen Henry Cuellar (third from left) and Will Hurd (fourth from right).

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Army Chief of Staff sends message to Soldiers

By Gen. James C. McConville
CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. ARMY

I am honored to serve as the 40th Chief of Staff of the Army. It is an incredible privilege to lead the world's premier fighting force, made up of the Nation's greatest men and women.

Our Army — Regular, National Guard and Reserve — is the best-trained, best-equipped and best-led land force ever to take to the field. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Joint Force, Allies, and Partners to protect our interests and uphold our shared values.

Our Army serves to defend the Nation. When we send the Army somewhere, we don't go to participate, we don't go to try hard, we go to win. Winning matters! We win by doing the right things, the right way.

People are always my No. 1 priority: Our Army's people are our greatest strength and our most important weapon system. Our people are our Soldiers, Family members, Department of the Army Civilians, and Soldiers for Life (retirees, and veterans). We must take care of our people and treat each other with dignity and respect. It is our people who will



U.S. Army Gen. James C. McConville

deliver on our readiness, modernization and reform efforts.

Readiness: Army leaders have a sacred obligation to build cohesive teams that are highly trained, disciplined, and fit that can win on any battlefield. Cohesive teams drive tactical to strategic readiness and enable dynamic force employment. We

must be ready to defeat any adversary, anywhere, whenever called upon, under any condition.

Modernization: The 2018 National Defense Strategy directs the Army to shift focus from irregular warfare to great power competition. We are at a critical inflection point and we must aggressively pursue the Army's modernization efforts in order to maintain our competitive edge. Modernization must include developing the multi-domain operations concept at echelon, delivering the six modernization priorities, and implementing a 21st Century talent management system.

Reform: We cannot be an Industrial Age Army in the Information Age. We must transform all linear industrial age processes to be more effective, protect our resources, and make better decisions. We must be the Army of tomorrow, today.

It is our duty to provide the Nation a professional, lethal, and decisive force that will win against any of our adversaries. Thank you and your Families for your service and sacrifice. I am proud to serve alongside this Nation's best.

People First - Winning Matters - Army Strong!

Army makes changes to Total Army Sponsorship Program

By Devon L. Suits
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army has implemented changes to its Total Army Sponsorship Program to ensure Soldiers and families have appropriate sponsors upon transfer to new assignments.

Under a revision to Army Regulation 600-8-8, Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers within the ranks of private to staff sergeant and second lieutenant to captain must be assigned sponsors at unit levels before leaving their current installations.

Further, warrant officers up to chief warrant officer 2 also are required to have sponsors before permanent changes of station, said Robert Bush, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management program analyst.

While eligible Soldiers can still choose to decline

sponsorship, first-term Soldiers are required to have sponsors before, or upon arrival to their next assignments, Bush said.

"We do not want to leave that Soldier at high risk of not having the necessary sponsorship, which prevents them from developing some risky behaviors, or ending up in harm's way," Bush said. "The sponsorship program is not just about establishing contact. It's about welcoming that new Soldier and leading them through the process."

Above all, commanders will maintain full responsibility over the sponsorship program, and are required to set local standard operating procedures to meet sponsorship requirements, Bush said.

Previously, commanders could assign responsibility for the program to other individuals. While commanders can still delegate



DEVON L. SUITS

A staff sergeant greets a specialist. The Army is now requiring that Soldiers be assigned a sponsor before any move.

responsibilities down for support, they are ultimately responsible for the sponsorship program, Bush said.

"This is a commander's program. The sponsorship

program is one of those issues that has a big impact on readiness," he said. "They are ultimately responsible for the health and welfare of the Soldiers."

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. Have you made it to Joint Base San Antonio-Canyon Lake? I went last weekend and there were dead bugs on floor, the ceiling fan was filthy and there was black mold in the showers.

A. Thanks for visiting our JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake and offering us feedback on your stay.

I apologize for the unacceptable conditions in your room. As a result of your comments and recent events, our Force Support Squadron leadership team performed a detailed inspection of all JBSA-Canyon Lake lodging units and restrooms, looking for any signs of mold or other unacceptable sanitation conditions.

We are aggressively addressing any discrepancies found. We will also provide additional 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 JBSA-Canyon Lake and hope you'll give us a second chance to meet your off-duty recreational needs.

Q. I am writing to you for a fellow Airman afraid of reprisal from management. The Airman's dormitory had mold that was noticed by a routine dorm inspection in July.

After being reprimanded with no paperwork, the Airman was ordered to scrub all mold from his room. Later I was told that any visible mold was painted over.

This does not sit right with me and needs to be addressed and investigated

in building 394 at JBSA-Randolph.

A. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The health and safety of our residents is my top priority. We are committed to addressing all mold remediation efforts in accordance with state and federal regulations.

In some cases, we are applying a protective mold retardant covering on the wall that prevents mold regrowth, and it may have been mistaken for paint.

Regardless, I asked our team to review the work accomplished in building 394 to ensure we are in compliance with the governing regulations. For additional information or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me or your dorm manger. **Q.** We are very grateful to you all for the efforts in the dorms at JBSA-Lackland to have them safe for the trainees and airmen.

Our daughter's tech school dorm firehouse has been without air conditioning for two weeks and we are so concerned with the extreme heat in San Antonio.

We would be so very grateful if crews could repair the air conditioning there at firehouse dorms at JBSA-Lackland. Blessings to all.

A. Thank you for bringing this to my attention. I sincerely apologize your daughter's experience in the dorms.

Our Civil Engineer team will coordinate with the technical training dorms facility manager to fix your daughter's air conditioning unit or move her to a room with an operable unit.

For additional information or concerns, please let your daughter know to feel free to reach out to me or her military training leader.

Personnel Issues

Q. There was an incident that I suspect qualifies for waste and abuse of government employee(s) time and resources. The incident involved not just the Air Force, but another federal government agency.

My initial thoughts/reactions were, am I placing my family's finances and my career in jeopardy knowing the individual is in upper management and confers regularly with the highest military grades within our organization?

Under Air Force Instruction 36-703-210.4.1, Civilian Conduct & Responsibility, I paraphrase: "Employees have the right to bypass the process without going through their supervisors

and report directly to the EEO or the IG."

Unfortunately, the AFI cannot acknowledge the reality that civilians lack confidence in the process to adequately protect them from complaints that are submitted in good faith. This is especially pertinent when the individual is in upper management with audience in the upper levels of the organization.

Is it possible that we can be assured that our organization values integrity over position?

A. Employees (employee in the context includes military, civilian and non-appropriated fund employees) have the right to:

- 1) file an IG complaint without going through their supervisory channel,
- 2) file a complaint without the fear of reprisal, and
- 3) submit complaints anonymously.

Inspectors General at every level maintain a complaint hotline to assist anonymous filers. Additionally, in accordance with AFI 90-301, when the identity of a complainant is known, the IG shall not disclose the identity of the employee without the consent of the employee, unless the IG determines such disclosure is unavoidable during the course of an investigation. Consent is indicated in writing on the AF Form 102, Inspector General Complaint Form.

Those contemplating blowing the whistle on alleged wrongdoing are advised to understand the legal protections available. Whistleblower protection statutes provide certain rights and remedies for employees who make a protected disclosure and believe they have been reprisal against because they made the disclosure.

