

JBSA

LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MARCH 20, 2020



COURTESY PHOTO

As a precautionary measure, Brooke Army Medical Center volunteers raised a triage tent outside of the hospital March 13 to safely screen patients, if needed, for potential infectious respiratory conditions, such as COVID-19, while minimizing the risk to others. These triage tents will only become operational if necessary and will not limit the BAMC trauma mission or patients' access to healthcare. See Page 3 for questions and answers about local COVID-19 measures.

Joint Base San Antonio officials respond to COVID-19



CSAF visits JBSA to observe COVID-19 operations
Page 10



SAMHS takes precautionary measures to minimize COVID-19 risk
Page 4

DOD halts travel to, from COVID-19 affected countries

By Jim Garamone
DOD NEWS

In response to the growing coronavirus epidemic, Defense Department officials are looking to safeguard the health and safety of military and civilian personnel and their families.

“The department is committed to doing our part in the administration’s comprehensive fight against the coronavirus by enhancing the safety of our personnel, helping them stay healthy, and making sure they’re able to continue executing the mission,” Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper said during a Pentagon news

conference March 12.

Last night, Esper issued a memo entitled “Travel Restriction for DOD Components in Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019.”

The memo states that, beginning tomorrow, all DOD military and civilian personnel and their families traveling to, from, or through areas that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention label as a Level 3 danger will stop movement for the next 60 days. This includes all forms of official travel, including permanent change of station, temporary duty and government-funded leave.

For military personnel, this restriction also includes

personal leave and other non-official travel.

In addition, the memo calls on DOD travelers to carefully plan travel to ensure scheduled flights do not transit through or originate in Level 3 designated locations.

The CDC designates the following as Level 3 countries: Austria, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Vatican City.

Esper’s memo further curtails concurrent, official travel for family members of DOD uniformed and civilian personnel to Level 2-designated locations for 60 days. The memo also freezes DOD civilian personnel hiring actions for positions in locations designated as Levels 2 and

Level 3 locations. Travel is also frozen for employees who have already been hired, but who have not yet embarked.

In the memo, Esper calls on components to examine all travel and only approve mission-essential trips.

“Our combat commanders, service secretaries and the chief management officer are authorized to grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis,” Esper said during the press conference. “Our commanders, of course, have the authority to provide direction and guidance to the troops every step of the way.”

Other impacts of the coronavirus epidemic include changes to exercises and other training events.

Esper said the coronavirus situation is changing as scientists, researchers and medical professionals learn more about it. That means the guidance the department issues will change as warranted, he said.

Have orders to PCS to/from Italy or Korea? Don’t break your housing lease yet, Soldiers!

By Jim Tripp
SOLDIERS LEGAL ASSISTANCE
ATTORNEY

Editor’s note: The information in this article pertains only to U.S. Army Soldiers. Members of other military services should contact their respective legal offices for more information on this subject.

While the long-term effects of the coronavirus — COVID-19 — continue to be uncertain, the Army is taking immediate steps to protect the force, preserve readiness, and mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission among personnel.

Consequently, one protective measure the Army has taken was to publish an order March 7, directing Soldiers and family members who are on orders to move to or from Korea or Italy to stop movement and delay

travel until May 6, 2020, or until further notice.

The order is Fragmentary Order 4, or FRAGO-4, which modified an Execution Order, or EXORD, put out by Headquarters Department of the Army to address the Army’s preparedness and response to the Coronavirus.

If FRAGO-4 affects you and your family because you are scheduled to move to or from Korea or Italy, what do you do?

For now, do not cancel any leases pursuant to your right under the Servicemember’s Civil Relief Act, or SCRA. The SCRA is a great law, with many protections for Soldiers, including the authority to terminate a lease for a dwelling when a Soldier receives Permanent Change of Station, or PCS, orders.

However, the SCRA does not require a landlord to re-lease those premises to service members and their dependents following a valid termination.

In other words, if you use the SCRA to terminate a lease because you are on PCS orders to or from Korea or Italy, but FRAGO-4 kicks in, then you are stuck where you are, but the landlord is not required to re-lease you the property.

Meanwhile, if you have already requested to terminate your lease, we recommend you contact your landlord immediately to see if the landlord will agree, voluntarily, to a lease extension or a temporary re-lease.

Soldiers and their families who terminate their leases, but cannot PCS under the stop-PCS order in FRAGO-4,

face the possibility of moving twice: first from the terminated residence, and then again to their new duty assignment when their PCS orders are re-issued. Funding for the two moves will be uncertain until further notice, as will the availability of temporary lodging.

For questions on the effects of FRAGO-4 and the legal application of the SCRA generally, consider first discussing the issue with your chain of command, your S-1, and/or a JBSA legal assistance attorney.

JBSA Legal News For Soldiers is a publication of Soldier Legal Services at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, located at 2422 Stanley Road, building 134, and can be reached at 210-808-0169.

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

Editor
STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff

TECH. SGT. AVE YOUNG

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHELBY PRUITT

DAVID DEKUNDER

ROBERT GOETZ

SABRINA FINE

ALLISON MILLER

LORI BULTMAN

RACHEL KERSEY

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

This Department of Defense newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of the JBSA Legacy are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DoD, or the U.S. Air Force.

Published by EN Communities a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force under exclusive written contract with the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office.

Everything advertised in this publication will 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 non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

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.

Q: Will I still be able to see my Airman graduate Basic Military Training?

A: Only by tuning into livestream of the graduation ceremony on the 37th Training Wing Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/37thTrainingWing/>.

For now, BMT graduations will be closed to any visitors. We took our time at making the decision and we do realize that this is a hardship for a lot of people and we're trying to make this period it as smooth as possible.

As a part of Military City USA, we bring people from all over the world, and we send them to many other places in the world. Closing BMT graduations and cancelling large gatherings is an action to protect the on- and off-base community.

Q: Can local military attend any of the BMT graduation events?

A: It's going to be closed to everyone except the trainees at this time, although Basic Military Training graduation events will be livestreamed via the 37th Training Wing's Facebook page every Friday at <https://www.facebook.com/37thTrainingWing/>.

Q: How long will BMT graduations be closed to the public?

A: Right now, we just can't make that call of when it's going to end. We'll be watching just as everyone else is and getting the best advice that we can.

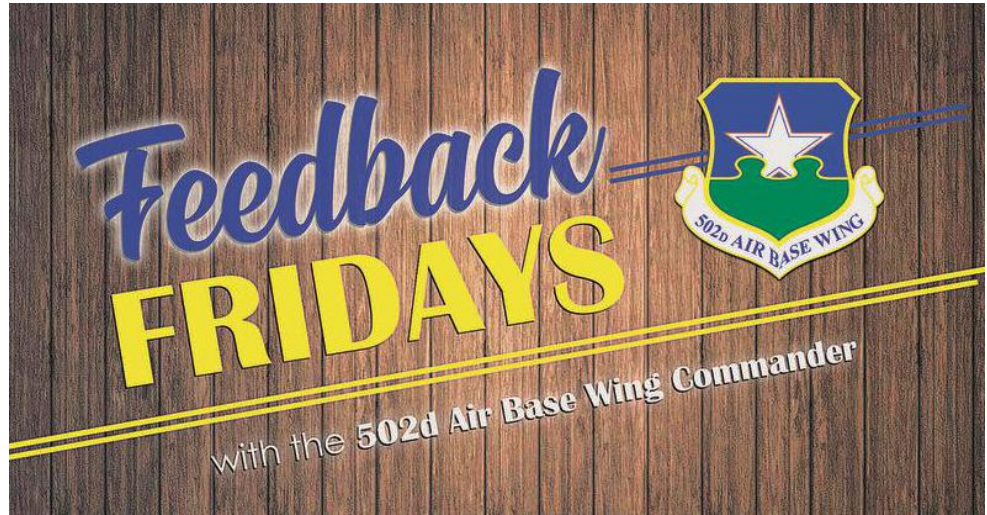
We will make decisions based on recommendations of our senior leaders. Right now, this is the right thing to do for this environment here at Joint Base San Antonio, to protect all the people on the installation that live and work here, and those that are going to go on to graduate this weekend.

