LEGACY

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SAN ANTONIO MARCH 27, 2020



Senior Airman Robert Wolshlager (left) and Senior Airman Christian Negrón (right) conduct drive-thru COVID-19 screening at Brooke Army Medical Center's designated screening area March 17.

BAMC implements COVID-19 drive-thru screening Page 9



Social distancing gives health care systems time to prepare, save lives Page 8



Latest AF trainees continue BMT with enhanced mitigation efforts Page 15

CID warns of COVID-19 cyber scams

From U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command Public Affairs

During this time of heightened awareness and protection against potential health risks associated with COVID-19, there is also an increased risk in scam methods used by cybercriminals.

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command warns the military community that some phishing campaigns prey on would-be victims' fear, while others capitalize on the opportunity created by hot topics in the news cycle. The COVID-19 Pandemic presents cybercriminals with a way to combine both into a dangerous one-two punch.

Most recently, the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 interactive map has been hacked by cybercriminals. The hackers are selling copies of the interactive map as a malware tool used to steal passwords and user data.

A significant number of additional coronavirus-related domains have been registered. CID officials warn users to not open attachments or links in emails coming from such domains.

Below is a list of websites that have recently shown signs of malicious behavior detected by anti-virus software:

- >> coronavirusstatus.space
- >> coronavirus-map.com
- ⇒ blogcoronacl.canalcero.digital
- ⇒ coronavirus.zone
- >> coronavirus-realtime.com
- → coronavirus.app→ bgvfr.coronavirusaware.xyz
- → coronavirusaware.xyz

Army CID Special Agents are reminding people to be alert and suspicious and take extra steps to verify information before agreeing to anything putting that could put one's personal or financial information at risk.

According to CID officials, individuals should be suspicious of anyone who approaches or initiates contact regarding coronavirus; anyone not known, or with whom conversation was not initiated, who offers advice on prevention, protection or recovery — especially if they ask for money. Cybercriminals may use a variety of approaches.

Below is a potential list of approaches that could be used:

- >> Someone claims to represent the health department who emails you or comes to your door and tells you of the risks of COVID-19 and offers you vaccination or other testing. The health department will not do this. This is a dangerous scam. If this happens, call your local police department immediately.
- >> Someone claiming to be from your bank or an investment firm who you do not already have a relationship with, who offers investment alternatives to protect you from economic and market uncertainties.
- ➤ Someone who threatens you with repercussions (arrest, prosecution, confinement) if you don't pay a fee.
- ➤ Someone claiming to be from a hospital where a loved one is being treated for the virus but is in urgent need of money before lifesaving treatments can be rendered.
- ➤ Someone claiming to be your friend who is stuck in a foreign country and can't get

home unless a "virus prevention" or other outrageous sounding fee is paid.

- >> Unsolicited emails offering expert advice or information. They could contain malware or the links in the email could take you to a site with malware.
- ➤ Someone asking for any personally identifiable information, bank account or financial information, or information about family members.
- ➤ Someone claiming to be from computer support who tells you your computer is infected with corona virus and offers to repair it. Your computer cannot be infected by corona virus.

CID officials also remind individuals to remain vigilant and take precautions against cyber scams. They also recommended to always use trusted sources; avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails, IMs, or texts; avoid opening attachments in unsolicited emails; do not reveal personal or financial information in email, IMs, or texts; and verify a charity's authenticity before making donations.

Additional information on COVID-19 — progression, transmission, symptoms, treatment — may be found at reputable websites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Government's Corona Virus website, your state, county or city health department, your local hospital, your primary care physician, the local free clinic or wherever you receive medical services.

JBSA TEGACY

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New allowances for Soldiers, families affected by COVID-19

By Sean Kimmons

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army has rolled out new allowances for Soldiers and families facing official travel delays or in quarantine amid the COVID-19 virus outbreak.

A hardship duty pay for restriction of movement, or HDP-ROM, now provides Soldiers who are not currently in a travel status \$100 per day — not to exceed \$1,500 — to defray the cost of additional lodging if a commander restricts them to a self-monitoring period.

HDP-ROM may also be available to other Soldiers who have been ordered to stay isolated, such as individuals returning from a deployment or temporary duty.

The hardship duty pay is a taxable, lump sum payment for each day in self-monitoring or isolation.

New isolation allowances are being given to Soldiers and families ordered to stay isolated after completing a permanent change-of-station move.

The allowance is based on local per diem rates and starts after the Soldier reports to a new duty station and before eligible for temporary lodging allowance or temporary lodging expense. The Soldier must also incur a cost and not already be provided lodging or meals to earn the allowance.

Once their new command tells them they can start to in-process, Soldiers will then be eligible for their regular PCS allowances.

Soldiers and families ordered to

self-isolate or quarantine while proceeding to their next duty station will be placed on temporary duty and authorized per diem if lodeing or meals are not provided.

In addition, Soldiers currently on TDY status may be eligible to extend their orders to cover costs incurred during their self-monitoring period.

The Army currently has a 14-day mandatory quarantine for Soldiers and a recommended self-quarantine for DOD civilians and family members returning from countries with a travel health notice of Alert Level 2 and above.

Additional details on the allowances can be found in an All Army Activity, or

ALLOWANCES continues on 5

Feedback Fridays / COVID-19 Q&A

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.

COVID-19

O. As an instructor, I fear for my overall health and well-being due to the fact that we are still conducting training at Joint Base San Antonio.

If the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are recommending no gatherings exceeding more than 50 people at a time, then why is Basic Military Training still taking place?

If you want to talk about a breeding ground for the virus, take 200-plus trainees and place them in a building with more than 30 instructors.

A. Thank you for sharing your concerns. Basic Military Training, Technical Training and Flying Training remain vital to renew the force and underwrite our ability to defend the nation.

Training in "non" mission essential categories is suspended. We're taking actions to fight through COVID-19 that balance our responsibility to deliver forces with our responsibility to mitigate the risk to our communities as we execute our mission.

Some of these measures include enhanced screening and intervention before arrival and during BMT. Trainees are screened three times—once at MEPs, once upon arrival, and continually throughout an initial 14-day quarantine period.

This is above and beyond Center for Disease Control recommendations. Using these protocols, we have only had one BMT trainee sickness to date, and it was unrelated to COVID-19.

We are also adjusting training activities and decreasing exposure of trainees and instructors. In addition, AETC is deliberately developing options to disperse the delivery of BMT during contingencies to surge capacity and introduce agility into the training pipeline construct.

Please continue to monitor our COVID-19 Information webpage at www.jbsa.mil /Information/CDC-Novel-Coronavirus-Response -Support/ and our IBSA social media platforms. We also encourage you to use your chain of command to voice your concerns as this is a rapidly moving situation and leadership at all levels are putting precautions in place specific to their organizations.

These are unprecedented times, with the situation changing daily. Know our leaders at every level are making continuous assessments daily in order to protect the force's health & safety.



You can read more at the link https://www.aetc .af.mil/News/Article/2117148/latest-air-force-trainees -continue-bmt-with-enhanced-mitigation-efforts/

Q. Who should tenant units report a positive COVID-19 case through to ensure IBSA officials have situational awareness?

A. Thank you very much for your question. The Brooke Army Medical Center Commanding General tracks and communicates all positive test results to IBSA senior leadership for those personnel who are tested at any IBSA medical facility (BAMC, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center and IBSA-Randolph).

For IBSA personnel who are tested by a civilian medical facility in San Antonio, San Antonio Metro Health informs BAMC and the JBSA Public Health Emergency Officer of any positive test results.

If a unit is made aware of a member who received a positive test result, and they are not sure if JBSA leadership is informed, please contact the JBSA Public Emergency Health Officer at 210-517-6544.

O. Is it possible to place hand-sanitizing stations at the major doorways and entrances?

A. Great idea! Each organization should purchase materials necessary to keep their work areas clean and sanitized. Please reach out to your Government Purchase Card, or GPC, holder to put in an order of those materials.

You may also request additional supplies, such as hand sanitizer stations and cleaning wipes. However, keep in mind that these specific items are high in demand and short in supply, so please only buy the amount necessary and leave some for other organizations. Share the wealth!

Q. Does the letter from the Secretary of Defense dated March 11, 2020, mean that all routine TDYs, or non-mission essential, should be canceled regardless of whether or not located in a Level 2 or Level 3 designated location for the next 60 days?

It appears that paragraph 4 of the memo is stating just that, but we have gotten no official word to cancel

A. Thank you for your question. All routine TDYs have been cancelled for the next 60 days. That being said, I encourage you to reach out to your chain of command and/or TDY location to confirm cancellation of all travel and lodging if you have not already heard from the units/organizations.