For example, appropriated fund employees received protections under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. The law makes it illegal for any employee who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, to take or threaten to take any action against any employee as a reprisal for making a complaint or disclosing information to an IG.

If you suffer reprisal for making a protected disclosure, you may file a reprisal complaint. Civilian and non-appropriated fund employees can file with the Department of Defense Hotline at <https://www.dodig.mil/hotline>.

Service members can file with their local IG. The complaint hotlines are: **SAF/IGQ HOTLINE**
► <https://www.afinspectorgeneral.af.mil> (option to submit complaint

electronically)

► 1-800-538-8429

AETC/IGQ HOTLINE

► 210-652-4460

502 ABW/IGQ HOTLINE

► 210-808-1000

Q. If drills regarding the following message, "Exercise, Exercise, Exercise FPCON Delta, has been directed for JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Simulate appropriate security measures IMMEDIATELY. Again, simulate appropriate security measures IMMEDIATELY. Exercise, Exercise, Exercise" are going to be conducted, then all areas (including contractors and all affected personnel) should be included in the drill.

With only sporadic work centers involved/cooperating, the drill is not effective training or preparative in nature to affect a real scenario.

A. Thank you for supporting our exercise program and encouraging maximum participation. The goal of the installation exercise program is to enable units to hone and refine their execution of mission essential and supporting tasks.

As you know, mission readiness is inherently a commander's responsibility at every level; the exercise program is here to validate training, improve response capabilities, and evaluate mission readiness. We follow the guidance provided in DOD Instruction 6055.17 when planning and conducting installation exercises.

For the exercise we conducted in June 2019, our scenario included an increase in FPCONs to FPCON Delta. We expected all units to participate with some exceptions. Some of those exceptions included contractors, unless participation is specified in their Performance Work Statement/Statement of Work (PWS/SOW).

Other exceptions include installation commander approved exercise simulations published with the exercise Operations Order, or OPORD, such as training operations, promotion testing, AAFES/DeCA, etc.

Our exercises are most successful when we have maximum participation so that we can identify areas of concern which provide us the opportunity to update plans/procedures and practice response procedures.

Installation & Facilities

Q. Regarding the upcoming lowering of the inner circle speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph at JBSA-Randolph, can you provide any details as to why? Was there

any study done?

I understand the need to improve safety but lowering it to 15 mph seems excessive (a 40 percent reduction). Why not 20 mph?

A. Thank you for your concern referencing the speed limit change of the inner loop on JBSA-Randolph to 15 MPH.

The JBSA-Randolph Traffic Safety Coordination Working Group was asked to examine speed limits in the inner circle adjacent to base homes where residents were concerned about the safety of their children who live in those homes close to the road.

After several months of traffic study, the Traffic Safety Coordination Working Group, chaired by the JBSA-Randolph Executive Agent, determined that to enhance safety for the residents and children who live in those homes, the speed limit needed to be reduced from 25 mph to 15 mph.

The good news is this new speed limit only applies to the lane of traffic which flows clockwise and is nearest the homes. The speed limit on the lane of traffic flowing counterclockwise and furthest from the homes will remain 25 mph.

Traveling counterclockwise will allow drivers to reach their destination with little or no delay while creating a much safer environment for our housing community and children.

Q. This is a response to your response to my original question.

First of all, I have a hard time understanding why we can't trust adults to look out for traffic and walk in the North New Braunfels Avenue gate at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. I have entered the non-pedestrian gates as a runner at early hours when it's not totally light, and have had no issues.

There are so many soldiers constantly using the other gates, particularly the Walters and Harry Wurzbach gates, and those are not configured for pedestrians.

Do we have data that shows pedestrians have been hit at our gates? And if so, then we should immediately put pedestrian gates everywhere else.

However, even with that concern, I still believe the hours between the Wilson gate and N. New Braunfels pedestrian gate should be switched. Leaving the quadrangle by way of the New Braunfels regular gate, pedestrians do not ever have to cross the traffic. They can use the sidewalks to get to the crosswalk with the stoplight near the pedestrian gate.

Since the majority of pedestrians are leaving JBSA-Fort Sam Houston after 1

p.m., the pedestrian gate could be open from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Wilson gate could be 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (or later).

Could we please put the Wilson gate hours back to 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.? Hearing that funding is under discussion for an automated gate is not hopeful. I was a civil engineer in the military and I know how funding works (or doesn't). By the time, a pedestrian gate is funded, anyone here who even remembers the Wilson gate being open will be long gone.

A. Thank you for your follow-up comment to your original question.

Pedestrian safety and traffic flow entering and exiting the installation quickly is a definite priority. I understand your thoughts regarding pedestrians safely entering the North New Braunfels gate, and you are correct. We have not had any accidents causing injury to any pedestrian at that gate.

Nonetheless, I must ensure that a safe environment for pedestrians walking on the installation is provided and the current layout of the North New Braunfels gate is not configured to guarantee pedestrian safety when walking onto the installation.

In the future, we would like to design an entry point that has those safety features; however, for now I must rely on the pedestrian gate.

I would like to share some good news about your comment to open the Wilson gate for more hours. I understand the Wilson gate closing in the early afternoon is troublesome for some drivers. I was successful at lobbying for an increase in Security Forces personnel authorizations to extend the hours at the Wilson gate and we are in the process of coordinating the human resources actions to hire those new civilian defenders.

I am confident by January of 2020, we will be able to extend the Wilson gate hours into the evening to help provide options to our population.

Q. With regards to parking on base, is there a way that we can make the rules more stringent than Texas state law?

It is very disheartening to see Disabled Veteran, or DV, plated vehicles parking in handicapped spots when they do not have a handicapped sticker anywhere on their vehicle. When this happens, members that have the stickers or placards are displaced, have to walk farther, and have a hard time putting their wheelchairs and accessories in their vehicles.

With the amount of retirees, wounded warriors, visitors and civilian workforce, I feel that this is a real issue. I have a Purple Heart and refuse to park in those

spots because I can walk and I am sure that there is someone that needs it much more than me. Thank you for your time and the opportunity.

A. Thank you for your question and thank you for helping provide handicapped parking for mobility restricted individuals who work and live on JBSA. I do appreciate your consideration.

As the installation commander, I am required to establish a traffic code for operations of motor vehicles on my installation by 32 CFR Section 634.25. This code should conform to the code of the State in which the installation is located.

In October of 2018, I published the JBSA supplement to Air Force Manual 31-116, which is the Air Force Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision instruction. I detailed that local and state issued handicapped decals, placards, signs, etc., will be honored on JBSA.

Texas law allows veterans who are certified by the Veteran's Administration who have a 50 percent service-related disability, or 40 percent due to amputation of a lower extremity, to be issued a DV license plate. Further, Texas allows a vehicle displaying a DV license plate to park in any spot reserved for a person with a disability even though the plate does not have the international symbol for handicapped access.

Although JBSA will continue to recognize Texas DV license plate parking provisions, I would ask those who have DV license plates to park in a location that best suits a mobility restriction.

Miscellaneous

Q. The traffic light timing at the JBSA-Lackland Luke gates seems to be off. When exiting the base or traveling north on Southwest Military Drive, the traffic light stays green for about 5 seconds only. Traffic is backed up from the Luke gates to the Selfridge gates on Military, and on every street leading to those gates on base.