Q: Typically, after graduation, trainees who've graduated have the opportunity to spend time with their families and go off base. Will new Airmen have liberty after they graduate?

A: After graduation, the trainees will go back to the dormitory squadrons as a measure to try to lessen the blow in regards to them not being able to interact with their loved ones, we will allow them to have their phones so they can call and talk with their loved ones, which is one of the measures that we normally do not do.

However, considering the circumstances in the situation that we are making those amends, so that they can at least have phone contact with their loved ones

Q: How is this going to impact JBSA when it comes to



COURTESY GRAPHIC

things like retirement ceremonies, 5K runs, events that the base typically organizes?

A: We're actually working through those questions right now. In the interest of time, we focused in on the military training graduation ceremonies, but we're going to look at each event coming up in the near future.

For each case, we are going to take into account the health risk to the Force and the risk to the mission consider. There will be more information to follow, but it'll most likely be on a case-by-case basis.

Q: If a child at the CDC tests positive, are there plans in place and how will that be handled?

A: We have been talking about this through the health working group we've been talking about what happens if we have a positive test in the Child Development Center, because every parent and family member is mission essential.

CDCs will have a direct mission impact on our team. If there is a positive case, that's the job of our health protection working group to follow the protocols in terms of notifications. They'll do some tracing, which is determining who that child came in contact with.

If it came to us having to shut down a CDC, we would do that in the abundance of caution to take care of the greater community. But again, this would have a large impact on the mission. We do have quite a few CDCs at JBSA and many children on the waiting list as well, so we recognize that this is an important course of action, or branch that we need to walk through so that we're prepared in case that does happen on our installation.

Q: What should JBSA personnel do if they believe they may have contracted Coronavirus?

A: If you are feeling sick, please call the TRICARE Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE (1-800-874-2273),

option 1, before going to a clinic.

Civilian employees should be seen by their Primary Care Manager if exposure is a possibility and there are symptoms. Moreover, assuming the person is symptomatic AND unable to perform official duties, he or she should take sick leave.

If the person is symptomatic and able to perform official duties, in a position where telework is authorized, and has a signed telework agreement, then he/she could telework. In all cases, work with supervisors and the chain of command for specific details.

Q: Is there a way for security at the gate to be able to view ID cards without actually having that person-to-person interaction?

A: Thank you for that question. Yes. In an effort to protect our defenders and the community we have instituted "no touch" ID check procedures at all gates. When approaching the gate, drivers should roll down their window and hold their IDs barcode out to allow them to be scanned. Once scanned IDs should be turned over to show the photo. Drivers should then wait for direction from the defender to proceed.

Q: Are there any positive cases of COVID-19 on JBSA?

A: Great question. No. There are no positive cases of COVID-19 on JBSA. As of 17 March, there are 4 positive cases of COVID-19 in the San Antonio area. All of these cases are related to travel outside of the country.

Q: Will fitness centers remain open?

A: No. All fitness centers across JBSA closed on 17 March and will remain closed indefinitely. Because of the nature of usage, fitness facilities are exceedingly difficult to keep appropriately sanitized for prevention and mitigation of the virus. We are having our exercise physiologists develop recommendations to remain fit and ready until facilities can be reopened.

SAMHS takes precautionary measures to minimize COVID-19 risk

From BAMC and 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs Offices

As a precautionary measure, the San Antonio Military Health System, or SAMHS, has placed triage tents outside of Brooke Army Medical Center, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Randolph Clinic and Reid Clinic to safely screen patients, if needed, for potential infectious respiratory conditions, such as COVID-19, while minimizing the risk to others.

“Given our mission to provide world-class healthcare to over 240,000 beneficiaries, SAMHS is taking all necessary precautions to prevent unintentional COVID-19 cases from entering our hospitals and clinics,” said Maj. Gen. John DeGoes, director, SAMHS, and commander, 59th Medical Wing.

While there are currently no Joint Base San Antonio COVID-19 cases, the



SAMHS and JBSA are instituting precautions at certain facilities to ensure the continued health and safety of patients and staff.

“Please keep in mind that these triage tents will only become operational if necessary and will not limit our trauma mission or our patients’ access to healthcare,” DeGoes explained.

As an additional measure to help

ensure the safety of patients and staff, officials recommend TRICARE beneficiaries consider calling in before coming in by using the 24/7 Nurse Advice Line, or NAL. These healthcare professionals can help patients decide whether self-care is the best option or if it is better to see a healthcare provider. Visit MHSNurseAdviceLine.com for a web or video chat, or dial

1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1.

Beneficiaries also can call the Consult Appointment Management Office, or CAMO, at 210-916-9900, which can offer in-person appointments or even virtual appointments from their own home.

As an additional precaution, BAMC is temporarily delaying elective surgeries to support the effort to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases and to ensure healthcare professionals and resources are poised to support an increased need for acute patient care.

“We will continue to take proactive steps, working alongside our military and community partners, to both contain the spread and mitigate the impact of the virus,” said Brig. Gen. Wendy Harter, deputy director, SAMHS, and commanding general, BAMC. “As this situation is rapidly evolving, we will be sure to share any updates and appreciate everyone’s patience and support.”

Air Force Basic Military Training, technical and flying training mission essential, to continue with mitigation

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department of Defense response to the coronavirus outbreak continues to be dynamic and policy may quickly change, but as of March 17, U.S. Air Force’s basic military training, technical training and flying training operations have been deemed mission essential and will continue with mitigation for COVID-19, Air Education and Training Command announced.

Additionally, all technical training and undergraduate flying training students will continue to out-process after graduation and travel to their first duty station upon completion of training.

“Force health protection is our top priority and we will continually be monitoring the current COVID-19 situation and our recruiting, training and education operations daily to ensure we are doing all we can to protect our Airmen and maintain mission readiness,” said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of AETC. “Calm is contagious. We are making every decision in joint coordination with our sister services, and implementing mitigation tactics where necessary, with the commitment to preserving the ability of our service men and women to provide for national defense and current worldwide military missions.”

Until further notice, all BMT flights currently in training will continue until their training objectives are met, with no flight consolidation at this time.

In a change to routine basic military training operations, flights originally scheduled to graduate on Fridays will now graduate on Thursday, with the next graduation happening March 19.

All BMT graduation events remain private and closed to the public, with a live-streaming of Thursday graduation ceremonies on the 37th Training Wing Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/37thTrainingWing/>. The wing is also actively exploring other methods to allow families to view other BMT events online.

If significant changes to BMT operations occur, we will continue to disseminate this information.

For Airmen arriving at technical training, the owning installation commander will determine when it is safe for them to travel off base, based on the current health protection conditions and DOD guidance.

For flying training, all related training is scheduled to continue, including PCS and TDY for aircrew students and career enlisted aviators.

Specifically, pipeline training (i.e., water survival, centrifuge, SERE, etc.) will continue unless previously noted. Additional measures are being considered to account for force health protection, such as altering

class makeup in certain cases.

