

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

OCTOBER 4, 2019



PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS DAVID KOLMEL

Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command Sailors salute during the playing of taps at the graveside funeral service for Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Lyle Walker, a sonar technician (submarine), in Killeen, Texas, Sept. 26.

San Antonio Sailors honor submarine vet's life

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Airmen, Marines work together during exercise
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JBSA Honor Guard reflects on past, present, future
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AF releases call to action for ideas

From 88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force unveiled Air Force Explore, a new opportunity call for capability ideas that advance the transformational component of the Air Force Science and Technology 2030 strategy Sept. 26. With this nationwide call, the Air Force is seeking disruptive ideas that can create remarkable new capabilities for the future force.

"This call is intended as a catalyst to transform our capabilities to become the Air Force we need," said Maj. Gen. William Cooley, Air Force Research Laboratory commander. "We will focus first on transformational capabilities and then identify how technology fuels them," Cooley said.

Air Force Explore is a product of collaboration between the Air Force Acquisition Executive, Air Force Warfighter Integration Capability and the Air Force Research Laboratory.

"Our goal is to establish partnerships that develop capability ideas and mature them into opportunity spaces for the Air Force," said Dr. Reid Melville, AFRL's lead for Air Force Explore.

Air Force stakeholders will consider each capability idea and advance a select number for prioritization. Partnerships are encouraged, and teams may include a mixture of government, industry and academic organizations.

The Air Force anticipates four to seven awards, each in the \$1 million to \$2 million range. To be competitive in this process, parties must submit ideas that have transformational potential, operational viability, and cost and technical feasibility.

Transformational idea submission should address one of three functional challenges and advance one or more of the strategic capability areas identified in the Air Force S&T 2030 strategy including: global persistent awareness; resilient information sharing; rapid,

effective decision-making; complexity, unpredictability and mass; and speed and reach of disruption and lethality. The challenge statements pertain to in-flight re-arming and refueling, personnel recovery kit delivery and vehicle tracking in commercial imagery.

Timothy Sakulich, AFRL's executive lead for Air Force 2030 implementation, said the "goal is to build a portfolio of ideas that could enable new warfighting concepts providing leap-ahead capabilities."

This call is unique since the Air Force is totally shifting the way it engages the nation in technology through a number of new business practices. Agreements will be custom tailored to each partner, including the choice of award vehicle.

"This is a shift in the way we do business," Sakulich said. With this opportunity, "the Air Force is open to all avenues and we're letting the unlimited national market show us where the best ideas are."

He explained that this approach is unique because "the Air Force has created a single path to a level playing field for large industry, small business, startups, academia and government labs to promote solution-oriented thinking and free competition for resources."

"This is a new approach in the history of the Air Force," Sakulich said.

Although AFRL and other government labs may participate in this opportunity, the Air Force's intent is to find the best ideas from any source. The Air Force is also committed to enhancing its front-door policies by incorporating easier communication and better contact with simpler submission inputs and face-to-face communication during the selection process.

Submissions are due Nov. 11, 2019, with funding invitations distributed by March 2020. For more information, visit <https://www.AFResearchLab.com>.

DOD releases report on suicide among troops, family

By C. Todd Lopez DEFENSE.GOV

Defense Department officials have released a report focused on prevention and analysis of service member and family member suicides.

The report, released Sept. 26, contains substantial suicide-related data and represents the first time the DOD released numbers related to suicide of military family members.

The report shows that in 2018, 541 service members across the military's active and reserve components died by suicide.

Within the active component, the suicide rate was 24.8 per 100,000 personnel, an increase from 2017's rate of 21.9. In the service reserves, the suicide rate for 2018 dropped to 22.9 suicides

per 100,000 from the 2017 rate of 25.7. In the National Guard, the suicide rate rose to 30.6 per 100,000 in 2018 from 2017's 29.8.

"Across all of our populations, active component, reserve and National Guard, the 2018 suicide rate is statistically consistent over the past two years," said Elizabeth P. Van Winkle, DOD's executive director of force resiliency. "However, rates from the active component are statistically higher than rates from the last five years."

Van Winkle also explained how suicide rates within the military, a population that is younger and has more men than the nation's overall civilian population, compares to a similar populations among civilians.

"While we hold ourselves to a higher standard than the

civilian population, we are often asked how we compare," Van Winkle said. "This year's report indicates that suicide rates for active-component and reserve members are comparable to U.S. population rates after accounting for age and sex. But rates for the National Guard are higher than the U.S. population after similar adjustments."

Although the suicide rate among military populations is comparable to broader civilian rates, Van Winkle said, this is hardly comforting, and the numbers are not moving in the right direction.

The report shows that suicide rates for family members, as for active and Reserve components, are comparable to civilian rates.

Karin A. Orvis, director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, said DOD "will focus on

fully implementing and evaluating a multifaceted public health approach to suicide prevention, and we will target our military populations of greatest concern: young and enlisted service members, and members of the National Guard, as well as continue to support out military families."

For young enlisted service members, Orvis said, the department will pilot an educational program to teach stress-coping skills and how to pass those same skills on to others.

Additionally, she said, the department will teach service members skills to identify suicide "red flags" on social media to help service members recognize how they can reach out to help others who might show warning signs.

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.

Personnel Issues

Q. I am a mobility-impaired person. I have to walk with a stroller every day. I am not the only person experiencing this problem — many others have the same impairment and are in the same predicament I am in.

However, I've noticed that people who do not have such problems continue to use the handicap showers; they look to me to be very agile, strong and without any handicap(s). Can one of the handicap showers in the male side be dedicated solely to mobility impaired persons?

A. Thank you for this question. On JBSA, we strive to be as accessible as possible for all members of the community, especially at our fitness centers. Generally, American Disability Act-accessible showers and restrooms are not restricted to only handicap members; however, even when stalls are limited, patrons are encouraged to abide by military core values and do the right thing to provide appropriate accommodations.

The best way to address this situation would be to bring it up to the building's facility manager to submit an official request for modifications and/or renovations. In addition, if possible, we'd like to hear additional details in order to better address your specific request.

Please feel free to reach back out to the JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs Office to provide your information (if willing) so we can contact you directly

regarding the facility of concern. Thank you for your feedback, keep it coming!

Q. Ma'am, I would like to discuss with you regarding GS employees and their level of responsibility as documented on their respective Air Force Standard Core Personnel Document, or SCPD.

The level of responsibility and pay grades for GS employees in a Joint Base enterprise is lower here at JBSA compared to other Joint Base installations. There are different levels of responsibilities commensurate with pay grades and different career fields, but why is the JBSA Installation Fire Chief only a GS-13 compared to other non-joint base installation fire chiefs, considering his level of responsibility within the JBSA enterprise and the U.S. Air Force?

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (AFMC) is a non-joint base and their fire chief is a GS-14 to include Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFSPC) also is a non-joint base and their fire chief is a GS-14.

