

JBSA LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

NOVEMBER 15, 2019



PHOTO BY TRISTIN ENGLISH

More than 70 years after they died fighting for their country, the remains of two World War II service members were laid to rest during separate services at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in early November. Funeral services were held for 2nd Lt. Toney Gochnauer Nov. 4 and 2nd Lt. Ernest Matthews Jr. Nov. 5.

Remains of World War II service members laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

Page 10



Air Force civic leaders experience AETC mission

Page 17



Alamo Wing takes a pause for resiliency boost

Page 13

Financial readiness training for Reserve coming

By Bo Joyner

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Beginning Nov. 15, financial readiness training will be required for all Reserve Airmen at defined key points throughout their military career.

"In an effort to improve or sustain the financial readiness and literacy of all Airmen, the Air Force has directed that all military members will receive financial readiness training at key points throughout their career," said Brande Newsome, headquarters Air Force Reserve integrated resilience branch command chief.

The Air Force defines financial readiness as "the state in which successful management of personal financial responsibilities supports an Airman's

ability to perform his or wartime responsibilities." Financial literacy is defined as "possessing skills and knowledge that allow Airmen to make informed and effective personal financial decisions."

Key points that will trigger required financial readiness training are:

- Initial entry training
- » Arrival at first duty station
- » Arrival at subsequent duty station (E-4 or O-3 and below)
- » Promotion (E-5 or O-4 and below)
- » Vests in Thrift Savings Plan
- » Continuation pay
- » Transition to Reserve component, separation or retirement
- » Leadership training
- » Pre-deployment
- » Post-deployment

- » Birth of child
- » Marriage
- » Divorce
- » Disabling sickness or condition

Newsome said training for some of these life events are already in place and will not change. Financial training for pre-deployment is available online in the Air Force Distance Learning System or in person from the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

For the remaining events, Reserve Airmen will be notified that training is required via MyVector and will be able to complete the online training in MyVector or receive in-person training from their local Airman and Family Readiness Center.

For more information, contact your local Airman and Family Readiness Center.

TRICARE copays on prescriptions to rise

From TRICARE Communications

On Jan. 1, some copayments for prescription drugs will increase for the military retiree family. Beneficiaries who get prescriptions through the TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or at a retail network pharmacy will pay anywhere from \$2 to \$7 more starting Jan. 1. Congress made this change in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

There's still no cost to fill prescriptions at military pharmacies.

Prescription copayments vary based on pharmacy type. Also, they vary based on the drug category. TRICARE groups prescription drugs into one of four categories. This grouping is based on the medical and cost-effectiveness of a drug compared to other drugs of the same type.

As outlined in the TRICARE Pharmacy Program Handbook, the drug categories are:

- » Generic formulary drugs: These drugs are widely available and have the lowest out-of-pocket costs.
- » Brand-name formulary drugs: These

drugs are generally available, plus they offer the second lowest copayment.

» Non-formulary drugs: These drugs may have limited availability and have higher copayments. Officials say there's generally an alternative formulary drug that is often more cost-effective, and equally or more clinically effective.

» Non-covered drugs: TRICARE does not cover these drugs, so beneficiaries will pay 100% of the drug's cost. These drugs are either not clinically effective or as cost-effective as other drugs offered. They may also pose a significant safety risk that may outweigh any potential clinical benefit.

People using home delivery will see copayments for up to a 90-day supply of generic formulary drugs increase from \$7 to \$10. For brand-name formulary drugs, copayments will increase from \$24 to \$29. Copayments for non-formulary drugs without a medical necessity will increase from \$53 to \$60.

At a retail network pharmacy, copayments for up to a 30-day supply of generic formulary drugs will increase from \$11 to \$13. For brand-name formulary drugs, the increase is from \$28 to \$33.

Non-formulary drugs will increase from \$53 to \$60.

At a non-network pharmacy, beneficiaries must pay the full price of the drug. After meeting their annual deductible, they may submit a claim for partial reimbursement. Non-network pharmacy costs remain the same if people use TRICARE Prime. With TRICARE Prime, they will pay a 50 percent cost-share.

For all other health plans, non-network pharmacy costs are as follows:

- » Generic formulary drugs and brand-name formulary drugs will cost \$33 (up from \$28) or 20% of the total cost, whichever is more, after meeting the annual deductible.
- » Non-formulary drugs will cost \$60 (up from \$53) or 20% of the total cost, whichever is more, after meeting the annual deductible.

Medically retired servicemembers are not affected by these increases.

For questions and more information, visit Pharmacy on the TRICARE website at <https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Pharmacy>.

JBSA LEGACY

Joint Base San Antonio
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing
and JBSA Commander
BRIG. GEN.
LAURA L. LENDERMAN

502nd ABW/JBSA
Public Affairs Director
MAJ. KIM BENDER

502nd ABW/JBSA
Chief of Command
Information
JET FABARA

Editor
STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff

2ND LT. CHRISTIAN EBERHARDT

MASTER SGT. TYRONA LAWSON

TECH. SGT. AVE YOUNG

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHELBY PRUITT

DAVID DEKUNDER

ROBERT GOETZ

SABRINA FINE

ALLISON MILLER

JBSA LEGACY
ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE
EN COMMUNITIES
P.O. BOX 2171
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78297
210-250-2052

This newspaper is published by EN Communities, a private firm in no way connected with the United States Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the United States military services. Content of the publication is not necessarily the official view of, or endorsement by the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in the publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or EN Communities, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, provided, and/or approved by the JBSA Public Affairs Offices within the 502nd Air Base Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

2019 SEXUAL ASSAULT/SUICIDE PREVENTION MANDATORY TRAINING

This is a reminder that ALL military personnel (active duty, Reserve, Guard, APF Civilian and NAF Civilian) are required to attend mandatory 2019 Sexual Assault/Suicide Prevention training no later than Dec. 31, 2019. The new Violence Prevention Sharepoint site for registration is https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/er/0653/SitePages/Home.aspx_!SxXtNzbPoJol2noozDy93McTp9YKeP3DTM9uGsQSVrQxuA2peUe5bK64To3-xCD-yrtWuPhd9czW_jUzeQs.

For more information, forward questions to the Violence Prevention organizational box at usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502nd-abw-cvi-workflow@mail.mil.

Feedback Fridays

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.

Installation & Facilities

Q. Are there plans to anytime soon to conduct growth management along the roadways around Joint Base San Antonio?

One particular place that is in dire need of attention is on Range Road going down the hill by the youth center. When coming up the hill towards housing, it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain your lane and not scratch the side of your vehicle due to the growth that is encroaching on the road.

The growth, coupled with the ongoing construction project, also creates a hazard when there are vehicles pulling out from the road where the Civil Engineers plumbing shop is because of the limited visibility in that area.

A. Thank you for your question. Grounds maintenance across JBSA is divided into different categories based on location and mission impact. These categories drive how frequently respective areas are managed/mowed, and allows for prioritizing resource investments against other mission needs.