On graduation for both technical training and flying training students, losing units will coordinate with the gaining units to work specific mitigation and travel issues as needed. Overseas travel will be coordinated in accordance with DOD guidelines.

Finally, at Air University, both Officer Training School and the Reserve Officer Training Corps is considered mission essential. Longer duration courses such as the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Air War College and Air Command and Staff College will continue as scheduled.

All students attending courses at AU in a TDY status have or will be returned to their home stations. These courses include enlisted and officer PME, as well as the First Sergeant Academy. Where possible, students will continue their courses virtually and receive credit.

For Airmen scheduled to cross-train and attend training, travel guidance is still being worked and will be disseminated once available.

“This is rapidly evolving, fluid situation,” Webb said. “We need your patience as we work through every scenario so we can provide you with the best information possible.”

Airmen with questions should contact their immediate chain of command.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Burn survivor, San Antonio firefighter on the road to recovery thanks to USAISR

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For nearly three years, San Antonio firefighter Brad Phipps has had to deal with both the physical and emotional scars from a fire that left him with burn injuries and in which one of his colleagues perished.

It's been a long and difficult recovery for Phipps, but he is thankful to the physicians, therapists and nurses at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston who treated and helped him rehab from his injuries.

"They were amazing, they were kind and they were respectful," Phipps said.

Phipps, 40, is set to retire from the San Antonio Fire Department at the end of March, after 15 years of service with the department.

Phipps visited with USAISR staff members at the Brooke Army Medical Center Feb. 6 to help man a booth set up by USAISR Burn Center that provided information and promotional items to emphasize the importance of burn injury awareness and prevention to the community. The booth was set up during National Burn Awareness Week held Feb. 2-8.

On May 18, 2017, Phipps was among several firefighters who responded to a four-alarm fire at a strip mall complex in northwest San Antonio. Phipps, along with his colleague and partner Scott Deem, entered the burning building, a gym, to search for people possibly



DAVID DEKUNDER

Burn survivor and San Antonio Fire Department firefighter Brad Phipps (center) helped man a booth with members of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston on burn injury awareness and prevention in the Brooke Army Medical Center mall during National Burn Awareness Week in early February.

trapped inside.

After a while, both firefighters tried to leave the burning building but were overcome by fire and became separated. Phipps said he was in the building for approximately 20 minutes, passing out from the heat before fire crews rescued him by dragging him out.

Unfortunately, Deem, a six-year firefighter for the San Antonio Fire Department, did not make it out alive. He was 31 years old. Investigators determined the cause of the fire as arson, which resulted in the

arrest of the gym's owner, who admitted to setting the building on fire.

Phipps was taken to the USAISR Burn Center intensive care unit with burn injuries covering 32 percent of his body, including his hands, arms, legs and back. While a patient in the burn center ICU, he was in a coma for about three weeks.

"When I woke up from the coma, I really wasn't sure what had happened," Phipps said. "It took a while for me to grasp what had actually happened. It was hard on me to learn that my partner (Deem) had passed

away."

He was kept in the USAISR Burn Center ICU until August 2017. After Phipps was released from the ICU, he started his outpatient rehabilitation and physical therapy, a long process that lasted for two years.

"My rehab started the day after I was released from here," Phipps said. "I came back here five days a week to the USAISR Burn Rehabilitation Unit. That lasted for about nine months going five days a week and then it dropped to three days a week."

He said his biggest challenge

while in rehab was learning how to walk again.

Phipps said going through rehabilitation was difficult at times, but the encouragement and support he received from the physicians, nurses and therapists at USAISR helped him get through it.

"There were numerous days that I didn't want to do it or give up," he said. "But luckily the people here kept pushing me and pushing me and everyday it got better."

While at USAISR Burn

SURVIVOR continues on 18

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Caisson Platoon honors fallen heroes

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On the quiet, narrow streets north of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, residents regularly see processions of family and friends escorting their loved ones on their journey to the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

As processions reach the cemetery gate, military members or veterans approved for Memorial Guard honors are met by members of the U.S. Army North Caisson Platoon, one of only two active-duty Army caisson units in the world.

The procession of the caisson dates back to the Civil War and is the Army's way of honoring those who have served their country honorably. It is also a reminder that no one is left behind.

"After major battles during the Civil War, caissons from both sides would enter the field to act as gathering points for fallen soldiers from both sides," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy French, U.S. Army North Caisson Platoon Sergeant. "They would then begin the trek to their respective mortuary affairs teams to be identified and interred, if possible.

"We have brought this piece of history forward to maintain the tradition of the final escort for fallen service members and pay homage to our past to maintain the reminder that we know why we still fight and sacrifice," he said.

Unfortunately, during the last year the platoon has been unable to provide caisson services due to safety concerns, deterioration of the caisson and the need for additional trained horses and soldiers. This was a drastic change from the 54



THOMAS CONEY

The U.S. Army North Caisson Platoon Memorial Guard, led by Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Rogers, escorts U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Javier J. Gutierrez, a member of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, to his final resting place at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Feb. 22.

missions and more than 700 funerals the platoon completed in 2018.

Then, on Feb. 22, U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Javier J. Gutierrez, a member of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, returned home to San Antonio, his final resting place. He and Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Rey Rodriguez died Feb. 8 as a result of wounds sustained while engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan.

Mourners watched that day as six Memorial Guards in uniform walked alongside Gutierrez' flag-draped casket on the platoon's 100-year-old caisson, operational for the first time in over a year, drawn by a team of four horses and followed by 12 soldiers. The guard was led by team leader Sgt. Tyler Rogers on horseback

to the designated committal area where a service and military honors took place and last goodbyes were tearfully rendered.

The somber, yet overwhelmingly patriotic procession of the caisson that has been missing at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery has returned due to the efforts of the caisson platoon.

"The platoon's ability to make the necessary adjustments and repair their caisson was instrumental in the U.S. Army North Caisson being able to perform the funeral mission for Special Forces operator, Sgt. 1st Class Gutierrez," French said, assuring that the platoon will continue to improve their ability to maintain the mission safely.

"Our soldiers have completed

extensive training and come here directly from service with the Old Guard in Virginia," he said, adding that specialized training with horses is required to be a part of the team.

"Working with horses in these circumstances requires precision and takes experience and skill," he said. "The horses, combined with gun and cannon fire, a band, motorcycles and families require our soldiers and horses to be sharp, alert and steadfast in their tasks."

Platoon members participating in Gutierrez' procession were also those who assisted in restoring the caisson just in time to honor a local fallen hero.

"Being able to escort Sgt. 1st Class Gutierrez was an honor, as are all missions we conduct," Rogers said. "I am honored to

provide the service for not just fallen service members, but also their families, and I look forward to continuing the tradition the caisson has set and will continue to uphold."

The caisson at Army North owes its existence to one particular Army officer and San Antonio native, Lt. Col. Karen Wagner, who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon. The Army conducted her interment ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with the help of the Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Half Section, with caisson honors. Since then, community members, service members and the late Sergeant Major of the Army, Sgt. Maj. Leon Van Autreve, have all contributed to establishing the Fort Sam Houston caisson.



COURTESY PHOTO

Brig. Gen. Francois R. Martelet (left), France, presents the Martelet Cup to U.S. Army Reserve Maj. Katie Odom at the CIOMR/CIOR Midwinter Meeting at NATO Headquarters. Odom serves as an exercise and training development officer for the 3rd Medical Training Brigade, Medical Readiness and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Local Army Reservist wins prestigious French medical award

From Medical Readiness and Training Command

An Army Reservist serving as an exercise and training development officer for the 3rd Medical Training Brigade, Medical Readiness and Training Command, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston was selected for the Interallied Confederation of Medical Reserve Officers Martelet Cup.