A. Thank you for asking this question. Our civilian Airmen are the backbone of the 502nd ABW team, and the service they provide is greatly appreciated by the leaders of this installation and all 266 Mission Partners.

Regarding your concern about the current classified grade for the installation fire chief, the 502nd Civil Engineer Group team has been working closely with Air Force Personnel Center on this specific topic as well as many others.

To date, no change to the grade of the installation fire chief has been made or approved; however, it is still under review as we continue to structure our Wing to best support JBSA's diverse missions. The CEG team remains engaged on this subject, and should you have specific questions or concerns please feel free to contact the 902nd CES Commander, Lt. Col. Tortella, at 210-652-2401.

Installation & Facilities

Q. I understand that on Thursday and Friday, JBSA-Lackland has serious gate traffic.

I have been in JBSA for some time, but this morning was the absolute worst. The Growden gate was backed up all the way to Highway 90 and Military Drive was a parking lot.

Something needs to be done. I am seriously considering contacting my congressman and the local news to report on this issue to highlight the problem. It is only getting worse. I would like to give the base a chance to

mitigate it as much as they can first.

A. Thank you for your observation of the traffic levels, as we factor in permanent party feedback such as yours in adjusting our gate hours to minimize the congestion as best we can.

Thursdays and Fridays are extremely busy days at JBSA-Lackland due to Basic Military Training graduation. Our Defenders work closely local law enforcement to mitigate traffic congestion outside the installation.

In addition, we recommend staggering report times, using alternate gates (such as Selfridge and Security Hill gates having under 3-minute wait times on Thursdays and Fridays) and offering alternate routes to access Military Drive from the south to head northbound.

The public JBSA website (<https://www.jbsa.mil/Information/Visitor-Information/>) has more information on the latest installation gate hours — including holidays — you can also call the JBSA-Lackland Base Defense Operations Center at any time with your questions or issues at 210-671-2018.

Q. I am inquiring about protocol when entering JBSA-Randolph security gates. I am unsure and I could not find a definitive regulation or protocol about security police saluting a retired officer when driving through the security gates. Is it a relaxed standard or courtesy to salute retired officers of the Armed Forces while entering security gates?

A. Thank you for your question regarding due respect of our retired officers of all services. It is Air Force policy that retired officers be rendered a warrior's salute at our entry control points. Per Air Force Instruction 1-1, paragraph 1.6.3., "Retirees are entitled to the same respect and courtesies as active military members." We will ensure this message is shared with to our Defenders who work hard to protect and defend our installation and render proper customs and courtesies to all our teammates.

Q. Is there anything that can be done outside the JBSA-Lackland Commissary to provide air conditioning (during warm/hot times) and heat (during the not-hot times) for the older folks who sit outside waiting for transportation? There is some seating inside the commissary, but I believe some of our retirees sit outside to make sure they do not miss the bus back to their living facility. I have observed people sitting out more than an hour.

A. Thank you for raising this concern.

We understand the strain placed on our populace by San Antonio's high temperatures, especially for retirees. This concern was recently raised at the JBSA-Lackland Traffic Safety Working Group, which has developed several potential courses of action. We are coordinating with our engineers as well as the shuttle company that transports retirees to determine which proposed options are best. We hope come to an agreement soon to improve shaded seating areas for shuttle riders.

Q. Why are there very few if any underground shelters here at JBSA-Randolph, in case of a hurricane or tornado?

A. Thank you for your question as safety is one of my top priorities, especially when considering some of the weather events we experience here in San Antonio.

Regarding your concern for underground shelters, there are several reasons why this is not a measure we pursue. First, the ground in the San Antonio area is largely made up of bedrock making it difficult to construct

underground shelters.

In addition, underground shelters for natural disasters are more common in regions of the United States that are less prone to flooding; and given the concern we have for flooding in this area, an underground bunker could create unwanted hazards.

In the event of severe weather where flooding is anticipated, my Emergency Management office recommends you proceed to higher ground. In the event of tornado warning conditions, we recommend you to go to the innermost room(s) of a facility or home until the warning has been lifted.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, please engage with your unit's Emergency Management representative, or feel free to contact the 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron's Readiness and Emergency Management Flight at 210-652-3567.

Q. The roads at JBSA-Randolph & JBSA-Fort Sam Houston need significant repairs (e.g., new stripes, pothole mitigation, etc.). That said, can Civil Engineers work this?

A. CE maintains a JBSA-wide pavement assessment and maintenance priority list. CE has executed a variety of paving, striping and road repair efforts in fiscal year 2019, including both in-house and by contract projects.

In FY20, we will be making repairs to Corporal Johnson Road and Stanley

FEEDBACK FRIDAYS continues on 4

AETC Command Team visits Joint Base San Antonio

By Capt. Geneva Gaiamo
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Education and Training Command team got a firsthand look at the 502nd Air Base Wing's unique mission across the joint base Sept. 26 and 27. Accompanied by their spouses, Mrs. Dawna Webb and Mr. Robb Gudgel, Lt. Gen. Brad Webb and Chief Master Sgt. Juliet Gudgel spent two days touring the various installations across Joint Base San Antonio to learn about the 502nd Air Base Wing's mission of delivering unrivaled installation support and services to 266 mission partners across Joint Base San Antonio.

On the first day of his trip, Webb visited the Navy Medical Training Campus dormitory at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, learning about plans for dorm renovations, as well as Navy traditions.

"In addition to calling our dorms 'ships,' we also practice traditional Navy customs and courtesies in our daily operations," said Navy Lt. LaMount Simmons, Navy Medicine Training Support Center facilities manager.

"Because of how quickly our medics graduate training and move on to the fleet, we found this beneficial in preparing them for a non-training environment. In the same light, our Sailors are trained to take ownership and get ahead of potential problems on the ships."

Additionally, Sailors are trained in handling basic infrastructure challenges in the dorms, such as what to do if a pipe bursts.

"We teach them to be cognizant of what is happening around them before the situation gets out of control — every sailor is a basic fire fighter, and damage control is what we do," Simmons added.

After disembarking the "ship," the AETC command team visited the 502nd Joint Personnel Processing Center, responsible for handling all personnel actions for Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and civilians.

During the stop, Webb and Gudgel met with the 502nd ABW civilian personnel flight to learn about how Strategic Workforce Planning for the entire Air Force was piloted at JBSA.

The focus of the Strategic Workforce Planning program is to ensure smart hiring decisions are made, and help organizations identify where there are gaps in civilian manning. Additionally, the team



SEAN M. WORRELL

U.S. Navy Lt. LaMont Simmons (left), Navy Medicine Training Support Center facilities manager, briefs U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brad Webb (right), commander of Air Education and Training Command, on the cultural differences between the services management of dormitories, Sept. 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

looks to developing the Air Force of the future, considering what structure in the future would be necessary to support JBSA and its mission partners.