While exiting the Selfridge gate, it can easily take 15-20 minutes to get to the Luke gate light. Who adjusts the light timing (the city or base) and what has to happen to get that traffic signal timing adjusted to ease the back up of traffic?

A. First of all thank you for providing us with a detailed description of this issue.

We've contacted Texas Department of Transportation, or TXDoT, and confirmed they have established a contract to do re-stripping down Southwest Military Drive which will include traffic detection at the intersections of our gates. This traffic

detection capability will help address the concerns you've identified. The work has already begun and scheduled to be complete prior to the end of this calendar year.

Please continue to provide us with your observations as we work through all potential solutions to reduce traffic congestion impacting JBSA installations. **Q.** I thought Joint Base San Antonio was supposed to be a Joint Base. Why is it that we don't operate like a Joint Base? If we are indeed a Joint Base then shouldn't we have Joint Base regulations? A Joint Base finance system? A Joint Base personnel system? A Joint Base contracting system? A Joint Base operating like a "Purple Base" with all five services acting as one unit?

Instead, we still have our separate stove pipe systems for each service that have a hard time communicating with each other.

A. Thank you for asking this important and complex question. Interestingly, you are not alone in your thoughts. The Joint Base Implementation Guidance, or JBIG, issued July 1, 2010 currently governs all joint bases.

The Deputy Secretary of Defense recognizes joint basing challenges and is currently drafting a Joint Basing Department of Defense Directive (DODD) Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) to address issues such as the ones you mention.

Although joint bases are not using the same systems, we are ensuring that all service standards are met through the Joint Base Common Output Level Standards, or JB-COLS. Each performance level standard was developed utilizing each Services governing authorities such as directives, instructions, regulations, handbooks, and/or Code of Federal Regulation as required.

The JB-COLS ensure performance level standards are using a common framework of definitions and cost drivers for each installation support function. Together, these governing authorities and the JB-COLS framework work towards unifying processes such as the joint base's finance system, personnel system, and contracting systems.

We certainly understand that there are still gaps in many processes. However, we recognize the challenges and are working to bridge those gaps that bring about your primary concerns. We continue to strive towards creating a joint operating environment which exists to optimize the delivery of installation support across the services.



L.A. SHIVELY

Parents are urged to take command of their children's health and prioritize preventive exams and vaccinations before the new school year begins.

Get kids ready for back to school with preventive health care

From TRICARE.mil Staff

As summer draws to a close, it's time to look ahead to the approaching school year. Preventive services, routine immunizations, and health screenings are the best ways to make sure your kids are healthy and ready to hit the books. TRICARE covers many preventive health care services with no out-of-pocket costs to you. How you get preventive care depends on who you are and your TRICARE plan.

If your child is enrolled in a TRICARE Prime plan, you can seek preventive care from his or her primary care manager or any TRICARE network provider in your region. If a network provider isn't available, you can also use a non-network provider with no copayments if you have a referral and authorization. Under a TRICARE Select plan, you can visit any TRICARE-authorized provider.

Follow these tips to make sure your children are healthy as they head to school in the fall:

- ▶▶ Schedule appointments for school physicals and routine immunizations before the start of the school year. TRICARE covers physicals when required for school enrollment. This doesn't include sports physicals.
- ▶▶ Make sure that your child is current on his or her vaccines. Most schools require up-to-date vaccinations. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vaccines reduce your child's risk of infection by helping them safely

develop immunity to diseases. You can get covered vaccines from any TRICARE-authorized provider at no cost. But you may have to pay copayments or cost-shares for the office visit or for other services received during the same visit. You can get some covered vaccines at TRICARE retail network pharmacies. Remember, TRICARE covers well-child exams for children up to age 6 (from birth through age 5).

▶▶ Get eye exams before school begins.

Healthy vision helps your child see clearly and to learn in school. Your vision benefits, including eye exams, depend on who you are, your TRICARE health plan, and your age. You may need a referral and authorization for vision care. If you have vision coverage through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, or FEDVIP, follow the rules of your plan.

▶▶ Put dental check-up on your to-do list.

TRICARE offers dental coverage to active duty family members through the TRICARE Dental Program, or TDP. According to the TRICARE Dental Program Handbook, TDP covers two routine cleanings and two fluoride treatments during a 12-month period for children ages one and older. If you have dental coverage through FEDVIP, follow the rules of your plan.

Prioritize preventive exams and vaccinations before the school year begins. Find out more about preventive services at <https://tricare.mil/HealthWellness/Preventive>.



Marine Gunnery Sgt. Mario Cardenas, with Provost Marshal's Office, Headquarters Squadron, prepares lunch for the H&HS Barbecue Cook-off at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California.

LANCE CPL. ANDREW HIATT

Three steps for a safe end-of-summer blow out

From Military Health System
Communications Office
HEALTH.MIL

As the summer ends and autumn begins, August is prime time for end-of-summer cookouts. The Military Healthy System offers a range of preventive health information for summer safety, so here are some steps to take to ensure a successful outdoor get together.

Choose your location carefully

Location is of the utmost importance when planning any gathering. With the weather cooling off, the great outdoors will be host to a variety of pool parties or cookouts, meaning that safety in the outdoors will be a priority.

If your location of choice ends up being the pool or local beach, swim in areas that have a lifeguard present. Keep small children under close supervision and when in doubt, use a life vest to help prevent drowning. The American Red Cross also publishes tips for swimming safety at <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety/swim-safety.html>.

For military families, check with your local Morale, Welfare and Recreation office to see what areas on

base or on post would provide the best shelter and amenities for your event.

Protect Your Skin

While often neglected, skin care is important when spending time outdoors. There are two main factors to focus on while outside: protecting skin from the sun and from insects.

With melanoma being the most common form of cancer in the United States, protecting skin from the sun becomes highly important. You can prevent sun damage by wearing sunscreen when outdoors and reapplying after leaving the pool or sweating for an extended period of time. Check out the Military Health System's article on sun care for more healthy skin tips.

The sun is not the only outdoor factor to be aware of. If your cookout moves from the pool to a more wooded area, your party guests could be exposed to bugs and insects. Bites from mosquitoes and ticks can lead to infections like Lyme disease and West Nile virus, so prevent these bites by using insect repellent on exposed skin. Check for ticks or irregular bites frequently. Visit the MHS Bug Week web page at <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Health-Readiness/Bug-Borne-Illnesses/Bug-Week-Page> for more information on how to identify bugs and bumps.

Prepare and Serve Food Safely

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, provides four tips for basic food safety: wash, separate, cook and chill. Make sure the surfaces and utensils used to prepare food are clean, keep raw meats and foods separate, and promptly refrigerate any leftovers.

Fire safety is also important when it comes to manning the grill at your cookout. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, has identified tips for fire safety at the grill, which include maintaining a safe cooking distance and safety zone from the home and objects, keeping the grill clean, and safely disposing of coals.

While preparing and enjoying the meal, remember to drink responsibly if alcohol is on the menu. Avoid operating a car or boat, or the grill, while under the influence.

