

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MAY 1, 2020



Photo by Luis Deyá

From left: Lt. Gen Laura Richardson, commanding general of U.S. Army North; Gen. James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army; and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston receive a medical operations update during a tour of the U.S. Army North Operational Headquarters Building at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston April 23.

Army Chief of Staff, SMA visit JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

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USECAF, CMSAF visit AETC to see adjusted training

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558th FTS uses 3-D tech to fight COVID-19

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COMMENTARY

Rising up together to fight through the coronavirus pandemic

By Lt. Gen. Brad Webb

COMMANDER, AIR EDUCATION
AND TRAINING COMMAND

The Airmen of AETC don't back down to a challenge; we rise up.

While I believed this to be true, even before the First Command was faced with overcoming challenges related to COVID-19, I can now point to examples across our command to prove it without a doubt. I have never been more proud to lead the exceptional Airmen of AETC, and I want to thank each of you for fighting through COVID-19 together and continuing to support the AETC mission during these difficult times.

As the fight against COVID-19 has evolved over the past several weeks, the stakes have been high. You have been faced with unprecedented challenges in an environment changing day-by-day and sometimes hour-by-hour. Yet every day, you, your loved ones, and members of the AETC community have risen to face new challenges and overcome them in extraordinary ways.

As guidance emerged, you adapted by teleworking, implementing physical distancing as much as possible in your workspaces and across mission-essential training, and incorporating innovative teaching and learning measures in forums ranging from the Inter-American Air Forces Academy to Officer Training School, Reserve Officer Training Corps, technical training and pilot training.

As our children's schools began closing or going virtual, you shared homeschooling tips with your fellow AETC community members across the country and never once wavered in your support of the mission.

Your resilience and determination to keep mission-essential training moving forward while protecting both our members on base and communities, as we all adjusted to our new "normal" have been phenomenal.

As guidance was relayed on the wear of face coverings, you were already lining up volunteers to step forward and sew masks and use tools available in your units to create pieces of personal protective equipment. Several of you reached out to



FIRST COMMAND: FIGHTING THROUGH COVID-19 TOGETHER



COURTESY GRAPHIC

your communities for help and you worked together to make things happen.

And as the Air Force has continued to require ready and lethal Airmen, each of you has demonstrated tremendous dedication — whether as medical personnel, maintainers, dining facility employees, instructors, security forces, commissary employees, trainees and countless other vital roles. I want to say thank you to all of you. You are the heart of the Air Force and I couldn't be more proud to be a member of this team.

The demand for airpower has continued, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, and your service is essential to AETC, the Air Force, and the security of our nation as a whole.

Throughout this fight, the First Command has embraced the mantra, "Calm is Contagious." I appreciate Airmen trusting in their leaders and addressing issues through their chains of command, and I'm grateful for the commanders at all levels making tough decisions in an environment where there are no easy

answers. This matter-of-fact approach is a key element of our fight against COVID-19 and enables us all to keep calm, fight through and train on.

To ensure we continue to recognize the incredible stories of individuals across AETC stepping up in the fight against COVID-19, AETC has launched the #RiseUpAETC campaign. I encourage you to participate and share what the fight against COVID-19 has looked like for you. Share your story by posting to Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #RiseUpAETC or by sending an email to aetccommandteam@gmail.com.

As we look toward the future, we can't know for certain what our new normal will look like. Even so, I know that our mission remains the same: to recruit, train and educate exceptional Airmen to fuel the Air and Space Force. I appreciate the continued dedication and hard work of every AETC team member as we continue rising up, fighting COVID-19, and executing our mission ... together.

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

Feedback Fridays is a weekly forum that aims to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

COVID-19

Q. When did it become standard practice to totally leave employees out in the front line ensuring that the JBSA mission is 100 percent taken care of, and not check to see how they are doing?

This is sad. I am a retired vet, and I never thought that the Wing leadership would not care about civilians working 150 percent covering people and agencies that are teleworking.

