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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 7, 2020



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jarrred Mejia, 802nd Security Forces Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland takes part in the obstacle course portion of the Air Education and Training Command Defender Challenge team tryout at Joint Base San Antonio-Medina Annex Jan. 29.

**AETC Security Forces announces
2020 Defender Challenge team** *Page 14*



**AETC Air Advisor is Sijan
Leadership Award winner**
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**MEDCoE welcomes new
command sergeant major**
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Coronavirus: What providers, patients should know

From Military Health System Communications Office

With news of the contagious and potentially deadly illness known as novel coronavirus grabbing headlines worldwide, military health officials say that an informed, common sense approach minimizes the chances of getting sick.

Many forms of coronavirus exist among both humans and animals, but this new strain's lethality has triggered considerable alarm. Believed to have originated at an animal market in Wuhan City, China, novel coronavirus has sickened hundreds and killed at least 4. It has since spread to other parts of Asia. The first case of novel coronavirus in the U.S. was reported Jan. 22 in Washington State.

Anyone contracting a respiratory illness shouldn't assume it's novel coronavirus; it is far more likely to be a more common malady.

"For example, right now in the U.S., influenza, with 35 million cases last season, is far more commonplace than novel coronavirus, said U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Dr. (Lt. Cmdr.) David Shih, a preventive medicine physician and epidemiologist with the Clinical Support Division, Defense Health Agency. He added that those experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness — like coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, and fever — should avoid contact with others and making them sick.

"Don't think you're being super dedicated by showing up to work when ill," Shih said. "Likewise, if you're a duty supervisor, please don't compel your workers to show up when they're sick. In the short run, you might get a bit of a productivity boost. In the long



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ELORA J. MARTINEZ

A dental assistant with the 319th Medical Group, demonstrates proper sanitary procedure by putting on a face mask at the medical treatment facility at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

run, that person could transmit a respiratory illness to co-workers, and pretty soon you lose way more productivity because your entire office is sick."

Shih understands that service members stationed in areas of strategic importance and elevated states of readiness are not necessarily in the position to call in sick.

In such instances, sick personnel still can take steps to practice effective cough hygiene and use whatever hygienic services they can find to avert hindering readiness by making their battle buddies sick. Frequent thorough handwashing, for instance, is a cornerstone of respiratory disease prevention.

"You may not have plumbing for washing hands, but hand sanitizer can become your best friend and keep you healthy," Shih said.

Regarding novel coronavirus, Shih recommends following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention travel notices. First,

avoid all non-essential travel to Wuhan, China, the outbreak's epicenter. Second, patients who traveled to China in the past 14 days with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, should seek medical care right away (calling the doctor's office or emergency room in advance to report travel and symptoms) and otherwise avoid 1) contact with others and 2) traveling while sick.

CDC also has guidance for health care professionals, who should evaluate patients with fever and respiratory illness by taking a careful travel history to identify patients under investigation, or PUIs, who include those with 1) fever, 2) lower respiratory illness symptoms, and 3) travel history to Wuhan, China, within 14 days prior to symptom onset.

PUIs should wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available. Workers caring for

PUIs should wear gloves, gowns, masks, eye protection and respiratory protection. Perhaps most importantly, care providers who believe they may be treating a novel coronavirus patient should immediately notify infection control and public health authorities (the installation preventive medicine or public health department at military treatment facilities).

Because novel coronavirus is new, as its name suggests, there is as yet no immunization nor specific treatment. Care providers are instead treating the symptoms — acetaminophen to reduce fever, lozenges and other treatments to soothe sore throats, and, for severe cases, ventilators to help patients breathe.

"Lacking specific treatment," Shih said, "we must be extra vigilant about basic prevention measures: frequent handwashing, effective cough and sneeze hygiene, avoiding sick individuals, and self-isolating when sick."

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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 would like to know if it would be possible to establish a policy or an increased push for teleworking at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland? There are multiple offices within our organization that could benefit from the telework program, but aren't allowed to because of a dislike for the program.

For every teleworker, that is one less person on base helping to reduce traffic, facilities congestion, and comm. network usage especially on Thursdays and Fridays.

A. Great question! In short, our policy allows supervisors to grant employees the opportunity to telework as outlined in Air Force Instruction 36-816, Civilian Telework Program. The purpose of the telework program is to promote workforce efficiency, emergency preparedness, and quality of life for our civilians without compromising mission readiness.

While there are many organizations in the 502d ABW and across JBSA that are not able to authorize teleworking due to the type of customer service delivered and readiness requirements, if you're interested in teleworking, please work with your supervisor to see if the mission can support a new work schedule.

It's important to ask the question and be prepared to offer potential solutions for supervisory concerns. However, ultimately, supervisors are responsible for the telework decision and mission success.

Q. Why can't supervisors be rated and held accountable? Their influence can really negatively impact work the work centers.

A. Thank you very much for your important question. As you mentioned, supervisors have a significant influence on work centers — oftentimes positive, but sometimes negative. Regardless, all supervisors are rated and should be held accountable for their actions and performance.

I encourage you to have open and respectful conversations with your supervisor, especially if his or her actions and/or others' behavior and influence are negatively impacting your work center.

As far as holding supervisors accountable, that must be addressed and handled at the appropriate level. There are several agencies outside of an employee's chain of command that can assist with specific/specialized complaints.

For example, if an employee believes he/she has been discriminated against at work because of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information, he/she can file a complaint with one of the Equal Opportunity Offices located on JBSA-Lackland/Randolph/Fort Sam Houston.

Another option is to file a complaint through the Inspector General's (IG) Office. Two examples of complaints that

are appropriate to file through the IG office would be whistleblower reprisal or abuse of authority. Of note, a disagreement with a supervisor over management style or a "personality conflict" does not constitute an injustice or mismanagement.

Lastly, if an employee is covered by a union, he/she can utilize the Negotiated Grievance Procedure through their respective Union and for non-covered employees there is the Administrative Grievance Process outlined DoD 1400.25-V771 _ AFI 36-706. I hope this information helps, but please let me know if you have any follow up concerns.

Installation & Facilities

Q. As a retired chief, I wanted to express a concern about a veterinarian service that no longer exists at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston because of poor lighting in the surgical room. In discussion with the veterinarian's office, they stated that there are no plans to fix the lighting.

As you well know, JBSA-Randolph veterinarian services are very limited to providing shots and medications utilizing top-trained veterinarians for food inspection. Therefore, in the past years if you wanted any surgical procedures for your pet, you were referred to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston veterinary facility.

Over the years, I have had my pet receive several minor surgeries with great success. The Department of

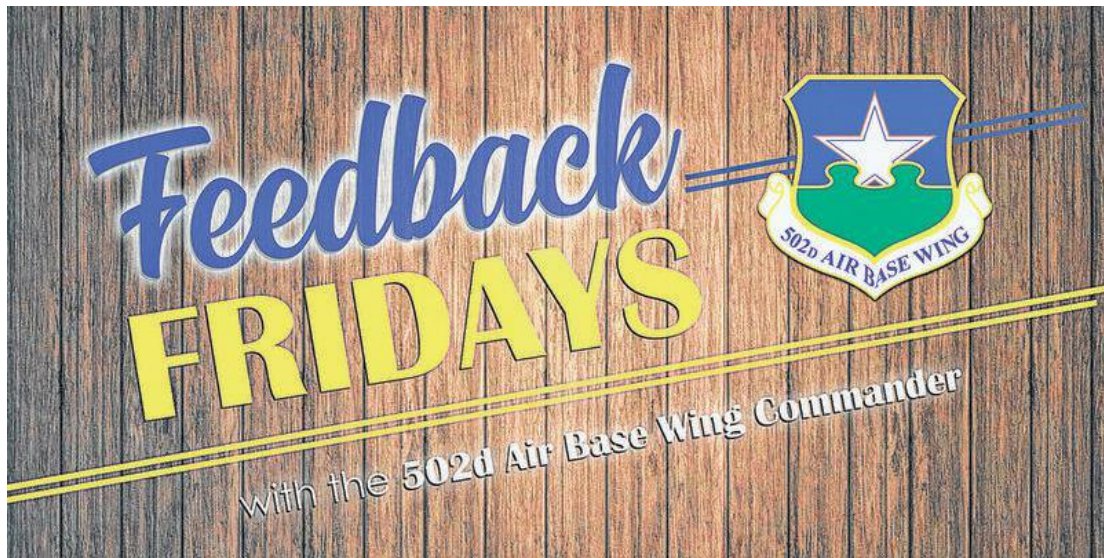
Defense is paying taxpayer's money to provide top-qualified veterinarians to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston facility. Their skills are not being utilized due to poor lighting.