Q. My family and I are PCSing to Germany within the next 60 days. We were told today by the Traffic Management Office (TMO) that all shipments of household goods were going to be held on CONUS for 60 days. Can you confirm that?

A. Thank you for your question. Germany is designated by the CDC as a Level 3 country. The Secretary of Defense released guidance March 11 that states "Effective March 13, 2020, all DOD uniformed personnel, civilian personnel and family members traveling to, from, or through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Travel Health Notices level 3 (COVID-19) designated locations, will stop movement for the next 60 days. This includes all forms of official travel, including Permanent Change of Station [PCS], Temporary Duty [TDY], and government-funded leave."

The Air Force Personnel Center has also released an FAO document that states they will be stopping all PCS and TDY orders for the next 60 days.

Our Facebook Page at https://www.facebook .com/IointBaseSanAntonio/ has the most current stop movement guidelines for all official travel.

We also keep our website (https://www.ibsa.mil /Information/CDC-Novel-Coronavirus -Response-Support/) updated with the most current guidance and information regarding COVID-19.

I apologize for the inconveniences this causes you and your family, but rest assured we are working diligently to flatten the curve and get back to normal operations.

O. What is the Exchange's modified hours? A. IBSA Exchanges are modifying their operating hours based on each location's customer demand. I encourage you to reach out to your local Exchange for their respective operating hours.

We're in a rapidly changing environment, so please be on the lookout for any changes on our JBSA page (https://www.jbsa.mil/Information/CDC -Novel-Coronavirus-Response-Support/) and our JBSA

Facebook Page (https://www.facebook.com /JointBaseSanAntonio/) for more information. Thank

Q. Is the Child Development Center going to continue to charge parents even if they keep their children

A. Thank you for your question. We issued Military Child Care guidance to the CDCs on how members may request credits for keeping their children at home in support of our mission critical personnel whom still need to utilize CDC operations.

This guidance applies to personnel already enrolled in our programs who need to change the sponsor's mission essential designation as well as requests for new enrollment. Members in these categories may fill out the JBSA Mission Essential form and submit on-line through the MCC.com portal.

O. Are the barber shops open?

A. Yes, IBSA barber shops are open and have modified their operations in order to observe social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Our barber shops will be operating by appointment only, and no one should wait in waiting areas. Additionally, we have limited the number of chairs being used at any one time to increase distancing between customers.

JBSA takes measures to prevent exposure, remove contaminants on installations

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the world continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and Americans practice social distancing to help reduce spread of the disease, some people already have the illness, with or without symptoms. Some of them unknowingly exposed others at work, in stores, and at home because they had mild to no symptoms of illness.

An important part of continuing to minimize the spread of the disease is cleaning and disinfecting areas that could have been exposed to the virus.

Joint Base San Antonio Civil Engineer personnel are currently busy supporting just that, by providing guidance, analysis and contract support in areas where persons with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 were known to have been present.

"In the event an individual begins exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, the member should follow current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, which includes testing and an appropriate level of social distancing," said Lt. Col. Andy Cullen, Emergency Operations Center Deputy Director. "The symptomatic member should also ensure unit leadership is promptly made aware."

Once a person has been notified of a positive result by a primary care provider, the Restriction of Movement (ROM), Quarantine and Isolation Cell, or RQIC for short, is notified, and they will take steps to determine where the individual has been and who they were in contact with, also known as a trace investigation, Cullen said. This provides JBSA Civil Engineers and Medical specialists with the information needed to assess where and how to clean and disinfect.

While the CDC recommends waiting a minimum of 24 hours before cleaning a contaminated area, most testing results currently take up to two days to receive.

"If we have someone who tests positive, there is a strong likelihood that individual left the workplace 24 or even 48 hours prior to notification, therefore cleaning does not need to be delayed longer," Cullen said.

Once the 24-hour waiting period has passed, the common areas outside of areas of concern, as identified by Public Health, can be cleaned by unit personnel following the guidelines provided by the CDC, he said.

"Although the CDC guidelines allow for self-cleaning in areas of increased concern as well, JBSA has procured additional Blanket Purchase Agreement contract vehicles to perform deep cleaning in those areas recommended by the JBSA Public Health Emergency Officer," Cullen said. "These contract vehicles will perform a deep clean of the area following guidelines developed by the CDC for cleaning of quarantined areas."



The 502nd Civil Engineer Group will also continue to employ existing custodial service contracts and resources to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, however, Cullen noted these contracts do not include cleaning of door knobs, elevator buttons, equipment and other high-touch items, and that units should establish procedures to clean these surfaces often.

Dorm rooms housing individuals who test positive will also be professionally cleaned using the deep clean contract once the service member vacates the room and before it is returned to service.

All spaces identified for deep cleaning or currently being used for quarantine or isolation, are off limits to unauthorized personnel and will be marked accordingly. Cullen said.

In addition to JBSA's effort to ensure exposed areas on local installations are decontaminated, it is important for those with COVID-19 in their homes to maintain a safe distance from persons who are ill, utilize CDC cleaning procedures, and take all precautions needed to stay well.

If COVID-19 is present in your home, the CDC recommends several preventative measures to help reduce spread of the disease to other members of the household.

- ▶ If you are caring for someone who is sick, have that person stay in one room, away from other people, including yourself, as much as possible.
- ▶ If facilities are available, have them use a separate bathroom. The sick person should also avoid sharing personal household items, like dishes, towels, and bedding.
- ▶ If face masks are available, have them wear a face mask when they are around people, including you. It

"In the event an individual begins exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, the member should follow current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, which includes testing and an appropriate level of social distancing."

Lt. Col. Andy Cullen, Emergency Operations Center Deputy Director

the sick person can't wear a facemask, anyone who has to be in the room should wear one.

- ▶ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after interacting with the sick person. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- ➤ Launder items used by the sick person in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and using the warmest appropriate water setting. Dry items completely. If laundry is soiled, wear disposable gloves and keep the soiled items away from your body while laundering. Wash your hands immediately after removing the gloves.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- >> The ill person should eat or be fed in their room if possible, and non-disposable food service items used should be handled with gloves and washed with hot water or in a dishwasher.
- ▶ If possible, dedicate a lined trash can for the ill person. Use gloves when removing garbage bags, handling, and disposing of trash, and always wash your hands after handling or disposing of the trash.
- >> Every day, clean all surfaces that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs, and use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.
- >> Wear disposable gloves and discard them after each cleaning. If reusable gloves are used, they should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection surfaces for COVID-19 and should not be used for other purposes.
- > Avoid having any unnecessary visitors.

For more information on caring for or cleaning areas exposed to someone with COVID-19, visit:

- ➤ https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/control prevention.html#health
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/care-for-someone.html

COVID-19: Exploit what you can control

By Army Col. Elizabeth A. Martin

Negative words are present everywhere in the news, the media and conversation. The threat of COVID-19 will remain a challenge for everyone for months to come. Significant abrupt restrictions and closures are making many within our communities feel restricted and unhappy.

With so much heightened global concern, stress and anxiety continue to skyrocket. While the containment strategy the United States is executing is difficult, it is vital to follow directed medical and public health expert precautions, mandates and guidelines to "curtail the curve" and control the rampant spread of this highly contagious and deadly illness.

Recent school closures and activity cancellations are tearing apart the stability that children are accustomed to, need and enjoy. Parents are grappling with new daytime child care requirements, unforecasted home schooling and how to keep children productive.

Many of us feel like we can't control much in our lives right now, but what we absolutely can control is how we react and what we do. Based on prior military experience as a battalion commander and 20-plus years of service in the Army dealing with intense uncertainty and high stress, I offer the following tips for staying positive and productive while being isolated at home:

➤ Lead ... Make Lemons Out of Lemonade. Continue to lead with positivity within your family and among your friends and colleagues. Be an example for your children and others to follow.

➤ Turn Uncertainty Into Certainty. There is still so much we can control. Redirect your energy away from uncertainty and focus on those aspects of life that are certain.

➤ Community. What are you doing to help your community? Do your elderly neighbors need assistance? If you are allowed to shop in your local community, remember that many small businesses are struggling.

▶ Immunity. Improve your immune system through diet and exercise. Eat well and enjoy Vitamin C − this starts at home.

>> Time. What are you going to do with this opportunity? Be decisive with time and make a productive plan.

▶ Get Outside. Go camping with family, go for a walk/run/bike, and get outdoors.

>> Taxes. We have no excuse for not

having time to get taxes done now. Knock them out.

**To Do" List. Closets and "to do" projects: now is the time. Tackle them. Leverage Technology. Use Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, phone calls and letters to stay connected. Don't fret on how to pursue education or communicate: Keep living and learning. CAUTION: Don't stare at your devices all day.