"The Strategic Workforce Plan is special because it highlights what we can control and improve in the Civilian hiring and onboarding process" said Patricia Nichols, 502nd Force Support Squadron civilian personnel flight chief. "The team determined where roadblocks and barriers were and helped us mitigate those challenges."

"The team has moved mountains in regard to civilian hiring," Nichols added. "Because of their work and in collaboration with the Air Force Personnel Center, we are able to utilize direct hiring for our civil engineer team. We are also able to streamline the hiring process, allowing for new hires to join our team much quicker than through the traditional process."

"The civilian personnel team has been key in helping JBSA become an employer of choice, helping us retain, as well as attract, new employees with incentives such as raised pay and larger leave allowances," said Brig. Gen Laura Lenderman, 502nd

ABW and JBSA commander. "The JPCC team is fantastic at what they do and we are proud to have them on our team" said Webb, reflecting on the multitude of personnel actions the 502nd team conducts across the joint base. "It really is impressive to see how well they support the joint community here and their families." In addition to re-inventing professional hiring and expanding opportunities for growth, the wing is developing innovative initiatives to help retain the workforce.

"Across the Air Force, and especially here in San Antonio, it is crucial we recapitalize our civilian force," Webb said. "When I took command, I discussed what it would take to defeat an enemy — that our Airmen must be able to out-think, out-perform, out-partner, and out-innovate any potential adversary. This wing supports many units that train Joint servicemen and women, and they are driving innovative processes to grow and develop our civilian force who provide a wealth of knowledge to the team."

One of the final stops on the AETC command team's two-day visit was to the 502nd Operational Support Squadron air traffic control tower to learn about the impact JBSA-Kelly Field has on the Joint Force and the city of San Antonio.

JBSA-Kelly Field is home to the Port of San Antonio, which supports large private companies, in addition to providing \$5 billion of support to the local economy. JBSA-Kelly Field also supports the Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing formal training unit, home to 16 percent of active duty and ANG F-16 Fighting Falcon training. Additionally, JBSA-Kelly Field is home to Air Force Reserve Command's 433rd Airlift Wing, which supports the Air Force's only C-5M Galaxy II Formal Training Unit.

"The team here at JBSA-Kelly Field greatly enables rapid global mobility and enhances lethality for our Air Force," Webb said. "They are also key in supporting regional and contingency taskings like humanitarian relief efforts."

Webb and Gudgel departed JBSA with a thank you and an encouraging message.

"Thank you for the past two days. We are fortunate at AETC to be supported by JBSA and our daily interactions with the civilian workforce and the Joint servicemen and women who enable the mission partners who depend on you."

FEEDBACK FRIDAYS

From page 3

Road at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and Kenly Avenue and Truemper Road at JBSA-Lackland.

On JBSA-Randolph, we are targeting repairs to B Street West between the BX and Chestnut. We are also working to improve our roadways out

at JBSA-Camp Bullis and will begin work on Malabang Road and Wilderness Road. Motorist safety is of top concern to us, and we will continue putting every effort to making our streets safer and look forward to hearing your future feedback!

Miscellaneous

Q. I was hoping that you could please take a look into the JBSA-Camp Bullis

hunting program. What used to be an amazing program has been poorly and carelessly run for the past few years. Each year, it's getting worse and worse. There have been plenty of ICE complaints that I feel have been ignored.

A. Thank you for sharing your concerns. We are always striving to ensure that all of our programs are servicing our JBSA community in the

best way possible.

We apologize for your poor experience with the hunting program, and are more than happy to take a look at the program and address your concerns. If possible, we'd like to hear additional details. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Lt. Col. Rashul Freeman, our Force Support Group Deputy Commander at rashul.j.freeman.mil@mail.mil.

AACOG, JBSA sign blanket intergovernmental support agreement

By Miguel Segura

ALAMO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman, commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, and Diane Rath, Alamo Area Council of Governments executive director, signed a historical agreement at the AACOG Board of Directors meeting Sept. 25.

This new blanket Intergovernmental Support Agreement, or IGSA, will afford JBSA the opportunity to bring requirements they would normally fill through traditional federal contracting actions to AACOG. AACOG and its member governments could then fulfill these requirements through their own capabilities and local contractors. This streamlines the procurement process, which is also expected to save millions of dollars for JBSA as the agreement matures.

"We are thrilled to be the lynchpin of transformational change in the relationship between JBSA and our region," Rath said. "This agreement creates a much more symbiotic relationship between the many missions of JBSA and the communities that host

those missions.

"This new relationship will ensure JBSA is able to focus on its true mission to deter war and protect the security of our country," Rath added. "It will also translate into a new stream of revenue for our local governments. Best of all, we will be able to do this at no cost to local taxpayers. We couldn't have achieved this historic milestone without the commitment of the leadership of JBSA to this community."

AACOG has been actively engaged in supporting JBSA and its missions in the entire region for a number of years. In 2017, AACOG facilitated the first IGSA between the City of San Antonio and JBSA for a paving project. This led directly to this historic new Blanket IGSA.

"The impact that the IGSA will have on our installation is tremendous," Lenderman said. "With the support of our AACOG teammates, we will be able to save time and money as we improve installation support for the men and women living and working in and around JBSA" she added.

The new AACOG-JBSA agreement takes this type of relationship and creates



COURTESY PHOTO

Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman (right), commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, and Diane Rath, Alamo Area Council of Governments executive director, sign a historical agreement at the AACOG Board of Directors meeting Sept. 25.

an opportunity for AACOG and its 70 member governments throughout their 13-county region.

Only one other blanket IGSA exists, between the U.S. Army and the Presidio of Monterey Services Agency in Monterey, California. This relationship has been in place for several decades, and according to the Army Audit Agency, saves the Presidio of Monterey an annual 22 percent in operation support costs.

Intergovernmental Support Agreements, authorized by Congress in the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, allow for sole-source purchasing

discussions between military installations and state or local government entities.

IGSAs also waive federal wage rates and the extensive regulations imposed by the Federal Acquisition Regulations. IGSAs may be for terms of up to 10 years, and may be renewed indefinitely.

An IGSA allows state and local government entities to recover all direct and indirect costs in supporting the military. This provides local leaders with budget flexibility, ensuring local tax dollars do not supplement the federal budget.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

San Antonio Sailors honor submarine vet's life

By Petty Officer 1st Class David Kolmel
NAVY MEDICINE EDUCATION,
TRAINING AND LOGISTICS COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sailors assigned to Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command, Navy Medicine Training Support Center and Navy Recruiting District San Antonio attended the graveside service of a Navy veteran in Killeen, Texas, Sept. 26.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Lyle Walker, a sonar technician (submarine), served on the Ballistic Missile Submarine USS Ulysses S. Grant (SSBN-631) during the late 1970s and early 1980s and had no family or next of kin, prompting the San Antonio-area Sailors to make the two-hour drive from Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston to honor Walker's Navy service.