The Civil Engineer team oversees the JBSA grounds maintenance contract and strives to keep vegetation down along JBSA's hundreds of miles of roads to help ensure safety standards are met.

For the area specifically cited in your question, CE recently directed the contractor to use a boom mower to push back the overgrowth along Range Road for approximately 1/4 mile. The branches and vegetation should no longer be a safety issue. CE will keep



COURTESY GRAPHIC

an eye on this area and have the contractor re-perform as necessary. However, if you see any issues before we do, please let us know.

Q. I'm inquiring about the new spiked strips at the Joint Base San Antonio gates. Every time I exit the Growden Gate at JBSA-Lackland, I bottom out with my 2007 Saturn Sky. The actual spike strip is not the problem, it's the speed bump located about a foot before the spikes that causes problems for me.

Regardless how I try to go over the spikes, either the speed bump hits my mud flaps (rigid plastic) or I bottom out on the raised spikes. If the speed bump were just a few feet before the spikes, that would probably be okay.

I was at JBSA-Randolph the other day and saw the same arrangement at the main gate. I just did a U-turn and went out another gate. Now I see the Medina Gate at JBSA-Lackland is

having similar work done and I fear the Security Hill gate is in the queue.

I can't be the only one having this problem. Is there something we can do about this?

A. I apologize you are experiencing troubles with the installed speed humps that are part of our entry control facility threat mitigation projects. These projects are designed by an engineering firm using established criteria in both the Unified Facilities Criteria and guidance published by the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Transportation Engineering Agency.

For these specific projects, the speed humps installed are the "Seminole" style, which is what the Unified Facilities Criteria approves for installation at entry control facilities. The speed humps are four inches tall

and are used to slow cars by 6.5 mph to 8 mph.

The placement in the outbound lanes is purposeful and positioned before the tiger teeth spikes that are installed to mitigate reverse entry onto the facility. The speed humps slow vehicles so they do not impact the tiger teeth at a high rate of speed and bend teeth, break springs, or damage the metal housing. The tiger teeth system has limited durability as a system, so slowing speeds of travel over them is designed to extend their life.

The characteristics of the requirements for the project were detailed to our Civil Engineering team when the contract was awarded. Before project acceptance, quality control inspectors ensured the installed equipment was within the contract

FEEDBACK FRIDAYS continues on 4

FEEDBACK FRIDAYS

From page 3

specifications before government acceptance.

You are correct, the Medina Gate will follow a similar design based on approved criteria. In Fiscal Year 2020, we are working to secure funding for five more projects like the ones accomplished in FY19; however, I can assure you that Security Hill is not in the FY20 plan.

Since the projects began over a year ago, we have had only a single-digit number of damage claims filed with the Staff Judge Advocate office. These claims involved excessive speed or vehicles who had purposefully lowered their profile to the point where clearing the approved speed hump was not possible due to their aftermarket vehicle modifications.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we enhance our installation security, making JBSA a safer and better community to live and work.

Q. I have a concern regarding the dedication of Lt. Col. Frank E. Upson Park. This park is located near Fire Station No. 2.

This park is falling apart; trees are being removed and the barbecue area and bathrooms have been closed. I would like to know why we are not providing the proper respect and care of Lt. Col Upson's historical career and dedication of what he provide to U.S. Air Force and MWR Services, by allowing the park to fall into disarray. **A.** Thank you for your question regarding concerns for our parks and the recognition of our military heritage. Our Civil Engineer team is aware of the issue and is currently reviewing solutions.

When Upson Park was originally established, the required clearance distance from the runway was 750 feet. New regulations have pushed that requirement to 1,000 feet, making Upson Park a safety hazard to airfield operations.

The current configuration of Upson Park is only half the size it used to be, as all trees and roads that were in the new controlled surface of the runway were removed about 10 years ago. Most of the remaining trees violate the 7:1 clearance slope from surface of the runway, and also need to be removed.

Unfortunately, all of these changes and tree removals don't leave much of a park left; however, our CE team has

plans to work with our Force Support team to develop a prioritized investment plan for all JBSA parks.

In regards to Upson Park, the best and most likely strategy would be to relocate and rededicate the park. We take pride in our JBSA parks, facilities and especially dedications and memorials of our military heritage, so I appreciate you bringing this concern forward. Thank you and keep sending in feedback!

Q. Can something be done about the disrepair exiting the Luke Gate at JBSA-Lackland? It's like the surface of the moon.

A. Thank you for your question and feedback. Unfortunately, JBSA's pavement repair program has been underfunded for a number of years, and is an area where we have had to take some risk.

For the Luke East Gate, our CE team is actively scheduling short term repairs to address what they can do internally to repair pot-holes and uneven surfaces. Weather permitting, these will be completed by early December. CE is also looking into the ability to fund shorter term and more permanent repairs, and will target to get something awarded later this fiscal year.

Fortunately, we have been aggressively pursuing and prioritizing the long term solution, which is a MILCON construction project to completely replace and upgrade the Luke East Gate in order to vastly improve traffic flow, pavements, facilities and installation security.

This is JBSA's #1 MILCON request, and we should know in a few months whether it is selected for future year funding.

Q. I have a concern about the traffic lights just before entering JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at Wurzbach Road, near the senior living apartments and the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence.

The traffic lights halt traffic to and from JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and turn green for a visitor center that is closed.

Would it be possible to have the lights reset, so that no green light is given to the closed visitor center? Also, could the lights change for the apartments only if a vehicle is present? These small changes would greatly

FEEDBACK FRIDAYS

From page 4

increase traffic flow and morale of gate drivers.

A. Thank you for sharing your recommendations for improving traffic flow into our busy gates. CE will engage with Texas Department of Transportation, or TXDoT, to look into removing the controlled green turn signal into the closed visitor center. They will also need to coordinate with the adjacent apartments to ensure no significant impact to them as well. If the change is feasible, CE will request it be completed as soon as possible. Thanks again!

Miscellaneous

Q. Whatever happened to the JBSA-Randolph Recycling program? There used to be recycling containers for plastic bottles, plastic bags and paper at the Exchange and Commissary entrance. These containers are gone.

There used to be trailers for recycling cardboard boxes located at various parking lots, to include the Commissary and Bowling Center parking lots. These trailers are gone as well.

Recently, office containers were locked and warning labels placed prohibiting items other than office paper. At the recycling center there is only one trailer for cardboard boxes. I would like to continue recycling, but where do I take recyclables?

A. Thank you for your questions about JBSA's Qualified Recycling Program, or QRP. Regarding the JBSA-Randolph Recycling Program and former recycling containers for plastic bottles/bags and paper at the Exchange and Commissary entrance, Air Force Instruction 32-7042, no longer allows for use of appropriated funded QRP to support AAFES or DECA facilities, and as such, those organizations have to provide containers using their own programs.

That said, the JBSA QRP does provide other recycling bins and trailers, throughout JBSA-Randolph, that are available for use by the base populace. The JBSA QRP operations team will be happy to provide you with the exact locations of containers most convenient for you.