>> Unplug. Communicate with family and friends. This is an invaluable time to do so.

>> Opportunity. Focus on how to turn your COVID-19 prevention from a crisis into an unanticipated opportunity for growth, support, health, community and family.

» Discounts and Offerings. Many local and national companies are offering exceptional deals and special accommodations to maintain their customer base. Check them out.

➤ Invest. What financial investments can you make now to help later? Stocks are at record lows; consider buying.

» Don't Hoard. So, where is all of the toilet paper? This is a prime example of panic-induced purchases, and we shouldn't selfishly hoard products that create a lack of availability for others.

→ Don't Mentally Suffocate; Stay Positive. Control your reactions to

restrictive measures required to prevent and battle this pandemic. Positive, productive mental health is a huge component needed to fight this illness and will directly improve community response.

>> Create. Challenge yourself and your family to be more creative with resources and time. Expand your boundaries within your home. Paint a room, use a new recipe and rediscover your ingenuity.

Focus. Turn your focus from what you can't do to what you CAN do.
 Win. We cannot fall victim to feeling sorry for ourselves or become hindered during this difficult time. Don't let this virus win — mentally or physically!

We will come together as a nation if we all do our part to prevent and fight the spread of COVID-19. Turning the challenges of this pandemic into opportunities to positively exploit growth individually, within our families, and to protect our communities will bind us together. As we tackle this new (temporary) normal, we can be more productive, stronger and happier if we focus on what we CAN do versus what we cannot!

Army Col. Elizabeth A. Martin is assigned as a student at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

ALLOWANCES

From page 2

ALARACT, message that was published March 17.

"We will ensure that every Soldier gets properly compensated for their PCS or TDY being delayed at no fault of their own," said Angie Rodriguez-Torres, military compensation and entitlements analyst at the Army's G-1 office.

Travel Restrictions

On Monday, the Defense Department began to temporarily halt all domestic travel, including PCS and TDY travel, for service members, DOD civilians and their families assigned to DOD installations in the U.S. or its territories.

Leave in the local area is still authorized.

The domestic travel ban lasts until May II and follows other restrictions last week that stopped movement for 60 days to overseas locations with a Level 3 travel health notice, such as South Korea and much of Europe, where there has been widespread transmissions of the virus.

Exceptions may only be granted for compelling cases deemed mission essential, necessary for humanitarian reasons or warranted due to extreme hardship.

Around 30,000 Soldiers were originally scheduled to PCS over the next 90 days, G-1 officials said.

"If you stop the clock at any

time, we're going to have Soldiers in the pipeline with respect to transitioning," said Larry Lock, chief of compensation and entitlements at the G-1 office. "It will happen any given day of the year."

While the federal government continues to work on a stimulus package to help U.S. citizens and boost a struggling economy, Lock credited the DOD for its quick action in creating the allowances.

"We're way ahead of that," he said Wednesday. "We've already put stuff in place to ensure that our service members and their dependents are not inadvertently harmed [financially] while we work through these issues."

The Army Human

Resources Command has set up an emergency hotline to assist Soldiers and families with PCS or TDY questions at 1-800-585-5552.

Soldiers can also contact the telephone number on their orders, or reach back to their old unit or arriving unit for additional guidance.

Other Restrictions

Shipment of household goods, including personal vehicles, for those scheduled to move will also be delayed until further notice.

The closure of on-post services, including daycare, schools and AAFES facilities, will be made by installation commanders based on their local environments, Army officials said. Soldiers stationed in Italy or South Korea who plan to attend a military school in the U.S. for less than six months will need to postpone their schooling for now. If the training is longer than six months, they will be required to arrive 14 days early for screening and quarantine.

The same applies to foreign military students. But if a foreign student is from a country with a Level 2 health notice or higher, they will not be able to participate in U.S. exercises, exchanges or visits.

American Soldiers currently at a military school in the U.S. may return to a Level 2 country or above, if approved by the first general officer or senior executive in their chain of command, officials said.

Joint Base San Antonio raises Health Protection Condition level to CHARLIE

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In response to the increased number of positive COVID-19 cases on local military installations and cases of community transmission in the local area, the 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander increased the Health Protection Condition to Charlie, or HPCON C, effective March 21, 2020.

Health Protection Condition Charlie takes effect when there is a substantial threat of disease to the JBSA community and it allows the installation commander to direct additional measures to protect service members, families, and the community.

"We must posture the installation to ensure the health and safety of our workforce and our families," said Brig. Gen Laura Lenderman, 502nd ABW and JBSA commander, "while we also continue to execute JBSA missions that are vital to the defense of our nation."

"Following HPCON Charlie guidance helps mitigate the spread of COVID-19 so that we can 'flatten the curve,'" said Col. Cecilia Sessions, 59th Medical Wing Staff Agency commander and alternate JBSA Public Health Emergency Officer. "Slowing the spread of this disease allows our healthcare system to devote personnel and resources to seriously ill members of the community, while our healthier members manage milder symptoms at home."

At this time, the following measures should be taken by JBSA personnel:

>> IBSA non-critical personnel are encouraged to telework with the approval of management to reduce and prevent transmission of COVID-19. >> Continue to practice strict hygiene measures in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines https://www.cdc.gov /coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare /prevention.html, such as frequently washing and/or sanitizing hands: wiping common-use items with disinfectant; avoid touching and close contact; covering mouths and noses with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing; and staying home when sick.

▶ Practice social distancing and refrain from physical contact, such as hand shaking, fist bumps, etc. Social gatherings and/or meetings defined as more than 10 people have been suspended, unless they are mission-essential as directed by your unit commander. In such cases, group size should be limited to the smallest practical and include proper social distancing within 6 feet.

>> If you know you have been exposed to COVID-19, self-quarantine, call ahead to alert medical personnel, and contact your chain of command for further guidance.

"As the situation evolves, services will change to meet our mission's needs," said Chief Master Sergeant Chris Lantagne, 502nd ABW and JBSA Command Chief Master Sergeant.

"The commissary will remain open and AAFES food establishments will be takeout and drive-thru only," "Following HPCON
Charlie guidance helps
mitigate the spread of
COVID-19 so that we can
'flatten the curve. Slowing
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allows our healthcare
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seriously ill members of
the community, while our
healthier members
manage milder symptoms
at home."

Col. Cecilia Sessions, 59th Medical Wing Staff Agency commander

Lantagne added. "Child and youth services will remain open to support direct mission readiness. We ask where possible, supervisors allow employees to telework and request personnel when able keep their children at home. Military and civilian support will continue as needed by appointments and through virtual appointments. Our 24-hour gates will remain open, along with a few others, based on mission partner needs. Please visit the JBSA.mil website at https://jbsa

.dod.afpims.mil/Information/CDC
-Novel-Coronavirus-Response-Support/
for more information."

If medical care is needed, be aware that Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center and the JBSA-Randolph Clinic have designated entry points.

If you develop flu-like symptoms, with fever and a cough or shortness of breath, and may have had contact with a person who has COVID-19, or had recent travel to countries considered high-risk, contact your health care provider before seeking medical care to prevent possible transmission within health care settings.

If you are normally seen at Wilford Hall, first call the TRICARE nurse advice line at 1-800-874-2273 or the Wilford Hall appointment line at 707-423-3000 prior to visiting the facility.

As of March 24, there are 20 confirmed COVID-19 cases on JBSA, and all personnel should continue to stay ready and informed by checking CDC updates at https://tools.cdc .gov/campaignproxyservice /subscriptions.aspx?topic_id=USCDC _2067, continuing regular preparedness activities and following the direction of your chain of command.

Additionally, service members and their families should follow U.S. State Department and Geographic Combatant Command guidance with regard to travel restrictions.

As the situation continues to develop, JBSA leadership will continue to provide additional information on HPCON Charlie and its impact on JBSA.

For additional information, visit:

>> JBSA COVID-19 Info: https://
www.jbsa.mil/Information/CDC
-Novel-Coronavirus-Response-Support/
or https://www.jbsa.mil/Information
/CDC-Novel-Coronavirus-Response
-Support/

>> COVID-19 Info:

/2019-nCoV/index.html or https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html?fbclid=IwAR2Fqjy94IeEohbR_KtQIGXcU1l77fmXSNbYWmoADQsoynFQlnXqX3zIDSo>What the U.S. Government is Doing: httpstps://www.usa.gov/coronavirus or https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR2Cj4RlJB4S2HiaQ6eZFX7cN7af5vwWoMeUxH5Hf2JTrP8MYxS3jAahucg

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

Joint Base San Antonio unifies II geographically distinct locations, including JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Camp Bullis. The 8,000-person 502nd Air Base Wing executes 49 installation support functions to enable the largest joint base in the Department of Defense, consisting of 266 mission partners, 80,000 full-time personnel and a local community of more than 250,000 retirees.