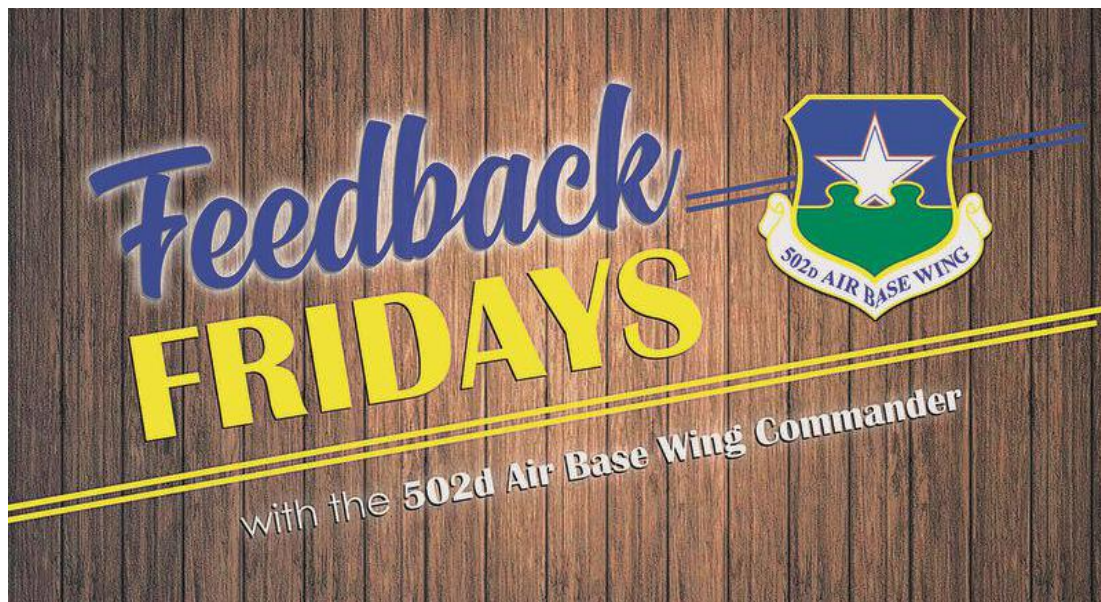
I do not understand why we are breaking our backs for the squadron and JBSA mission to be ignored by our leadership. This has made me think real hard about retiring and getting away from the 502d ABW all together. Civilians are working every day with no Leave or time off to take care of ourselves and our needs like getting food/lunch.

This is of no care or concern from the commanders because there is no problem because the civilians that are taking on the JBSA are alone.

A. Thank you very much for reaching out. This has been a very challenging time for our Nation, the State of Texas, the San Antonio region and the JBSA community.

As we respond to this crisis, the health and safety of JBSA personnel and their families is be my top priority. As the COVID-19 response evolves, we continue to learn more about the virus and how to protect ourselves with proper cleaning protocols and personnel protective equipment (PPE).

While many functions in the JBSA community can be accomplished through teleworking, there are critical



COURTESY GRAPHIC

functions in our wing that we're not able to authorize teleworking due to the type of customer service delivered and/or readiness requirements.

In these cases, supervisors will ensure our workforce has proper PPE as well as adequate work/rest cycles. I also asked them to authorize alternate shifts and work schedules to ensure the safety of our team.

I sincerely appreciate everything that you and our entire wing is doing to accomplish our mission during this challenging time. Please ensure your supervisor is aware of any unique circumstances or underlying health conditions that may drive changes to your work status or schedule.

Installation & Facilities

Q. I was wondering about the status of the new Popeye's/Burger King at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. The building has appeared to be finished for some time.

My family and I are scheduled to PCS this summer and we were hoping that the restaurant would be

open before we left.

A. Thank you for your question. I completely understand the excitement of seeing this new facility open up to the community.