Regarding to your second question on trailers for recycling cardboard boxes previously located in the Commissary and Bowling Center

parking lots; unfortunately, these trailers had to be removed due to widespread contamination of the cardboard.

Some members of the base populace were throwing non-recyclable materials, hazardous waste, and basic garbage into the trailers. This type of contamination disrupts the entire recycling process and causes a whole batch of otherwise good recyclable commodities to be unusable, which then must be transported to the local landfill.

To address your concerns about cardboard recycling, the trailer at the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center has been returned! Our CE team will closely monitor the trailer in order to try and keep this as a successful service.

In regards to your third question on locked paper recycling containers with warning labels, these locked containers (usually 95-gallon recycling bins) are to be used only for office paper, specifically Privacy Act/PII documents. Privacy Act/PII documents requires special handling for disposal and must be secured until processed; users should avoid mixing with other documents that do not require the special handling.

Locked Privacy Act/PII bins are the color blue at JBSA Randolph and are usually grey at both JBSA-Lackland and JBSA Sam Houston.

For your last question regarding additional support for cardboard box recycling beyond the recycling center's capacity, there are numerous cardboard trailers located throughout JBSA.

On JBSA-Randolph, there are also metal dumpster-type receptacles specifically for cardboard. They are a tannish color, resemble small dumpsters and have a slot in the front of them in which you can insert flattened cardboard.

For assistance with locating these additional cardboard receptacles and trailers, please do not hesitate to contact the JBSA recycling team at 210-71-4800.

Also, in the future, if you ever have any questions or concerns regarding the JBSA Qualified Recycling Program, please do not hesitate to contact the QRP team or feel free to call the JBSA QRP Manager, Alvin Brown, at 210-671-5499.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Army physician shares life-changing experience with London air ambulance

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An Army physician at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston broadened his knowledge of trauma medicine and enhanced his skills in treating trauma patients in the field during a six-month stint as a member of a world renowned air ambulance service in London.

Maj. Ryan Newberry, U.S. Army Medical Corps emergency and pre-hospital physician assigned to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, served as a flight physician for London's Air Ambulance from February to August 2018.

The air ambulance service is based out of The Royal London Hospital, the leading trauma center in the United Kingdom, and responds to calls of people with trauma related injuries within the Greater London area.

Newberry said being a member of London's Air Ambulance was a life-changing experience for him because he got to learn from what is considered to be one of the top helicopter emergency medical services in the world.

"They are considered one of the top tier programs in the world for innovations — their system, how they do things," Newberry said. "Anybody who's into flight in the civilian world knows of London's Air Ambulance."

Newberry became familiar with London's Air Ambulance as an observer in 2015. As part of his residency training at



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Ryan Newberry, right, U.S. Army Medical Corps emergency and pre-hospital physician assigned to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, stands next to Dr. Gareth Davies, left, London's Air Ambulance medical director, and Richard Kingham, center, London's Air Ambulance flight paramedic, after returning from a call to treat a trauma patient.

Brooke Army Medical Center, he got to observe the air ambulance service for one month. It was by participating in this observership that Newberry considered applying for a position in London's Air Ambulance.

When he returned to the U.S., Newberry was encouraged to apply for the air ambulance service by Col. Chetan Kharod, EMS and Disaster Medicine Fellowship Program director at BAMC at the time.

"I was coming back to BAMC and was selected to continue training on a pre-hospital medicine fellowship," Newberry said. "Col. Kharod was aware of it and he recommended it. He said to go ahead and apply. It's a very competitive international

pool of candidates. I applied and was selected to be one of their physicians in 2018."

Newberry was accepted into London's Air Ambulance Service through the Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program, or ESEP, a Department of Defense program to promote international cooperation in military research, development and acquisition through the exchange of defense scientists and engineers, according to an Air Force website. It provides on-site working assignments for US military and civilian engineers and scientists in allied governments' organizations and military establishments and the reciprocal assignment of foreign engineers and scientists in U.S.

defense establishments.

Through ESEP, he was a medical exchange officer assigned to the British Army 16th Medical Regiment while serving in London's Air Ambulance.

Other requirements Newberry had to meet to become a member of the air ambulance service was completing the two-week U.K. Helicopter Emergency Medical Service course and a one-month training period under the supervision of one of the flight physicians with London's Air Ambulance. In addition, he had to become a licensed physician in the British National Health Service and was able to get his license through a program with the U.S. Air Force.

By joining the air ambulance service, Newberry became the first American physician, military or civilian, to be selected for London's Air Ambulance, which has been in operation for 30 years.

Newberry worked 12-hour shifts when he was on duty with London's Air Ambulance. As a flight physician, he was part of a four-person crew that included a flight medic and two pilots.

The air ambulance service covers a Greater London area that includes 10 million people and operates 24/7 using a helicopter during the day and rapid response automobiles at night and during adverse weather conditions. In 2018, 1,650 patients with trauma related injuries were treated by London's Air Ambulance.

"You respond to anything that they believe is serious or life-threatening that result from accidents, traffic, collisions, falls from height, industrial accidents, assaults, terrorist attacks, burns, stabbings, shootings and people getting hit by a train," Newberry said.

During his six months with the air ambulance service, Newberry said he participated in 180 patient missions, for an average of 30 trauma patients a month he treated and helped transport to the hospital.

Being a flight trauma physician in London, Newberry was able to start and perform advanced trauma care in the field that is normally reserved for inside a hospital. He performed roadside anesthesia and other medical interventions

PHYSICIAN continues on 11

Local Sailor honored as 'Angel of the Battlefield'

By Angela Ciano

U.S. NAVY BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND
SURGERY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Petty Officer 1st Class Alan P. Aaron, currently assigned as an instructor at the Hospital Corpsman Basic Program at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, was one of two Navy Medicine Sailors honored as 2019 recipients of the Armed Services YMCA Angels of the Battlefield Award in Falls Church, Va., Oct. 29.

Rear Adm. Terry Moulton, Navy Deputy Surgeon General and Deputy Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, presented the award to Aaron.

Aaron was serving aboard the USS John S. McCain (DDO-S6) when the ship collided with an oil tanker off the coast of Singapore on Aug. 21, 2017.

The morning of the collision, Aaron was eating breakfast when he heard the loud sound and felt the shudder throughout the ship. He ran



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS JOHN KOTARA

Recipients of the Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala gather to receive their awards Oct. 29 in Falls Church, Va.

toward the direction of the noise as he saw Sailors escaping the damage control locker through a scuttle.

After the order came to close all watertight doors, Aaron was instructed to go to the medical area. When he arrived, Aaron took control and initiated a mass casualty response, conducting an on-scene assessment, setting up triage and coordinating the movements of patients to casualty collection points on

the ship.

Aaron performed advanced first aid, basic life support, critical care and other medical management functions on nearly 50 Sailors in the first five hours after the collision. He depleted his stock of antibiotics treating nearly one-third of the crew exposed to fuel and black water. His actions contributed not only to the health of the crew and his patients, but also the survivability of the ship.