CSAF emphasizes protecting force, remaining operational

By Charles Pope

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein said March 18 there have been seven confirmed cases of the new coronavirus to date among active-duty personnel, but that the Air Force is "still conducting global missions ... which is priority one."

"We've got fighters, bombers, maintainers deployed working to keep America safe," he said during a briefing with reporters at the Pentagon. "We're still flying global mobility missions and conducting global space operations. So, the global missions we as an Air Force support in the joint force, all those missions continue."

He said the "training pipeline" is still operating and that the nuclear deterrent has had no change in operations.

Even so, Goldfein conceded

that the Air Force has had to adapt to "keep the force size we need to maintain the missions." That is especially challenging when serving bases in so-called Level 3 nations such as Italy and South Korea where the rate of infection is high.

"Global mobility into and out of Level 3 countries has to continue," Goldfein said. "And so (there) are measures in place that isolate the (flight) crew, mitigate the risk so we can fly into (those countries) knowing that the global landscape will change."

Among other actions, Goldfein said aircrews have their temperatures taken and that social distancing is rigorously enforced.

"We consider the aircraft itself a clean environment and while they're in that aircraft, they are not in an environment that is a concern," he said. "It's when they leave that aircraft to go to their rooms ... we're

minimizing movement and keeping them in a bubble to make sure we can keep the force size we need."

Additionally, Goldfein outlined the steps the Air Force is taking to increase odds that the 685,000 active-duty, Guard and Reserve force as well as civilians are protected as much as possible from a virus for which there is no vaccine or immunity.

Goldfein said he and other senior leaders are stressing adherence to basic actions such as social distancing, frequent handwashing and prompt treatment if symptoms emerge. To underscore the need to be vigilant and disciplined. Goldfein said he was teleworking several days each week and has communicated with commanders the importance of adhering to federal guidelines for minimizing exposure to the virus.

Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Dorothy A. Hogg, who joined Goldfein at the news conference, said she expects the number of confirmed cases to increase across the Air Force.

"We do know our cases will increase just like they are in the general public," Hogg said. "We are paying attention to those cases and identifying contacts and implementing measures to decrease exposures — social distancing, single-point entries into medical clinics — to make sure we're separating the two populations if someone was ill."

While the core missions continue, the pandemic has had an effect.

Exercises have been postponed, including a Red Flag exercise planned for Alaska and a high-profile test of the Advanced Battle Management System next month. That exercise was the latest installment of the move to a fully connected battle

network approach to warfighting known as Joint All Domain Command and Control. The full Joint Chiefs of Staff was expected to attend the April demonstration.

Goldfein said the Air Force is ready to help other agencies respond to the pandemic, noting the Air Force's long standing ability to transport equipment and infected people if needed.

As an example, he highlighted a delivery this week of 500,000 COVID-19 test swabs that an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III flew from Italy to Memphis, Tennessee. The swabs were then loaded onto an commercial aircraft and distributed around the country to locations identified by the Department of Health and Human Services

"I don't see any limitation in terms of our ability to move the test kits and the things that HHS is asking for," he said.

DOD poised to provide masks, ventilators and labs

By C. Todd Lopez DEFENSE.GOV

The Department of Defense will make available up to 5 million respirator masks and other personal protective equipment from its strategic reserves to the Department of Health and Human Services for distribution, DOD Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper said during a news conference at the Pentagon March 18, adding that the first million masks would be made available immediately.

Esper said some 2,000 deployable ventilators would also be made available to HHS. Those devices, he said, are different from civilian equivalents and will require special training for civilian users, so DOD personnel likely will provide that training.

To help measure the spread of the coronavirus, the Defense Department has also made 14 certified testing labs available to test non-DOD personnel, and two labs would be added to that total, the secretary said.

Additionally, Esper said, DOD officials are considering use of the National Guard, the Reserve components, and capabilities such as the Navy's hospital ships USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy. He said the Comfort is undergoing maintenance now and the Mercy is in port.

"We've already given orders to the Navy, a few days ago, to lean forward in terms of getting them ready to deploy," Epser said.

But while those ships and other DOD medical facilities such as hospitals and tent-based deployable medical facilities do provide capability, the secretary said, those capabilities are geared in many cases toward trauma care, rather than patients with

COVID-19.

"They don't necessarily have the space, the segregated space, you need to deal with infectious disease," he said. Still, he added, those facilities might be used to take loads off civilian medical facilities so those civilian facilities might treat COVID-19 cases.

"One of the ways you could use the field hospitals, the hospital ships or things in between is to take the pressure off the civilian hospitals when it comes to trauma cases to open up civilian hospital rooms for infectious diseases," Esper said.

He also pointed out that DOD medical facilities such as the Navy medical ships require staff, and getting that staff in place means pulling them from elsewhere.

"All those doctors and nurses either come from our medical treatment facilities, or they come from the reserves, which means civilians," Esper said.
"What we have to be very
conscious of and careful of as
we ... use them to support the
states [is] that we aren't
robbing Peter to pay Paul, so to
speak. What I don't want to do
is take reservists from a
hospital where they are needed
just to put them on a ship to
take them somewhere else
where they are needed."

Esper spent the first part of the day today visiting some of the DOD doctors and scientists at Fort Detrick, Maryland, who are working on advancing vaccine and treatment efforts to combat the coronavirus. While there, he said, he visited both the Army Medical Research and Development Command and the Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases to learn about those efforts.

"They have incredible capabilities," he said. "They're

well-knitted, extremely well-knitted into the interagency efforts."

Esper said he learned at Fort Detrick that the expectation is about 12 to 18 months for a vaccine, but that facilities there have the ability to help in vaccine production if a private-sector facility were to develop a vaccine earlier. He also said he was told Fort Detrick officials will soon increase their capacity to conduct virus testing with the purchase of new equipment.

"In my conversations with governors and members of Congress about the DOD's resources, I've made it clear that we will continue to support the administration's comprehensive efforts and the country every step of the way, while ensuring our nation's security remains the top priority of the Department of Defense," Esper said.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Social distancing allows time to prepare, save lives

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Social media is flooded with stories from around the world about the lack of health care resources due to the rapid spread of COVID-19. One way to help alleviate the strain on health care facilities and professionals is to slow the spread of the disease, or flatten the curve.

Flattening the curve means using protective practices to slow the rate of COVID-19 infection so hospitals have room, supplies and doctors for all of the patients who need care.

"A large number of people becoming very sick over the course of a few days could overwhelm a hospital or care facility. Too many people becoming severely ill with COVID-19 at roughly the same time could result in a shortage of hospital beds, equipment or doctors," according to Johns Hopkins Medicine.

One way to flatten the curve, slow the number of patients seeking care, is to practice social distancing.

Social distancing is the deliberate increase in physical distance between people. This includes staying away from shopping centers, movie theaters, stadiums and other crowded events. It could also entail teleworking, staying home from school, canceling meetings, as well as visiting loved ones electronically instead of in person.

Social distancing also means maintaining a distance of approximately 6 feet, or 2 meters, from all others when possible to lessen your chances of catching COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Most respiratory viruses are transmitted by exhaled water droplets containing the virus after an infected individual coughs or sneezes," said Col. Robert York, 59th Medical Wing, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. "By increasing the distance between individuals, the probability of a heavy, virus-containing water droplet remaining suspended in the air and

inhaled by a non-infected individual decreases, thereby reducing disease transmission."

While some might feel social distancing is excessive, especially those at low risk for having serious issues from the disease, slowing the spread of COVID-19 can save the lives of older adults and those with serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes or lung disease.

Debbie Aragon, a government civilian at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, said she visited her parents recently in their garage.

"We may not be in the high-risk COVID-19 group, but those we love may be," she said. "I am now visiting my parents in their garage, sitting on a camper chair six feet away. It's kind of a funny scenario for those walking by, but hey, I want my folks around for years to come!"

"Social distancing protects everyone. It keeps the well from getting sick and protects the sick from infecting others," York said. "Additionally, social distancing protects our most vulnerable populations. This means heeding the recent recommendation of limited visitation to long term care facilities — decreasing the probability of disease spread into this vulnerable population."

In addition to staying an appropriate distance from others, good hygiene and other practices can help slow the spread of COVID-19.

"Social distancing, in combination with avoiding touching your eyes, mouth and nose with unwashed hands, as well as good hand washing and cough hygiene, will help break the chain of infection." York said.