Though the exterior looks near complete, there is still work that needs to occur inside the facility and with operations before the restaurant opens. At present, AAFES is projecting a grand opening in August. More details will be provided as the opening date approaches.

Q. I work in Building 1046, room 155. It may be seasonal and unrelated, but I have experienced upper respiratory infections more frequently lately — two since the New Year — and it seems that my infection is exacerbated during the week and abates over the weekend.

I sit directly under a vent which is covered with black specks. The evidence of water damage in the ceiling tile is old and has not changed in the last several years.

Would it be possible to check my work space's air quality?

A. Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. Our CE team has responded to your inquiry and conducted a survey of your building and office area. They found that there were active leaks in the metal-seamed roof and those leaks were being patched by CE at the time of assessment.

They also found that multiple areas had water stains on the carpets as visual signs of previous leaks.

As far as remediation, the carpets have been cleaned and a project has been submitted for funding a carpet replacement after the roof leaks are fully repaired. There were no other visual signs of mold growth throughout the area.

If any additional leaks are seen prior to the roof repair, I encourage you to contact your facility manager to submit a work task request in the Tririga system, and to immediately notify CEG Customer Service. Our CE team is hard at work to repair the damages in your building and appreciates the feedback.

FEEDBACK FRIDAYS continues on 4

DOD providing leave leniency due to COVID-19 travel restrictions

By David Vergun

DOD NEWS

Travel restrictions made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in the Defense Department providing leave leniency for service members who accrue too much leave and might otherwise lose it.

Each year, active duty service members are granted 30 days of leave, but at the end of each fiscal year, they normally lose any unused leave exceeding 60 days. With the leniency granted due to the pandemic travel restrictions, service members can now accrue a leave balance of up to 120 days until Sept. 30, 2023.

Matthew Donovan, undersecretary of personnel and readiness, signed the authorization for that change April 16.

DOD encourages service

members to take leave whenever possible; however, it's not always possible due to deployments and operational commitments, Pentagon officials said, though some extensions have been granted due to long deployments.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit service members particularly hard because many are not allowed to travel to see friends and loved ones who live many miles away — a big incentive for taking leave, Donovan said. Therefore, he continued, the restriction on the leave balance ceiling was relaxed.

“The department's actions to stem the spread of COVID-19 have significantly limited the ability of service members to take leave during this national emergency, and we know that leave is vital to the health and welfare of our force,” Donovan stated in his memorandum.

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“The department's actions to stem the spread of COVID-19 have significantly limited the ability of service members to take leave during this national emergency, and we know that leave is vital to the health and welfare of our force,” Donovan

stated in his memorandum.

The memo is in effect until June 30, though that could change because reviews are taking place every 15 days based on CDC guidance.

The travel restrictions include permanent changes of station and all other official travel, as well as personal leave. Also, flights to or from non-Level 3 countries cannot transit through Level 3 nations.

As of today, the CDC website listed Germany, Italy, Qatar, Afghanistan, South Korea and Japan — countries where large numbers of service members are stationed — as Level 3 locations. Many other countries also are at Level 3.

Numerous exceptions to the travel ban have been made on a case-by-case basis, Donovan said at an April 18 Pentagon news conference, citing

exemptions for medical treatment, personal hardship, separation and retirement.

“The coronavirus disease continues to present significant risk to our forces as the DOD considers domestic and overseas personnel travel,” Esper stated in his memorandum. “These movements present the threat of spreading COVID-19 within our ranks and communities. My priorities remain protecting our service members, DOD civilians and families; safeguarding our national security capabilities; and supporting the whole-of-nation response.”

This is not the first time extensions have been granted, officials noted. Special leave accrual of up to 75 days was granted during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, due to long or multiple deployments.

FEEDBACK FRIDAY

From page 3

Q. I am a federal officer with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. I serve as a Special Response Team, or SRT, operator trained in a variety of unique skill sets similar to military special operations.