"Mr. Walker honored his country through his service to the Navy," said NMETLC Command Master Chief Richard Putnam. "Honoring Mr. Walker is our way to celebrate our country's values. Honor, courage and commitment are the Navy's core values and Mr. Walker's service to his country exemplifies those values."

For those attending, it was a chance to show that those who served in the Navy will always have family behind them.

"We are going to celebrate this Sailor's life and pay homage to him for his service to our country," said NMETLC Chief Petty Officer Shante Morris. "He is my family."

Morris said the experience was a chance to reiterate the team spirit that represents the Navy.



Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command Sailors salute during the playing of taps during the graveside funeral service for Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Lyle Walker, a sonar technician (submarine), in Killeen, Texas, Sept. 26.

"The first thing that came to my heart was 'One Team, One Fight!'" Morris said. "It's a chant that you often hear to motivate a team, but for me it's a way of life. Think about this. There is someone leaving their family right now to serve our country. That member will always be my brother or sister in arms. I am ultimately standing in the gap as they are away from their family. In life and in death, we have to make it our business to continue standing in the gap."

About 200 to 300 people throughout the South Texas area came out to honor Walker, including county officials, retired military members, military veteran organizations, motorcycle groups and other community members who wanted to pay their respects for his service.

Perhaps local Veterans of Foreign Wars member Terry Craig, described the graveside service best: "Mark is surrounded by his family that he never knew he had."

PHOTOS BY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS DAVID KOLMEL



Sailors from the Navy Recruiting District San Antonio carry the casket of Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Lyle Walker, a sonar technician (submarine), in Killeen, Texas, Sept. 26.



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Soldiers stop by the Navy Ask, Care, and Treatment, or ACT, booth during the first Joint Base San Antonio-wide “We Care Carnival” Sept. 19 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

JBSA hosts ‘We Care Carnival’ for members

By Jose E. Rodriguez

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than a thousand Soldiers, along with a couple of hundred Sailors and Airmen, participated the first Joint Base San Antonio-wide “We Care Carnival” Sept. 19, highlighting Sexual Harassment, Assault Response and Prevention, Equal Opportunity, Army Substance Abuse Program and chaplain programs.

Held at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Student Activity Center, students training at the Medical Education and Training Campus participated in carnival-themed events and activities focused on sexual harassment, assault, suicide, and discrimination. It was a joint effort as Army, Navy, and Air Force offices from all across the installation took part in the carnival.

The carnival was designed to engage

“It has been my goal to foster cooperation and coordination among all the military services within JBSA since becoming the 32nd Medical Brigade’s sexual assault response coordinator, victim advocate.”

Sgt. 1st Class Freyja E. Eccles, the 32nd Medical Brigade

students about the programs in an entertaining atmosphere. Students learned about these initiatives by answering questions at booths, playing bingo, participating in a game show, and playing games for prizes. Students also enjoyed popcorn, cotton candy, slushy drinks, raffle prizes, sumo wrestling, and a petting zoo of working therapy dogs brought by volunteers with Paws 4 Hearts, a nonprofit organization based in Texas.

The 32nd Medical Brigade, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, led efforts in organizing the carnival. They received a lot of assistance from the Medical Professional Training Brigade, MEDCoE, the Navy Medicine Education Training and Logistics Command, and the 502nd Air Base Wing student population, with the most of the funding provided by U.S. Army North.

Sgt. 1st Class Mishiella Roseburgh and Sgt. 1st Class Freyja E. Eccles, from the 32nd Medical Brigade, were the primary planners and points of contact for the event.

“The reason we hosted this event is because since my return to JBSA in 2016, I have been surprised at how little inter-service coordination there is for the SHARP programs,” Eccles said. “It has been my goal to foster cooperation and coordination among all the military services within JBSA since becoming the 32nd Medical Brigade’s sexual assault response coordinator, victim advocate. I am looking forward to working with all of our sister services moving forward.”

To learn more about the SHARP, EO and chaplain programs, visit <https://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Sexual-Assault-Prevention-and-Response/>; <https://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Equal-Opportunity/>; and <https://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Chaplain-Services/>.

Legal education program opens doors to law school

By Sgt. Andrew Valles
U.S. Army North Public Affairs

Interested in pursuing a law degree and a career as an Army lawyer?

The Office of the Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications through Nov. 1 from U.S. Army lieutenants and captains for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program, or FLEP.

Through FLEP, the Army plans to send up to 25 active duty commissioned officers to law school. This is an opportunity for selected officers to remain on active duty status while attending law school beginning fall 2020.

Applicants must have at least two, but not more than six years total on the active duty list at the time law school begins. This time includes prior warrant and enlisted service time. Officers must at least possess a secret security clearance and cannot have an approved resignation or separation date at the time of the

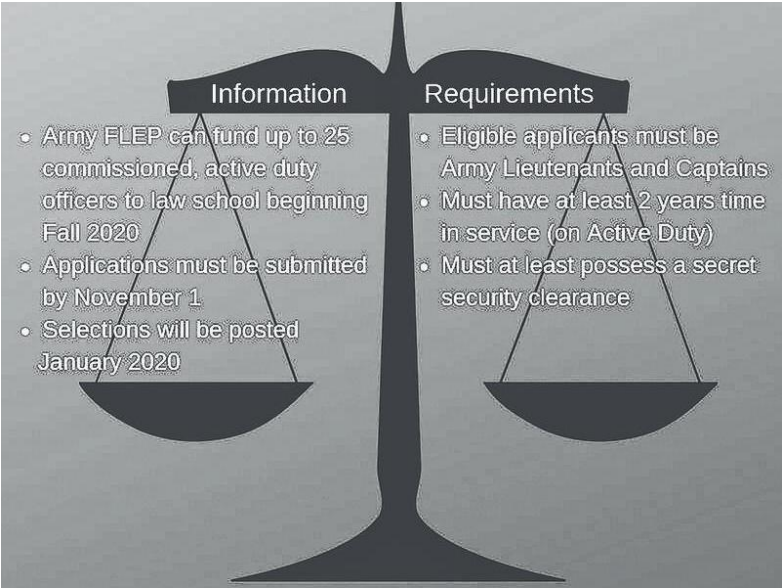
application.

All eligibility requirements are statutory and cannot be waived. Interested officers should review Army MILPER Message 19-190 and Army Regulation 27-1, Chapter 10, for additional requirements to determine their eligibility.

Candidates must send their request through their command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at the Army Human Resources Command. The original application must be submitted by Nov. 1 to the Office of The Judge Advocate General at:

ATTN: DAJA-PT, Ms. Yvonne Caron
Rm. 2B517
2200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

For more information, interested officers can contact their local SJA office or the U.S. Army North deputy SJA at 210-295-9410. The list of officers selected for FLEP will be posted in January 2020 at <https://www.jgacnet.army.mil>.



COURTESY GRPHIC

JBSA dedicates new technology program for military spouses

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio leaders and representatives from Microsoft marked the start of a new career training program geared towards military spouses at a ribbon-cutting event at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center Sept. 27.