At the Interallied Confederation of Medical Reserve Officers, or CIOMR, Summer Congress in Tallinn, Estonia, Maj. (Dr.) Katie Odom, U.S. Army Reserve, presented her research team's findings in a report titled "Behavioral Health Management Following a Severe Burn Injury: A Pilot Study and the Way Forward for

the US Army Burn Center and Indicators for Brief PTSD Management in Operation."

The Martelet Cup is a yearly award that was established by CIOMR's Board in the name of retired Col. Francois R. Martelet, France, CIOMR Secretary General from 2011-2020, for his long service and dedication to CIOMR. It was established to reward the best scientific paper presented at CIOMR by a junior medical reserve officer.

Odom served in the Army for eight years, seven of which were in the active component with her final position being a chief in burn rehabilitation at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research's Burn Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Brig. Gen. Lisa Doumont,

Medical Readiness and Training Command commanding general, attended CIOMR's Mid-Winter Meeting at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, where the Martelet Cup was presented to Odom.

"We are so proud of Maj. Odom for her excellent work and accomplishment. She would not have had this opportunity without the stellar world stage and challenge CIOMR offers. The high degree of cultural immersion coupled with the intense medical acumen can be found nowhere else for these rising stars!"

Odom now specializes in polytrauma care as well as conducting research in the areas of suicide, PTSD, blast injuries, brain injuries, amputations and burn injuries.

Naval Medical Forces Support Command gains accreditation

By Petty Officer 1st Class David Kolmel

NAVY MEDICINE EDUCATION,
TRAINING AND LOGISTICS COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Naval Medical Forces Support Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston received a certificate for 35 years of accreditation from the Council on Occupational Education March 6.

The Council on Occupational Education, or COE, accredits 520 institutions, and NMFSC is one of the 38 federal institutions that hold this distinction. NMFSC's 35 years of accreditation surpasses the average of 22 years for all of COE's accredited organizations. The purpose of the accreditation is to assure the quality of the institution or program and to assist in the improvement of the institution

or program.

"It is an honor to receive this certificate for 35 years of continued accreditation by COE," said Rear Adm. Tina Davidson, commander, Naval Medical Forces Support Command. "This certificate represents that hard work of every member of the team from the Sailors at the lower echelon four and five commands all the way up to the headquarters."

The COE evaluates institutions based on seven core values: trustworthiness, transparency, accountability, commitment, flexibility, innovation and collaboration. The comprehensive self-study process leading to institutional accreditation requires a methodical written review of 10 COE standards, along with Main and Branch Campus site visits. The 10 standards reviewed include focus areas such as institutional mission, strategic



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS DAVID KOLMEL

Capt. Laurie Basabe (right), director of academics for Naval Medical Forces Support Command, or NMFSC, presents Rear Adm. Tina Davidson (left), NMFSC commander, with a certificate of 35 years of accreditation from the Council on Occupational Education, or COE. COE accredits 520 institutions, and NMFSC is one of only 38 federal institutions that hold this accreditation.

planning, educational programs, student services, etc.

"We are very proud of this accomplishment! More importantly, we are very

excited about the benefit that this brings to our students as they continue their life-long learning," said Elizabeth Swartzell, assistant deputy chief of staff for academics, NMFSC.

COE, is the gold standard for evaluating excellence, is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as an authority on quality education. COE grants institutional accreditation for non-degree granting, and applied associate degree granting postsecondary educational institutions. Additionally, this accreditation encourages transfer of credit between military transcripts and civilian colleges and universities.

Occurring every two to six years, the institutional accreditation process assists Navy Medicine with identifying areas of excellence, as well as those requiring improvement. NMFSC is preparing for re-accreditation June 22-25.

Survivors find easier access to Army installations

By Susan A. Merkner

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Certain Gold Star and next-of-kin survivors are expected to find it easier to visit Army installations since a new process went into effect in January.

The new survivor's access policy allows qualified survivors to get through gate security more easily and travel on post without an escort to attend events, view memorials, receive services and similar activities using their survivor's access card.

"The Army values people, especially our Gold Star spouses and family members," said Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram, commanding general, U.S. Army Installation Management Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. "This change allows them to more easily receive the benefits and services to which they are entitled, and helps them stay connected to the Army."

Eligible survivors are those who meet the criteria to receive the Gold Star lapel button or Gold Star Next-of-Kin lapel button, including widow or widower, parent, child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half-brother, sister and half-sister.

Eligible survivors may apply for and receive a survivor's access card through the Army's Automated Installation Entry, or AIE, system at their local



KEMBERLY GROUE

Certain Gold Star and next-of-kin survivors are expected to find it easier to visit Army installations since a new process went into effect in January.

garrison. Installations without AIE will use DA Form 1602 for survivor's access.

Among the services available to Gold Star spouses and next-of-kin family members is the Army Survivor

Outreach Services, or SOS, program, which provides dedicated and comprehensive support through a network of civilians serving as advocates for survivors. SOS staff can help survivors to access benefits available to them at their local installation, such as career and financial counseling.

To track survivors' feedback on the new process, the Interactive Customer Evaluation survey added new questions to help determine customer satisfaction with outreach efforts.

"The Army honors our surviving Family members by ensuring their access to our installations and Army-led joint bases," said IMCOM Provost Marshal Col. Kevin A. Comfort.

IMCOM is directing policy compliance and training for its 75 garrisons and installations.

The new process resulted from Section 626 of Public Law 115-232, the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. The law recognizes survivors as having a valid requirement for long-term, unescorted access to Army installations.

Survivor's access cards will be consistent across the Army and will be valid for three years. DOD leaders are determining policy to provide reciprocity for survivor's cards across all services.

For more information on Survivor Outreach Services, visit <https://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/personal-assistance/survivor-outreach>.

LACKLAND

CSAF visits to listen and learn about COVID-19

By Sarayuth Pinthong
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Gen. David L. Goldfein, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, visited Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 11 to observe current operations surrounding COVID-19.

"I have one objective while I'm here," Goldfein said, "to be a very good listener."

Goldfein wanted to focus on the effectiveness of support between the base, the Dept. of Health and Human Services and the city of San Antonio.

"I want to go back to Washington and be able to advocate on your behalf," Goldfein said during a closed-door meeting with key representatives from those

organizations.

The meeting allowed for topics of discussions to be communicated, in order to work together as a community, by using the lessons learned to prepare everyone for future emergencies.

Mrs. Dawn Goldfein, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff spouse, also met with JBSA-Lackland's key spouses to discuss various topics facing the local military families and address their concerns about the COVID-19 evacuees currently housed on the base.

Mrs. Goldfein along with medical experts provided answers to the many questions presented and discussed the direction the U.S. Air Force is taking to ensure the safety of all involved.



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. David L. Goldfein (center), and his wife, Dawn (left), meet Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman (right), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, during a visit at JBSA-Lackland, Texas, March 11 to observe and discuss current operations surrounding COVID-19.

AFIMSC innovation project receives \$3 million award



MALCOLM MCCLENDON

Ethan Jacobs, unmanned aerial system engineer, launches a UAS during a field test Sept. 4, 2019, at Camp Bullis.

By Shannon Carabajal
AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force presented a \$3 million Small Business Innovation Research program award to an Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center innovation project March 12.