With a combination of location scouting, proper skin care and safe food preparation, your end-of-summer blowout is one step closer to success. The last step is simply to enjoy.

For more information on preventive health, visit the Military Health System's Preventive Health page at <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Operation-Live-Well/Preventive-Health>.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

502nd ABW commander's meeting addresses mold issues

By Steve Elliott

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"It is no secret that Joint Base San Antonio has mold problems," said Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, during a meeting with barracks, ship, and dorm residents Aug. 13 at the Academic Support Center on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

"Your health and safety is my responsibility and I take it very seriously," she said. "We're here to answer your questions and hear your concerns. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through these challenges."

The meeting was the first of three being held throughout JBSA. Additional meetings were held Aug. 14 at Fleenor Auditorium, located in the Taj Mahal, Bldg. 100, on JBSA-Randolph, while the final meeting was scheduled Aug. 15 at the Pfingston Reception Center, 1800 Truemper St., Bldg. 6330, on JBSA-Lackland.

Joining Lenderman in the face-to-face meeting with residents were Maj. Gen. (Dr.) John J. DeGoes, commander of the 59th Medical Wing at JBSA-Lackland; Chief Master Sgt. Chris Lantagne, 502nd ABW Command Chief; Richard Trevino, 502nd ABW Civil Engineer Group director; Col.

Sam Fiol, 502nd Force Support Group commander; and Capt. John Dial from the 502nd ABW Legal Office.

The meetings with residents were being videotaped and will be available for viewing online at <http://www.jbsa.mil>.

"Trust and transparency are my ultimate goal and I need to rebuild the trust and ensure we have transparency, so we can eradicate this issue," the general said. "This is my promise and I expect you to hold me accountable."

"We have been facing these challenges for many years," the general continued. "But this is a tremendous moment in time where we can actually get things done."

Trevino mentioned that the biggest thing that can be done to control mold is to control humidity, as mold grows anywhere the two basic ingredients are present – food and water. "We are working to eliminate the excess water sources that allow mold to grow," he said.

"You're my most important customer," Trevino told the almost 60 residents in attendance.

DeGoes, an internal medicine doctor, pointed out that mold grows virtually everywhere, both inside and outside.

"If you remove moisture, the mold can't grow," he said. "While mold is harmless to



TRISTIN ENGLISH

Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman (left), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, discusses the steps being taken to combat mold with residents of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's barracks, ships and dorms during a meeting Aug. 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

most people, it is an allergen, like mountain cedar, and can trigger a flare up in people with asthma. If you have symptoms you feel are possibly associated with mold, please see your provider. We can prescribe medications to help."

Service members are entitled to file a claim to seek compensation for some items damaged by mold, Dial said.

"We've conducted seven legal workshops across all three JBSA locations to guide residents through the claims process," Dial said. "All base legal offices are standing by to assist with claims guidance and filing."

The Air Force Claims Service Center at <https://claims.jag>

.af.mil has step-by-step instructions on filing claims.

Several service members got up and talked about the problems they have had in their respective dwellings, detailing that mold was growing in closets, while others said they had purchased their own fans and dehumidifiers to try and alleviate the mold issues.

Lantagne said civil engineers are continuing to perform assessments on what kind of dehumidifiers can be used in different rooms.

"Our goal is to have a dehumidifier for every room," the chief added.

"It's extremely important to let your facility managers know what is going on," Trevino

emphasized. "Don't live in bad conditions. Alert your dorm or facility managers. They report to me."

"Don't take no for an answer when it comes to air conditioning problems," Lenderman said. "I want to provide you with quality dorms and I will be your advocate."

Questions and concerns can be sent to the 502nd ABW commander via an email to RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil using the subject line "Feedback Fridays."

For the most current information on the mold remediation progress, visit https://www.jbsa.mil/Information/JBSA_Mold_Remediation/.

Navy Recruiting District SA honors WW II Merchant Marine

By Burrell Parmer

NAVY RECRUITING DISTRICT SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Navy Lt. j.g. Kathleen Spyrnal, an officer programs operations officer assigned to Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, had the honor of meeting World War II Merchant Marine Ray Denison during an Alamo Honor Flight Breakfast Aug. 14.

Attended by other WWII veterans, the breakfast also served as a venue to celebrate Denison's 100th birthday.

Denison, a long-time city resident and native of Eagle Pass, Texas, joined the U.S. Merchant Marines on Memorial Day 1942 and served till November 1945. While serving, he held a reserve commission as a lieutenant junior grade in the U.S. Navy.

His first ship was the American Empire which was a cadet ship that was used to train Merchant Marines. Afterwards he served aboard the E.R. Kemp which transported fuel from the Texas coast and made deliveries up the Atlantic coast.

Denison next served on a liberty ship, the Henry Dodge, which assisted in the invasion of Luzon in the Philippines. His final ship was another liberty ship, the Richard Gatling, which transported wheat and troops along the North Africa coast.

According to Russell Minor, past vice-president

of the Alamo Honor Flight, several breakfast groups throughout the area have been meeting monthly since November 2010 and Denison is the second 100th birthday celebrated.

"Having the Navy here is a huge honor," said Minor, who has known Denison for four years. "We do everything we can to recognize our veterans and having an active duty Sailor present an award to Ray made the event even more honorable."

After being presented with a certificate of appreciation and Navy memorabilia by Spyrnal, Denison said, "There's a lot of honor and glory occurring which I don't think I am entitled to, but I guess hanging around for 100 years deserves some honor."

The U.S. Merchant Marines played a vital role in the Allied victory of World War II. They moved large quantities of war materiel from their principle source of supply across as many as 6,000 miles of ocean to the battlefronts of the Far East.

They contributed countless accomplishments in every war throughout history, participating in landing operations in cooperation with the U.S. Marine Corps, from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima.

NRD San Antonio's area of responsibility includes more than 34 Navy recruiting stations and Navy officer recruiting stations spread throughout 144,000 square miles of central and south Texas territory.



BURRELL PARMER

Navy Lt. j.g. Kathleen Spyrnal, an officer programs operations officer assigned to Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, presents a certificate of appreciation to World War II Merchant Marine Ray Denison during an Alamo Honor Flight Breakfast Aug. 14.

187th MED BN donates more than \$10,000 worth of school supplies

By Jose E. Rodriguez

HEALTH READINESS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Students and teachers at Briscoe Elementary School in the San Antonio Independent School District received a welcome surprise when Soldiers from the 187th Medical Battalion, Health Readiness Center of Excellence, or HRCoE, delivered more than \$10,000 worth of school supplies Aug. 8 as part of the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Adopt-a-School program.

Led by the students of the Company B Graduate School, Masters of Social Work, or MSW program, the battalion conducted the massive school supply drive by reaching out to the HRCoE students and staff.

“Our master’s in social work class is working hard to support our local community by participating in service projects and developing events that help meet the needs of those in our most vulnerable, oppressed and underserved local populations,” said 2nd Lt. Jamie Webb, who helped organize the drive.

Webb said her fellow students were genuinely excited when the battalion agreed to allow the MSW students to spearhead the school supply drive this year.

“Students from Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston taking action is a great model for our kids to see,” said Jennifer Emerson, Briscoe principal. “I am honored and I know my teachers and the families are blessed. This means the world to us.”