Also receiving the Angels of the Battlefield award was Petty Officer 1st Class Victor J. Desantis from Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala is an Armed Services YMCA event honoring the individual men and women on the front lines who are saving lives and have demonstrated extraordinary courage. The Armed Services YMCA recognizes a single individual from each military

branch for his or her accomplishments.

Navy Medicine is a global health care network of 63,000 personnel that provide health care support to the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, their families and veterans in high operational tempo environments, at expeditionary medical facilities, medical treatment facilities, hospitals, clinics, hospital ships and research units around the world.

BAMC Veterans Day ceremony honors 'unbroken chain of patriotism'

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center honored the nation's "unbroken chain of patriotism" during a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 1.

"Today we celebrate and honor our nation's veterans for their devotion, sense of duty, love of country and sacrifice on behalf of all Americans," said BAMC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Wendy Harter.

"Representing less than one percent of Americans who served in our Armed Forces, you have no doubt sacrificed much in your years of service; whether it was missing the birth of a child, their first words, or even their graduation: you still answered our nation's call," Harter continued. "We stand as a free nation because of your service and sacrifice."

Harter also thanked family members for their support and sacrifice



ELAINE SANCHEZ

Brig. Gen. Wendy Harter, left, Brooke Army Medical Center Commanding General, and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Oates, right, present a certificate of appreciation to the Wagner High School Junior ROTC Color Guard during the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 1 at BAMC.

alongside their military loved ones.

"Thank you for being the anchor, the foundation and the support they needed to remain vigilant and in the

fight," she said.

The ceremony's guest speaker, retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Juan Ayala, praised veterans, past and

present, for sustaining an "unbroken chain of patriotism."

"Every time our country has come
BAMC continues on 8

BAMC

From page 7

under attack, it's the men and women like those in this room and around the nation who have come to her defense," said Ayala, who serves as director, Office of Military and Veterans Affairs for San Antonio.

Ayala illustrated his point by spotlighting a veteran who has been hailed as a hero for his response to two separate acts of terror.

On Oct. 23, 1983, then-Marine Cpl. John Chipura was supporting a peacekeeping mission in Beirut, Lebanon. Early that morning, he was on his way to report for duty when he ran into a friend on his way to the Marine barracks.

Minutes later, a suicide bomber drove a truck packed with explosives into the barracks, killing 220 Marines, 18 Sailors and three Soldiers. It was the largest loss of life in a single day for the Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II.

The young Marine Chipura was talking to was instantly killed. "And

what did John Chipura do? What do all of you do or would have done? He ran to the sound of the guns," Ayala said.

For two days, Chipura worked in the rubble, aiding in recovery efforts. After his active duty service was completed, Chipura still desired to serve and became a New York City police officer, Ayala said. About a decade into his police career, Chipura followed in his father's footsteps and joined the city's fire department.

On Sept. 11, 2001, the first plane struck the World Trade Center. Again, Chipura did the unthinkable; he ran toward danger, Ayala said. He and five other firefighters entered the tower and were never seen again.

"Throughout my 36-year career, I've run into a lot of John Chipuras over the years. We all have that inside of us," Ayala said. "Each time our freedoms have come under assault, it's the men and women, our veterans, who have responded with resolve."

The ceremony also featured the Wagner High School Junior ROTC Color Guard and a World War II-era musical performance by members of Performing Arts San Antonio.

THE ART OF MOULAGE

METC combat medic manikins simulate realistic wounds

By Lisa Braun

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
CAMPUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The saying “train like we fight” is a common idiom in the military training spectrum. As combatants, service members must train for a variety of scenarios that will prepare them to succeed when engaged in real-life conflicts.

Simulation plays an important role in preparing enlisted medical trainees at the Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston to respond appropriately when faced with an actual life-or-death situation.

For the combat medic trainees in the Department of Combat Medic Training, or DCMT, program who, due to the sheer size and number of classes, will not have an opportunity to see real patients until after they graduate from the program, the realism goes a step further.

The use of high-fidelity human patient simulators that mimic actual patient encounters will prepare Soldier medics with the basic skills that will save lives — on and off the battlefield.

When the training scenario calls for treating casualties with combat wounds or injuries, however, less expensive generic manikins are incorporated and given a makeover to look the part because not many manikins have wounds already on them.

“To better simulate battlefield wounds or injuries our simulation instructors have become moulage artists to make realistic wounds and injuries that give these manikins more realism,” said Donald Parsons, DCMT program director. “This allows the students to actually see and treat wounds they will see on the battlefield, but they can also make their mistakes on the manikin without risking



LISA BRAUN

Combat Medic Training program students from the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston conduct an emergency cricothyrotomy on a mock casualty during simulation training. The manikin also shows signs of facial burns that were created with moulage techniques.

someone's life.”

These realistic injuries may include an amputation, head and chest gunshot wounds, and other traumas associated with combat injuries. As the combat medic trainees, or Soldier medics as they are called in the training environment, respond to the simulated casualty they are simultaneously reinforcing the skills they learned in the classroom — from a basic injury assessment to more complex wound care.

Camille Espinoza, a civilian DCMT training instructor and simulations technician, heads the process of transforming a generic, low-fidelity manikin into a combat casualty. As an art, moulage is a process of trial and error so Espinoza is always learning new techniques. Her team offers ideas and assists with some of the moulage application.

Espinoza has had to create a way for students to apply needle chest decompressions,

or NCD, on the manikins, for example. An NCD is a medical procedure that is most commonly used to treat patients suffering from a punctured or collapsed lung by inserting a needle with a catheter on the end through the chest cavity.

In the past, students would utilize a task trainer for working on specific procedures, such as an NCD, tourniquet or wound packing among others. The students would assess the manikin first, then turn to a task trainer to treat the wounds.

Espinoza modified the chests on the low-fidelity manikins, which are made out of PVC, so that the NCD insertion spots are soft enough to allow students to puncture through the manikin without causing the catheter to bend. She also gave them trachea inserts that she carved into the manikins, and added injuries that look more realistic.

Now, students can examine

and assess the “casualty,” inspect the location of the wounds and perform all of their interventions directly on the manikin itself. A set of manikins was created to use just for testing as well.

One of the biggest challenges with creating the wounds is that the manikins take a lot of abuse when students practice with them because they get moved around a lot to different outdoor locations where dirt and other elements wear down the moulage effect.

Many of the materials would break down or wear off too quickly, so experimenting with different moulage techniques and materials that make the wounds last longer is part of the process. Feedback from instructors was also an important factor in determining what works and what doesn't.

“A lot of the stuff that special effects people do is usually a one or two time use, so it doesn't need to last a long

time,” Espinoza explained. “Unfortunately, I have students from three Whiskey teams that come down to the simulation lab so we're running around 1,000 Soldiers through there. I had to figure out what the best materials were, the least expensive, the most effective; there was a whole lot of stuff that was going on trying to come up with the best way to apply the moulage and then hope it doesn't break up too quickly. It's all trial and error.”