The project uses drones and machine learning to revolutionize how the Air Force Civil Engineer Center collects data for its environmental mission. The initiative is powered by a partnership between AFIMSC, Air Force Innovation Hub Network (AFWERX) and Aerial Applications, a small business providing drone services and mapping software.

"This speaks to the ability we have to commit and work with a company," said Dr. Will Roper, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, technology and logistics, in announcing the award. "The stakes couldn't be higher and this award shows the type of agility and flexibility we have in the Air Force."

The award represents AFIMSC's first innovation partnership.

"We've achieved tremendous success very quickly, which could not have been possible without teammates who work well together," said Marc Vandever, AFIMSC chief innovation officer. The innovation office stood up in November 2018, and the drone project was one of the first innovation initiatives the office pursued.

The SBIR award is part of the dual-use program encouraging small businesses to complete innovative federal research and development with the goal of creating scalable solutions with potential to benefit both the government and private industry. The competitive, awards-based program also provides the incentive to profit from commercialization.

The award, presented to Aerial Applications, brings the amount of government investments to \$6 million over four years. Aerial Applications also secured \$50 million in funding from industry and venture capitalists, raising the total investment to \$56 million.

"The fact that this project won the award is a testament to the Air Force's renewed focus

AWARD continues on 11

Paw Prints in the Field: The History of K9 Veterans

By Rachel Kersey

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is known as the hub for U.S. Military Working Dog training for all of the armed forces. The kennels on JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Chapman Training Annex are where each dog gets their start. But the history of military working dogs begins even further back than Lackland.

"It's believed that Egyptians used them in battle as early as 4000 B.C.," wrote Lisa Rogak in her book *The Dogs of War*. "Some accounts report Egyptian soldiers using dogs to carry messages tucked into their collars, while other tribal warlords trained dogs to both patrol and attack the enemy."

It wasn't only Africans that were benefiting from working dogs on the battlefield, though. In Europe, people had recognized the value of dogs in the military as well.

"The Romans used them," said Tracy English, 37th Training Wing historian. "Actually, going back before the Romans, depending on the type of dog, [the British] would put spikes on their collars and the dogs would be the first to run right into the group of 'bad guys' per se. And with the spikes on, they were taking out calves and ankles. And the dogs were vicious because after that, they're going after jugulars."

"Dogs are invaluable," said Kenneth Neal, JBSA-Lackland Security Forces Museum docent and



BENJAMIN FASKE

Military members stand at attention as the service flags are raised at the U.S. Military Working Dog Teams National Monument Oct. 28, 2019, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

former Air Force K9 handler. "The best thing anyone can have with them in combat is a dog. They are what is called a force multiplier, meaning that the dog is taking the place of people that normally would perform other duties, but the dog is doing all those other people's work."

"Currently, U.S. forces utilize military working dogs in a variety of professions such as security, law enforcement, combat tracking, and detection (i.e., for

explosives and narcotics)," wrote Nolan A. Watson in the Borden Institute's 2019 historical book, *Military Veterinary Services*.

"The amount of training that we put into this is night and day compared to what we had before," English said. "They have an obstacle course for dogs jumping over barrels and walls and what not. There are facilities that look like warehouses from the outside, but if you go inside, they have rooms that were built like a small office. And if they're training a dog to sniff a bomb, they'll hide that chemical compound somewhere in the room and they train the dog to walk and sniff everything."

Canine veterans have been invaluable in international conflicts for centuries. But of course, they win a lot more than foreign battles. Dogs win your heart, Neal said.

"A dog is family, you know," Neal said, very seriously. "I had some bad times during my career and I talked to my dog and I felt better. The dogs don't judge you. They love you. You can do almost anything and the dog will come right back to you and sit in your lap, nuzzle up and say, 'Scratch my ears!'"

► <https://www.jstor.org/stable/641375?read-now=1&seq=1>

► <https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/29/us/military-working-dogs-history-trnd/index.html>

► <https://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/borden/FileDownloadPublic.aspx?docid=d95dc41-71d9-4dct-ba45-31b04db3d6e3>

AWARD

From page 10

on innovation and moving our capabilities forward with strong commercial partnerships and powerful execution of our dollars," said Emilie Miller, a project manager in the AFIMSC Innovation Office.

AFIMSC and Aerial Applications began field testing the project last fall, flying an unmanned aerial system equipped with light detection and ranging, multi-spectral sensors and machine-learning algorithms to map, survey and inventory habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Additional field tests at JBSA-Camp Bullis are planned for late March. The initial project will expand to include other species and will be applied to more than 20 different uses in at least 12 locations, according to Vandever.

With the SBIR award and additional funding, Miller believes the technology will eventually be applied to many installation and mission support requirements outside of environmental management.

"Through our strategic partnership with Aerial Applications and their capabilities, we're looking forward to proving this technology's value and scalability across the Air Force," she said. "We're so excited. We have shown we can accomplish amazing things through perseverance, go-getter attitudes and making connections to find the right path forward." AFIMSC innovation project receives \$3 million award

By Shannon Carabajal | Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Public Affairs

The Air Force presented a \$3 million Small Business Innovation Research program award to an Air Force Installation and Mission

Support Center innovation project March 12.

The project uses drones and machine learning to revolutionize how the Air Force Civil Engineer Center collects data for its environmental mission. The initiative is powered by a partnership between AFIMSC, Air Force Innovation Hub Network (AFWERX) and Aerial Applications, a small business providing drone services and mapping software.

"This speaks to the ability we have to commit and work with a company," said Dr. Will Roper, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, technology and logistics, in announcing the award. "The stakes couldn't be higher and this award shows the type of agility and flexibility we have in the Air Force."

The award represents AFIMSC's first innovation partnership.

"We've achieved tremendous success very quickly, which

could not have been possible without teammates who work well together," said Marc Vandever, AFIMSC chief innovation officer. The innovation office stood up in November 2018, and the drone project was one of the first innovation initiatives the office pursued.

The SBIR award is part of the dual-use program encouraging small businesses to complete innovative federal research and development with the goal of creating scalable solutions with potential to benefit both the government and private industry. The competitive, awards-based program also provides the incentive to profit from commercialization.

The award, presented to Aerial Applications, brings the amount of government investments to \$6 million over four years. Aerial Applications also secured \$50 million in funding from industry and venture capitalists, raising the

total investment to \$56 million.

"The fact that this project won the award is a testament to the Air Force's renewed focus on innovation and moving our capabilities forward with strong commercial partnerships and powerful execution of our dollars," said Emilie Miller, a project manager in the AFIMSC Innovation Office.

AFIMSC and Aerial Applications began field testing the project last fall, flying an unmanned aerial system equipped with light detection and ranging, multi-spectral sensors and machine-learning algorithms to map, survey and inventory habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Additional field tests at JBSA-Camp Bullis are planned for late March. The initial project will expand to include other species and will be applied to more than 20 different uses in at least 12 locations, according to Vandever.

433rd AW honorary commanders tour Operations Group

By Master Sgt. Kristian Carter

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Eight 433rd Airlift Wing honorary commanders toured the 433rd Operations Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 7.

The honorary commanders started the morning with a briefing on the group's mission before a hands-on multi-aircraft virtual reality training system prototype demonstration, and flying in a C-5M Super Galaxy simulator.

This is the third in a series of tours covering the wing's groups.

"The virtual reality training demonstration was incredible," said Roy Elizondo, City of Fair Oaks Ranch mayor pro tem. "The software tool was impressive enough but what was most incredible was the people that are the brains behind the strategy. We learned that their goal was to achieve effective training and up-to-date field operations guides that would be highly available for a diverse, dispersed work force. I was very highly impressed with the brain power and dedication to their mission that went into the product that was produced. I was also very impressed with the forethought and smart decisions being made on how to strategically manage the technology life cycle."