As the emergency situation continues regarding COVID-19, it is likely that social distancing recommendations will continue for some time, so it is important to remember to maintain mental wellbeing in addition to social distancing precautions.

For tips on maintaining good behavioral and mental health during



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Alek Cervantes and Brenda Brown practice social distancing while waiting for service at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston food court. Maintaining a six-foot distance can lessen chances of being exposed to COVID-19.

social distancing, quarantine and isolation caused by an infectious disease outbreak, go to https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma14-4894.pdf.

Soldiers from the 232nd Medical Rattalion 32d Medical Brigade, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. assist the Brooke Army Medical Center establish their COVID-19 response triage center March 18.



BAMC implements COVID-19 drive-thru screening

From Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center implemented a COVID-19 drive-thru screening process March 17 to help identify people with COVID-19 indicators before they enter the hospital. reducing the health risk to our beneficiaries, visitors, staff and family members.

As people proceed through the gate, they will first see signage requesting you self-screen for COVID-19 indicators, which include fever, cough or shortness of breath: recent travel: or contact with someone with COVID-19.

If a person has any of these indicators, they will be directed via personnel and signage to Parking Lot C, where medical personnel will

determine if they need further evaluation or if they should proceed home for self-care.

This screening area is for patients and personnel who have self-evaluated and fit the criteria for further evaluation by a medical professional. If you do not meet any of the criteria listed above, you do not need to enter the screening area and may proceed directly to your appointment or duty location.

Keep in mind that we have closed all but the Bed Tower, Medical Mall and Garden entrances to better direct our patients and enhance safety. The ED triage entrance remains open for emergency patients only.

If you are feeling ill, the best course of action is to call in before coming in to reduce the risk to yourself and others. Beneficiaries can contact the

Nurse Advice Line at MHSNurseAdviceLine.com for a web or video chat, or call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1. Beneficiaries also can call the Consult Appointment Management Office (CAMO) at 210-916-9900, which can offer in-person appointments or even virtual appointments from your own home.

For staff members, if you or your family members are feeling sick, please stay home and contact your supervisor or chain of command for further direction.

BAMC 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, while maintaining our vital military healthcare and readiness missions.



BAMC closes dining facilities, adjusts pharmacy operations

From Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center is implementing additional health protection measures to minimize foot traffic throughout the organization and help to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, enabling BAMC to better preserve the health and well-being of patients and staff.

Effective March 18, all Department of Nutrition Retail Food Services, to include the DFAC and all Grab & Go's, will close until further notice. Staff members are encouraged to bring in food from home.

As an exception, Graduate Medical Education students and meal card holders will have the option to pick-up/purchase pre-packaged meals from the main dining room on the lower level.

Also, beginning March 18th, all BAMC Pharmacies will institute a mandatory drop-off prescription process to reduce the number of patients waiting in the pharmacy area.

Patients who drop off their

prescriptions before noon will have a pick up time of after 1400 the same day. Patients who drop off their prescriptions after noon will be able to receive their prescriptions the next business day after 9 a.m.

As an exception, patients who are currently on antibiotics, physically disabled or picking up their prescriptions will be allowed to wait in the pharmacy area. All refill requests must be called in via the automated phone line or by using TRICARE Online.

Keep in mind that beneficiaries can get a 90-day supply of medications via TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or at retail network pharmacies (three, 30-day supplies at the cost of three co-payments).

Consider using home delivery to conveniently access your maintenance medications (drugs regularly taken for a chronic condition) without leaving the house. Visit https://militaryrx.express -scripts.com/home-delivery for

more information.



SAMHS adjusts services, offers options

From 59th Medical Wing **Public Affairs**

The San Antonio Military Health System is making several precautionary adjustments to services to help mitigate the spread of infectious diseases and ensure healthcare professionals and resources are poised to support an increased need for acute patient care.

Patients should expect to see the following changes:

- >> Temporary suspense of in-person routine care
- ▶ Delayed elective surgeries
- >> Prescription curbside pick-up and delivery and streamlined drop-off procedures (varies by location)
- >> Dining Facility, AAFES and food court closures in medical facilities >> COVID-19 drive-thru screening
- (BAMC and WHASC)

>> Patient visitation guidance

Clinics began proactively reviewing their schedules to make as many appointments virtual as possible. Affected patients will receive a call from the clinic to reschedule procedures or be treated via telehealth. Beginning March 18, patients will also be able to book virtual appointments directly using the appointment line.

"We are doing everything we can to continue providing high-reliability care to our beneficiaries in new ways while preserving the health of our community and the resources that may be needed if the virus spreads," said Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes, 59th Medical Wing commander. "Community members can

do their part by keeping updated on CDC guidelines during this time."

Brooke Army Medical Center has implemented COVID-19 drive-thru screening procedures for patients with COVID-19 indicators, which include a fever, cough or shortness of breath: recent travel: or contact with someone who has COVID-19.

"We are taking every necessary precaution to reduce the risk and preserve the safety of our beneficiaries. visitors, family members and staff," said Brig. Gen. Wendy Harter, BAMC commanding general.

As an additional precaution, BAMC has postponed in-person routine primary care appointments and most elective surgical procedures through the end of the month to help stay prepared to accomplish vital healthcare and readiness missions.

At end of the month, BAMC will assess if further delays are needed. This will reduce foot traffic throughout the hospital and enable healthcare staff to focus their attention on being ready in the event there is an increase in acute natient care.

To protect yourself and those around you from viruses, consider calling in before seeking care. Call the Nurse Advice Line, or NAL, or your Primary Care Manager before coming to the Family Emergency Center or Brooke Army Medical Center.

Patients and staff are being screened before entering SAMHS facilities and anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms will be directed to the family

emergency center or BAMC.

The NAL for TRICARE beneficiaries is a team of registered nurses who are available 24/7 to answer a variety of urgent healthcare questions.

Visit MHSNurseAdviceLine.com for a web or video chat, or dial 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1. They can help you decide whether self-care is the best option, or if it is better to see a healthcare provider. Beneficiaries also can schedule an appointment with their PCM by calling the Consult Appointment Management Office at 210-916-9900.

"Virtual health and telephone evaluations are our preferred healthcare delivery method and we are taking full advantage of these safe, viable options," Harter added. "To reduce risk to yourself and others, we are encouraging our beneficiaries to call in before physically coming in, using the NAL, CAMO, or secure messaging. If the patient's symptoms are severe, they will be directed to the emergency department for evaluation."

There are several actions the CDC recommends to prevent infection: >> Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- >> Close contact is defined as within 6 feet for 10 minutes.
- >> Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- >> Notify supervisors and consider staying home when you are sick. >> Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue.
- then throw the tissue in the trash. >> Clean and disinfect frequently

touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

- >> Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- >> If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty. >> CDC does not recommend that people
- who are healthy wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

For more information about virus prevention, visit https://www.cdc.gov/.

For more information on COVID-19. visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus /2019-nCoV/index.html.

In addition, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District has opened a COVID-19 hotline, which is available in English and Spanish.

For COVID-19 questions, call 210-207-5779. The hotline is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Also visit www.sanantonio.gov/health /2019ncoronavirus.

BAMC works to minimize COVID-19 risk

From Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

To ensure Brooke Army Medical Center healthcare professionals are poised to support an increased need for acute patient care and minimize risk to all, certain services and programs have been delayed/reduced at this time, hospital officials said March 22.

During this time of national emergency, BAMC is committed to providing timely access to medical care for those who need it the most while protecting patients and staff from unintended illness resulting from exposure to others. The following list has details about the affected areas. BAMC will update this list as the situation evolves, so keep an eye out for additional changes.

For those who think they have COVID-19, stay home and take care of yourself and avoid contact with others as much as possible. For questions or symptoms you'd like to discuss with a healthcare professional, call the 24/7 Nurse Advice Line, or NAL, at 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1,

visit MHSNurseAdviceLine.com for a web or video chat, or send a secure message through the TOL Secure Messaging function.

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 home.

Primary Care

BAMC primary care clinics have shifted to providing primarily urgent and virtual access. As a result, BAMC is delaying care for selected routine needs such as well-child visits not requiring vaccines, well-woman exams, and annual/sport physicals.

Any currently scheduled visits for these reasons will be cancelled and patients will be placed on a wait list to be rescheduled when operations normalize. Patients will be called if their appointment has been affected.

Requests for medication renewals, laboratory results, radiology results, respiratory symptoms and urinary tract infection symptoms will be booked as telephonic virtual visits. These visits will be conducted over the phone by a clinic nurse.

If a patient requires a face-to-face visit, one will be provided by the nurse at the time of the call. There may be other healthcare needs or concerns that our staff will facilitate through telephonic virtual visits as appropriate.