This is a real determinant to the veterinarians who learn through this process, and to the many active duty and veterans that utilize this service. I would hope a phone call from your office could fix the situation.

A. Thank you very much for sharing your concerns. The issue you brought up is one that we have been keeping track of for quite some time.

Our Civil Engineering team partnered with the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Clinic and BAMC Medical Maintenance team to address the issue. Unfortunately, they discovered that the lighting equipment that was broken was no longer supported or maintained by the contracted company that originally provided the lights, so they could not be fixed.

Since that discovery, the teams came together to put in an order for another company to supply the medical lighting equipment. That order has been on hold up to now due to funding. Until we receive funding, we cannot provide any alternate solutions due to contract restrictions on the facility. However, we'll continue to track this issue and provide any updates if we receive funding.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

AF Chief of Staff offers optimistic update

By Charles Pope

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein said during a Jan. 27 appearance at the Center for a New American Security that the service is making significant strides in harnessing and using data for deterrence, decision-making and warfighting while also maintaining dominance in space.

Creating a system that uses data, machine learning and state-of-the-art software to seamlessly link “sensors to shooters” across all domains — air, land, sea, cyber and space — is among Goldfein’s highest priorities as the Air Force’s highest-ranking military officer.

“First and foremost, we have

to connect the joint team,” he said in describing what’s necessary to prevail in the future fight. “We have to have access to common data so we can operate at speeds that will bring all our capabilities against an adversary.”

He also said that the creation of the Space Force as a separate branch of the U.S. military is critical to ensuring national security and to protect commerce and other national interests.

“You’ve got to dominate space. You will see some significant investment in space capabilities. It won’t be just enough to be in the ring and take some punches. At some point, you have to be able to punch back,” he said.

In his 50-minute remarks to the influential think tank, Goldfein noted the technical

advances and cultural shifts that have moved the concept of tightly connected, joint warfare forward, not only in the Air Force, but across the entire U.S. military establishment.

“Based on where we started,” Goldfein said, “I will say we are having discussions on alignment of all services. How we talk about the business of joint warfighting in ways I have not seen in previous years.”

The concept, known as Joint All Domain Command and Control or JADC2, has been widely embraced as the critical transformation needed in an era in which Russia and China are emerging in addition to traditional threats.

That support, Goldfein said, has moved from rhetoric to action.

“We’re actually building the foundation,” he said. “We’re not talking about cloud architecture. We actually built one. It’s operating and up and running and all the services are connected in. We’ve actually built unified data libraries that are inclusive of all the services going forward.”

“Are we where we need to be? No. This journey never ends,” he said.

While complex both technically and culturally, the effort is moving forward in distinct ways, he said. Last month, the Air Force, Navy and Army staged a joint exercise to test new methods and technology for collecting, analyzing and sharing information in real time to identify and defeat a simulated cruise missile. Among other advances, it featured new

technology that allowed pilots flying F-35 Lightning IIs and F-22 Raptors to receive data simultaneously along with Army units on the ground, special forces and commanders.

Goldfein also pointed out that the Air Force has created a new “numbered Air Force” dedicated to information warfare.

“You have to do that foundational work, which is digital engineering and data architecture,” he said.

Those steps, along with increasing the number of Air Force operational squadrons to 386 from 312, refining logistics to make the Air Force “more agile on our feet,” ensuring readiness and powered by the priorities in the 2018 National Defense Strategy are transforming the service.

FEEDBACK FRIDAYS

From page 3

Q. I use the JBSA-Randolph Fitness Center almost daily, arriving around 6:30 a.m. For the past couple of years, at least, there has been a loose dog on base. It appears to be a shepherd or shepherd mix.

Most of the time, in the early morning when we arrive, he is resting out in front of No. 28 on the Main Circle. We see that there is a white food or water bowl out for the dog, but this poor thing has been out in the 100 degree plus weather as well as the more recent 30 degree weather.

Our belief is that the dog was dumped at some point, but we would like to have someone check on it. First, it shouldn’t be roaming free, but more importantly, we don’t know if it is up to date on shots, flea medications, heartworm and shelter!

If the residents are feeding it, that’s nice, but this dog deserves a permanent home where he can be given shelter and love as well. Thank you.

A. Thank you for bringing this to my attention. Our Pest Management technicians are aware of the stray dog in that area, and have been actively

attempting to catch it so it can receive the care and protection it needs.

Our team is asking that base personnel do not feed this stray, or other stray animals, as it keeps the animals from going to food that is set in traps to humanely capture the animal, and ultimately prolongs the issue. We are optimistic of resolving this issue shortly, and thank you again for bringing it to my attention.

Q. I am writing this letter to you in hope to get the parking lot at the Medical Education & Training Campus fitness center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston painted.

I and several employees at the Warrior Transition Barracks have encountered illegal parking where vehicle operators are parking in-between the handicap signs. It’s challenging to get a wheelchair in the back of a pickup truck when someone has occupied the handicap accessibility, or HC, area or to off-load a wheelchair.

A wheelchair occupant that may have parked in the HC section must wait until the owner of the vehicle exits the gym or have him/her called out over the PA system to move so we can make it to our next appointment on time.

I personally have had a minor verbal conversation with someone that was attempting to illegally park until he

noticed his error, and made an on-the-spot self-correction.

A. Thank you very much for bringing this parking issue to my attention and I apologize for any inconvenience patrons may have experienced due to parking issues at the METC Fitness Center.

Our Civil Engineers have recently surged on street and parking lot paint refreshment, and they have the METC Gym parking lot scheduled for Feb. 15, weather permitting. If weather becomes a factor, the painting will be done the following week.

Once the markings have been refreshed and are clearly apparent, our Security Forces team will be on the lookout for enforcement of any illegal parking, particularly that which violates handicap accessibility.

Miscellaneous

Q. We live on JBSA-Lackland and there is a driver in a blue two-door sedan with out-of-state tags, who each workday morning between 5:30 and 5:45 a.m., is clearly speeding down Larson Street, runs the stop sign at the corner with Dimstead Place, and actually goes onto the sidewalk (it is level with the street) when he blows the stop sign and turns.

This week, he used a divided oncoming traffic lane to avoid and go

around the car stopped at the stop sign on Dimstead Place and Truemper Street. He went down a one-way area, the wrong way, to run the stop sign. He runs this stop sign regularly as well.

I would like to know who to speak with to request that patrols sit there a few morning to try to put a stop to this. The immediate concern is safety of runners that use these streets and sidewalks in the dark morning hours.

This driving behavior is witnessed regularly, and yesterday, the car was close enough that it was dangerous.