I'm inquiring about leasing a permanent training facility for U.S. Customs and Border Protection in order to conduct training for current and future SRT candidates. This facility would serve as a home site that will be utilized throughout the year and years to come.

I am acting as the current liaison for the upper management based out of Washington D.C. I just wanted to touch base with anyone who I can get more information. Any advice would be appreciated.

A. Thank you for your inquiry. There is a formal process established for organizations requesting space use agreements, and that process is managed by our Real Property Office within the 502d Civil Engineer Group.

At present, real property space is

extremely limited across all JBSA locations; however, our Real Property Office has insights on leasing opportunities within the local area that might support your organizational needs. Please contact our Real Property Office at 210-671-5327 for further information.

Q. I can understand the morning gate congestion entering JBSA-Lackland through the Luke East Gate. However, why is the departing Luke east gate departure lanes always down to one lane at the end of the day at 4 p.m. backing up traffic?

Please have the security forces manning the Luke east gate open both lanes to relieve the traffic congestion departing JBSA-Lackland, especially on Thursday and Friday afternoons (3:45-5:45 p.m.).

A. Thank you for your concern and suggestion about the Luke East exit lanes. Both outbound lanes at Luke East are normally open from 3:30-5:30 p.m. each day to ensure the orderly flow of traffic. Previous construction at that gate necessitated the use of only one outbound lane, but normal use has now resumed, as that construction is now

completed.

Q. I have a question about the current firearm policy for JBSA. I am a Federal Law Enforcement Officer.

I have no problem entering any of the bases here in San Antonio for official business, and in the past I could enter any base off duty with my duty weapon to go shopping or attend a medical appointment as long as I checked my service weapon into the Security Force's armory. Now I was informed at the front gate at JBSA-Randolph that this policy is no longer in effect and I was turned away.

I understand with the high number of active shootings on a military base lately you want to ensure the safety of the people who are working and living on JBSA, but I believe that the old policy of allowing off-duty Law Enforcement Officers on base and checking their service weapons into the Security Force's armory does not jeopardize safety.

A. Thank you so much for sharing your concern as it applies to multiple personnel and agencies entering JBSA.

All of our Security Forces armory

locations have and continue to honor courtesy storage for personal firearms for Law Enforcement Officers entering the base on unofficial business.

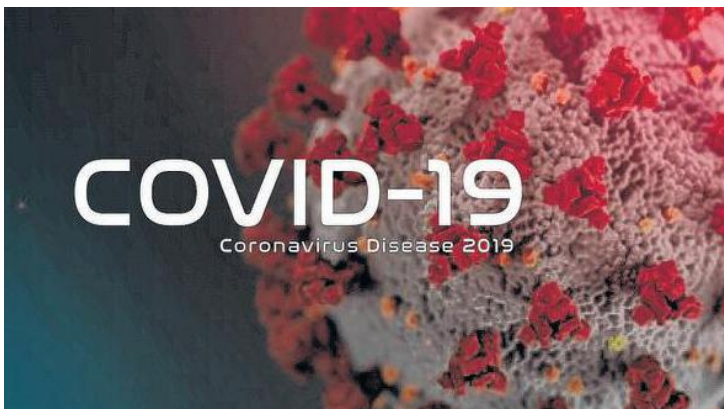
We are very sorry for being improperly turned away, and we have reminded all gate guards at all installations of this JBSA local policy so that it doesn't happen again.

Q. I currently hold a current Texas Retired Officer Firearms Proficiency as well as retired peace officer credentials from my home state.

If I decide to go onto the base when I am out and about, I have to go back home first to secure my firearm.

What is the current policy for Qualified Retired Peace Officers with current proficiency credentials? Is there any plan of revisiting the policy? I also work on one of the bases, but I leave my firearm home, secured on work days.