Through the process of trial and error, Espinoza discovered that silicone-based material helps the moulage stay on longer. If it gets worn out it can easily be cleaned up and redone. The manikins can potentially be used hundreds of times before the moulage wears down, depending on the type of injury.

Some wounds, like amputations, don't last as long because the manikins are being dragged continuously through the dirt during training. Facial wounds, though, tend to last longer because the face does not make contact with hard surfaces.

Modifying a manikin may take two or three days, depending on the wound being depicted. Some injuries need to be created in steps and can be time consuming, so an assembly line process is ideal.

Espinoza and her team can line up three to five manikins, start working on one then move on to the next one while the previous one is drying, solidifying or cooling from having to heat the plastic to soften it for an effect.

The most important factor is making sure that the manikin is dry before moving on to the next step. Rushing through a modification may result in the moulage not staying on.

Depicting a shrapnel wound, for example, means that

MOULAGE continues on 19

Remains of World War II service members laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 70 years after they died fighting for their country, the remains of two World War II service members were laid to rest during separate services at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in early November.

Funeral services were held for 2nd Lt. Toney Gochnauer Nov. 4 and 2nd Lt. Ernest Matthews Jr. Nov. 5.

Gochnauer, 24, of Amarillo, Texas, was a U.S. Army Air Forces pilot who served with the 425th Bombardment Squadron, 308th Heavy Bombardment Group, 14th Air Force, stationed in Kunming, China. He died Jan. 25, 1944, when the B-24J Liberator aircraft he was the co-pilot of disappeared and never arrived at its destination during a supply mission from Kunming, China, to Chabua, India, on the dangerous route through the Himalayas known as "The Hump."

The aircraft was presumed to have crashed in adverse weather conditions and since the location of the crash was never found, none of the eight crewmembers, including Gochnauer, and four passengers on board were recovered.

His remains were recovered in 2017 when the crash site of the B-24J Liberator he was in was found and were accounted for in May of this year.

Gochnauer is survived by his son, retired Army Col. Toney Baskin, and his wife, Melody, and two grandsons.

After several years of waiting, Baskin said he and his family are grateful that his father's remains have been brought home to be laid to rest.

"We were thankful to God this had occurred and that he had brought him home,"



TRISTIN ENGLISH

A U.S. Marine Corps Honor Guard prepares to salute one of two World War II service members who lost their lives in combat and were laid to rest during separate services at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in early November. Funeral services were held for 2nd Lt. Toney Gochnauer Nov. 4 and 2nd Lt. Ernest Matthews Jr. Nov. 5.

Baskin said.

Baskin said he never got to know his father because Gochnauer died a month before he was born.

"I didn't know a lot about him other than what I pieced together over the years," he said. "He was a young man who went to war before I was born. He was flying difficult missions and he lost his life."

Baskin served for 34 years in the Army and that his father's service inspired him to join the military.

Baskin said he plans to put on his father's headstone the

words: "He is the greatest man we never knew."

Chaplain (Capt.) Patrick Cobb of the Medical Professional Training Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, delivered the eulogy at Gochnauer's service.

"He responded to his call to be an officer and go and fight for his country and defend what then was a huge enemy, and he defended his country with his life," Cobb said. "And he spent a time lost, but he was found. And now he has come home. He's come home as a father, as a son, as a brother,

as a husband, as a Soldier, as a hero."

Matthews, 34, served in the Marines in Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, Division Special Troops of the 2nd Marine Division. He was killed in combat Nov. 20, 1943, fighting Japanese forces during the Battle of Tarawa on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands in the Pacific.

He, along with other service members who died in the battle, were buried in battlefield cemeteries on Betio

Island. His remains were recovered in 2015, among the remains of 35 Marines who fought in the Battle of Tarawa, when the burial site was discovered by a private MIA research and recovery group. Matthews' remains were then turned over to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, who were able to identify the remains as his.

Chaplain (Lt.) Andi Ingram of the 4th Reconnaissance Marine Division at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said Matthews

LAI TO REST continues on 19

Veterans Day ceremony honors the price of freedom

By Steve Elliott

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hundreds of veterans, military members, family and patriots turned out for a celebration of America's veterans at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11.

The long-standing tradition at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery included a number of musical interludes from the Texas Children's Choir and Beethoven Band, as well as a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization ceremony featuring active-duty members who were sworn in as citizens. Also featured were readings of the service creeds and singing of the service songs.

The ceremony ended with three volleys of rifle fire from the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment and the playing of

"Taps."

This is the 101st anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I in 1918. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the 11th day of the 11th month as the first commemoration of the cease-fire that brought "the war to end all wars" to its conclusion.

Although Wilson's proclamation honored "the heroism of those who died in the country's service" during World War I, Veterans Day now pays tribute to everyone who served honorably in the military in wartime and in peacetime, especially living veterans, for their contributions to national security.

Armistice Day became Veterans Day on June 1, 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, when Congress passed Public Law 380, changing the name of the commemoration to honor American veterans of all wars.



Members of the Douglas MacArthur High School Army Junior ROTC present the colors at the start of the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11.

STEVE ELLIOTT

PHYSICIAN

From page 6

on patients to keep them alive before and during the time they were airlifted to the hospital.

Newberry said being a flight physician with London's Air Ambulance allowed him to sharpen his skills, learn new procedures and grow both professionally and personally.

"There were skills that I had previously that significantly improved — such as managing very difficult airways and providing advanced resuscitation of trauma patients outside of the hospital," Newberry said. "I had a lot of cases of critically injured trauma patients that required multiple interventions and resuscitation in order to give the patient time for us to get them to a trauma surgeon. My confidence in being able to

provide critical care while working out of a backpack in a complex environment with limited resources grew exponentially. "

Newberry said he learned not only how to treat a trauma patient in the field but how to manage a complex scene involving multiple patients and, if any, bystanders, including family members who were present.

"I went over there as a very well-trained, highly qualified military emergency physician," Newberry said. "But during my six months there, I saw such a high volume of trauma in an environment I had never really experienced, my bandwidth completely expanded.

"My first month there I was very focused on just the very sick patient and completing the key interventions that needed to be done. Where by the time I left, I felt comfortable being on

the scene of multiple critically injured patients and not only medically managing them, but also taking care of any family members or friends that may also be present."

As part of their training and quality improvement, London's Air Ambulance requires their flight physicians to follow any patient the service cared for throughout their entire hospital stay. Newberry said he was evaluated over the course of his assignment on the accuracy of identifying injuries in the field as compared to the actual injuries that were later identified after the patient was admitted to the hospital.

"This proved to be a critical aspect of the training, as over time, your ability to anticipate injuries based on their mechanism rather than an X-ray or CT scan drastically improved," Newberry said. "Ultimately, this strengthens all

aspects of the care your team provides, from triaging multiple patients at a large incident to providing critical interventions quicker for patients."