A. Thank you very much for “seeing something and doing something”! I greatly appreciate you sharing your safety concerns and helping us protect residents and community members at JBSA-Lackland. I shared this information regarding unsafe driving practices with our 802d Security Forces Squadron and they are working to identify the individual and prevent further safety issues.

Our Defenders’ top priority is to maintain the safety and security of all Lackland residents, and we welcome your information on suspicious activity and crime tips to ensure that.

So if you see something, please say something to the Lackland Base Defense Operations Center non-emergency number at 210-671-2018.

Scalding injuries can happen at any age

From 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Emergency Services

Who can resist the aroma of cookies baking or the appetizing sauces simmering on the stovetop? But before you go dipping an extremity into the pot to taste that scrumptious recipe, know that scalds from cooking liquids, grease and food — as well as tap water and steam — are responsible for most burns.

A scalding injury can happen at any age. Particularly at risk are children, older adults and people with disabilities. Dreadful injuries can occur from hot bath water, hot coffee and even microwaved soup. The second-leading cause of all burn injuries are scalding burns.

Young children have thinner skin, resulting in deeper burns than adults for the same temperature and exposure time to a scalding substance. The same cup of spilled coffee will burn a much larger percent of a small child's body.

Older adults, like young children, also have thinner skin, so hot liquids cause deeper burns with even brief exposure. Their ability to feel heat may be decreased due to certain medical conditions or medications, so they may not realize water is too hot until injury has occurred. Because they have poor microcirculation, heat is removed from burned tissue rather slowly compared to younger adults. Older adults may also have conditions that make them more prone to falls in the bathtub or shower or while carrying hot liquids.

Individuals who may have physical, mental or emotional challenges or require some type of assistance from caregivers are at high risk for all types of burn injuries, including scalds.

Mobility impairments, slow or awkward movements, muscle weakness or fatigue, and slower reflexes increase the risk of spills while moving hot liquids.

Sensory impairments can result in decreased sensation, especially to the hands and feet, so the person may not realize if something is too hot. Changes in a person's intellect, perception, memory, judgment or awareness may hinder the person's ability to recognize a dangerous situation — such as a tub filled with scalding water — or respond appropriately to remove themselves from

danger.

Listed below are some safety tips from the National Fire Prevention Association:

- ▶▶ Teach children that hot things can burn. Install anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads.
- ▶▶ Always supervise a child in or near a bathtub.
- ▶▶ Test the water at the faucet. It should be less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, or 38 degrees Celsius.
- ▶▶ Before placing a child in the bath or getting in the bath yourself, test the water. Test the water by moving your hand, wrist and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.
- ▶▶ Place hot liquids and food in the center of a table or toward the back of a counter.
- ▶▶ Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drinks are prepared or carried.
- ▶▶ Open microwaved food slowly, away from the face.
- ▶▶ Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- ▶▶ Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.
- ▶▶ Allow microwaved food to cool before eating.
- ▶▶ Choose prepackaged soups whose containers have a wide base or, to avoid the possibility of a spill, pour the soup into a traditional bowl after heating.
- ▶▶ Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for three to five minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.

For more information about fire, burn and scalding prevention, visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at <http://www.nfpa.org/> education, the American Burn Association website at <http://www.ameriburn.org> or contact the fire prevention offices at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston at 221-2727, JBSA-Lackland at 671-2921 or JBSA-Randolph at 652-6915.

Source: National Fire Prevention Association website at <http://www.nfpa.org/education>

New AER program to offer aid for childcare

By Sean Kimmons

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Army Emergency Relief will begin providing up to \$1,500 to help cover childcare costs for Soldiers and families who move to a new duty station.

The AER Childcare Assistance Program offers \$500 per month for three consecutive months in a no-interest loan, grant or a combination of both based on financial need.

The program is intended to offset costs that arise when there's no availability at on-post childcare facilities and more expensive civilian services are required.

The Army Fee Assistance Program currently gives Soldiers up to \$1,500 per child each month for childcare, but Soldiers still pay an average of \$275 on top of it, said retired Lt. Gen. Ray Mason, director of AER.

"That's why we came up with the number of \$500 per month per family to help them cover that out-of-pocket expense, plus



FORT SILL TRIBUNE STAFF

a little bit more," he said.

After an audience member spoke of the issue at a senior leader family forum in February, Mason asked his team to research and create the program to address it.

"Right now the capacity for the on-post childcare facilities isn't able to meet the demand," he said. "The Army is looking at that, trying to figure out how

they can expand. It's not something where you can just snap your fingers. You have to build more capacity and then you have to hire more childcare providers."

To qualify for the new program, Soldiers must be active-duty or in the Active Guard Reserve and have permanent change-of-station orders to a location in the

continental U.S.

Soldiers must also provide proof of their out-of-pocket childcare expenses and validate their financial need each month at their local AER office. The initial request should be submitted within the first 120 days after the family arrives to the new duty station.

The financial relief may even help some spouses quickly

return to the workforce when they arrive to their new location, Mason said.

AER also now offers up to \$2,500 to reimburse professional relicensing expenses for spouses who require them for jobs in another state.

"The employment of spouses is an important goal for the Army," he said, "and we want to assist with that."

AER has over 30 categories of assistance that provide about \$70 million to 40,000 members of the Army team each year, he added.

That number includes \$50 million in no-interest loans, \$10 million in grants and another \$10 million in scholarships for spouses and children. AER also has certified financial counselors to help Soldiers better manage their budgets.

"AER is not about the long term, providing a check every month," Mason said. "We're about helping people get over a bump in their life, get through a financial challenge and come out on the other end."

U.S. Space Force seeks civilians to join staff

From Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The U.S. Space Force, the new branch of the Armed Forces established Dec. 20, has begun advertising to fill civilian staff positions in its initial headquarters, called the Office of the Chief of Space Operations. Advertisements for the first 35 positions were posted last week, with a second wave of positions to follow soon.

"The law passed by Congress and signed by the President directed immediate establishment of the U.S. Space Force and authorized a modest initial staff," said Gen.

Jay Raymond, chief of space operations and senior member of the Space Force. "As a result, we are moving quickly to hire individuals with the expertise, passion and vision to build the sixth branch of the Armed Forces as a lean, agile and focused military service."

Individuals eligible for the advertised positions include current or former federal employees in competitive or excepted services, and individuals with specific category qualifications such as career transition, individuals with disabilities, military spouses and veterans.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for civilians to



COURTESY GRAPHIC

join a new military service and participate in growing the nation's space capability," said Patricia Mulcahy, the newly assigned deputy chief of space operations for personnel and logistics services.

The Space Force is seeking candidates with expertise in functions such as human resources, financial management, intelligence, communications, logistics and

contracting.

"We completed the design for the initial staff several months ago, so we would be postured to hire people quickly. Just 30 days after the President signed the legislation, we are posting ads to target individuals with very specific skills. At the same time, we are assigning military members from the Air Force, Army and Navy," said Maj.

Gen. Clint Crosier, who has led the Space Force planning team since last February. "Because the initial staff is small, and even the final staff numbers will be much smaller than the other services, we need to get the right group of experts to work such an important task. This is history in the making."

Civilian members working for the Space Force will be Department of the Air Force civilians in the same manner civilians working for the Marine Corps are Department of the Navy civilians.

For information about specific Space Force job postings, visit www.airforce.USAJobs.gov and filter by agency "HQ US Space Force."