A. Thank you so much for your question on firearms policy. All of our Security Forces armory locations have and continue to honor courtesy storage for personal firearms for Law Enforcement Officers entering the base on unofficial business. This is the policy per JBSA Instruction 31-1131.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Air Force signs agreement for COVID-19 testing at installations

**From Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

The Department of the Air Force signed an agreement April 17 with Curative, Inc., to deploy and scale an oral fluid coronavirus test, which recently received an FDA emergency use authorization, across Air Force installations.

The Department of the Air Force's Rapid Capabilities Office, in coordination with the Defense Health Agency and Joint Acquisition Task Force established by the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment and DHA, is managing the \$13 million research and development Blanket Purchase Agreement with the COVID-19 testing startup.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) and DHA are the healthcare R&D funds manager, and approved the investment as a risk reduction alternative to nasal swab testing. Successful testing could also lead to broader use for testing the U.S. population.

The agreement provides for the initial production of more than 40,000 test kits and associated training for military medical personnel. Testing is expected to begin in the next two weeks. The agreement establishes one laboratory, in addition to Curative's existing lab, and eight testing sites at yet-to-be named military installations across the continental United States. Each lab is expected to process up to 50,000 test

examinations per day. These orally administered tests have an average turnaround time of 24 hours.

"For over two years, we've been accelerating our government purchasing system to work with innovative tech startups who need fast decisions and cash," said Dr. Will Roper, the Air Force's acquisitions czar. "We had the right innovation network in place to find this potentially game-changing test and strike a deal at wartime speeds. Our men and women in uniform, and our nation, need a highly-scalable coronavirus test."

In addition to scalable production, Roper said the oral swab test could be self-administered and sealed for laboratory processing without taxing healthcare workers or medical supplies. "The entire chain of events required for testing appears to scale. Our job now is to demonstrate this quickly," Roper said.

Clinical studies suggest Curative's oral fluid test has equivalent sensitivity to nasopharyngeal swab tests that require a nurse. Curative has deployed its oral test kit at drive-thru and other centers in Los Angeles, testing more than 57,000 people at a rate now grown to approximately 5,000 per day. The Air Force hopes to scale this an order of magnitude in a manner replicable for national need.

"Though our starting point is the military, we're ensuring there are no ceilings to going bigger," Roper said. "We assigned our best and brightest from the Rapid Capabilities Office to build the plan. They're living up to their name."

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Army drill sergeants don PPE to receive new trainees

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 150 recent graduates of Basic Combat Training, or BCT, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, have been transported in a contracted commercial airplane to begin training at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, as part of the Army's efforts restrict community contact with the trainees between duty stations due to COVID-19 concerns.

Two civilian airplanes landed at JBSA-Kelly Field April 24, carrying Soldiers who have been in a so-called "protective bubble" of training at Fort Jackson for the past several months. Each trainee was screened for COVID-19 as a new recruit before being sent to basic for at least 10 weeks.

Prior to being released to MEDCoE, the Soldiers were screened daily for the last 14 days and one final time just prior to the flight departing Fort Jackson. There were no stops en route and the only contact with the community was with the flight crew who were also screened and wore cloth face coverings as a protective measure.

Upon arrival at JBSA-Kelly Field, drill sergeants assigned to MEDCoE's 32nd Medical Brigade donned personal protective equipment to screen each trainee in a hangar to ensure they are symptom-free.

When trainees passed screening at arrival, they were allowed to board sterile buses bound for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to begin their Advanced Individual Training



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Bullis, a drill sergeant assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence's 32nd Medical Brigade, screens a basic combat trainee arriving from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, at a Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field hangar, prior to accepting him into Advanced Individual Training at MEDCoE at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

in varying medical military occupational specialties to include combat medics, respiratory specialists, and medical logistics specialists. Every aspect of the Soldier's travel was designed to limit contact with the community to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Soldiers were able to travel in this highly controlled fashion, rather than commercial flights, as an exception to the Department of Defense stop movement policy that was

extended April 20 to avoid the potential spread of COVID-19 within the military.