BAMC is requesting that all non-urgent care (i.e. care for chronic medical conditions, orthopedic conditions more than six weeks old, etc.) defer during this time. If a patient feels they are unable to safely defer care, we ask that they use the TOL secure messaging function to send a message to their medical team or submit a telephone consult request through CAMO or the clinic. Someone will respond as quickly as possible to address your concerns.

Medical Subspecialties

Elective procedures such as bronchoscopies and colonoscopies are being postponed and currently scheduled procedures will be rescheduled at a later date when normal operations resume. Medical subspecialty clinics have shifted to providing primarily virtual consults with face-to-face appointments and procedures as needed on an urgent basis.

Elective Surgeries

All elective surgical cases are being postponed, and surgical clinics will shift to providing primarily urgent and virtual access.

Any currently scheduled routine surgical consultations and follow-up visits will be rescheduled when this crisis has averted. You will be called if your scheduled surgery or appointment has been affected and provided a new appointment date at that time. Military medical readiness requirements will not be affected.

Department of Orthopedics

The Department of Orthopedics is not performing elective procedures at this time. They will still care for fractures and musculoskeletal problems that need to be addressed acutely. Patients with chronic and elective problems are being

BAMC continues on 16

BAMC temporarily adjusts visitation policies

From Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

The safety of patients and visitors is a top priority at Brooke Army Medical Center. While we understand the importance of family support during hospitalization, the new coronavirus (COVID-19) requires us to temporarily adjust our visiting policy in order to keep our patients and visitors safe from infection.

If you have any questions about the updated visiting policy, please ask a member of the patient's healthcare team.

Guidelines for Visitation

Visiting Hours:

- → Adult Units: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- >> Pediatric Unit: 24 hours/day
- >> Critical Care Units: 24 hours/day as deemed appropriate by clinical staff

Overview

- >> Visitors must be 18+ years old (see below for potential exceptions).
- >> Visitors will be screened prior to entering all patient areas.
- **▶ IN ALL CASES**, any visitor who is coughing, shows

other signs of illness or is deemed clinically high risk will be asked to leave.

- Restrictive policy also includes BAMC employees that have family members who are in the hospital.
 The number of visitors per patient will be limited;
- additional restrictions may be imposed based on the patient's clinical status.
- Visitors may not remove any supplies or equipment from the medical center. Escalate to a supervisor immediately if noted.
- >> Visitors are prohibited in rooms of Persons Under Investigation, or PUIs, or COVID-19 positive patients (unless at end of life).

Inpatient Locations/Adult

- >> One visitor per adult patient.
- ➤ For patients who require a home caregiver to be trained, the caregiver must stay in the room for the duration of the visit.
- >> Visitors are prohibited in adult Bone Marrow Transplant, or BMT, inpatient units. In special circumstances, based on the clinical team's judgment, one visitor may be permitted.

Inpatient Locations/Pediatrics/NICU

>> Two visitors per patient are allowed in the inpatient

and Neonatal Intensive Care Units; parents, guardians, or family care partners only.

Inpatient Locations/Labor & Delivery/Antepartum/Postpartum

>> Two visitors are permitted for obstetric patients; the two visitors should remain the same for the course of the admission.

Outpatient Locations

Emergency Departments (ED)

- >> For adult patients, visitors are prohibited in the Emergency Department. In special circumstances, based on the clinical team's judgment, one visitor may be permitted.
- ▶ One visitor per pediatric patient is allowed in the pediatric ED; parent or caregiver only. Please speak with the patient's clinical team if the patient requires additional assistance.

Primary Care, Specialty Clinics, Diagnostic testing areas

One person is allowed to accompany each patient to an appointment, unless an aide or assistant is required.

LACKLAND

Latest AF trainees continue BMT with enhanced mitigation efforts

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For the 668 projected new U.S. Air Force recruits arriving at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland this week, basic military training is beginning with a 14-day restriction of movement, or ROM, as the service actively conducts mitigation procedures to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

During the ROM, trainees will prepare for full scale training and complete administrative tasks and limited training objectives, while operating within the parameters of social distancing and small group contact. Currently, there are no COVID-19 cases in BMT.

"The health of both our trainees and military training instructors is our top priority,"

AF TRAINEES continues on 15



Basic Military Training Flight as araduates stand 6 feet apart at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 19. The graduation was livestreamed as the wing is implementing enhanced COVID-19 mitigation protocols designed to keep Airmen safe and healthy while accomplishing the mission. These newest 789 Airmen proudly marched while mom and dad, spouses, their children, other loved ones & friends were able to watch online. All BMT araduation events remain private and closed to the public and araduation ceremonies are livestreamed on the 37th Training Wing Facebook page.

A Military Training Instructor from the 37th Training Wing

stands at attention with his

COURTESY PHOT

WHASC opens drive-thru screening, testing at JBSA-Lackland

From 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

The 59th Medical Wing has implemented a COVID-19 drive-thru screening process at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland to help identify people with COVID-19 indicators before they enter the hospital, reducing the health risk to our beneficiaries, visitors, staff and family members.

As you proceed to WHASC, you will see signage requesting you self-screen for COVID-19 indicators, which include fever, cough or shortness of breath; recent travel; or contact with someone with COVID-19. If you have any of these indicators, you will be directed via personnel and signage to the screening area, where medical personnel will determine if you need further evaluation or if you should proceed home for self-care.

The drive-thru screening will be open from 9 a.m.

to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday for patients and personnel who have self-evaluated and fit the criteria for further evaluation by a medical professional. If you are experiencing symptoms outside of the drive-thru hours, you should report to an emergency room.

If you do not meet any of the criteria listed above, you do not need to enter the screening area and may proceed directly to your appointment or duty location.

For those beneficiaries located closer to Brooke Army Medical Center, a COVID-19 drive-thru screening is also available there from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday through Sunday.

Please keep in mind that we have closed all but the A Wing, Family Emergency Center and Garden Level entrances to better direct our patients and staff and enhance safety.

If you are feeling ill, the best course of action is to

call in before coming in to reduce the risk to yourself and others. Beneficiaries can contact the Nurse Advice Line, or NAL, at MHSNurseAdviceLine.com for a web or video chat, or call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1. Beneficiaries also can call the Consult Appointment Management Office (CAMO) at 210-916-9900, which can offer in-person appointments or even virtual appointments from your own home.

For staff members, if you or your family members are feeling sick, please stay home and contact your supervisor or chain of command for further direction.

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, while maintaining our vital military healthcare and readiness missions. As this situation is rapidly evolving, we will be sure to share any updates and appreciate your cooperation, commitment, patience and support.

55th Wing brings the Rivet Joint to San Antonio

By Manuel Garcia

SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE/AIR FORCES CYBER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the Air Force's 55th Wing, out of Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, stopped by Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Feb. 21 to demonstrate the unique capabilities of the RC-135. known as Rivet Ioint.

The Rivet Joint is one of several Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance aircraft used. in part, to collect, survey and analyze data.

"The plane can be best described as a vacuum," said Maj Joseph Cunningham, chief of inspections standard evaluation, assigned to manage procedures for the RJ aircrew.

Built with an on-board sensor suite, the RI allows the mission crew to detect. identify and geolocate signals throughout the electromagnetic spectrum. The



U.S. Air Force Airmen with the 55th Wing, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, demonstrate the unique capabilities of the RC-135 known as Rivet Joint at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Feb. 21.

mission crew can then forward gathered information in a variety of formats to a wide range of consumers via the RJ's extensive communications suite.

"The crew for this plane," Cunningham said, "will be about 20 to 30 folks and as long as we can get gas, it can go up to 24 hours."

This RJ has deployed globally in support of theaters in Iraq and Afghanistan, to conduct ISR missions during combat operations.

The data the RI delivers provides joint warfighters the information needed to ensure force protection as well as conduct effective targeting operations. This information is vital to the warfighter and gives commanders the decision advantages needed.

During their stop at JBSA-Lackland, the crew provided guided tours and presentation to the public before departing for Nebraska.

AF provides guidance on WAPS testing

From Air Force's Personnel Center Public Affairs

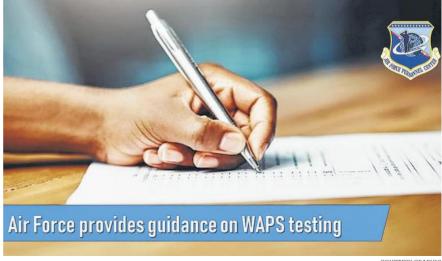
Air Force officials announced March 23 that Weighted Airman Promotion System testing is postponed through May 11 to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19.