For more information about the U.S. Space Force, visit www.spaceforce.mil.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Naval Criminal Investigative Service is vital at JBSA

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Whether it's investigating crimes involving service members or briefing commanders on preventive measures to fight crime, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service has a small, yet vital, presence at Joint Base San Antonio.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service — otherwise known as NCIS — is the civilian federal law enforcement agency within the Department of Navy that investigates felony-level crimes involving active-duty members serving in the Navy and the Marine Corps, including cases on and off military installations in the U.S. and around the world.

In addition, NCIS supports the Navy in providing counterterrorism and counterintelligence capabilities.

“Our mission is to prevent terrorism, protect secrets and reduce crime,” said NCIS Supervisory Agent Erin Hansen, who heads the resident agency office at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Hansen leads a small team of NCIS agents stationed at JBSA. She said the resident agency office investigates criminal cases including homicide, robbery, theft — whether it involves government or personal property — aggravated assaults, domestic assaults and sexual offenses involving both adults and children, and internet extortion and financial crimes.

She said the job of an NCIS special agent is to gather the facts on a case and report their findings in a clear and concise manner to a commander or officer who oversees the service member involved in the case.

“We spend a lot of time at our desks generating reports; that's the crux of what we do,” Hansen said. “We go out, we investigate, we talk to people, we gather intelligence and we gather information.”

Last year, NCIS agents at JBSA investigated 46 cases. Half of those cases were sex crimes involving adults and children, including sexual assaults; 20 percent were violent crimes, including



COURTESY PHOTO

With 1,100 special agents in 191 locations across the world, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service is the civilian federal law enforcement agency within the Department of the Navy that investigates felony level crimes involving active-duty members serving in the Navy and the Marine Corps, including cases on and off military installations in the U.S. and around the world.

aggravated and domestic assault. A handful of cases involved drugs, fraud, theft and internet scams and extortions.

NCIS agents assigned to JBSA are part of a larger team of agents that cover an area stretching from Austin to San Antonio to Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande Valley, with subordinate resident agency offices in Austin and Corpus Christi.

Hansen said cases are referred to NCIS by various Navy and Marine Corps commands, whose members reported it to a supervisor, or online on the agency's website.

For cases involving sexual assault, a victim advocate from the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program assigned to a Navy or Marine Corps service member notifies NCIS to contact the victim who wants to make a report.

With any incident or case off a JBSA installation involving a Navy or Marine Corps service member, Hansen said NCIS works with local law enforcement agencies, including the San Antonio Police Department and the Bexar

County Sheriff's Office, in the jurisdiction the crime occurred.

If the case pertains to a situation in which one subject is an active-duty member of the Navy or Marine Corps and the other is a member of another service branch, NCIS will work with that service branch's investigative agency, such as the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and the Army Criminal Investigation Division.

Besides investigating crimes, Hansen said NCIS provides safety and security briefings to local Navy and Marine Corps assets, including for students during orientation at the Navy Medicine Training Support Center at the Medical Education and Training Campus at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and to staff members at the Master-at-Arms school at the JBSA-Lackland Naval Technical Training Center.

Hansen said the safety briefings cover sexual assault prevention, domestic assaults, internet scams and resources available to service members on those type of crimes. Plus, NCIS agents also

provide annual counterintelligence briefings to Navy and Marine Corps commands at JBSA.

In 2019, local NCIS agents presented 49 safety and security briefings at JBSA. Hansen credits those safety briefings in bringing down the number of sexual assault and internet crimes NCIS agents investigated in San Antonio within the past year.

NCIS employs 1,100 special agents in 191 locations across the world, including all major Navy and Marine Corps installations, aboard every Navy aircraft carrier and several other ships and platforms and at several U.S. embassies where there is a large presence of Navy and Marine Corps members.

The agency conducts counterterrorism operations and investigations that are focused on thwarting threats to the physical safety and security of Navy and Marine Corps service members and Department of the Navy civilians by preventing terrorist attacks against installations and ships.

NCIS conducts counterintelligence investigations into actual, potential or suspected acts of espionage, sabotage and intelligence activities conducted by foreign powers.

“We do our job to keep Sailors and Marines safe by protecting them from foreign threats, be that from intelligence services or terrorist activity, so that they can focus on doing their mission,” Hansen said. “We take that on in support of the Navy so that they can be a more lethal and effective military force.”

Since NCIS is an independent civilian agency, Hansen said it's able to conduct investigations without being subjected to the military chain of command.

“We are not subject to any kind of command influence and I think that speaks to the integrity of our organization and our investigations,” she said.

Any Navy or Marine Corps service member at JBSA who wants to report a case directly to NCIS can contact the JBSA resident agency office at 210-671-5708 or go online to the NCIS website at <https://www.ncis.navy.mil>.

Local government support agreements facilitate savings for JBSA

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department of Defense budgets about \$25 billion annually to operate and support its installations, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Years ago, the GAO determined the DOD needed to reduce its installation support costs, and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 helped bring their efforts to fruition by authorizing military services to enter into Intergovernmental Support Agreements, or IGSAs, with local and state governments, leveraging financial benefits and enhancing mission effectiveness.

Joint Base San Antonio is currently utilizing three IGSAs to purchase goods and services through the City of San

Antonio and the Alamo Area Council of Governments, or AACOG, to include agreements for paving, blanket commodity and services purchasing, and the purchase of bulk materials, like the rock, sand, topsoil, and concrete used in JBSA construction and landscaping projects.

The bulk purchase IGSA, which is projected to save money on both sides, was approved for purchasing by the San Antonio City Council Jan. 16, 2020, and was finalized by city's deputy chief financial officer Jan. 28.

"Before the agreement, JBSA procured bulk materials through the Defense Logistics Agency, which manages overarching prime vendor contracts with sub-vendors," said Col. Richard Ward, 502nd Contracting Squadron director. "The IGSA allows us to work with the city instead of doing our own contracts."

Ward said the IGSA will

"Before the agreement, JBSA procured bulk materials through the Defense Logistics Agency, which manages overarching prime vendor contracts with sub-vendors. The IGSA allows us to work with the city instead of doing our own contracts."

Col. Richard Ward, 502nd Contracting Squadron director

potentially save money through economies of scale, explaining that because the city already has contracts for the same materials, they may be able to incorporate JBSA requirements into their contract for a discounted price.

"They buy so much more than we do, so we might get a break in the cost by piggybacking off of their contracts," Ward said. "Our cost analysis showed they get items at a lower price than we do, so we are anticipating an estimated 18 percent savings by ordering these materials from the city instead of DLA."

The agreement will also save the time spent generating contracts, something Ward sees saving many man hours.

"I think it's pretty exciting to try out new things," Ward said. "To try a new method and see if it is cheaper and a better way to do business, while also partnering with our local communities on things that they buy already, may help us do things faster and cheaper."

"I also think the IGSA strengthens the bond between us and the City of San Antonio," Ward said. "We get great support from them, and I think this is just another way

to tighten our bonds with the city."

City leaders also look forward to strengthening the ties between JBSA and San Antonio.

"These agreements are mutually beneficial to both the City of San Antonio and the military as they continuously strengthen our partnership with JBSA, add military value to our installations, save the military resources and are a tangible example of community support for the military," said Juan G. Ayala, director, Office of Military and Veteran Affairs, City of San Antonio.

"Mayor Ron Nirenberg often says, 'We consider the City of San Antonio one large installation,' which really speaks to the constant teamwork between the city and the military," Ayala said. "Our decades-long partnerships with JBSA is a key component to the 'DNA' of Military City USA."

Basura Bash heads into 10th year of Salado Creek cleanup



STEVE ELLIOTT

Seaman Ryan Shorter, who was training to become a medical corpsman at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, reaches for a piece of trash along Salado Creek during the annual Basura Bash Feb. 17, 2018.