The 433rd OG and the Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence are playing major roles in the development of the virtual reality system. This system



MASTER SGT. KRISTIAN CARTER

Lt. Col. Ryan A. Clark, 356th Airlift Squadron flight instructor, describes C-5M Super Galaxy flight deck controls to Rich Weimert, San Antonio Missions Baseball director of baseball operations (left), and Craig Veltri, Office Resource Center president March 7 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

will be used in initial and proficiency training for career enlisted aviators. One of the missions of the 433rd AW is to train C-5M aircrews. The use of virtual reality training will ease the burden on aircraft, saving taxpayer money and allowing greater training flexibility.

Another stop on the tour allowed the honorary commanders to "fly" in the wing's C-5M simulator.

"It's a really innovative way to train people at a lower cost and probably give them a higher quality of understanding and experience, which means they'll be more advanced when they get to the real aircraft," said Steve Young, VIA Metropolitan Transit vice president of technology and innovation. "It could be applicable outside of the military as well. It is a fascinating technology."

"The simulator experience was like Disney on steroids," Elizondo said. "Another item checked off on my bucket list."

The honorary commander program matches military commanders with local business and civic leaders to foster and grow an understanding of the military's mission and its impact on the surrounding community.

Honorary commanders in attendance for this tour included Laura Cabanilla, San Antonio Chamber/San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce co-chair Leadership San Antonio 44; Roy Elizondo, City of Fair Oaks Ranch mayor pro tem; Robert Imler, government relations consultant; Andrea Knight, Frost Bank assistant vice president/group financial center manager; Don Preecs, 3M manager quality engineering; Craig Veltri, Office Resource Center president; Rich Weimert, San Antonio Missions Baseball director of baseball operations; and Steve Young, VIA Metropolitan Transit vice president of technology and innovation.

ALAMO WING PARTICIPATES IN SPURS MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

Air Force and Army servicemembers display the American flag while another Airman sings the national anthem at the opening ceremony of the San Antonio Spurs basketball game March 10 in San Antonio. These activities were part of the Military Appreciation Night event. Armed services members, family, and friends joined with other San Antonio residents to attend the game and watch the events. Staff Sgt. Joshua A. Ramos, 433rd Airlift Wing command post controller, sang the Star Spangled Banner while several Air Force and Army members displayed the U.S. flag before the start of the game. During the halftime break, recruits from five military branches were sworn into the military by an Army officer during a mass enlistment at half-court court.



MASTER SGT. KRISTIAN CARTER

149th FW Gunfighters compete in TMD's Best Warrior Competition

By Tech. Sgt. Agustin G. Salazar

149TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Three airmen assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing participated in the Texas Military Department's 2020 Best Warrior Competition at Camp Swift in Bastrop, Texas March 4-8, 2020.

Staff Sgt. Juan Garcia, Staff Sgt. Derek Guedes and Senior Airman Shara Lewis took on the annual four-day challenge designed to test tactical and technical expertise through scored events.

One of the events the competitors must complete is a water survival test, which is a 125-yard swim in full uniform, followed by 10 minutes of treading water.

"I would say the water survival test was the most challenging part," Lewis said. "It caught most people by surprise because we hear a 125-yard swim, and most people think, 'I can do that, I do that in the pool all the time.' But when you're in uniform and combat boots, the boots fill up with water, and they start sinking you real quick."

The purpose of the event is to build camaraderie and strengthen inter-agency relationships among Texas Guardsmen. With all of the members competing against one another, it may not seem like an excellent team-building



TECH. SGT. AGUSTIN G. SALAZAR

Staff Sgt. Juan Garcia, a member of the 203rd Ground Combat Training Squadron, participates in the new Army Combat Fitness Test during the Texas Military Department's 2020 Best Warrior Competition March 4 at Camp Swift.

event to the typical bystander. However, during challenges, competitors often help and cheer for each other.

"I have learned a lot from my roommate," Lewis said. "She has taught me a lot since I got here. She is awesome."

Bonds like the one between Lewis and Guevara are beneficial to the Texas

Military Department's Soldiers and Airmen alike. Hurricane Harvey highlighted the importance of these relations when Army soldiers and Air Force airmen deployed together during the state's recovery operations.

"The event is important because not only are they practicing their warrior skills, but they are also learning how to

work with each other," said Senior Master Sgt. Juan Flores, 149th Security Forces Squadron superintendent. "We work hand-in-hand with the Army quite a bit, whether that be in natural disasters or the border mission, so it is important that we learn to work with them to learn how to do it well."

In total, 31 competitors participated in this year's TMD BWC, including military members from the Czech Republic and Chile who are both partners of the Texas military under the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program. The competition gives all parties involved an opportunity to work with and learn from each other.

"The Chileans are great people," Garcia said. "I've been able to become good friends with them. I was even able to help one of them learn how to disassemble and reassemble the Mark 19 machine gun because I speak Spanish. It felt really good to teach someone else, and he was super appreciative."

TMD is hosting an awards banquet in April, where the winners of this year's Best Warrior Competition will be named and honored. The winners from the Army National Guard named in April will continue to represent Texas in the regional and national Best Warrior competitions later this year.

Texas State University ROTC fly C-5M Super Galaxy

By Staff Sgt.

Lauren M. Snyder

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Det. 840 with Texas State University visited the 433rd Airlift Wing and sampled the military with an incentive flight on the C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 7.

The 36 cadets had a short flight, toured the aircraft, and also visited the 733rd Training Squadron C-5 schoolhouse, where they saw virtual reality pilot training and practiced take-off and landing in the C-5 simulator.

"The tour today was amazing," said Caitlin Fleming,

ROTC Det. 840 cadet and 433rd Security Forces Squadron member. "This showed great scope of what the reserves have to offer, which is great for these cadets to see our mission here and how we support active duty as well as just general military life — how things may not go as planned but things still get done no matter what."

The cadets had an immersive event with their mission brief, local flight, and training experience.

"I've never been to anything like this," said Taylor Andrews, Det. 840 cadet. "I thought we were going to get lectured on what happens and different types of planes and just hear stories from pilot instructors, but this was truly an amazing

experience. The staff treated us very well and didn't hesitate to share their knowledge with us. The simulations at the schoolhouse were fantastic and I would recommend it to anybody interested in being a pilot or doing remotely piloted aircraft. The fact that they let us be more hands-on and entrust us with all that equipment was amazing."

The incentive flight and schoolhouse tour showcased the Alamo Wing mission, military might and innovation.

"It definitely changed my mind about my future," Andrews said. "Ideally, I want to help people. I want to inspire the next generation, and I want to do all that I can to serve this country and my community."



STAFF SGT. LAUREN M. SNYDER

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Mizula, 733rd Training Squadron instructor flight engineer, explains C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft training to members of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 840 with Texas State University at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, March 3.

IAAFA NCO spends her International Women's Day en route to Peru

By 1st Lt. Kayshel Trudell

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On International Women's Day 2020, Staff Sgt. Soleine Izquierdo boarded a plane with her Inter-American Air Force's Academy team en route to Lima, Peru.

Their mission was to share with Peruvian military partners just how important the non-commissioned officer corps is to the mission and operations of the United States Air Force.

The importance of this opportunity for members of the Peruvian military and IAAFA to exchange ideas and best practices is unparalleled, but its significance to Izquierdo runs even deeper.