Installation commanders have the authority to determine testing center availability to maintain health and safety. As a result of some centers not being available for testing due the COVID-19 outbreak, current WAPS testing is postponed through May 11.

Airmen can voluntarily elect to test prior to May 11 pending testing center availability. Additionally, Airmen who have already tested will not retest.

Any Airman who is unable to test within the extended testing cycle window will be automatically considered for in-system supplemental promotion once they are able to test.

Air Force officials will continue assessing the situation and make adjustments as necessary. Airmen should contact their testing control office and chain of command for additional information.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

59th MDW adjusts pharmacy hours, Rx services

From 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

The 59th Medical Wing is continuing to make several precautionary adjustments to services to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases and ensure healthcare professionals and resources are poised to support an increased need for acute patient care.

Patients should expect to see the following changes regarding pharmacy hours and prescription drop off and pick up services.

JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph Satellite Pharmacy

➤ Hours of operation: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday

For hard copy/paper prescriptions, follow the below

instructions for drop-offs and pick-ups:

Drop off paper prescriptions at either JBSA-Lackland or JBSA-Randolph Satellite Pharmacy's dropbox table.

- ➤ Complete the drop off form located on the table.
- ➤ Patients will receive a text when their prescription(s) is ready.
- ▶ Proceed back to the Satellite Pharmacy for pick up.



For electronic prescriptions from network providers, follow the below instructions for pick-ups:

- >> Go to either JBSA-Lackland or JBSA-Randolph Satellite Pharmacy's dropbox table.
- ➤ Complete the drop off form located on the table.
- ▶ Patients will receive a text when their prescription(s) is ready.
- >> Proceed back to the Satellite

Pharmacy for pick up.

Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center Pharmacy

▶ Hours of operation: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday

For new prescriptions, follow the below instructions:

➤ Activate new prescriptions from clinic providers by calling 210-292-7970 or 210-292-5411.

 → Patients will receive a text when the prescription(s) is ready for pick up.
 → Proceed to WHASC Pharmacy for pick up.

Gateway Bulverde

→ Hours of operation: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday

For new prescriptions (hard copy or electronic), follow the below instructions:

- ➤ Drop off all new prescriptions (hard copy or electronic) from the network or providers at the pharmacy screening table
- ➤ Patients will receive a text when the prescription(s) is ready
- ▶ Proceed to the Gateway Bulverde Pharmacy for pick up

For ALL Refills

→ The JBSA-Lackland Commissary location is closed until further notice

▶ Pick up refills at the location you selected (i.e., WHASC, JBSA-Lackland Satellite, JBSA-Randolph Satellite or Gateway Bulverde)

Patients can also register at https://militaryrx.express-scripts.com/ for Express Scripts and have prescriptions delivered to their home.

AF TRAINEES

From page 13

said Col. Michael Newsom, 737th Training Group and BMT commander. "Restricting movement and separating our newest recruits from the rest of our BMT population, while still accomplishing training, allows us keep our Airmen safe and keep us ready to continue our mission to train, develop and inspire Airmen."

All inbound BMT trainees will be housed at the most geographically-separated Recruit, Housing and Training facility. Trainees previously assigned to the facility have been moved to other BMT squadrons to complete their training objectives.

To help provide social distancing recommended by current Centers for Disease Control guidance, trainees will be housed in large bays with less than 40 people.

Personnel from the 37th Training Wing, with support from officials from the 59th Medical Wing and 502nd Air Base Wing, are streamlining logistics support for the newly arrived recruits, with modified procedures for haircuts, uniform issue, and meals.

"We have contingency plans in place for new recruits identified through initial health screenings needing isolation," said Maj. Gen. John DeGoes, 59th MDW commander and the San Antonio Military Health System, medical director. "Pre-screening questionnaires identify symptoms, as well as recent travel exposure. For those recruits who become symptomatic, we have the facilities to provide the right type of care to our Airmen."

In a change to routine BMT

operations, flights originally scheduled to graduate on Fridays will now graduate on Thursdays. The next graduation is March 19.

All BMT graduation events remain private and closed to the public and graduation ceremonies are livestreamed on the 37th Training Wing Facebook page.

"Our COVID-19 mitigation measures begin with the entire team embracing an operational mindset," said Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullos, Second Air Force commander, "This mindset is crucial to our ability to carefully balance the need to deliver mission ready forces to our operational commanders with the force health protection measures we must responsibly take to preserve the welfare of our families and the extensive network of communities across our nation we call home.

AFIMSC cancels 2020 I-WEPTAC event

From AFIMSC Public Affairs

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center has canceled its 2020 Installation and Mission Support Weapons and Tactics Conference due to travel restrictions and health risk mitigation strategies associated with the global coronavirus pandemic.

I-WEPTAC was scheduled for April 6-8 in San Antonio. AFIMSC senior leaders are considering ways of sharing progress and recommendations mission area working groups have already accomplished, and transitioning other efforts to the 2021 I-WEPTAC, organizers said.

In addition, a General Officer/Šenior Executive Service Summit and a Mission Support Leadership Summit, held in association with I-WEPTAC, were also canceled. In the case of the mission support summit, organizers are planning to conduct those sessions virtually via Defense Collaboration Services in the original April 6-8 timeframe, wrote David Dentino, director of the AFIMSC Installation Support Directorate, in an email notification to the mission support community. Those details will be provided once plans are finalized.

IAAFA hosts Professional Development Seminar in Peru

By 1st Lt. Kayshel Trudell

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Inter-American Air Forces Academy hosted its second-ever Officer and Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Seminar and Subject Matter Expert Exchange with members of the Peruvian Army, Air Force and Navy March 9-12.

"Professional Military Education and developmental courses are the heart of IAAFA," said Senior Master Sgt. Gerardo Marquez, IAAFA superintendent. "Our vision is to build security cooperation and strong enduring relationships with our partners. Collaborative engagements like these are what make that possible."

The goal for this PME seminar was to create an opportunity to increase collaboration, share experiences and lessons learned and showcase the importance of leadership training for officers and enlisted military members at all levels to enhance interoperability and mission success.

"It is IAAFA's mission to provide military education and training to our military partners of the Americas," said Francisco Hernandez, IAAFA Traditional Commanders Activity coordinator. "We were thrilled to host this event for a second time and hope that it means many similar engagements with our Peruvian military partners in the future."

IAAFA was joined by fellow U.S. military SMEs from the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, the West Virginia National Guard and U.S. Southern Command to provide additional insight on leadership, communication and professional military education for both officers and NCOs alike.

"The United States is an

enduring friend and partner to Peru," said U.S. Army Master Sergeant Danny Gomes, NCO Development Partnership Program Manager for SOUTHCOM. "Having the opportunity to participate in events like these reiterate our steadfast commitment to mutually beneficial cooperation with Peru and our enduring promise of friendship, partnership and solidarity with the Americas. Thank you to our IAAFA brethren for making this seminar possible."

This IAAFA led initiative directly supports Joint Security Cooperation Education and Training efforts and SOUTHCOM's goal to support and strengthen the U.S. and Peruvian partnership.

Members of the West Virginia National Guard also joined IAAFA for this professional development engagement. They have had an advising, training and assistance relationship with Peru since 1996 and participate in many partnership capacity building events each year as part of the National Guard State Partnership Program.

The SPP links states'
National Guard with the armed forces of partner countries to participate in training and other activities that foster long-term enduring relationships.

BAMC

From page 11

rescheduled until further notice.

Department of Pediatrics

BAMC Pediatrics will continue to do all newborn appointments for children under a month old. They will also continue "well baby" appointments for 2-, 4-, 6-, 12-month and 4-year-old children for vaccines only. The 12 and 15-month vaccines will be consolidated into the 12-month visit.

The pediatrics clinic will defer most 9-month-old well baby vaccines, unless there is a specific concern. If so, a provider will evaluate the child via a virtual health visit and determine if they should come to be seen. CAMO will refer all requests for well-baby exams to the clinics where it will be booked by the clinic.

For pediatric subspecialty referrals, pediatrics will continue to see emergency consults and those appointments the provider deems time sensitive. For emergency and referrals needed within 72 hours, the provider ordering the consult will contact the specialist directly.

For general pediatrics, adolescent clinic and pediatric subspecialties, most routine consults and follow ups will be deferred until further notice.

The Exceptional Family Member Program office is working under reduced hours but is continuing to process EFMP packets as fast as possible; however, please be patient as delays are anticipated.

Department of Anesthesia

The Pre-Admissions Unit, or PAU, has cancelled all scheduled clinic appointments, but will still be open for walk-in appointments.