By Sarah Otto
802ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

Feb. 15 will mark the 10th year of the Joint Base San Antonio family heading out to Salado Creek Park at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to grab a trash bag and get to work cleaning up the creek as a part of the annual Basura Bash.

The Basura Bash is a one-day, all-volunteer event to clean up the San Antonio Watershed from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 15 at Salado Creek Park.

Whenever stormwater flows instead of soaking into the ground (stormwater runoff), it goes into creeks and rivers, picking up contaminants along the way. This is how the majority of pollutants end up in our waterways, affecting plants, fish, animals and people. These are the waterways where we swim and fish, and where we get some of our drinking water.

Stormwater runoff brings all the trash on the streets, as well as the chemicals on our lawns and driveways, and waste from our pets. Even soil and grass clippings can have an adverse

effect on the aquatic life in our waterways.

Last year, more than 2,500 volunteers pitched in to clean 19 tributaries across San Antonio, collecting 19 tons of trash and recycling 8 tons of metal. Over 400 of those volunteers, including the Navy Medicine Training Support Center, 232nd Medical Battalion, PAC Program, NCOA, the Boy Scouts of America, Cole High School's National Junior Honor Society, and several other military and family groups came out to help clean up at Salado Creek Park.

The Basura Bash is hosted by the 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron and supported by the MWR Outdoor Rec Staff, the Operation's Heavy Repair Shop and many other individuals representing their units across JBSA.

Registration for the event is online at <https://basurabash.org/>. It is recommended that volunteers wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots, and bring bug repellent. Some parts of the creek will be well-maintained; others will have light to dense brush.

Kayaks will be available for cleaning up the harder-to-reach spots of the creek.

Gloves, trash bags, and water will be provided for all volunteers. It is recommended that volunteers bring their own reusable water bottle in order to reduce the number of plastic water bottles thrown in the recycle bins. A light breakfast will also be provided by the City of San Antonio.

Thanks to those who have helped make this event a success for the past nine years, and we hope to see you again this year.

While the Basura Bash is a one-day event, people can help keep our waterways clean every day by making sure trash makes it to the proper receptacles, that items in the bed of trucks are secured, that chemicals are cleaned from driveways, and pet waste is picked up and disposed of.

For more information on the event, go to <https://www.basurabash.org/> or call 210-671-0396. For more information on how to keep our storm drains clean for downstream, call 210-652-3314.

MEDCoE welcomes new command sergeant major

By Tish Williamson
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Command Sgt. Maj. Clark J. Charpentier assumed senior enlisted responsibility at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence from Command Sgt. Maj. William "Buck" O'Neal in a ceremony Jan. 31. The ceremony was hosted by Maj. Gen. Dennis P. LeMaster, MEDCoE commander, at the MacArthur Parade Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

O'Neal departs the MEDCoE after serving at the organization since August 2017 and will retire after 29 years of military service.

The change of responsibility ceremony included the ceremonial passing of the MEDCoE colors to illustrate the passing of responsibility and leadership to Charpentier as the incoming command sergeant major. Nearly 200 soldiers, comprised of MEDCoE enlisted trainees, cadre or staff, were in formation.

LeMaster, who assumed command Jan. 10, served with both the outgoing

and incoming senior enlisted advisors and praised both, saying they were two extraordinary military leaders.

"It was fitting that this was his final assignment in the Army," LeMaster said of O'Neal. The general lauded O'Neal's operational and institutional experience at all different levels and many facets of Army Medicine.

"Command Sgt. Maj. O'Neal is a leader, leading an organization through turbulent but transformative times for Army Medicine," LeMaster added. "He was the right noncommissioned officer at the right time."

Charpentier is coming from the Regional Health Command-Pacific, or RHC-P, where the general and the sergeant major served as the command team together for 18 months.

"He is well suited to take us to the next level," LeMaster said of the incoming command sergeant major. "He is the right person, at the right time and the right place, to steward the organization to even greater success.

"Sgt. Maj. (Charpentier), I am truly happy to serve with you again," LeMaster said. "We will have the

opportunity to contribute to modernization, making a trained and ready medical force."

Charpentier has led at every level in many complex military medical organizations in more than 26 years of military service. Besides RHC-P, the largest regional health command in the Army, Charpentier also served as command sergeant major for Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Regional Health Command-Europe, the only forward-stationed medical center for U.S. and coalition forces and the largest hospital outside the continental U.S.

"Today you represent every medic across the Army," Charpentier said to the formation.

MEDCoE, as the center of gravity for Army Medicine, trains, educates and inspires all medical personnel in the Army during some point of their career. It serves nearly 37,000 soldiers annually in more than 360 training and education programs annually.

"At some point, most of you will be the one operating alone and unafraid, or as part of a team in an austere environment, saving lives," Charpentier



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Command Sgt. Maj. Clark J. Charpentier, incoming U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence Command Sergeant Major, addresses the audience at the MacArthur Parade Field during the MEDCoE change of responsibility ceremony Jan. 31 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

said. He challenged the soldiers to train as if not only their life but someone else's life depended on it, "because it does and it will."

Charpentier emphasized, "The importance of the lessons that you learn today will have far-reaching impacts in the future."

ARNORTH LEADER OBSERVES JOINT U.S.-CANADIAN ARMY TRAINING

Maj. Gen. David Glaser, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) deputy commanding general, met with Major-General Stephen Cadden, Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre commander, and Col. David Gardner, Joint Readiness Training Center, Operations Group commander, to observe U.S. and Canadian Armed Forces exercising together Jan. 21 at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana.



COURTESY PHOTO

BAMC hosts tobacco cessation program for beneficiaries

By Daniel J. Calderón

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Brooke Army Medical Center Pulmonary Tobacco Cessation Team at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is helping beneficiaries reduce and eliminate their dependence on a variety of tobacco products.

“We treat all types of nicotine dependence, not only the use of cigarettes, but other nicotine products to include cigars and electronic cigarette use,” said Dr. Jackie Hayes, BAMC pulmonary critical care physician at. “We also treat patients for use of smokeless tobacco products such as chewing tobacco, snuff and dips.”

The BAMC program has been in place since 2009 and patients can either be referred by one of their providers or they can self-refer into the

program.

In addition to more traditional cessation programs, which focus on the behavioral health aspects of quitting tobacco products, BAMC’s program adds in clinical elements as well. The program integrates behavioral health with providers in the pulmonary and cardiology clinics to provide a more holistic approach to cessation.

“Our program is based on U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense guidelines and other evidence-based best practices,” said Deborah Bray, BAMC tobacco treatment specialist. “We take the latest in treatment research and incorporate that into the program.”

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disability in the nation. People forget that there is also a significant cardiovascular impact from smoking, said Dr.

“We treat all types of nicotine dependence. ... We also treat patients for use of smokeless tobacco products.”

Dr. Jackie Hayes, BAMC pulmonary critical care physician

Michael Chatterton, BAMC clinical health psychologist.

With the rise of electronic cigarettes, or vaping, there is a new aspect to the dilemma. BAMC providers said their program includes a cessation program for those beneficiaries who want to quit vaping.

BAMC providers have said the problem with vaping is exacerbated when smokers, or other tobacco users, try to turn to electronic cigarettes under the mistaken impression that they are somehow “safer.”

“There is no research to support that it is any safer,” Hayes said. He and Chatterton said vaping can actually make the situation worse because many who try to use that as an alternative end up becoming dependent on both the electronic cigarettes and whatever form of tobacco they were already using.

In addition, tobacco products have a detrimental impact on performance, which is crucial to the careers of active duty military members.