The 187th Medical Battalion sponsors Briscoe Elementary School as part of the Fort Sam Houston Adopt-a-School Program.

In past years, the battalion’s Soldiers and civilians have organized numerous fund raisers and holiday toy drives. They also mentor students by visiting the school throughout the school year.

Webb and her fellow MSW students carried on the tradition of volunteer service by coordinating this school supply drive.

“I spoke with each of the graduate programs about our supply drive and explained the extent of the need for the students of Briscoe Elementary School,” Webb said. “Ninety-two percent of the children in this school qualify for free or reduced lunches and for many of these children, the food they receive at school is the only food they have access to.



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

From left: Lorraine Harper, 187th Medical Battalion civilian employee; Michelle Ayala, Briscoe Elementary School social worker; Lt. Col. Paul Lang, commander, 187th MED BN; Maj. Debra Stone, MSW executive officer; Jennifer Emerson, Briscoe Elementary School principal; 2nd Lt. Jamie Webb, MSW student; 1st Sgt. Roman De Vega, Company A, 187th MED BN; and Carlos Flores, 187th MED BN civilian employee; gather in front of more than \$10,000 worth of donated school supplies Aug. 8.

“It’s like the Soldiers are the kid’s superheroes and it is real life. The Soldiers are role models. I thank the Soldiers for the taking on this project and making it as big and bountiful is incredible.”

**Jennifer Emerson,
Briscoe Elementary School principal**

“When these families have no food in their pantries and they have to decide between paying the electric or utility bill and purchasing pencils and crayons, school supplies simply cannot be the priority,” Webb added.

Beyond the many fundraisers, the Soldiers of 187th Medical Battalion also serve as examples of excellence for the students.

“When the students see the Soldiers on our campus it brings an excitement,” Emerson said. “It’s like the Soldiers are the kid’s superheroes and it is real life. The Soldiers are role models. I thank the Soldiers for the taking on this project and making it as big and bountiful is incredible.”

Joining Army Esports Team a dream come true for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Soldier

By David DeKunder

502D AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Gaming is a hobby Spc. Iosif Covalenco has embraced since he was a teenager.

Now Covalenco, an information technology specialist who was assigned to the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston for a year, is on his way to his next duty station at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he will join the U.S. Army Esports Team.

The team is part of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command headquartered at Fort Knox and will represent the Army at local, regional and national esports competitions.

"I'm just excited," said the 20-year-old Covalenco. "The most I'll be looking forward to is really getting to compete at the highest level. I'm a competitive person. I like to win."

In December 2018, the Army Recruiting Command sent out a notice seeking Soldiers to become members of the newly formed esports team. While in technical school, one of Covalenco's friends saw the notice in an email and encouraged him to try out for the team.

"He knew I was very good at games," Covalenco said. "He said I should give it a shot."

In January, Covalenco earned a spot on the esports team when he played a game with team managers online. By playing with Covalenco, the team managers determined he met the requirements to join the team before the official tryouts began online.

His first event as a member of the Army Esports Team was in March when he played at Pax South, a gaming festival held in San Antonio.

At that event, Covalenco and his esports teammates were spreading awareness about the Army and the esports team. They played against attendees, hoping to get them interested in joining the Army or if they were already Soldiers, to join the esports team if they showed they had the skills to do so.

Growing up, Covalenco said he was into sports and outdoor activities. He started to get into gaming during his high school years and became good at it.



COURTESY PHOTO

Spc. Iosif Covalenco attended the Pax South gaming festival in San Antonio in March. Covalenco, who was assigned to the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston for a year, is joining the U.S. Army Esports Team, which is part of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command headquartered at Fort Knox, Kentucky. As a member of the esports team, Covalenco will represent the Army at local, regional and national esports competitions.

"I saw that I was very good at just any game I ever played," he said. "So I saw that as an opportunity that if I would put enough time into that, I could be better than a lot of people that were already playing."

Covalenco plays Fortnite, an online video game, and has already won prizes by competing in several online tournaments. He said being selected as a member of the Army Esports Team will allow him access to the latest gaming equipment, esports coaches who can help him on the mental aspect of gaming and the resources to travel to tournaments and competitions around the country.

"I think the opportunity of me being

able to do this more often would give me a high chance of being able to compete at a higher level because I get to practice more and train and become a better player," Covalenco said.

He will be with the Army Esports Team for at least the next three years, the remainder of his Army contract. Covalenco said being a full-time gamer while serving his country feels so unrealistic to him, but fulfills a goal he's been wanting to do for a while.

"It's very unbelievable," he said. "This is definitely a milestone that I didn't think I would reach at least this early. It is a dream come true.

"As soon as I realized I was better than the average player at any game, it

"There are thousands of current Soldiers who are competitive online gamers. Now we are giving them a chance to use their talents to help us relate to and connect with other young gamers. They will have the ability to start a dialogue about what it is like to serve in our Army and see if they are interested in joining."

Maj. Frank Muth, U.S. Army Recruiting Command commanding general

made me think I had the chance to play at the highest possible level and that's what kind of pushed me towards becoming a professional player," Covalenco added.

When it announced the formation of the Army Esports Team in December, the Army Recruiting Command said it was setting up the new team to allow team members to build awareness of the skills they utilize as professional Soldiers at gaming events and to use their gaming knowledge to reach out and relate to youth.

"If we are going to be successful in recruiting, then we need to be where young people are, and they are operating in the digital world," said Maj. Frank Muth, U.S. Army Recruiting Command commanding general. "There are thousands of current Soldiers who are competitive online gamers. Now we are giving them a chance to use their talents to help us relate to and connect with other young gamers. They will have the ability to start a dialogue about what it is like to serve in our Army and see if they are interested in joining."

LACKLAND



ARMANDO PEREZ

Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman (center, in uniform), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, participates in a ceremonial dig Aug. 7 to start the San Antonio Water System sewer pipeline project that will improve service for more than 500,000 people, including Airmen and civilians working and living on JBSA-Lackland. Joining Lenderman during the ceremony are: Mark Correll (third from right), deputy assistance secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety, and Infrastructure; San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg (far left); U.S. Congressmen Henry Cuellar (third from left) and Will Hurd (fourth from right).

AF partners with SA to improve infrastructure

By Armando Perez

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The City of San Antonio and the Air Force broke ground Aug. 7 to launch a \$175 million San Antonio Water System sewer pipeline project to improve service for more than 500,000 people, including Airmen and civilians working and living on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Mark Correll, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety, and Infrastructure, and Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA, U.S. Congressmen Henry Cuellar

and Will Hurd, and San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg were among the participants.

The project will involve the installation of a 20,000-foot-long sewage pipeline placed 100 feet below ground and will avoid obstructing traffic and military operations at JBSA-Lackland. According to SAWS officials, construction will begin in mid-2020 and take about 36 months. SAWS officials estimate that up to 20 percent of the new sewer capacity will be used by JBSA-Lackland.

Correll said the Air Force has a need to assure its mission and the environmental safety of the base and community. The collaboration done in partnership with SAWS, 502nd

“San Antonio is Military City USA not in name only, but in action. City and regional leadership is by far the most collaborative group of people I have had the pleasure to serve with in my 25 years. The success of this project is proof of that. This project will provide mutual benefits to ensure a successful infrastructure improvement for not only the community, but for our service members of Military City USA and their families.”

Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander

ABW, Air Force Civil Engineer Center and local elected officials will be monumental in providing the service San Antonio needs while eliminating the need to disturb sealed landfills, officials said.

“Through collaboration, the Air Force and SAWS were able to craft an agreement which provides wastewater service

that San Antonio needs and better mission support for the Air Force,” Correll said. “The Air Force thanks local leadership and the community for what you do for us.”

“San Antonio is Military City USA not in name only, but in action,” Lenderman said. “City and regional leadership is by far the most collaborative

group of people I have had the pleasure to serve with in my 25 years. The success of this project is proof of that. This project will provide mutual benefits to ensure a successful infrastructure improvement for not only the community, but for our service members of Military City USA and their families.”



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

Robert Carr (right), Post Master of San Antonio, gathers with U.S. Air Force members during the Military Working Dog Stamp ceremony Aug. 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Medina Annex.

JBSA-Lackland, USPS honor Military Working Dogs

By Vicki Stein

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION
SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the Security Forces community and the U.S. Postal Service gathered at the Military Working Dog Monument at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Aug. 15 for a local ceremony to unveil the new U.S. Postal Service MWD forever stamp.

Headquarters USPS officially unveiled the stamp at the American Philatelic Society's 133rd annual convention Aug. 1, in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Air Force Security Forces Center Air Force MWD Program Manager and trustee for the monument, Master Sgt. Steven Kaun, opened the ceremony, saying the location was a fitting place since it was a historical site where MWD teams gather to show their respect and honor each other.

Kaun then introduced Robert D. Carr, Jr. the 28th Postmaster of San Antonio. Carr, a former Army Ranger who spent 30 years in the service, said the stamp collection included the four most common breeds of MWDs — the German Shepherd, Labrador Retriever, Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherd.

"It was my privilege to be in the 82nd Airborne in the Ranger battalion to work alongside the dog handlers and their military working dogs and see them in action in real world environments," Carr said. "It's amazing what these animals can do."

The stamp honors dogs who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces over the past century, starting in World War I when dogs were originally enlisted by the Quartermaster Corps, and a diversity of breeds was accepted.

Carr said the idea of working dogs went even further back to the founding

of our country and noted there's a memo from the first Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin in the Postal Headquarters where Franklin recommended using dogs in the Armed Forces in the War of Independence because they could confound the enemy and cause distraction.

Maj. Matthew Kowalski, 341st Training Squadron commander, joined Carr and Kaun to unveil the Forever MWD stamp to the applause and barking of attendees, which included current MWDs and puppies from the Defense Department Breeding Program.

The DOD Military Working Dog program, the world's largest training center for military dogs and handlers, has been based at JBSA-Lackland since 1958. The DOD Military Working Dog Veterinary Service and the Holland Working Dog Hospital, the largest for military working dogs, are also located

on JBSA-Lackland.

Working with their handlers, military working dogs are called upon to deter and detect. They are trained in narcotics, explosives and intruder detection, and those duties often place them in harm's way.

The Military Working Dog Teams National Monument is a U.S. National Monument that represents all handlers, dogs and veterinary support from all military service branches. The monument grounds include a 3,000 square foot granite plaza, granite pedestals, granite history wall, granite benches and water fountain. The granite pedestals have large bronze statues of dogs and handlers. One of the inscriptions reads: "Dedicated to all U.S. Military Working Dog Handlers and their beloved dogs who defend America from harm, defeat the enemy, and save lives."

For healthy older adults, new shingles vaccine is worth the wait

From Military Health System Communications Office

Availability of the new shingles vaccine is improving across the Military Health System, according to Defense Health Agency Immunization Healthcare.

The vaccine, Shingrix, is recommended for healthy adults 50 and older to prevent the painful skin rash that can have debilitating long-term effects for older people.

Shingrix was licensed in late 2017.

“Supplies are still limited nationwide because of the overwhelming demand,” said Army Lt. Col. Christopher Ellison, deputy director of operations for the DHA’s Immunization Healthcare Division.

“But availability to the Department of Defense has improved from a year ago and continues to get better,” he said, adding that beneficiaries should

contact their local MTF to confirm supplies. “Now is the time to get your shingles immunization.”

Who’s at risk for getting shingles? “Anyone who’s had the chickenpox,” said retired Air Force Col. David Hrnrcir, an allergist-immunologist at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

A virus called varicella zoster causes shingles. It’s the same virus that causes chickenpox. After chickenpox clears, the virus stays dormant in the body.

The virus may reactivate many years later as shingles. It’s not clear what causes this eruption, said Hrnrcir, who’s also medical director of Central Region Vaccine Safety Hub, Immunization Healthcare Division.

According to medical literature, Hrnrcir said,

“Anywhere from 90 to 99 percent of people now over the age of 40 had chickenpox, before there was a chickenpox vaccine. About one-third will get

shingles at some point in their lives, if they’re not protected.”

Some people under age 50 get shingles, Hrnrcir said. But the risk of contracting the illness increases continually after age 50.

Immunization before age 50 results in decreased protection during ages when the risk of contracting shingles is the highest, he said. That’s why early immunization generally is not recommended.

An earlier shingles vaccine was introduced in 2006. That vaccine was for people 60 and older when it first came out. Further, it was only about 70 percent effective in offering full protection against the virus, he said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers recommendations about people who should not get the new vaccine.

“Those who had the old vaccine will benefit from getting the new one,” Hrnrcir said.

“Also, shingles can recur. So even if you’ve already had shingles, get the new vaccine.”

Retired Air Force Col. Scott Coale said he plans on getting the Shingrix vaccine. He came down with shingles in the fall of 2015, when he was in his mid-50s. His lower back started hurting before any rash appeared. Very quickly, he said, it became “the most excruciating pain I had ever experienced.”

Shingles usually develops as a stripe across one side of the body or face, according to the CDC. People may feel pain, itching, or tingling in the area where the rash occurs a few days before it actually appears, the CDC said. Other symptoms may include fever, headaches, and chills.

A few days after the rash appears, it turns into fluid-filled blisters. They usually scab over after a week or 10 days, and then the scabs clear up a couple of weeks after that, Hrnrcir said.

Coale said his symptoms lasted for a few weeks but luckily, he’s had no lingering issues. For some shingles patients, however, the pain may persist even after the rash clears.

“The older you are when you get shingles, the more likely it is you’ll develop post-herpetic neuralgia, or PHN, and have longer-lasting and severe pain,” Hrnrcir said. “The pain is not easily treated. So you’re left with constant pain that can significantly affect quality of life.”

The new vaccine is a two-dose series, with the second dose administered anywhere from two to six months after the first.

A majority of patients have reported side effects for two or three days after vaccination, Hrnrcir said. They include headaches, fatigue, and nausea. The CDC recommends patients talk with their providers about possible side effects.

AF workshop focuses on installation support, environmental stewardship

By Charlotte Schuster

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION
SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Building resilient installations was the theme of an Air Force Civil Engineer Center workshop that brought together environmental, public affairs and other base professionals Aug. 13-15 in San Antonio.