The Microsoft Military Spouse Technology Academy is a 22-week training program that provides skills to military spouses to prepare them for a career in the technology industry, specifically in cloud application development.

JBSA is the second location to have a Microsoft Military Spouse Technology Academy, which started as a pilot program in Tacoma, Washington, last year.

Danny Chung, Microsoft military affairs chief of staff, said of the 19 military spouses who participated in the pilot program, 18 of them are now employed while one spouse is seeking a college degree.

Chung said program prepares military spouses for technology industry jobs such as software developer, software engineer and cloud programmer.

"We give them the foundation and our learning path that we're teaching them is called cloud application development," Chung said. "And what we teach them is a lot of introductory programming languages. We teach them the basics and we teach them all the fundamental tools needed to get their feet in the door for a technology career."

Chung said the skills that will be taught in the



DAVID DEKUNDER

Joint Base San Antonio officials and representatives from Microsoft mark the start of a new technology career training program geared towards military spouses known as the Microsoft Military Spouse Technology Academy at a ribbon cutting Sept. 27 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center.

Microsoft Military Spouse Technology Academy are for careers in high demand.

"The cloud is our filing cabinet for the globe," he said. "So we need more and more of those technicians who know how to program languages, who know how to fix errors when they happen."

Fourteen students have signed up for the program's class at JBSA, which will be held at a site off of the installation.

"It's a talented class," Chung said. "I personally vetted each and every student before I accepted them into this program and I will tell you that ultimately

our success metric is not putting them through this training, which is not why we are doing this, the ultimate success metric is getting them meaningful employment in the technology field."

Chung said he spent a year and a half searching for the second location for the Microsoft Military Spouse Technology Academy. He said San Antonio was among several other cities, including Jacksonville, Florida, Hampton Roads, Virginia, San Diego and the Washington, D.C. area, that were considered.

"By the time we had done our research, there was no question that we wanted to come to San Antonio," Chung said.

Chung said local corporations and city and JBSA officials are supportive of the program.

"The support that we got from JBSA officials was through the roof," he said.

Col. Peter Velesky, JBSA and 502nd Air Base Wing deputy commander, spoke about the impact the program will have for military spouses.

"This program empowers and helps educate our spouses while they seek employment and higher education," Velesky said. "We can't thank Microsoft enough for implementing this fantastic program as they will set these men and women up for success in the business world and in reality bring more economic dominance to the United States overall."

More information about the Microsoft Military Spouse Technology Academy can be found at <https://military.microsoft.com/programs/msta/>.

ARNORTH NCO EARNS SOLDIER'S MEDAL FOR HEROISM



Maj. Gen. David P. Glaser (left), U.S. Army North Deputy Commanding General

-Operations, presents the Soldier's Medal to Sgt. James Miller, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, Sept. 24 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Miller was recognized for pulling a woman from a burning vehicle in May 2017.

LAUREN PADDEN

BAMC provides resource for recovering stroke, brain injury patients

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force 1st Lt. Jason Hibbetts sits in front of a mirror practicing his salute. This simple action that used to come so naturally now requires much more concentration because the cyber warfare operator, husband and father of two young children suffered a stroke in October 2018.

After his stroke, Hibbetts was referred to Brooke Army Medical Center's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service, or BIRS, which provides comprehensive outpatient neurorehabilitation for service members, family members and military retirees who are recovering from a stroke or other brain injuries.

"My first goal was to walk again, because I was in a wheelchair," Hibbetts said. "That made just simple things like getting around the house take much more time."

"He is like super dad, so he needed to get back to his regular duties with the kids," added his wife, Ashley Hibbetts. "One of his big goals was to pick up the kids again. He wanted to be able to do bedtime routine, cook for the kids, get on the floor and wrestle, and play football."

"At Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service, we work to optimize our patients' physical, cognitive and emotional functioning in order to help them achieve their goals," said Dr. Amy Bowles, BIRS chief. "Ultimately, we hope to get people back to doing the things that are really important to them in their daily lives."

"People think a lot about traumatic brain injury, but there are also people who have brain injuries from other



LORI NEWMAN

Air Force 1st Lt. Jason Hibbetts (left) tries to connect different shaped pieces during an occupational therapy session Aug. 13 at the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, as occupational therapist Marina LeBlanc looks on.

things, such as stroke, aneurysms, tumors, all sorts of things," Bowles said.

At the BIRS, each patient has an individualized treatment plan based on their needs and goals. Patient engagement is critical, and the support of family members is highly encouraged throughout their rehabilitation process.

Bowles said having family members involved in a patient's treatment plan is very important.

"They are there every day. They are our eyes and ears in terms of what we need to work

on in terms of rehabilitation," she said. "They are also critical support for somebody as they go through this and they are also going through it themselves."

Hibbetts and his wife are pleased with the strides he has made over the past months.

"I feel great about the progress I have made," Hibbetts said. "I have definitely been able to pick up the kids and roll around on the floor with them and get out of my wheelchair."

"We got here with a wheelchair and they quickly

got him into a cane," Ashley said. "Whatever his goal was, they believed that he could do it and they worked to make it possible."

The BIRS uses an interdisciplinary approach including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, recreational therapy, psychology, neuropsychology and case management.

"One of the things that is really unique about our clinic is that we work together as a team," Bowles said. "It's not just a collection of people. Our

team has the luxury of being able to talk with one another and work together, and work with the patients and families."

The staff meets weekly to discuss their patients' goals and how they are progressing to meet them.

"One of the things I like most about the clinic is there are multiple therapists, like speech and occupational therapy and physical therapy all together," Hibbetts said.

Normally in a hospital all these services are in separate clinics, but everyone is here in one place, he added.

"I would absolutely recommend this clinic, because they have a very special way of working with the problems you have," Hibbetts said. "They know exactly how to approach things, so you don't get overwhelmed. They do a very good job. I would just like to thank all of them for everything they have done for me and my family."

Hibbetts' wife agrees. "They are creative in the therapies and they really listen to us as a family," Ashley said. "Anything that we have needed, as simple as a button hook to make life a little easier, they have provided. We are very happy here."

Bowles wants people to know about the resources and services that are available at the BIRS.

"A lot of times people don't think about sending someone for rehabilitation if they are doing pretty well, but those patients are who we can sometimes help the most," Bowles said.

The BIRS is located on the lower level of BAMC within the Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic. For more information, contact the BIRS case manager at 210-916-8537 or the main clinic number at 210-916-8693.

LACKLAND



LANCE CPL. DRAKE NICKELS

U.S. Marines and Airmen load a UH-1Y Venom into a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft from 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland during a dual-service training exercise Sept. 16 at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, California.

Airmen, Marines work together during exercise

By Lance Cpl. Alison Dostie
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP
PENDLETON

Marines and Airmen worked together Sept. 16 at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, California, to strengthen their ability to transport equipment and personnel over long distances, using a U.S. Air Force Reserve Command C-5M Super Galaxy from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's 433rd Airlift Wing.