Bray and other BAMC cessation team providers are focused on reducing, or removing, the dependence on tobacco products through a combination of behavior modification techniques and medications to combat the effects of the tobacco use on the patients.

The program starts with four weeks of two-hour counseling sessions. There is also medical

management involved throughout the process. Following the sessions, there are follow-up phone calls that make up a total of a year of involvement by BAMC staff.

In similar programs nationwide, the average rate of success, meaning no relapse to tobacco usage, is 18 to 30 percent six months after the program ends. At BAMC, the average success rate is 38 percent for the same time period, with roughly 34 percent of participants staying tobacco-free one year after completing the BAMC program.

Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at JBSA-Lackland has a similar program for personnel who are closer to that side of San Antonio, and eligible beneficiaries can be referred to the program at either location. To self-refer into the BAMC program, call 210-916-2153.

LACKLAND

360 Leaders Course empowers leaders

By Rachel Kersey

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 502nd Air Base Wing welcomed the 50th class of the 360 Leaders Course to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 27. The course is a weeklong, science-based leadership course that provides comprehensive, holistic training in personal health, wellness and resiliency, which empowers participants to guide Airmen under their care with compassion and understanding.

“Healthy leaders are more effective leaders,” said retired Col. Mary Lopez, who founded 360 Veterans Association with the help of retired Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar. “This is your week to take care of you.”

360 Veterans Association, a 501(c)(19) charitable organization now in its 10th year of operation, has trained over 3,000 people worldwide. The nonprofit is contracted to provide several courses annually for Joint Base San Antonio, with the next one scheduled for June 15-19.

“We need this,” said Col. Peter Velesky, 502nd ABW and JBSA vice commander, who gave opening remarks. “We need to spend the money on this because it’s going to help a lot of people.”

The motto of Three-Sixty Inc. is “Skills for leaders, skills for life.” Accordingly, the course touched on a variety of topics, including stress management,



SENIOR AIRMAN DILLON PARKER

Retired Brig. Gen. Steve Salazar (left), co-founder of the 360 Leaders Course, leads 360 Leaders Course students in an afternoon stretch, Jan. 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

mindfulness, physical fitness, anger management, couples communication, domestic violence, nutrition and many others. A psychologist, a retired military chaplain, a physical therapist, a financial adviser and a yogi joined the team to provide subject matter expertise and offer one-on-one consultations, completely free of charge.

The idea is that with increased education for leaders, participants in the course will be able to bring their newfound knowledge back to their workplaces and even their homes in order to improve the environment and morale.

“We want you to be able to ask the right questions to be able to engage our airmen and get them help,” Beard said. “Life can be tough sometimes and Airmen are tough, but not immune to life circumstances. They deserve to be equipped with the best possible skills to promote their personal growth and resilience.”

At the end of the week, the 50th Daniel A. Quintana Memorial Leadership Award was presented to Adrienne Beard, a class participant and the coordinator of the JBSA-Lackland Military and Family Readiness Center’s Exceptional Family Member Program.

“I hope they make this course mandatory if you’re promoting to a leadership role,” Beard said.

All of the students took a vote on the last day of class to determine which classmate exhibited extraordinary leadership qualities. Beard demonstrated servant leadership throughout the week, bringing cereal and milk to share with her classmates in the mornings after yoga and arranging for a thank-you card to circulate for the instructors.

This course’s award ceremony was special because Staff. Sgt. Daniel Quintana’s wife, Nilda, and daughter, Adrianna, flew in from Virginia to participate. Quintana was part of the 360 Leaders Course’s first class in Germany and was killed the following year in Afghanistan while on deployment in 2011.

JBSA-Lackland celebrates start of Black History Month

By Allison Miller

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The African-American Heritage Committee initiated the start of Black History Month in a ceremony filled with history, fashion, poems, jazz and soul food at Arnold Hall on JBSA-Lackland, Jan. 28.

The ceremony focused on the history of African-American voting rights and introduced a series of events that will occur throughout February, in honor of Black History Month.

“It’s time to celebrate, to be joyful, to be thankful and to

remember the legacy and history that has come before (us) and to lay down the history and legacy of the future,” said Col. Scott Thompson, 502nd Installation Support Group commander.

Several guest speakers covered cultural topics ranging from the history of jazz to the meaning of the colors found in traditional African clothing. Each speaker emphasized the cultural influence made on their topic by African-American people.

With the primary elections coming up, the ceremony put emphasis on voting and voting history.

African-American men were

not given the right to vote until 1870, and women had to wait nearly 50 years before receiving their right. Even after the rights were established, several laws and taxes still prevented equal voting rights for all. In 1965, the Federal Voting Rights Act enforced registration and voting rights for all.

2020 marks 150 years since African-American men were given the right to vote. The theme of this celebration is meant to emphasize the struggle of black men and black women for the right to vote, said Tech Sgt. Richard Smith Jr., event emcee.

The African-American

Heritage Committee has planned several events throughout February in celebration of Black History Month.

“Heritage celebrations like this event, kicking off African-American History Month, allow us to reflect and celebrate the diverse background, history and contributions to our society,” said Thompson. “The planned events for February are a great way to show our appreciation and celebrate the contributions of African-Americans that will honor the past and continue to secure the future of our great nation.”

Learn more about Black

History Month at the following events:

- ▶ Feb. 7 — JBSA Youth Basketball Clinic at 4:30 p.m., Lackland Youth Center. POC: Ivan Keene, 977-4995
- ▶ Feb. 10-13 — Did You Know Movement, local elementary schools. POC: Mark Carter, 808-1094
- ▶ Feb. 15 — Gospel Fest at noon, Freedom Chapel, JBSA-Lackland. POC: Andrea Howard, 671-1755
- ▶ Feb. 17-29 — Black History Month displays at The Exchange, JBSA-Lackland.
- ▶ Feb. 26 — Capstone Luncheon at 11 a.m., Gateway Club, JBSA-Lackland. POC: Wanda Smith, 671-1758



DAVID DEKUNDER

Military working dog Tarzan and his handler (center), Staff Sgt. Sean Tucker of the 802nd Security Forces Squadron, pose with a group of area school superintendents and administrators at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Annex Jan. 23.

Area school superintendents, administrators tour JBSA-Lackland, address challenges of military children

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Area school superintendents and administrators got to see a military working dog demonstration and watch a basic military training graduation during a tour of Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 23.

The group of 15 school leaders, including officials from the Texas Education Agency and the University Interscholastic League, participated in the tour at the invitation of JBSA leaders.

Starting off the group's tour of JBSA-Lackland was a visit to the military working dog facility, located at JBSA-Lackland Annex. The group of school administrators got a guided tour of the facility and were treated to a military working dog demonstration conducted by Staff Sgt. Sean Tucker and Matthew Erfman, 802nd Security Forces Squadron military working dog handlers, and Tarzan, a military working dog.

Afterwards, the group viewed the Air Force basic military training graduation at the Pfingston Reception

Center. The tour concluded with a luncheon at the home of Maj. Gen. John Wilcox II, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center commander, and his wife, Marian.

Leslie Janaros, military spouse and wife of Col. Jason Janaros, 37th Training Wing commander at JBSA-Lackland, said the purpose of the tour is to build upon the partnership that exists between the military and local educators and to increase awareness for the JBSA Military Education Summit on April 8.

The objective of the summit, which will be held in

cooperation with the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, is to bring awareness to and address educational issues and challenges faced by military school-age children and their families.

Janaros said she received positive feedback from the tour participants.

"They said that they really enjoyed the military working dog demonstration and then of course to be part of that coining (basic military training graduation) is always special," Janaros said. "They can even see their contribution to that

(graduation) because a lot of their students make a choice and some of them make that choice to raise their right hand and take that oath to protect our great nation."