"I am originally from Peru, so to have this opportunity to return to my home and share with fellow Peruvians who serve, especially service women, my experience in the U.S. Air Force, the professional development I have received and benefited from and to speak about IAAFA's mission alongside our partners from the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation and the West Virginia National Guard is beyond words," said Izquierdo, IAAFA international student manager. "This is my first international mission to participate in with IAAFA since joining the team about a year and a half ago ... the fact that it is to Lima is icing on the cake."



COURTESY PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Soleine Izquierdo stands in front of the welcome sign for the second-ever Inter-American Air Force's Academy Officer and Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Seminar in Lima, Peru, March 9.

As part of this traditional commander's activity team, Izquierdo will spend a week engaging with officers and enlisted members of the Peruvian Air Force, Army and Navy, to include each branches senior enlisted member, during IAAFA's second-ever TCA Officer and NCO Professional Development Seminar hosted in Peru.

"It was an obvious choice to have Soleine on the team for this partner nation collaboration engagement," said Senior Master Sgt. Gerardo Marquez, IAAFA superintendent. "On International Women's Day — but really on all days — demonstrating the strength of gender integration into our force and showcasing just how critical a

component it is to our military strength is paramount. Her Peruvian cultural insight is invaluable and her continual exceptional performance makes her the exemplar Airman to represent the U.S. Air Force and engage with our coalition partners."

Izquierdo was born and raised in Lima, Peru, coming to the United States at the age of 14 and eventually gaining citizenship so she could join the military and serve in the U.S. Air Force.

"Since the moment I discovered IAAFA I have dreamed of working at the Academy," Izquierdo said. "At the time, they weren't looking for anyone in the rank of senior airmen or below, but I applied anyways."

On her third attempt, and after promoting to staff sergeant, Izquierdo earned her way through IAAFA's doors.

"The relationships that will be made and the continual progress that will result from this seminar will be of great benefit to all women who serve," Izquierdo said. "I am proud to be a Peruvian, I am proud to be an American service member, but most of all I am proud to be one of the amazing Women leading the way for generations to follow."

Izquierdo is a material manager by trade and is performing duties as an interpretive translator at IAAFA. She hopes to continue working with U.S. international allies throughout her Air Force career.

SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE PARTICIPATES IN SAN ANTONIO MAYOR'S CYBER CUP COLLEGE FAIR



Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh (left), Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander, speaks with CyberPatriot participants at the Tenth Annual San Antonio Mayor's Cyber Cup College Fair and Awards Luncheon at the Omni Hotel in San Antonio Feb. 29.

RANDOLPH

Formal trainer aircraft maintenance training returning

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

All is quiet inside the newly renovated south end of Hangar 62 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, but in a matter of months, the 15,000-square-foot area will hum with activity as instructors mold a new generation of Air Force trainer aircraft technicians.

An Air Education and Training Command initiative, the trainer aircraft maintenance training center will fill a void that has existed since the Air Force converted trainer aircraft maintenance from an active-duty career field to a civilian profession.

"The training center is an answer to a problem we have today," said Brian Bastow, Logistics Management Branch chief for the 19th Air Force Directorate of Logistics. "We have no mechanism to train technicians on trainer aircraft."

The demographics of the trainer aircraft technician field is changing because active-duty technicians for trainers no longer exist and the current workforce is aging, meaning that the percentage of the work force without active-duty training is growing, Bastow said.

"Trainer aircraft technicians are all civil service employees or contractors now," he said. "The technicians who have been serving the Air Force were trained while on active duty, but many of them have retired and the remaining ones are nearing retirement."

The Air Force reclassified trainer aircraft maintenance as a commercial activity in the



MELISSA PETERSON

Juan Arenas, 12th Maintenance Group technician, performs a hydraulic inspection on a T-38C Talon at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

mid-1980s, so it was no longer an active-duty function, Bastow said. Formal trainer aircraft maintenance training ended, but at the time it was not necessary because all the technicians had been trained while on active duty.

The Air Force now hires retiring or separating Airmen who worked on non-trainer aircraft in the service's inventory or individuals with no Air Force aircraft maintenance background.

"Now it's all on-the-job training for new technicians on operational aircraft," said Bastow, a retired chief master sergeant who served as an aircraft maintenance crew chief. "Technicians who weren't on active duty don't have any formal training. With OJT, it takes longer to fix airplanes."

The present initiative started in 2016 when the AETC Directorate of Logistics Engineering and Force Protection Maintenance Division petitioned Gen. Robin

Rand, AETC commander at the time, to proceed with re-establishing a formal maintenance training program for trainer aircraft maintainers, Bastow said. Funds were subsequently allocated for the project, and the center is projected to start at initial operating capacity this fall and full operating capacity in the fall of 2021.

"We will have nine instructors, and four of them are already on board," he said. "We will establish what's called a MAJCOM Minimum Course Listing that mandates minimum training courses for technicians based on the type of aircraft and system they are maintaining."

In addition to basic courses, the curriculum will address specialties like propulsion, flight control, avionics, egress and others.

Prospective technicians will be drawn from local high schools and colleges, and applicants will have to meet certain requirements, Bastow

said.

The number of students who will be trained in the program's initial stage has not yet been determined, he said.

"We won't know for sure until we hold utilization and training workshops with representatives from the field to define training requirements," Bastow said.

In addition to producing technicians for the 12th Flying Training Wing at JBSA-Randolph and Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, the training center will serve maintenance units for the flying training wings at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi; Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas; Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas; and Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Students will be trained to maintain the T-1, T-6 and T-38 airframes.

The south end of Hangar 62, following a thorough renovation project, awaits the influx of instructors, students and aircraft that will be part of the groundbreaking initiative.

"We renovated the back third of the hangar, which was used previously as carpentry and metal shops," said Garrett Paris, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron project manager. "A lot of demolition was involved to open up the space and meet requirements for the new mission."

The training center features a large 10,000-square-foot open area with a resurfaced floor that will accommodate the trainer aircraft used for training, Paris said.

"The contractor also installed new lights, overhead infrared gas heaters and 10 specialized electrical components to power the

aircraft," he said.

Another feature of the renovation project was an overhaul of the large hangar doors, which were made fully operational again to allow aircraft to be towed in and out of the hangar, Paris said.

"The doors rest on big wheel assemblies and are opened by pushing them manually on a rail in a horizontal direction," he said. "Paint was scraped off the glass window panes on the top part of the doors to allow for natural lighting."

The training center will also include a 5,000-square-foot office area on the second floor of the hangar previously used by the 502nd CES, which still occupies the north end of the building.

"Hangar 62 fits nicely into our plans for a state-of-the-art facility," said Mark McKeown, Maintenance Policy and Procedures Section chief for the 19th Air Force Directorate of Logistics. "There will be plenty of classroom space and plenty of actual hangar space to house the aircraft we will be training on. So students will go from classroom instruction right to the aircraft for the hands-on practical training."

McKeown called the training center "long overdue."

"The training center will provide the necessary training and skills to maintain a fully trained 'white jet' aircraft community of technicians," he said. "It will train white jet technicians at all of AETC's T-designated flying wings and will allow us to grow a well-trained work force as well as grow our ability to keep pace with the demand for increased pilot training for the Air Force."



DEBBIE GILDEA

The Spurs Coyote and his mission teammates for the day walk to their planes at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Feb. 25, where Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and civilian Airmen from the 340th Flying Training Group headquarters, 39th Flying Training Squadron T-6 Texan Flight, 12th Flying Training Wing Safety, 559th Flying Training Squadron T-6 team, and 3rd Combat Camera Squadron (JBSA-Lackland) members, and the NBA San Antonio Spurs production crew worked to put the Coyote through the pilot training process. Video footage was used for a Spurs Military Appreciation video shown during the March 10 game.