More than 400 military and civilians were on-hand at the 2019 Air Force Environmental Workshop to focus on the role of environmental restoration and protection in ensuring installations are mission ready. Hosted by AFCEC's Environmental Management Directorate, a primary subordinate unit of the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, or AFIMSC, the workshop focused on enabling the Air Force environmental mission of building resilient installations through environmental stewardship.

"We're here to enable the Warfighter, and to be successful we need to ensure our environmental teams at the installations are well-equipped and doing a good job at the bases," said Jeff Domm, director of AFCEC's Environmental Management Directorate.

Domm said this workshop is imperative in bringing the Air Force's environmental experts together to learn, form relationships and continue improving the program for future generations.

AFCEC, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio with AFIMSC, manages and executes

the Air Force's Environmental Program with Installation Support Sections and Remedial Program Managers spread across the globe and geographically aligned to provide consistent, superior environmental support to the bases. This niche network of environmental experts provide restoration, compliance, sustainability and National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, support and technical assistance to Air Force installations, major commands and other customers.

Attendees discussed a variety of environmental and installation programs, including program prioritization and strategy, natural and cultural resources, tribal relations, regulatory compliance, legislative engagement, budget and manpower overview, risk communication and more.

Allen Sohn, an environmental scientist at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas, said he gained valuable perspective and information from listening to other bases' successes and challenges.

"It's tremendously helpful for us at the bases to meet the environmental subject matter experts and form open lines of communication with our counterparts at AFCEC," Sohn said.

Another inventive feature of this year's workshop was a public affairs track that brought together approximately 50 Air Force public affairs specialists from across the enterprise to join the environmental training and participate in an entire day focused on environmental public affairs.

RANDOLPH



Pilot Instructor Training students from the 12th Operation Support Squadron attend aircrew flight equipment and survival training Aug. 8 at Joint Base San Antonio -Randolph.

PHOTOS BY SABRINA FINE

12th OSS egress training saves lives

By Sabrina Fine

12TH FLYING TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Imagine having a second to make a life or death decision.

For that reason, the 12th Operations Support Squadron's Aircrew Flight Equipment and Survival Course impacts aviation safety throughout the Air Force.

With approximately 1,200 students certified or recertified every year, the program teaches pilots how to properly egress from T-1A, T-6A and T-38C aircraft.

"I like to think that I enhance the survival skills of all the people that fly," said Reynaldo Gutierrez, 12th OSS lead course instructor. "The main goal for them is to survive, to come back to fly and fight another day; to come back to their missions and

families."

The class teaches aircrew flight equipment, ejection seat operation, emergency parachute deployment and ground survival.

"It is important because if you encounter yourself in the situation where you have to bail out of the aircraft in a split second time you don't want to be in a situation where you made it out of the aircraft, you possibly could have lived but then you end up putting yourself into more harm by not having the proper training or knowing what is available to you," said 1st Lt. Austin Anderson, 14th Student Squadron, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

While egressing is a rare occurrence, Lt. Col. Spencer Godwin, 435th Fighter Training Squadron, recalled a debriefing

"If you don't have the training and you don't have the skills, no amount of luck is going to be able to save you. That's what we are doing here, we are building survival skills, luck is good but I wouldn't count on it."

Reynaldo Gutierrez, 12th OSS lead course instructor

after a squadron mate successfully egressed.

"It's a significant emotional event when that happens," he said. "Whether you have time to prep or it just happens instantaneously, you want your training to kick in versus having to think about it. "That's the reason for egress training once a year."

For pilots and instructors it's crucial, stated Gutierrez.

"Some of these students are going to become instructors," he

said. "You have to show them how to do it correctly because they are role models."

When he hears that an Air Force pilot needed to egress, Gutierrez doesn't want to wonder "how did I teach them?"

"Before they go out the jet they need to put on their gear and they need to test it," he said. "Then I teach them egress, how to strap into the ejection seat how to do the preflight of the ejection seat, I teach air and ground egress."

Next he teaches how to fly the parachute. How to go through trees or power lines. How to land.

"Once they land I teach them local area survival, survival techniques and tactics like to drink the water, turn off the beacon, get on the radio, treat for shock, avoid snakes," said Gutierrez.

There is a diverse audience for egress training: novice and seasoned pilot instructors, distinguished visitors, introduction fighter fundamentals pilots, Air Force academy cadets and combat camera photographers.

"If you don't have the training and you don't have the skills, no amount of luck is going to be able to save you," said Gutierrez. "That's what we are doing here, we are building survival skills, luck is good but I wouldn't count on it. Be skilled, know your systems, know how to use your systems, and be competent."

Enlisted Marines reach new heights with UAS capabilities

By 1st Lt. Pawel Puczko

MARINE AVIATION TRAINING
SUPPORT GROUP 22

Editor's note: Only first names are given because the Air Force limits disclosure of identifying information to first names for all RPA pilots and sensor operators throughout their careers.

The first enlisted Marines to be assigned as sensor operators for the MQ-9 Reaper Unmanned Aircraft System, or UAS, graduated from the Air Force course at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Aug. 9.

Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua and Lance Cpl. Tyler, assigned to Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22, stood together with their class of 21 Air Force students as the 19-14 Basic Sensor Operator Course, or BSOC, graduating class with the 558th Flying Training Squadron. Joshua and Tyler are part of the Marine Corps future UAS Initiative.

"The graduation of these two lance corporals is a small step in their training," said Maj. Matthew Bailey, Marine liaison to the 558th FTS. "It's probably lost on them how important it is, but this is a major milestone for the Marine Corps UAS community. This is something we have been waiting for a long time. It's a milestone for moving the Marine Corps towards the group five initiative and will eventually be



Lt. Col. Eric Bissonette (left), 558th Flying Training Squadron commander, and Major Matthew Bailey (right), Marine Liaison to the 558th FTS, stand with two graduates from the 19-14 Basic Sensor Operator Course (BSOC) graduating class after a winging ceremony Aug. 9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

1ST LT. PAWEŁ PUCZKO

a major warfighting leap for how the Marine Air Ground Task Force, or MAGTF, operates UAS."

The UAS community is divided into groups, ranging from one to five. Group one and two cover small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or UAV, which typically weigh less than 55 pounds and fly below 3,500 feet above the ground. Group three UAVs have a significant increase in capabilities and can weigh up to 1,320 pounds and fly up to 18,000 feet above sea level. In the past, group three UAS assets were the highest level

that the Marine Corps possessed. Group four UAS capabilities expand to a UAV weighing more than 1,320 pounds, flying up to 18,000 feet above sea level, and at any speed.

The Marine Corps has been on a path to expand its UAS assets and enhance intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, or ISR, capabilities. This brings the push for expanding into group five UASs. Group five UAVs can weigh in at more than 1,320 pounds, normally fly higher than 18,000 feet above sea level, and at any speed. These assets

can stay in the air longer, with a much larger payload, and observe a much larger area.

The solution to the Marine Corps' need for a group five UAS was the MQ-9 Reaper. The Reaper has been employed by the Air Force for more than a decade, taking over the roles previously assigned to manned combat aircraft. Tyler and Joshua were put through the same training that has been producing Air Force Reaper sensor operators for the last few years. As a sensor operator, their job will be to support the pilot and provide real-time ISR to supported

units on the ground.