Anthony Jarrett, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction at the Northeast Independent School District in San Antonio, said he enjoyed viewing the military working dog demonstration.

"It was great watching the dogs out there and the training and the discipline, and just the care that's being given to the facility as well as the animals," Jarrett said.



SENIOR AIRMAN DILLON PARKER

Servicemembers interact with civilian companies during the 502nd Communications Squadron Technology Expo at the Gateway Club Jan. 29 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

502nd Communications Squadron hosts technology expo at JBSA-Lackland

By **Airman Dillon Parker**
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 502nd Communications Squadron hosted the annual Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Technology Expo Jan. 29 at the Gateway Club.

The annual expo featured more than 30 companies displaying different technologies and has been at JBSA for the past 20 years.

“The annual JBSA-Lackland Technology Expo is a day that brings both industry and government together to discuss mission-centric technologies,” said Hailey Davis, event manager for the expo. “We like to have a wide range of different capabilities come out, and we try to match two to three different companies to each unit here on base.”

Many of the companies present this year are already military-affiliated or veteran-owned, but the expo provides an excellent forum for military units to explore new ways in which their

cutting-edge technologies can help meet mission needs. Exhibiting companies are always encouraged to provide live demos and hands-on training to benefit the attendees, Davis said.

Technologies displayed at the expo were relevant to a diverse mixture of professional fields.

“The expo is intended to be a bridge between the military and industry leading companies by providing an excellent networking opportunity,” Davis said.

“When there’s an open line of communication between these two entities, the companies are better able to meet the needs of the military, while the military units are better able to leverage cutting edge technologies.”

There will be additional Technology Expos at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph in the future, dates and times to be determined. Each annual tech expo is free and open to all base personnel.

2020 Defender Challenge team chosen

By **Dan Hawkins**
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Education and Training Command officials announced the seven Security Forces Airmen selected to represent the First Command at the Air Force-wide Defender Challenge competition during the command tryout camp closing ceremonies Jan. 31, 2020.

The Airmen who made the AETC team for the world-wide competition include:

- ▶▶ Staff Sgt. William McLaughlin, 502nd Security Forces Squadron, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
- ▶▶ Staff Sgt. Jesse Daniel, 81st SFS, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi
- ▶▶ Staff Sgt. Wilson Brantley, 902nd SFS, JBSA-Randolph
- ▶▶ Senior Airman Craig Smith, 71st SFS, Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma
- ▶▶ Senior Airman Jonathon Hardy, 97th SFS, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma
- ▶▶ Senior Airman Paul Cupp, 42nd SFS, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

▶▶ Airman 1st Class Ryan Franklin, 802nd SFS, JBSA-Lackland

Selected as alternates to the team were Staff Sgt. Isreal Camille from the 37th Training Support Squadron at JBSA-Lackland; Master Sgt. Sean McDermott from the 56th SFS, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona; and Senior Airman Andrew Vance, a 902nd SFS military working dog handler at JBSA-Randolph.

“Defenders as a whole represent professionalism, integrity and selflessness,” said Col. Leonard Rose, AETC Chief of Security Forces. “These Defenders are just seven of the 2300 you see within AETC, and they are showcasing just a small sample of our skilled and motivated Airmen.”

Winning the world-wide competition is the goal, Rose noted.

“Of course we want to win,” Rose said. “But as with any training, we want to learn from our mistakes so we don’t make them during real world contingencies.”

The world-wide competition will be held at JBSA-Camp Bullis in May.

Mid-season flu activity increase: How to keep healthy

From Military Health System Communications Office

Influenza can affect anyone, from the everyday civilian to the active duty service member. Current trends show an increase in flu activity at the halfway point of the season.

While it's too early in the season to determine the overall severity of the flu, the Military Health System maintains readiness and resourcefulness to protect the armed forces and their loved ones from effects of the flu.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found an elevated level of influenza activity earlier in the season than is typically observed around this time. As of Jan. 16, the CDC estimates that there have been approximately 4,800 flu-related deaths and 87,000 hospitalizations nationwide this season. Active surveillance by the Defense Health

Agency's Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division, or AFHSD, has also found high levels of influenza activity among military personnel.

Despite the increase in activity, MHS is prepared to sustain the health of service members and their families. All military personnel are required to be immunized against the flu annually to decrease susceptibility to infection.

"Immunization is important given that military personnel live and work in close proximity with other members of the community," said Navy Cmdr. Shawn Clausen of AFHSD's Epidemiology and Analysis section.

While involvement in patient-care activities and participation in large gatherings increases the risk of infection, early data and discussions with the CDC show that the risk among military members and the

"The good news is that although seasonal influenza vaccine is not always a perfect match, it is still the best way to provide protection against influenza disease."

Janet Brunader, Defense Health Agency's Immunization Healthcare Division

general population appears to be similar. To get ahead of this risk, the Department of Defense has already distributed more than 3.3 million doses of influenza vaccine throughout the military. As of Jan. 16, approximately 90 percent of all service members have been vaccinated.

Vaccination is recommended not just for military members, but also their loved ones, according to Janet Brunader, a research nurse in the Vaccine Safety & Evaluation section of the Defense Health Agency's Immunization Healthcare

Division.

"The good news is that although seasonal influenza vaccine is not always a perfect match, it is still the best way to provide protection against influenza disease," she said.

Brunader suggests that everyone 6 months or older get a flu shot each year in the fall. Children over 6 months of age but under age 8 years who have never had a flu shot should get two shots — one shot followed by another at least four weeks later. Children who have had at least one flu shot in the past only need to get one flu shot each year.

There are numerous ways in addition to vaccination to keep safe against the flu.

"One helpful suggestion, in addition to washing your hands before eating or handling food, is to avoid touching your eyes, nose, or face with your unwashed hands," Brunader said.

Since flu viruses can also spread through the air, Brunader suggests staying at least six feet away from people who are coughing, sneezing, or blowing their nose. If you already have the flu, coughing into a tissue or the bend of the elbow will reduce the spread of viruses. Early treatment with anti-influenza drugs can shorten the duration of illness.

Beneficiaries can receive flu vaccines through their closest military hospital and retail networks. TRICARE representatives can help determine how to get the vaccine if a person is unable to visit a military hospital.

RANDOLPH



COURTESY PHOTOS

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Carl Miller, 538th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron commander, with members of his unit in front of an Afghan air force C-130 Hercules and AC-208 Combat Caravan on the flight line at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan in this undated photo.

AETC Air Advisor is Sijan Leadership Award winner

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An Air Advisor based at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph is the 2019 Lance P. Sijan United States Air Force Leadership Award winner in the senior officer category.

Lt. Col. Carl Miller, now the deputy chief of the special missions division at Headquarters, Air Education and Training Command, won the award for his achievements while deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, leading the execution of a \$1.5 billion security assistance program as commander of the 538th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron.

The 538th AEAS is a total force, joint and combined combat air advisory team of highly experienced aircrew who advised the Afghan air force in C-130 Hercules, A-29 Super Tucano, AC-208 Combat Caravan, C-208 Caravan, MD-530 Cayuse Warrior, and Mi-17 helicopter flight operations, squadron management, leadership development, and long-term planning.

"This was my second year as an

advisor in the area and already had some pre-established trust, which really helped me further build those relationships with the AAF," said Miller, a command pilot with over 3,900 flying hours in the AC-208, C-208, T-6 Texan II, and C-17 Globemaster. "The opportunity to lead and serve with such a dynamic organization, working shoulder to shoulder with the Afghan people, is truly the greatest honor of my career."