Is the San Antonio Spurs Coyote an Air Force Pilot?

By Janis El Shabazz

340TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

There wasn't a bird, but there certainly was a plane (or four) and - of all things - a coyote.

In late February the well-known NBA mascot was sighted riding his motorcycle on the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph taxiway, sparking a flurry of interest and speculation. What could he have been up to!? Later sightings of the Coyote in flight gear confirmed suspicions! He's an Airman!

The rest of the story, as they say, is that the Coyote wanted to know what it's like to go through pilot training, so he reached out to a friend at the 340th Flying Training Group — Lt. Col. Mark Pasierb — to request an orientation.

From there, a team of Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and civilian Airmen from the 340th Flying Training Group headquarters, 39th Flying Training Squadron

T-6 Texan Flight, 12th Flying Training Wing Safety, 559th Flying Training Squadron T-6 team, 3rd Combat Camera Squadron and the NBA San Antonio Spurs production crew joined forces at JBSA-Randolph — and later in the skies over San Antonio - to expose the Coyote to the pilot training process, capturing video footage of each step along the way.

That footage was been transformed into a video that will be released during the 10th annual Spurs Military Appreciation Night at the AT&T Center March 10.

The Spurs' annual tradition of honoring military members, veterans and retirees includes a series of events that highlight, celebrate and honor the men and women of the United States armed forces in San Antonio, also known as Military City USA.

This year, those events included Air Force Staff Sgt. Joshua Ramos, 433rd Airlift Wing, JBSA-Lackland, singing the national anthem to kick off



JANIS EL SHABAZZ

The Spurs Coyote gets high-fives all around Feb. 25 in the 559th Training Squadron step room following his simulated flight at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

the evening. Soldiers from the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research helped display a court-sized American flag during the anthem, as members from each military branch presented the colors. A special enlistment ceremony also took place during halftime as recruits from all branches were sworn in to the United

States armed forces.

As an early nod to the April Month of the Military Child observance, the team is hosting 20 pre-selected military members from local installations and 40 of their children for a March 12 once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hit the court at the AT&T Center. The children will run

practice drills and receive one-on-one assistance from Spurs assistant coaches before meeting with players and touring the arena. Military children will also be celebrated during the April 5 game.

For more information about Spurs military appreciation events, visit the team's official website.

340th FTG welcomes new commander

By Janis El Shabazz

340TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Col. Michael J. Vanzo assumed command of the 340th Flying Training Group from Col. Allen Duckworth during a March 6 ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, officiated by Col. Kurt Matthews, 22nd Air Force vice commander.

Prior to assuming command of the 340th FTG, Vanzo was the director, A3/A5, 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia.

Twenty-Second Air Force has command supervision of the Reserve's tactical air mobility operations and other vital mission sets to include distinguished visitor airlift, undergraduate pilot training, flight test operations and a highly mobile civil engineering response force. With more than 15,000 reservists and 105 unit-equipped aircraft, 22nd



JANIS EL SHABAZZ

Col. Michael Vanzo (right) accepts command of the 340th Flying Training Group from presiding official Col. Kurt Matthews, 22nd Air Force vice commander, while Chief Master Sgt. Scott Goetze secures the guidon during the March 6 group change of command ceremony held at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Air Force contributes daily to the Air Force's worldwide operational mission. Reserve aircrews within 22nd Air Force fly a variety of missions to include aerial spray, fire suppression, hurricane

hunting, troop transport and aeromedical evacuation utilizing the C-130 Hercules.

Vanzo is a command pilot with more than 6,000 flying hours in the T-1, T6A, T-37, T-38, T-53, E-3, B-737 and

MD-80, and more than 40 missions in support of Operations Unified Response, Noble Eagle, Northern Watch and Southern Watch.

Among his various medals and decorations are the

Meritorious Service Medal with eight oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal with one OLC, Air Force Commendation Medal with three OLC, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with five OLC, Air Force Recognition Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal with gold star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Armed Forces Service Medal.

As the Air Force's largest flying group, the 340th FTG supports Air Education and Training Command pilot training, United States Air Force Academy Airmanship, and AETC basic military training programs with squadrons located at seven different installations across the country.

In addition, the group oversees training, logistics and administration for all new Air Force Reserve pilots through the AFR undergraduate pilot training program.

SURVIVOR

From page 6

Center, Phipps said he received about 20 visitors a day, from family members to firefighters he worked with to burn survivors, who endured what he was going through and gave him hope and encouragement as he recovered from his injuries.

"I was lucky enough to have a few individuals come and speak to me when I was in the ICU," said Phipps, referring to the burn survivors who came and spoke to him. "It really helped me get a grasp of what to expect in the future. We had a fireman who came in from West, Texas (a scene of a fertilizer plant explosion in 2013 that killed 15 people). He was being treated in Galveston, but he still came and talked to me. Then I had some Soldiers that were here at USAISR who were burn survivors and they came in and

talked to me as well."

Phipps said what the burn survivors told him gave him insight as to what his life as a burn survivor would be like.

"It helped you stay motivated knowing it's going to get better," he said. "They let me know what to expect in the future, like yes, you're going to have surgeries when you get out, your life is going to be different."

In addition, Phipps said having the support of his family, which includes his wife Tina and two sons, who visited him often, was vital for his recovery.

"It probably hit them harder than me since I was in a coma," said Phipps about what his family had to endure during his recovery. "I don't remember the pain and all that stuff they had to go through, but not knowing whether I was going to make it or not. I know it put a toll on them."

Phipps said while in rehab he

found time to talk to burn survivors in the Burn Center ICU. He said the advice he gives his fellow burn survivors is this: listen to what the physicians, therapists and nurses tell you to do.

"By not doing anything, you're going to make your situation worse," Phipps said. "You have to stay moving, stay positive and you will pull through it."

Brent Sabatino, USAISR Burn Center intensive care unit nurse, said burn survivors such as Phipps who talk to and interact with other burn survivors help make the recovery process better for the patients.

"I feel that survivors recover best, psychologically, when they have peer support amongst themselves, as a group," Sabatino said. "Conversation with someone who has gone through what you have and can relate to each other's situation

better than someone who hasn't."

Phipps said he wanted to use the time he was at the booth to interact with community members about his experience of being a burn survivor and to spread the word about burn awareness and prevention.

"Burn injuries change people's lives forever," he said. "Once a burn victim, you're always a burn victim. I want to let them know to be careful around anything that can burn and if you do get burned, what some of the treatments are like. Anything that I can do to help people that are burned. They need the help and encouragement."

Helping to promote burn awareness and prevention at BAMC also gave Phipps the opportunity to visit and talk to the USAISR staff members who helped with his recovery and rehabilitation.

"I am able to say thanks to a

lot of the individuals that helped me," Phipps said.

Sabatino said several burn survivors besides Phipps came to the USAISR booth during National Burn Awareness Week.

"Inviting burn survivors to participate in National Burn Awareness Week, I feel is essential part of their recovery process," Sabatino said. "Many survivors have told me they do not leave their houses. Social activities are sometimes hard for them to attend or participate due to the public's reaction when they see a burn survivor with visible scars."

"This event gives them a chance to interact with the public, let (the public) ask them questions or let (the burn survivor) tell their story, if they would like. Mr. Phipps was able to tell his story and help make the public aware that this could happen to anybody at any time and that he made it."