This is the first time trainees have arrived via a chartered flight for training at the MEDCoE though the organization conducted a controlled air movement to transport graduating trainees from JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to their follow-on duty stations with the same type of control measures earlier this month. The current stop movement policy will be reviewed every

two weeks and is expected to be in place until June 30.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Bullis, a drill sergeant, trains AIT 68W combat medics and helped screen the new Soldiers.

"This is an important situation for all health care providers and this is actually a unique situation for them (the trainees) because they are getting ready to enter into the healthcare field," he said. "Helping them understand the pandemic situation and how to prevent further spread, I think,

will help them get into the right mindset when they enter training."

MEDCoE trains, educates and inspires nearly 30,000 soldiers in more than 360 training and education programs annually that include everyone from combat medics, doctors, surgeons, nurses, veterinarians, dentists, physical therapists and physician assistants to medical evacuation pilots, food inspectors, medical technicians, and hospital administrators.



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, of U.S. Army North Commanding General (far left); and Gen. James C. McConville (third left), Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, observe U.S. Army 68V respiratory specialists and U.S. Navy respiratory technicians as they train on a patient simulator at a Medical Education Training Campus classroom.

Army Chief of Staff, SMA visit JBSA-FSH

By Sgt. John Onuoha

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military personnel assigned and augmenting units at Joint Base San Antonio showcased an array of capabilities around the installation to Gen. James McConville, the 40th and current U.S. Army Chief of Staff, and Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Michael A. Grinston, as they visited Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston April 23.

The purpose of their visit was to get an overview of U.S. Army North, observe training at the Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, and see the efforts by Brooke Army Medical Center, or BAMC, to slow the spread of the

coronavirus.

U.S. Army North, designated as the Joint Forces Land Component Command, or JFLCC, is currently providing support to the Department of Defense COVID-19 response by deploying more than 8,000 service members to eight states throughout the U.S. in order to augment more than 20 civilian hospitals and alternate care facilities with medical and logistics capabilities.

The Joint Forces Land Component Command has been agile and innovative in its response to the situation, McConville said.

U.S. Army North, as U.S. Northern Command's JFLCC, continues the rapid integration of medical capabilities in

several locations around the country while remaining flexible to quickly respond to upcoming needs as part of the Department of Defense's response to COVID-19.

The JFLCC staff also provided the CSA and the SMA a COVID-19-focused mission brief and a tour of the operational headquarters facility. There they met with staff members to discuss each section's focus and lessons learned. Members of the JFLCC shared their plans to apply the knowledge gained in continuing to provide responsive and flexible support as regions return to steady-state operations.

During the tour, the CSA and SMA also got a first-hand

glimpse into real-world, relevant medical training at the MEDCoE including a respiratory therapist training.

There has been a unity of effort and everyone has moved in the same direction as a team, McConville said.

The MEDCoE trains and educates nearly 30,000 service members in more than 360 training and education programs annually, that include everyone from combat medics, doctors, surgeons, nurses, veterinarians, dentists, physical therapists and physician assistants to medical evacuation pilots, food inspectors, medical technicians, and hospital administrators.

The last stop of the tour was BAMC, which is a Level 1

trauma center that provides safe, quality care to service members, their families, veterans and civilian emergency patients as the most productive healthcare organization within the military health system.

The hospital has adapted operations in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, providing drive-through screening and pharmacy operations. They also treat local COVID-19 positive patients from Joint Base San Antonio and the surrounding area.

McConville said the American people are proud that their military stays ready and was there to support when needed. He encouraged Soldiers to keep up the fight against COVID-19.

Change made to BAMC Garden Entrance pedestrian traffic pattern

From Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

As Brooke Army Medical Center continues to introduce and implement new measures to mitigate and reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in our facilities, we want to thank you for your patience and acknowledge how important your role is of remaining diligent while executing these new procedures.

The BAMC Garden Entrance is a high-traffic pedestrian area that requires a modification to help facilitate social distancing, particularly during shift changes. We will do this by slightly altering the traffic pattern when entering and exiting the building. This new traffic pattern is effective immediately.