The Super Galaxy landed at MCAS Camp Pendleton to pick up AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom helicopters for

transportation to Ostrava, Czech Republic, to participate in NATO Days.

NATO Days is the largest air, army and security show in Europe. The purpose is to present to the public the wide variety of resources and capabilities of NATO partner nations. During the event there is a chance to see military hardware exhibitions, police and rescue technology, dynamic shows of special units training, air displays and a first hand look at the different types of equipment used by military units from 18 partner nations.

"We are really happy to get out on this mission and do

some joint training and be involved in the NATO Days stuff," said U.S. Air Force Reserve Capt. David Fink, a pilot with the 68th Airlift Squadron, 433rd Operations Group. "It's really good for us to get out and see different types of cargo, fly to different airfields, and work with the Marines, and just work on that joint relationship that we have."

Joint training is important to Marines' survivability and is beneficial to all involved. Each unit has a variety of skills that can be shared with the whole. Different branches training together is important so when

a crisis arises, our nation can fight as a whole."

MCAS Camp Pendleton is primarily a rotary wing air base, but it does have the capability to support larger aircraft. A C-5 landing at Camp Pendleton provides a more centralized location for movement of personnel and equipment, rather than taking time to transport them on the road.

Utilizing MCAS Camp Pendleton guarantees an easily available strategic lift can decrease the logistical burden and time required for the Marines and sailors of I Marine Expeditionary Force or

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing to deploy or conduct operations.

"Some of our capabilities get sometimes overlooked in terms of our strategic position in the theater," said U.S. Marine Capt. Joseph Leitner, the station adjutant with MCAS Camp Pendleton. "Our ability to land aircraft like the C-5, like the C-17, like C-130s, enhances what we can do to support the warfighter."

The air station is working hard to expand its ability to support strategic lift aircraft, according to Leitner, and make sure unit planners are aware of the capabilities that exists at Camp Pendleton.

Reserve Citizen Airmen distribute food

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

Fifteen Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 433rd Airlift Wing and 960th Cyberspace Wing packaged and distributed food during three distribution events in San Antonio Sept. 19-20.

One of the events, sponsored by Soldier's Angels, targeted military and veteran families. The others, hosted by Windcrest United Methodist Church and the Salvation Army Area Command, were open to any family in need.

The San Antonio Food Bank provided the food at these events. Various other groups then set up distribution events.

The Airmen were connected to these events by the San Antonio Volunteer Buddies, a 7,600-member strong group of volunteers who organize and match volunteers with organizations needing assistance.

"The San Antonio Volunteer Buddies coordinates with all these volunteer organizations to bring them together to provide assistance," said Master Sgt. Esther J. Cruz, 426th Network Warfare Squadron NCO in charge of weapons and tactics, and Cyberspace Wing Top III program outreach manager.

Cruz, who coordinated the Reservists that volunteered for these events, spoke about why she participated in this event.

"We get to give back to those who have given so much," Cruz said. "Not only to the veterans, which were the focus of the Soldier's Angels event, but also the Food Bank, which specifically helps those in need in the San Antonio community."

The Windcrest distribution is a recurring event, which happens the third Thursday of every month.

"We started this about eight years ago, shortly after we had



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. KRISTIAN CARTER

Staff Sgt. Salathiel Wesley (left), 433rd Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment technician, and Tech. Sgt. Mitt Mekpongsatorn, 433rd Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment technician, assemble packages of fresh fruit during a San Antonio Food Bank distribution event at Windcrest United Methodist Church Sept. 19.

the downturn in the economy in 2008," said Francyne Underwood, Windcrest United Methodist Church, a volunteer in charge of coordinating and distributing food. "We were inundated with people coming to the church needing food, or assistance with electricity and rent. The big need was food. We brought the San Antonio Food Bank here, and through the years, it has just continued to grow."

Camelia Long, San Antonio Volunteer Buddies and the military sorority, Kappa Epsilon Psi Inc., was the lead for the Volunteer Buddies at the Windcrest event, shared her experience with the opportunity.

"I love helping people," Long said. "When I grew up we had to have assistance, so this is giving back."



Tech. Sgt. Rachel Stalnaker, 433rd Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment technician, assembles packages of fresh produce during a San Antonio Food Bank distribution event at Windcrest United Methodist Church Sept. 19.



STAFF SGT. AMANDA STANFORD

Staff Sgt. Tara Freed, 959th Medical Group prosthetics department noncommissioned officer in charge, works with students from the Air Force Post Graduate Dental School surgical skills and readiness course at the Clinical Research Division at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Sept. 24.

Air Force dental course ensures mission readiness

By Laurri Garcia
59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 59th Dental Training Squadron prosthodontics flight hosted approximately 20 dental specialists at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Sept. 16 for the U.S. Air Force's prosthodontics update course. This is the third consecutive year for the training, but this year, under the direction of the dean of the Air Force Dental School, the course incorporated a new readiness training component for Airmen of the 59th Dental Group which includes field dentistry, surgical skills and a dental forensics exercise. "This readiness exercise has visibility by the consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General for Expeditionary Dentistry,"

said Maj. (Dr.) Ryan Sheridan, 59th DG surgical prosthodontics director. "Under his guidance, we are using this aspect of the course to fulfill the requirements for the Airman's Comprehensive Medical Readiness Plan." In order to maximize the utilization of resources expended by the 59th Medical Wing and Air Education and Training Command, this year's training effectively ran three courses at the same time. "Last year, each of these courses were a separate entity held over a few months and we did not have the readiness piece to it," Sheridan added. "This year, we consolidated redundant training and added the readiness training." Each course attendee has the added benefit of gaining



Maj. Hannah Colburn, 59th Dental Training Squadron Preclinical Prosthodontics director, teaches about implants at the Air Force Post Graduate Dental School surgical skills and readiness course at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Sept. 18.

experiences from the best exercises of all three courses. Upon completion of the course, clinicians earn 68 continuing education hours and enhance their level of training for the Air Force Dental School.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

ACC commander discusses 16th AF as new Information Warfare NAF

From Air Combat Command Public Affairs

Gen. Mike Holmes, commander of Air Combat Command, said that Sixteenth Air Force will be the designation for a new Information Warfare Component-Numbered Air Force, while speaking at the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Maryland, Sept. 18.

ACC will integrate Twenty-Fourth Air Force and Twenty-Fifth Air Force capabilities into a new organization under a single commander, who will be responsible for providing information warfare capabilities to combatant commanders with the speed to match today's technological environment.

Sixteenth Air Force will be located at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, where ACC will hold an activation ceremony later this year.

"By having cyber and all the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance tools

together, one of the things it allows me to do is build a collection plan in advance before I do something and be able to have better information to support better decisions for our warfighters," he said. "The Air Force is not going to run independent information warfare campaigns, but we'll build those organize, train and equip tools for combatant commanders."