In his role, Miller advised the entire AAF Kabul Wing operations group, including six major weapons systems, 86 aircraft, six squadrons and 201 aircrew members.

"I am most proud of how far our Afghan partners advanced their combat airpower capability in such a short amount of time," Miller said. "Whether it was executing formation airdrop for the first time, standing up a new intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and strike platform, or delivering election materials across the country to facilitate a record voter turnout for Afghanistan, the Afghan air force is growing more capable and professional by the day."



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Carl Miller (right), 538th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron commander, prepares for a training sortie in an AC-208 Super Caravan with U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Sam McIntyre, 538th AEAS director of operations, on the flight line at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Additionally, Miller led the program execution and fielding of ten AC-208 aircraft, a \$250 million security assistance program, providing the first organic AAF ISR, and low-yield, precision-strike capability.

"Standing up the AC-208 program really was a major win for the AAF," Miller said. "Helping to provide this ISR capability was a game-changer."

Under Miller's direction, the unit also navigated an AC-208 training stand-down in the United States by

relocating training to Afghanistan in order stand up operations with initial operating capability, as well as jumpstarted the AAF's first combat airdrop missions.

"None of those incredible accomplishments would be possible without the many years of sustained effort by our Total Force Airmen, joint, coalition, and contract advisors," Miller said.

Air Advising is the operational arm of Air Force Security Cooperation. There are more than 3,800 trained Air Advisors on active duty, and at any given time there are approximately 1,000 Total Force Airmen engaged in the Air Advisor mission around the world.

The objective of Air Advising operations and activities is to directly support capacity and capability development of a partner nation's aviation enterprise in order to meet their national security needs, in support of U.S. interests. For more information on becoming an Air Advisor, visit the Air Force Developmental Special Experiences (DSE) catalog at <https://usaf.dps.mil/teams/aetc/dse/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

TAP Too gives spouses front-row seat to transition advice

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A program that helps military spouses meet the challenges of transitioning from military to civilian life due to the separation or retirement of their service member is coming soon to the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center. Pioneered at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC, TAP Too closely mirrors the Transition Assistance Program for separating and retiring military members, but approaches transition from the spouse's perspective.

"This is a program that has been long-needed," said Yazmine Gutierrez, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC work/life consultant. "Our spouses are welcome to participate in TAP, but space can be limited. This is a fantastic way to ensure preparation and the sharing of critical information. We know some things get lost in

translation or not communicated after a TAP class and spouses tend to take that hit because they aren't sitting in class."

The first two JBSA TAP Too sessions were conducted at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in August and November; the session at the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC is set for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 20.

"The workshop agenda covers phases of transition and includes topics on finances, education, family, health care and Department of Veterans Affairs benefits," said Terry Wise, JBSA-Randolph M&FRC community readiness consultant. "Representatives from the various organizations that help military families will provide information and answer questions about their programs and services."

The program also addresses topics such as the emotional and psychological aspects of change, including family dynamics, roles and responsibilities, and ways to identify depression.

TAP Too helps spouses face

the unknown, Wise said.

"Spouses are the backbone of the military family, and they can and do handle quite a lot during extended work hours, permanent changes of station, deployments and other certainties of military life," he said. "They have handled these issues numerous times over, but you only transition once and everyone's transition is unique to their family dynamic. We want to empower the spouses like we do with other workshops offered at the military and family readiness center so they can face this task with the same enthusiasm."

Some of the concerns spouses raised during the first two sessions included VA benefits and entitlements, job positionality, preparation for their children's transition and career change certifications, Gutierrez said.

The sessions were well-received, she said.

"Spouses came in from around the United States to participate and we have had installations from around the

world contact me for information to develop this at their locations," Gutierrez said. "In addition, this has been shared with our major command and installation management command for best practice."

Attendees shared numerous positive comments about the sessions, Gutierrez said.

One spouse said the session provided a "wealth of useful information in a supportive environment and an outstanding lineup of engaging speakers."

One of the subject-matter experts predicted TAP Too would someday be common throughout the Department of Defense.

"I think we'll all look back in five years and be proud to have attended the first session of what I think will be a DOD-wide program," he said.

The second TAP Too session of 2020 is planned May 27 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

"It will be offered quarterly, and the location in JBSA will change throughout the year to ensure that all of our spouses

have a chance to attend at a location convenient to them," Wise said.

The program provides spouses with the information they need to navigate a successful transition, he said.

"Spouses transition, too," Wise said. "The better informed one is, the better one can handle adversity. Leaving the safety and security of the military can be scary for some. The military and family readiness center wants everyone to succeed while in the service as well as after separation or retirement. The better prepared you are, the more success you will have."

The program was designed to mirror what service members are receiving in the Transition Assistance Program, Gutierrez said.

"This way the home front is as prepared as the mission-ready service member," she said. "Military life is a team effort and by preparing the whole family, we can help in an easier transition."

JBSA-RANDOLPH MAIN GATE CLOSING FEB. 26

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Main Gate closes Feb. 26 for construction work, reopening in April. During this time, the West Gate will be open 24/7. The East Gate will be open Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. and closed weekends. Hours for the South Gate remain Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. The Visitor's Center at the Main Gate will remain open. A shuttle from the Visitor's Center to the Shoppette will run every 30 minutes for pedestrians.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

AF remembers Tuskegee Airmen contributions in honor of Black History Month

By Tech. Sgt. J. Smith
86TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Every February, the U.S. recognizes Black History Month in order to showcase the challenges, victories and contributions of these individuals throughout the nation's history.

Contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II helped pave the way for future Airmen.

At a time when individuals were segregated based on the color of their skin and not everyone had full rights to vote.

Named after Tuskegee Army Airfield, the first class of aviation cadets entered training in July 1941 with 12 cadets and one officer. That officer, Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., would later forge history by becoming the Air Force's first black

general officer. This team of 13 formed the 99th Pursuit Squadron; in May 1942 it was re-designated as the 99th Fighter Squadron. Soon after, the 100th, 301st and 302nd Tuskegee fighter squadrons combined with the 99th to form the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1944.

Tuskegee pilots downed 409 German aircraft and obliterated 950 pieces of transportation equipment including a German destroyer in the Adriatic Sea near Trieste, Italy in 1944.

During this endeavor, 66 Tuskegee pilots were killed, said Daniel Haulman, Air Force Historical Research Agency Chief, Organization History Division.

Additionally, 32 pilots were shot down and became

prisoners of war. The most notable achievement was that no bombers were lost or destroyed during their more than 2,000 escort missions.

Willie Rogers, the oldest surviving member of the original Tuskegee Airmen passed away Nov. 2016.

During this time, the Tuskegee Airmen was

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



THE CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL WAS
PRESENTED TO THE
TUSKEGEE AIRMEN ON
MARCH 29, 2007 TO ALL
WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE
"TUSKEGEE EXPERIENCE"
1941-1949



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS
WORLD WAR II



THE 332ND FIGHTER
GROUP FLEW MORE
THAN 1500 MISSIONS,
SECURED 112 AERIAL
VICTORIES, AND WERE
AWARDED 95
DISTINGUISHED FLYING
CROSSES

TECH. SGT. J. SMITH

designated a new jet trainer as the "T-7A Red Hawk." This trainer was named in honor of the black pilots who flew in World War II during a segregated point in U.S. military history. Specially, the 332nd Fighter Group flew aircraft which had a distinctive tail that was painted red so it was easily identifiable.

successful with furthering the American civil rights movement by encouraging the U.S. military to integrate.

On June 1, 1949, Air Force officials published regulations which ended segregation. The Air Force was the first U.S. military branch to integrate black personnel.

In Sept. 2019, the Air Force