About once a month, Newberry and the rest of the hospital staff would meet with a medical examiner who reviewed the cases of the patients who were flown in by the air ambulance and had died.

"It is part of their clinical governance system to make sure they are maintaining the highest level of quality care," Newberry said.

Newberry said the skills and knowledge he gained while in London will help him if he should be deployed to a combat environment.

"The work of the London flight physician occurs as a member of a small team providing critical trauma resuscitation in a complex and resource limited environment,"

he said. "By providing critical care at the scene, they are increasing the likelihood of getting the critically injured to a trauma surgeon. This is similar to the role emergency physicians play on the austere and forward medical teams throughout the different branches."

He also is proud of the fact he was the first American to be a member of London's Air Ambulance. While he was serving in the air ambulance service, Newberry said he wanted to make a good impression on his British counterparts.

"I was learning how to practice British medicine as an American while representing America," Newberry said. "I was focused on being a good ambassador, a good doctor and a good team member. I was fully immersed in their culture for six months."

LACKLAND

Alamo Wing takes a pause for resiliency boost

By Staff Sgt.
Lauren M. Snyder

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 433rd Airlift Wing participated in a "Resilience Tactical Pause" at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Nov. 3.

More than 1500 Alamo Wing enlisted, officer and civilian members arrived to the Air Force Basic Military Training's Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training site at the JBSA-Lackland's Medina Annex.

After breakfast, Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd Airlift Wing commander; Chief Master Sgt. Shana C. Cullum, 433rd AW command chief; Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Theodore C. Nicholson, 433rd AW wing chaplain; and Chaplain (Maj.) Jesse M. Howard, 433rd AW deputy wing chaplain; offered opening remarks before keynote speaker retired Chaplain (Col.) Scott Ofsdahl took the stage.

"Everyone in here is a wingman to each and everyone else here," Howard said. "Yes, you have chaplains and mental health people; we have all kinds of resources but each of you know each other and you know how to help each other. You know when somebody looks awful and is having a bad day and how to get that person through it. That's what this is all about; helping each other get through it."

Fostering a greater sense of team and family while invoking friendly competition was the theme for the resilience tactical pause.

"The reason all units, Air Force-wide, are having functions like this, is because of the veteran suicides that are happening today," Ofsdahl said. "According to 2019 statistics,



MASTER SGT. KRISTIAN CARTER

Chaplain (Capt.) Matthew A. Hanzelka, 433rd Airlift Wing chaplain, crawls across an obstacle during a team-building exercise Nov. 3 as part of the Wing's Resilience Tactical Pause at the Medina Annex, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

there are 17 veteran suicides that happen every single day. That's 510 veterans that die by suicide every month. When you add up just the last six years that 36,000 veteran suicides."

Ofsdahl continued by offering four points to staying resilient.

"What I'm about to do today is just give you four resilience keys I hope will help you find your inner strength and a way to work through some of the hurdles with your life. None of

us are exempt from the battlefield of the heart, mind and soul, which happens every single day.

"So what are the Four Keys?

► First: What do you struggle with and where do you get your strength?

► Second: What gives your life purpose and meaning is the foundation of all your resilience?

► Third: Who you trust and what you believe can change your life?

► Finally: A thankful attitude is so critically important

"Don't curse the darkness. Be a light in somebody's darkness. I hope this journey of increasing and strengthening resilience puts you on a firm foundation."

Following the speakers, units moved to the obstacle course for some team-building and competition. Each unit was represented by a four-person team, who would run the course. The teams were

"Everyone in here is a wingman to each and everyone else here. Yes, you have chaplains and mental health people; we have all kinds of resources but each of you know each other and you know how to help each other. You know when somebody looks awful and is having a bad day and how to get that person through it. That's what this is all about; helping each other get through it."

Chaplain (Maj.) Jesse M. Howard, 433rd Airlift Wing deputy wing chaplain

competing for the lowest time to complete four of the obstacles from the course.

After the obstacle course, everyone regrouped for closing remarks and winning team announcement.

The wing then broke into individual units to continue building unit cohesiveness, wingmanship and resilience.

"Resiliency is one of the most important things in life because if you are resilient you can bounce back from anything life throws at you to handle things even in impossible situations," Howard said. "If you don't feel you can get through, there is always someone who can help you get through. If you have a good purpose and foundation, you can overcome anything."



Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force commander, speaks during the 557th Weather Wing's Sixteenth Air Force reassignment ceremony Oct. 29 at the wing's headquarters building, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

PAUL SHIRK

Weather wing realigns under 16th Air Force

By Paul Shirk
55TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 557th Weather Wing at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., has been reassigned to the Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber), headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The reassignment ceremony, held at the 557th WW's headquarters Oct. 29, was attended by commanders from Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) and Twelfth Air Force (Air Forces Southern), its former Numbered Air Force.

The 557th WW joins the 55th Wing and other units whose missions fall under the new Information Warfare NAF. "The 557th operates a truly global and data-driven enterprise," said Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander. "On a daily basis, your Airmen exploit a worldwide network of sensors, processing mass quantities of data, connected to a communications network capable of disseminating weather intelligence at the speed of decision to create outcomes for joint commanders."

Haugh also spoke about the wing's developments in cyber.

"The 557th also maneuvers in unique segments of the cyber domain, and reaches into a vast data network touching Department of Defense, interagency and global partners," Haugh said. "Progress in establishing Mission Defense Teams, understanding the cyber terrain,

and integrating intelligence into operations also illustrates how the weather wing has optimized to operate in a degraded and contested operational environment."

Col. Brian Pukall, 557th WW commander, then spoke about the 2018 National Defense Strategy's call to organize for innovation, and the 557th WW's drive toward that goal.

"Twelfth Air Force empowered our Airmen such that we could take this next step into the Sixteenth Air Force to help deliver new outcomes for the nation," Pukall said.

He later added that through the innovation culture, the wing was able to tackle mission sets that were not previously possible.

"It has been an honor to lead the 557th as you transformed out of the Air Force Weather Agency, and into the globally ops-focused enterprise you are today," said Maj. Gen. Andrew Croft, Twelfth Air Force commander. "I look forward to witnessing this weather wing max out its capability under the Sixteenth Air Force, aligned and integrated with the cyber, intelligence and information warfare communities, not only for the benefit of our Air Force, but for our joint force as a whole."

Headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) re-activated Oct. 11, and is the Air Force's first information warfare NAF.



STAFF SGT. LAUREN M. SNYDER

Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Josef Schmid III (left), mobilization assistant to the surgeon general of the Air Force, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., speaks with Col. Michael C. Brice, 433rd Medical Group commander; Chief Master Sgt. Shana C. Cullum, 433rd Airlift Wing command chief; Chief Master Sgt. Ernesto Flores Jr., 433rd MDG superintendent; and Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd AW commander, during a visit to the medical group Nov. 2 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

AF surgeon general IMA, a 433rd Airlift Wing alumnus, visits medical group

From 433rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Josef Schmid III, individual mobilization assistant to the surgeon general of the Air Force, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., visited with 433rd Airlift Wing senior leaders and 433rd Medical Group members at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Nov. 2.