The heritage of 16th AF pays tribute to a group of highly decorated Airmen with a history of continued excellence in joint warfighting, strategic deterrence and military partnerships.

During the Balkans air campaigns in the 1990s, the 16th AF pioneered efforts in the way we conduct intelligence operations, setting the foundation for operating in a continuously evolving information environment.

"We want to arm our leaders with options they can use that are proportional to the things that peer adversaries are doing," he said. "We think we can present more robust teams with

better intelligence support behind them and present some information ops options, which we have some game at already, but to improve that and be able to offer it on a larger scale to more combatant commanders at once."

Activating 16th AF emphasizes the organization's continued excellence in addition to its early use of integrated information systems and emerging technologies such as remotely piloted aircraft.

Just as the 16th AF made history bedding down the RQ-1 Predator at Taszar, Hungary, to provide enhanced ISR capabilities in the Balkans, it will soon make history again in the expanding arena of information warfare.

"The activation of 16th AF will synchronize the mission areas of ISR, electronic warfare, cyber and information operations capabilities," Holmes said. "This integrated capability will provide multidomain options to component and combatant commanders around the globe."

RANDOLPH

558th FTS Airman recognized as ‘Hidden Hero’

By Benjamin Faske
12TH FLYING TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The phrase “heroes come in all shapes and sizes” has a special ring to one Airman in the 12th Flying Training Wing. Staff. Sgt. Tyler Repp, 558th Flying Training Squadron basic sensor operator instructor, was recognized as this month’s Hidden Hero by the Schertz-Cibolo-Selma Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee Sept. 17 at the Schertz Civic Center.

Lt. Col. Eric Bissonette, 558th FTS commander, nominated Repp for his high level of professionalism and motivation within the squadron, as well as his tireless volunteering off duty for the American Heart Association.

At one of his last volunteer events, Repp helped lead a sign-in booth for the AHA ball, which hosted more than 400 attendees and raised \$680,000 towards heart research.

“It was an honor to be here today, integrating with the community outside of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph,” Repp said. “They surprised me with this award, I had no idea I was even nominated, so I’m just humbled to be recognized today.”

Repp was presented with a certificate of recognition and a U.S. flag that was flown over the Texas State Capitol. The Hidden Heroes program is managed by the Chamber’s military affairs committee and exists to honor military members for their contributions to defense, as well as the local base and civilian communities.



Staff. Sgt. Tyler Repp (center, left), 558th Flying Training Squadron basic sensor operator instructor, gathers for a photo with members from the Schertz-Cibolo-Selma Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee Sept. 17 at the Schertz Civic Center.

BENJAMIN FASKE

Solemn dance highlights American Indian Heritage Day



Native Americans participate in the gourd dance and reveille ceremony during the Texas American Indian Heritage Day Sept. 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Attired in colorful regalia and lifting their feet in time to the steady cadence of drumbeats, military veterans danced in place around Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph’s Taj Mahal flag pole on a still Friday morning last week.

Paying tribute to their American Indian ancestry and to the past and present contributions of tens of thousands of American Indians to their country, the veterans performed an abbreviated version of the centuries-old gourd dance, a solemn dance that began with the Kiowa tribe and featured special rattles held by the dancers that were originally made from rawhide or a gourd.

The dance, hosted by the JBSA-Randolph American Indian Heritage Committee, highlighted

American Indian Heritage Day in Texas at JBSA-Randolph Sept. 27, a tribute to the American Indians who have served their country since the American Revolution.

“According to Department of Defense demographics, American Indians have served in the U.S. military in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group,” said Edward Blauvelt, committee chairman. “They have served with distinction in every major conflict since the Revolutionary War and still do today.”

Lenny Medina, a former Air Force technical sergeant, who was one of the dancers, said he takes part in gourd dances throughout the year.

“We take this business very seriously,” he said. “The gourd dance is a dance that was passed on from the Kiowa tribe. It’s more of a prayer than

SOLEMN DANCE continues on 17

Fire Department Open House highlights prevention week

From 502nd Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

Keeping everyone aware of how to survive a fire is the aim of Joint Base San Antonio Fire Emergency Services during Fire Prevention Week Oct. 6-12.

The primary event will be an open house Oct. 12 at the JBSA-Randolph Fire Station, building 700 from 9 a.m. to noon. Activities will include fire safety demonstrations, vehicle and equipment displays, face painting and a bounce castle. Firefighters will be available to answer questions about their vehicles and equipment.

"Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go," said Mark R. Ledford, JBSA Fire Chief. "No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately."

National Fire Protection Association statistics show that in 2017, U.S. fire departments responded to 357,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,630 fire deaths and 10,600 fire injuries. On average, seven people died in a home fire per day from 2012 to 2016.

"Families should develop a fire escape plan for their homes, which should include at least two escape routes," said Darrin Tannert, JBSA Lead Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention. "Crawl and



SENIOR AIRMAN GWENDALYN SMITH

Firefighters from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph extinguish a fire during training April 12, 2018, at the Camp Talon fire training grounds on JBSA-Randolph.

stay low if they encounter smoke while trying to escape. After getting out of the house, make sure all family members are accounted for and call 911."

Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, proclaimed Oct. 6-12 as Fire Prevention Week throughout JBSA.

Learn more about Fire Prevention Week activities by calling 210 221-3465 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-671-2921 at JBSA-Lackland, and for JBSA-Randolph, call 210-652-6915.

SOLEMN DANCE

From page 16

anything else."

Medina, who is part Kickapoo, is chairman of the Traditional American Indian Society, whose members served as the event's honor guard.

In addition to the gourd dance, the event featured a tribute to America's POW/MIA service members and the placement of flags representing American Indian tribes in Texas around the base of the United States flag.

A host of distinguished visitors, including commanders and vice commanders from JBSA-Randolph, as well as mayors and council members from nearby communities, attended the annual event.

Honorees Chief Master Sgt. Jason Dahlquist, 12th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant, and

Rick Jellison, Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron executive director, participated in the gourd dance at one point, stepping into the circle around the flag pole and receiving a ceremonial rattle and fan.

Texas House Bill 174, signed by then-Gov. Rick Perry May 10, 2013, created American Indian Heritage Day in Texas to recognize the many historical, cultural and social contributions American Indians have made to the state.

American Indians' devotion to country is especially significant, said Blauvelt, who is of Mohawk and Muscogee ancestry.

"For the past 243 years, American Indians have served their country in every position from scout and translator to code talker and general," he said. "America must remember we are still here, we make major contributions to our great nation and we love our land."



TECH. SGT. AVE I. YOUNG

‘Shot in the arm’ a good thing with onset of flu season

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"A shot in the arm protects you from harm" proclaims a poster at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Medical Clinic.

It's that time of year — the beginning of autumn and the onset of flu season — when health care professionals strongly encourage people 6 months and older to receive their annual flu shot.