Department of Radiology

Radiology has shifted to providing primarily urgent/emergent imaging. As a result, radiology is delaying care for many screening and non-urgent exams. This most notably applies to routine annual screening mammography, initial evaluation for non-urgent problems, and follow-up imaging for non-urgent problems.

Any currently scheduled visits for these reasons will be rescheduled or placed on a wait list to be rescheduled when operations normalize. Patients will be called if their appointment has been impacted.

BAMC is requesting all non-urgent imaging needs (i.e. screening exams, imaging for chronic medical conditions, orthopedic conditions more than 6 weeks old, etc.) defer during this time.

The Department of Radiology will continue to support the imaging needs of patients (as determined necessary by their healthcare providers), providers, and our healthcare system.

Obstetrical imaging will continue for both routine and urgent needs. Breast imaging will continue to be available for patients with new or enlarging breast lumps or other concerning symptoms. Imaging will also continue to be supported for patients undergoing cancer evaluation or treatment.

Department of Optometry

All routine eye care has been postponed through May 10, 2020, for all patient categories. However, the Department of Optometry will be available for eye and vision urgencies i.e. eye trauma, eye pain, red eyes, eye discharge, loss of vision, double vision, or flashes, floaters, or curtains in vision.

The department will also be available to active duty personnel for readiness-related eye exams, optical ordering, optical repair and required physicals. Patients can speak directly with a provider for eye questions, medication refills, and spectacle prescription rewrites by contacting the front desk at 210-916-1717. Hours of operation will remain 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Department of Pharmacy

All BAMC pharmacies have instituted a drop-off prescription process to reduce the number of patients waiting in the pharmacy area. Patients who drop off their prescriptions before noon will have a pick up time of after 2 p.m. the same day. Patients who drop off their prescriptions after noon will be able to receive their prescriptions the next business day after 9 a.m.

As an exception, patients who are currently on antibiotics, physically disabled or picking up their prescriptions will be allowed to wait in the pharmacy area. All refill requests must be called in via the automated phone line or by using TRICARE Online.

Patrons should keep in mind they have the option to get a 90-day supply of medications via TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or at retail network pharmacies (three, 30-day supplies at the cost of three copayments). Consider using home delivery to conveniently access maintenance medications (drugs regularly taken for a chronic condition) without leaving home. Visit https://militaryrx.express-scripts.com/home-delivery for more information.

Release of Information

The Release of Information section will temporarily suspend walk-in services until further notice. All requests received will be processed via fax, email, or mail. Additional information can be found at the following website: https://www.bamc.health.mil/departments/pad/release-of-information.asp or by calling 210-916-1157.

BAMC Chapel Services

All worship services in the BAMC Chapel have been cancelled until further notice, to include weekly Bible study. To speak with a chaplain, call 210-916-1105.

RANDOLPH

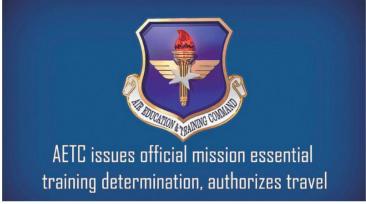
AETC issues official COVID-19 mission essential training determination

From Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command released a formal memorandum outlining the command's mission essential training determination during the coronavirus outbreak. The signed memo officially authorizes travel for recruits and Airmen who are scheduled to attend basic military training, technical training and flying training.

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of AETC, signed the memorandum which was sent to AETC commanders and the Air Force Personnel Center March 18.

"AETC executes the critical mission of training and preparing our servicemen and women to provide for the national defense and current worldwide military missions," Webb stated in the memorandum titled Mission Essential Determination — Basic Military Training and Technical Training.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

"Maintaining AETC's recruiting, training and education activities and pipeline is critical to the operational mission success of our commanders executing the National Security

Strategy."

Per the memorandum, Webb stated AETC will continue to: "recruit and access Airmen; train candidates and enlistees in Officer Training School,

ROTC and Basic Military Training; develop Airmen in Technical and Flying Training; and deliver advanced academic education such as the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College."

Webb also stated the AETC training is "mission essential" and "therefore, Airmen (officer and enlisted) assigned to these AETC training courses are mission essential and must travel. Upon graduation from this training, Airmen must move to their next duty station or follow-on training pursuant to AFPC guidelines."

To download a copy of the Mission Essential Determination — Basic Military Training and Technical Training memorandum, click here. Airmen with follow up questions should contact their immediate chain of command, while recruits set to travel to basic military training should contact their local recruiters for further guidance.

AETC COVID-19 high-risk workforce encouraged to telework

From Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command leaders are encouraging employees identified as higher risk of becoming ill due to COVID-19 to work with their supervisors to begin teleworking.

"We want to be proactive to ensure we are protecting our most vulnerable," said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AETC commander. "We are providing the most flexibility to our directors and supervisors so they can protect our people and our mission."

AETC personnel who believe they are at high risk are asked to work with their leadership to determine the best course of action. Directors and supervisors should maximize voluntary telework

and other social distancing opportunities especially for those in high-risk categories.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those who are at higher risk of becoming very ill after exposure to COVID-19 are older adults and people with acute chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease, diabetes and compromised immune systems.

For additional information on protecting the most at-risk population visit the CDC website at https://www .cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific -groups/high-risk-complications.html.

Employees or supervisors seeking more information should work with their local surgeons general and personnel offices.



AF Master Sergeant (20E7) promotion board rescheduled

By Angelina Casarez

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER

The Air Force Master Sergeant (20E7) promotion board originally set to convene at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph March 23 has been rescheduled to ensure personal health and safety concerns associated with Coronavirus disease-19, or COVID-19, can be maintained.

The 20E7 board is now scheduled to convene the first week of June, with a public promotion release projected for the end of July. The delay does not impact the currently planned first "sew-on" increment, which remains scheduled for Aug. 1.

"We realize the importance



COURTESY GRAPHIC

and impact promotion boards have on Airmen's careers, but for health and safety it's important we make these prudent adjustments at this

time," said Mai, Gen, Andrew I. Toth, Commander, Air Force's Personnel Center.

"Given the importance of promotion boards, we are

working on a number of process adjustments and facility mitigations allowing us to hold future boards while complying with health and

safety guidelines," the general added. "Unfortunately, we were unable to get those measures in place for the 20E7 board which is the largest board we conduct. This is a rapidly-changing situation and we're constantly coordinating with Headquarters Air Force to take care of our Airmen and their families the best way possible,"

AFPC will closely monitor record updates for the 20E7 promotion cycle. At this time we plan to have modifications in place allowing us to conduct all other promotion boards as scheduled.

For more information about promotion boards, visit https://www.afpc.af.mil /Promotion/.

902nd SFS takes steps to enhance protection

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As members of the Joint Base San Antonio community grapple with the challenges of shielding themselves and their families during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the 902nd Security Forces Squadron at IBSA-Randolph is ramping up its efforts to provide another layer of protection.

In line with Health Protection Condition Bravo, the squadron has taken several steps to protect its defenders and the IBSA-Randolph community, said Lt. Col. Dennis Trutwin, 902nd SFS commander.

"For instance, we've minimized the exposure potential by limiting the amount of personnel allowed at one time within the visitor center," he said. "In addition, defenders across the base, regardless of duty position, are provided personal protective equipment to include masks and gloves."

The 902nd SFS is taking other steps that also follow the advice of health care professionals.

"Internally, we've taken steps to continually sanitize and disinfect equipment, high-traffic areas and common-use surfaces," Trutwin said. "The nature of our profession does not allow us to telework, so we've divided our staff into shifts to support social distancing while at the same time ensuring our support to mission partners and the community does not miss a beat.'

The squadron also strives for social distancing while interacting with the community -arecommended measure that is sometimes difficult, Trutwin said.

"The 902nd SFS will continue to practice social distancing as much as possible," he said.

"Unfortunately, sometimes our job requires us to get a little close and personal."

New gate-entry procedures provide additional protection, Trutwin said.

"We've posted new procedures at the gate that ask commuters to present their ID and help our defenders avoid handling several thousand IDs per day," he said.

The three-step process requires commuters to display the barcode on their ID card and the picture on their ID card before waiting for the order to

Gate hours are unchanged, Trutwin said, but he also noted that the Lindsey Gate — the main gate to the location — will reopen March 23 after completion of a construction project that finished ahead of schedule.

The 902nd SFS commander also asked for the community's assistance.

"We depend on our community to remain our eyes and ears," he said. "If you see something, say something and contact the Base Defense Operations Center at 210-652-5500."

The pandemic does not change the squadron's commitment to the community, Trutwin said.

"No matter how bad the situation gets, there will always be defenders securing the perimeter and ready to respond when called," he said.