The general, who was assigned to two squadrons in the Alamo Wing medical group from 2000 to 2007, met with Reserve Citizen Airmen from several organizations within the group while touring the group's new facility.

"It's nice to come back home," Schmid said. "I'm here coming back to the 433rd as an assistant, but this is where I grew up. I came back to see how life is for the Reservists."

Schmid emphasized the importance of medical personnel in maintaining combat ready forces.

"Everything is based on readiness as surgeon general of the Air Force and the 433rd is the backbone for readiness when it comes to the total force," Schmid said. "I'm here to check the pulse of the 433rd to see how it's doing, and it's doing fantastic. They are very much ready as they support the readiness of the wing as well for everything downrange."

"It will be my pleasure to tell the Surgeon General of the Air Force, Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg, as well as the Air Force Reserve Command Surgeon General, Col. Teresa Bisnett, that the 433rd is not only doing well, but doing exceptionally well. And I think it should be the model of how we are doing things when it comes to new buildings, new innovation and doing more with less."

"I always say the 433rd is one of the most innovative squadrons and groups across the command because they're coming with potential solutions that can apply across the reserves as well as active duty."

Senior leaders, honorary commanders serve feast

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

The 433rd Airlift Wing and 960th Cyberspace Wing senior leaders teamed up with their honorary commanders to serve a Thanksgiving meal to military members dining at the Live Oak Dining Facility Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Nov. 2.

Even though Thanksgiving is not until Nov. 28, Reserve Citizen Airmen typically drill one weekend per month, thus it was the only opportunity to serve them lunch.

This year was the first time the wings invited their honorary commanders to participate in this day of giving. Throughout the lunch period, wing leadership and honorary commanders took shifts serving a traditional Thanksgiving meal, provided by the Live Oak Dining Facility, who prepared the feast of turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans and sweet potatoes.

After their shift of serving, commanders went out in the dining area and had lunch and visited with the Airmen while they dined.

"I think it's awesome that the Commanders come and serve their Airmen," said Kayla L. Jones, Allen Tharp LLC and Live Oak Dining Facility assistant project manager. "It boosts the morale of all the service members, and it also boosts our morale as well, to have them here serving with us. It's an honor."

These events help to encourage discussions and foster relations between military and community leaders as well as within the ranks of the military organizations.

"It's important to me because, during my service, I remember organizations coming in, the support of the community, and I remember how it made me feel," said



MINNIE JONES

Col. James "JC" Miller, 433rd Operations Group commander; Lt. Col. Seth W. Asay, 733rd Training Squadron commander; and Dave Saylor, owner, Acadiana Café, prepare plates to serve to military members during the Thanksgiving feast Nov. 2 at the Live Oak Dining Facility, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

honorary commander Andrew Camplen from the Pvt. Bruno Phillip Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 688, post commander. "Being in the service, being away from family and away from home, but still having that love of people coming in and providing something like a Thanksgiving meal, or a care package, is truly dear to my heart, and that's why I'm here today."

"This is awesome," said Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd AW commander. "Getting our honorary commanders involved was tremendous. They often meet with our senior leadership but don't often get to meet with their Airmen. Today, they were not only able to serve food but also

talk to them while eating lunch."

"The mayor had an awesome time," McClain said. "He really appreciated the opportunity to come out and participate. A lot of the reservists are in his constituency, so it gives him a little extra insight into how our people are doing and what they do here."

"In San Antonio, we take pride in being 'Military City, USA,' and we consider our entire city to be an installation," said San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg. "It's not a slogan; it's a way of life. That's why opportunities like serving an early Thanksgiving meal for our Airmen is enjoyable but also so critical. Civilians and service members

are part of one family, and together, we ensure our nation's defense."

The Honorary Commanders Program was developed to encourage an exchange of ideas, share experiences and foster friendship between key members of the local civilian community and the Joint Base San Antonio military community. The program provides a unique opportunity for the San Antonio area community leaders to shadow wing leaders.

Honorary Commanders, who took time out of their busy lives to serve a Thanksgiving meal to the Airmen were: Laura Cabanilla, vice president community relations, community development officer, San

"This is awesome. Getting our honorary commanders involved was tremendous. They often meet with our senior leadership but don't often get to meet with their Airmen. Today, they were not only able to serve food, but also talk to them while eating lunch."

Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd Airlift Wing commander

Antonio Business Journal; Tommy Calvert, Bexar County commissioner; Andrew Camplen; Roy Elizondo, council member, City of Fair Oaks; Wayne Fagan, chair, Dee Howard Foundation; Robert Imler, community and government relations consultant; Andrea Knight, assistant vice president, Frost Bank; John Leal, director, local government relations, CPS Energy; Ron Nirenberg, mayor, San Antonio; Clay Richmond, vice president, JSWC Ltd; John Thurman, owner, Heart of Texas Realty; Craig Veltri, founder, Veltri Interests, Inc.; and Steve Young, vice president of information technology, VIA Metropolitan Transit.

RANDOLPH

Air Force civic leaders experience AETC mission to train exceptional Airmen

By Brian Lepley

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND

Thirty civic leaders from 20 states and Guam gained insight into Air Education and Training Command's mission and initiatives to recruit, train and educate exceptional Airmen at Joint Base San Antonio Nov. 5-8.

The goal of the visit was to enable a better understanding of the AETC and Air Force mission, after which the civic leaders from around the country knowledge that enables them to better advocate for the service in multiple areas.

"The National Defense Strategy drives everything we do and one of the major focus areas for us is transforming the way Airmen learn," said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AETC commander. "Every Airman's force development path starts here in the First Command and we know it's our job to make our nation's goals for tomorrow a reality today."

The tour, with stops at both JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland, is part of the Air Force Civic Leader Program, connecting business and community leaders from across the nation to the Air Force in order to strengthen bonds and partnerships. Civic leaders develop a better understanding and have the ability to advocate for the service.

During their first day at JBSA-Randolph, civic and military leaders delved into the AETC mission, as well as the 12th Flying Training Wing pilot instructor training mission, where the civic leaders got the



SEAN WORRELL

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, speaks with Vickie McCall, an Air Combat Command civic leader from Ogden, Utah, after his AETC mission brief Nov. 6.

opportunity to participate in plane-side briefings with the T-1 Jayhawk and T-38C Talon.

The group also was introduced to the Pilot Training Next mission at Detachment 24, where the command experiments with new ideas to train pilots more efficiently and rapidly with virtual and augmented reality technology, as well as biometrics and other data-science programs.

The virtual simulators and their use in training impressed Eielson Air Force Base civic leader Ryan Binkley of Fairbanks, Alaska.

"I grew up playing video games and this is video games times 100," he said. "You see the horizon and the 360-degree environment and I see the value in that tool to get up to speed faster. And it's completely

natural for these young people to take to this."