"I enjoyed my time here training with the Air Force, and everything that I have learned," Joshua said. "It seems like it has been a long journey to get here, but I know that I am ready to use what we learned here in the real world. I am looking forward to getting back to working with Marines and supporting boots on the ground."

Joshua and Tyler completed 220 academic hours of training with the 558th FTS and took part in 36 Predator Reaper Integrated Mission Environment, or PRIME, simulators. Their final two weeks in the course they worked directly with a UAS pilot undergoing training with 558th FTS to bring together everything they learned and put it in a similar environment to their jobs when they finish training. They will both be moving on to train aboard Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico to get their final Reaper specific qualification.

The Reaper was part of a large initiative to fill gaps in what was needed to support the Marine Air Ground Task Force. It is not the final step to supporting the MAGTF in the future. The Reaper will serve as an invaluable asset to the troops on the ground once it becomes available to Marine fleet units.

JBSA-Randolph housing loop now has speed limits

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The 502nd Security Forces Group has established speed limits for the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Main Circle in order to keep everyone that lives, works and plays there safe.

As of Aug. 22, the outer loop's speed is now 25 mph while the inner loop's speed is 15 mph. Signs are posted.

Patrols from the 902nd Security Forces Squadron are monitoring the area, allowing a grace period and giving warnings. However, after an appropriate period, citations will be issued.

JBSA-Randolph staging active shooter exercise

From 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

An active shooter exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph is scheduled for Aug. 28, beginning at noon.

During that time, personnel and family members need to be aware of responding emergency vehicles, possible delays at entry control points, and Giant Voice messages. There will be traffic control points diverting vehicles on the west side of Randolph.

This is only an exercise, not a real-world situation, designed to ensure that emergency services and other installation organizations are ready to react and respond to any potential crisis.

Girl Scouts tour JBSA-Randolph

By Sabrina Fine

502D AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

They didn't come to sell cookies. They came to see action.

Girl Scouts of South West Texas Troop 367 and their mothers witnessed a military working dog demonstration at the 902nd Security Forces Squadron kennel, visited the 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department, and toured the static aircraft display on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Aug. 9.

"We have a lot of extended family that were in the Navy," said Sarah Terry, a troop leader. "I have deep admiration and gratitude for our military for keeping us safe, but people don't think about it on a daily basis until they go do something like the tour we did."

Tech. Sgt. Pedro Escobar, 902nd SFS kennel master, put working dogs Sidra and Marco through aid, patrol and detection abilities.

"It's important to show what we are capable of," he said. "We are constantly vigilant and patrolling with our MWDs. We are able to stop any adversaries that threaten our installation or the United States."

Next, the troop arrived at the fire

station where the group learned about lifesaving tools firefighters use to extract victims out of entangled vehicles during an emergency.

"This shows everybody what we use and what we do, it gives them more of an understanding and makes them less afraid," said Staff Sgt. Brandon Cotham, a 902nd CES crew chief.

The crowd cheered as Airman 1st Class Daniel Sanchez raced to don firefighting gear within one minute, to demonstrate how fast they must respond after receiving an emergency call.

When the girls saw the fire station kitchen, one asked "why?"

"We have a kitchen because we are on duty 24 hours a day," Cotham said.

Terry thought the fire engine was a "big hit."

"It was so cool to go in the fire engine and see the way they can go into aircraft if the aircraft are ever on fire," she said.

The tour ended with a walk through the static aircraft display and a request for the troop to return with more girls.

Terry said the girls asked many questions on their ride home.

"They were just amazed that the military did so many different things," she said.



SABRINA FINE

Members of South West Texas Girl Scout Troop 367 toured Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Aug. 9, witnessing a military working dog demonstration at the 902nd Security Forces Squadron kennel, visiting the 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron fire department and touring the base's static aircraft display.

902nd SFS members mentor youth

By Sabrina Fine

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When the Randolph Youth Chapel asked the 902nd Security Forces Squadron for a canine demonstration, they were surprised by the response.

The first ever Junior Battle of the Badges was born Aug. 2 at Heritage Park at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

"All we wanted was a little something for the kids during summer and Staff Sgt. (Christopher) Phillips went above and beyond," said Terese Gould, youth director at the Randolph chapel. "It turned into a great big battle of the badges. He took it and ran with it."

The Youth Chapel recruited the participants and the 902nd SFS planned the activities.

"We wanted to show them a little bit of what we do and how we work together as a team," said Phillips. "It was also an opportunity for mentorship and the kids to have fun, relax and compete."

The competition included nerf gun shooting, relay racing and vehicle pulling and pushing. They also watched a canine demonstration.

"Ms. Gould sent out an email and I was like, oh yeah, I am going to do this," said Maryn Campbell, 15. "A battle between cops and firefighters, in hot summer and there was water involved, I was so excited."

Thirty 12-15 year-old Air Force family members split into firefighter or security forces teams.

"Our chapel youth program tries to get them to build relationships," Gould said. "Not just sitting down during bible study, they need to see each other as support systems when they are playing as well as when they need real help, so that's why



BRIAN LEPPLEY

A participant runs during the Junior Battle of the Badges staged by the 902nd Security Forces Squadron at Heritage Park Aug. 2 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

we do stuff like this."

The firefighters and security forces mentored their respective teams during the event.

"We should have more of these competitions," said Starlette Clarno, 15. "It was lots of teamwork and learning to grow as a person, while adapting to work with new people."

Afterwards, tired and excited, the kids gathered in the shade and ate snacks while awaiting the announcement of the winner.

"The event was well organized," Campbell said with a large bright smile. "It was amazing, both the security forces and firefighters were friendly, down-to-earth and so funny."

Security forces claimed the trophy with 259 points, while the firefighters had 207 points.

"All the kids wanted to know is when we are doing it again," Gould said. "I feel like next year is just going to be bigger and better."

Innovation's role in multi-domain operations in AETC podcast

From Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

The concept of innovation and its role in helping produce Airmen who more lethal and ready to execute the mission in the multi-domain operational environment is the focus of the latest episode of "Developing Mach-21 Airmen" Air Education and Training Command's professional development podcast series, released Aug 14.

In the episode, Lt. Col. Eric Frahm, director of the AETC Integrated

Technology Detachment up at the Capital Factory in Austin, Texas, joins the show, talking about innovation in the multi-domain operational environment, technology, and Learning Next amongst other topics.

During the conversation, Frahm talks about his role at the AETC Integrated Technology Detachment, which is AETC's piece of the AFWERX Austin hub, helping lay down the infrastructure, tools and resources that teams need to innovate inside their work environment. He also discusses

how the ATID works in conjunction with numerous other innovation entities to include the AETC staff and innovation ecosystem. Frahm also goes in depth about the awesome partnership between AETC and the Air Force Research Laboratory to support the emerging innovation mission.

The professional development podcasts are designed to help communicate and inform Total Force Airmen across the globe on relevant, timely topics related to the recruiting, training, education and development

fields and can be listened to on the government network on the AETC website, or via mobile application as well as on Apple Podcasts (iTunes). For Android or Google mobile users, the podcast can be found on their favorite third-party podcast phone application.

Future episodes are set to cover a wide range of topics, including joint civil engineer training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, the classroom of the future at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, and much more.