"Influenza is a potentially serious disease," said Dr. (Maj.) April Woody, 359th Medical Operations Squadron Pediatric and Immunization Clinics medical director. "Getting vaccinated not only protects yourself, but may also protect people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies and young children, older people and people with certain chronic health conditions."

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus that can be spread by coughing, sneezing or nasal secretions, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its symptoms range from cough, sore throat and runny or stuffy nose to muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue. Fever can also be a symptom, though it does not affect everyone who has the flu.

Influenza most often results in missed work and school days, Woody said, but it can also lead to hospitalization and even death.

"Every year we see

influenza-associated hospitalizations and many complications secondary to influenza infection across all age groups," she said. "The highest hospitalization rate is among adults age 65 years and older, followed by adults ages 50-64 and children younger than 5 years."

Woody said she expects the flu vaccine to arrive at the JBSA-Randolph clinic sometime in October. This year's trivalent, or three-component, vaccine will protect against two different influenza A strains, H1N1 and H3N2, and an influenza B strain, while the quadrivalent vaccine will protect against those three strains as well as an additional influenza B strain.

The CDC recommends either vaccine, she said.

"Flu vaccines cause antibodies to develop in the body about two weeks after vaccination," Woody said. "These antibodies provide protection against infection with the virus strains that are in the vaccine."

The vaccine will first be administered to active-duty members, said Staff Sgt. Hakeem Smith, 359th MDOS Immunization Clinic NCO in charge.

"Our active-duty population is the first priority, but the vaccine will be available for all beneficiaries," he said. "The Defense Health Agency director's goal is to achieve coverage for 90 percent of military personnel by Dec. 15."

People should be vaccinated against influenza before flu viruses begin spreading in their communities, Woody said.

Past, Present and Future: JBSA Honor Guard

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

Somber, but patriotic. Humbling, but motivating. Strenuous, but rewarding. Many adjectives define the Joint Base San Antonio Honor Guard.

An outside perspective sees honor guard duty in many different ways. For each guardsman, this duty can be something totally different.

To capture the entire realm of honor guard, three Airmen gave their perspective.

Airman 1st Class Peyton Cose, a 690th Network Support Squadron vulnerability analyst, didn't seek honor guard duty. But when he had the opportunity to volunteer, it was a no-brainer.

"When thinking about it before, I would just fixate on the fact that it would be a very emotional and demanding job, so it initially deterred me from wanting to," Cose said. "My perspective took an absolute 180-degree turn once serving in honor guard. The whole experience was so worth it after I understood our mission further, despite the freezing days in February and the scorching days in July."

Beginning his six-month duty in February 2018, Cose started off like all other guardsmen: as a trainee learning the ropes. Then he was selected to be a trainer, in addition to leading the details as the NCO in charge of pallbearers or NCOIC of a firing party.

Being an NCOIC as an airman first class sounds odd, but for honor guard, this is normal. JBSA Honor Guard duty welcomes all ranks, in any career field, stationed at JBSA. This provides a wide range of ranks serving in a class at a time.

"After the first month or so, you start to realize that the ranks are important; however, they don't necessarily dictate your position," said Airman 1st Class Christian Ordaz, 75th Intelligence Squadron network analyst and current guardsman. "I really like that because you get a lot of feedback and perspectives from all ranks and it helps mesh the team together really well."

Training to be an honor guardsman is nothing short of grueling, from the initial two weeks of constant perfecting of flag folding, sequences and rifle movements, to the more laid-back training sessions.

Airman 1st Class Marrina Pedrego,



Senior Airman Chyna Roston, 559th Medical Squadron mental health technician, salutes another Joint Base Honor Guardsman while practicing for a funeral service Sept. 9 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

624th Operation Center cyber intelligence analyst, prepares for her class to start Oct. 1.

"I'm expecting it to be tough. I've watched several videos of what it means to be a part of honor guard and it entails a lot of hard work and dedication, a lot of sweat, and probably a lot of tears," Pedrego said. "I think it's going to be emotionally and physically consuming, but I'm willing to put in the work to ensure I do it right."

Despite the arduous training and preparation it takes to become a guardsman at JBSA, the recompense seems to outweigh any obstacles faced.

"Any Airman would be lucky to get to be a part of honor guard. I had a lot of opportunities, all of which taught me more about leadership and responsibility," Cose said. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Seeing that side of the Air Force was not something I had expected to see while serving, but now looking back, I'm really glad that I did."

Ordaz shared how rewarding honor guard is while he currently serves.

"I am enjoying the operations office and being the liaison between honor guard and the funeral homes/requestors quite a bit because a lot of people don't see the work that goes into coordinating these honors," he said. "Being on details was the most fun though. You get to see the fruits of your labor by performing and showing people how hard you work all while paying respects to those who came before."

"Seeing how much the military service means to families makes me a little more proud to wear my uniform."



Members of the JBSA Honor Guard from the different branches of military service prepare to present the colors at a recent event.

Although honor guard is a very serious duty, and requires an immense amount of military bearing during services, a "work-hard, play-hard" mentality is practiced at the squadron.

"We are fairly close during training sometimes, we do like to be a little relaxed just because we understand our Airmen are dealing with death, but when it's show time," Ordaz said. "It's show time."

Because being a guardsman requires Airmen to face death on a daily basis, camaraderie between the members in the classes is easy to find.

"Having such a close knit team was my favorite part," Cose confessed. "The work was very sad, but spending all day on the road with good friends was always a plus to being in honor guard."

While honor guard usually deals with mortuary affairs and honoring those who have fallen, guardsmen are also often requested in support of events around JBSA. Such events include Fiesta parades and events, various ceremonies, professional sports and more.

"I would say my best memory was conducting a detail in front of Gen. (David L.) Goldfein (Air Force Chief of Staff). To me, that was a little crazy because that's history before you," Ordaz said. "He was incredibly down to earth. He came up to us, shook our hands, introduced himself and thanked

us for being out there. It was a nice experience being able to get out of our comfort zone and perform for people you don't normally."

Cose's favorite memory of his honor guard time was on his final mission.

"I'll never forget my very last detail," he said. "We had a dignified arrival at the Houston International Airport. It was surreal and I was definitely anxious just due to the severity of a detail like this. It felt like just moments later the casket was being unloaded."

"I remember scanning the area and absolutely everyone was saluting and I could hear the mother weeping over the sound of the engines. It was a very emotional moment, but we marched to the casket, ceremoniously lifted the fallen and marched to the hearse where we loaded it. Then we turned and marched back to our van. That was it. It was a very somber, but memorable experience that I'm sure I won't forget."

If interested in volunteering for JBSA Honor Guard, email jbsa.HG@us.af.mil or call 210-671-7693 for information on how to apply.

For more information on sister service honor guard, please call the number below:

- Navy Honor Guard — 904-542-1536
- Marine Honor Guard — 866-826-3628
- Army Honor Guard — 210-221-1752
- Coast Guard Honor Guard — 504-628-5177