Attendees ended the day with a visit to the 502nd Trainer Development Squadron and an Air Force Recruiting Service demonstration, where civic leaders got the chance to see the latest outreach assets and take part in discussions on diversity and the service's future manpower needs.

"It's been so interesting to see how the Air Force takes these kids and molds them into professionals in whatever job they're doing," Binkley said. "It's really cool to see how the Air Force is trying to do it differently, incorporating new education ideas, and seeing how these young people learn."

The group also got the chance to visit the "Gateway to the Air Force" at JBSA-Lackland, where

the 37th Training Wing highlighted how they train, educate, develop, and inspire Airmen, as well as strengthen strategic partnerships to compete, deter, and win in today's dynamic national security environment.

"We are certainly more knowledgeable on what it takes for an Airman to get through this system and succeed in the Air Force," said Timothy Burke, a civic leader for the Air National Guard Bureau from Bellevue, Neb.

Getting the opportunity to observe civilians transforming into Airmen while at Air Force basic military training was awe-inspiring. The 737th Training Group turns approximately 40,000 civilians into American Airmen each year.

"What impresses me is the people, the Airmen, that have mastered skills and now they're back here teaching it, whether it's at BMT or the Cheetahs (56th Flying Training Squadron) at JBSA-Randolph," said Dr. Joe Leverett, an AETC civic leader from Altus, Okla.

Another highlight of the visit to JBSA-Lackland was at the 341st Training Squadron with the chance to see military working dogs being trained for patrol, drug and explosive detection, as well as specialized mission functions for the Department of Defense and other government agencies. The civic leaders witnessed various response scenarios, as well as what the result of the initial skills training looks like through a demonstration by the 802nd Security Forces Squadron.

"I've been incredibly impressed, certainly by the professionalism, but also the youth, of the instructors we've met here," Burke said.

The group also spent time at Special Warfare Training Wing, receiving a mission brief.

The week's visit culminated with the leaders attending an Air Force basic military training graduation parade and ceremony.

"I have been immersed myself in this visit, the Air Force, and it's an unbelievable experience," said Wendy Gramza, a civic leader for the Air National Guard Bureau from Toledo, Ohio. "I love to go back and tell people, put things on social media, after these trips because people don't really have an appreciation for the Air Force and what they do."

AFPC improves military retirement eligibility process

By Kat Bailey

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force's Personnel Center implemented an automated process Nov. 7 that provides Airmen with an immediate determination of their retirement eligibility and prevents unnecessary application processing.

The retirements branch currently receives about 1,300 eligibility reviews each month, each requiring an AFPC employee to manually process and validate through multiple data sources, resulting in the requesting member waiting several days for a response.

"This automation of the retirement eligibility review eliminates the current customer wait time and gives them instant, accurate feedback," said Ann Lacey, AFPC Military Retirement Policy and Procedures. "That's the most valuable part of this automated process. The instant eligibility determination allows the customer to immediately proceed with next steps in their retirement process."



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The eligibility review is the first step for lieutenant colonels and below in the Regular Air Force or Active Guard Reserve to apply for retirement. Using existing Air Force enterprise software called Oracle Policy Automation, AFPC created code to evaluate an

Airman's record using 15 eligibility review checklists. OPA imports data from the Military Personnel Data System for the review process and provides immediate on-screen responses based on the results of the check.

If eligible, Airmen may exit the system or continue with the application process. If ineligible, or if the Airman needs a waiver, the system will provide a detailed response explaining why and any necessary next steps.

"As part of cost effective modernization, we are committed to reducing costs across program lifecycles," Lacey said. "Keep in mind that the automated retirement eligibility review is only as good as the data it receives. Airmen must ensure their information is accurate in MilPDS and work with their Military Personnel Flight to correct any discrepancies."

The automated review is now hosted on the Airman's Retirements home page on myPers rather than virtual MPF. The retirement application process remains the same, with an email to the commander for their recommendation and then final decision from AFPC sent from myPers.

For more information about Air Force personnel policies and programs, visit www.afpc.af.mil.

MOULAGE

From page 9

Espinoza will need to cut into the manikin. In order to do this, the area on the manikin where the wound will be created is heated in order to soften it so it can be cut and manipulated to form a wound. Then it will be painted to look realistic and set to dry.

If it's possible to make use of materials already on hand, Espinoza will find a way to incorporate them into her design as well.

"We don't want to use more than what we need or waste more than what we have," she said.

Espinoza has used the popcorn material used for packing boxes to stuff the lower portion of manikin legs where a wound is depicted before adding foam to the area so students could learn how to pack the wound and practice applying tourniquets. Prior to that, the foam would crack and fall apart.

"We just had to modify a lot of the stuff that we did in order to find the best way to do it."

Espinoza takes great pains to ensure she creates as realistic a product as possible.

"I want the students to get that shock and awe when they see the injuries

without having that reaction the first time seeing it on a person, on a Soldier, on their battle buddy," she added. "I would rather they have something as realistic as possible in these manikins without having somebody actually injured."

A fellow instructor of Espinoza's, who is now retired, once told her that what they're doing now is saving lives through other people's hands. Those words have always stuck with her.

"I can do my job through these medics. If I can make something as real as possible so they can get that, 'oh my God, this is for real!' reaction and it makes sense, that's all I really care about. I can get in their head and make them understand that what they're doing makes a difference."

To Espinoza, making mistakes on the manikins is the point of the training.

"You have to make mistakes to learn. If the students do it wrong here they can learn from it. I want them to do it wrong, because if they always do it right then what are they going to learn?"

"That's exactly what I've done with these manikins," she added. "I've had to make mistakes to learn how to make them better for the students to make their mistakes so they can get better. I'd much rather they do that here than on the battlefield."

LAID TO REST

From page 10

fought and died in one of the fiercest battles during World War II.

"Ernest served with honor, he served with courage and he served with commitment in a time of war," Ingram said. "A time when putting on the uniform would very well have meant that you were not going to make it home.

"True to his Marine Corps values, Ernest did not stay back and send his men into battle," Ingram added. "He went in with them. They stood shoulder to shoulder believing in the freedom they were fighting for. Freedom for his wife, the freedom for his family, for his friends and the people he would never even meet."

Surviving family members who attended Matthews' service were his niece, Julie Matthews and her husband, Tim, of Bloomington, Ind.; and his cousin, Jerry Jones, and his wife, Pam,

from Houston.

Julie Matthews said her uncle died 22 years before she was born. Ernest Matthews was the older brother of her father, Charles, who was a retired Army colonel.

Matthews said the memories she has of her uncle growing up were seeing photos of him and of the times the family spoke about him

Matthews said she is glad that her uncle's remains will be interred next to his wife, Mary Virginia Matthews, a nurse during World War II, who passed away in 1969.

By attending her uncle's service, Matthews said she got a greater appreciation of the sacrifice her uncle made to his country.

"It's pretty amazing," she said. "It really brings it home. My father served in the military but he retired by the time I came along, so I think I was a bit removed from his military involvement. I think this makes it more real and certainly a great appreciation of what all the military does for us."