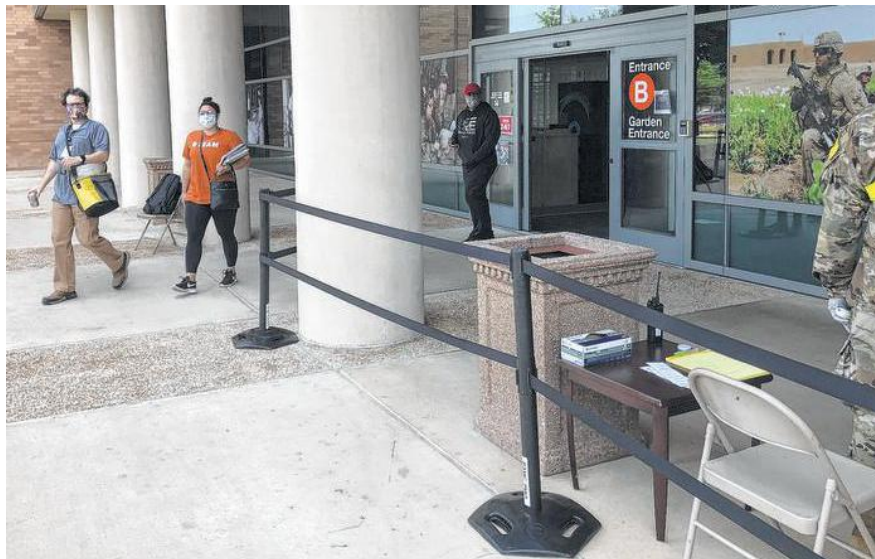
When approaching the Garden Entrance from the parking garage, remain to your right, follow the posted signs

that indicate “Enter” and walk under the cover of the building until you get to the automatic double doors.

When exiting the Garden Entrance, remain to your right, follow the posted signs that indicate “Exit”, and walk out into the open area to the right of the building’s pillars as you walk to the parking garage.

Always remember to stay 6 feet from those around you and wear your face-covering in this common area of our facility.

We all have a responsibility in keeping our military families and healthcare professionals safe. If you are feeling sick or having flu-like symptoms, please stay home and call your supervisor or a healthcare provider before coming in to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Brooke Army Medical Center Garden Entrance, a high-traffic pedestrian area, has been modified with revised foot-traffic patterns for entering and exiting the building to facilitate social distancing.

Stay safe as new COVID-19 cases decrease, non-essential businesses reopen

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the number of COVID-19 cases in San Antonio reached 1,000, it is as important as ever to continue following precautions to prevent more cases.

"As we see the light at the end of the tunnel with new case counts dropping and businesses beginning to reopen, we may jeopardize all of our hard-earned gains and sacrifice if we fail to continue to do our part," said Col. Robert York, Joint Base San Antonio public health emergency officer.

"This is the time to double down, remembering good hand hygiene and avoiding touching of your face, eyes and mouth; wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth when unable to practice physical distancing, and staying away from sick people and if you are ill, and don't go to work," York said. "Adherence to these rudimentary practices will protect yourself and others and will prevent us from backsliding into a larger outbreak. The end is in sight, and we must remain focused on our ultimate goal — beating COVID-19."

A little of the glimmer at the end of the tunnel may be seen this week.

On April 17, Gov. Greg Abbott signed an Executive Order authorizing the re-opening of retail businesses effective April 24. These businesses may only complete sales for pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer's doorstep, but customers may not enter the business. This applies to non-essential businesses only.

Before you venture out, you may want to review the Texas Department of Health and Safety guidance on how to re-open safely for both employees and customers at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/docs/ReOpenedRetailGuidance.pdf>.

Additionally, here are some tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to venture out into public spaces:

Shopping for essentials

- » Stay home if sick.
- » Avoid shopping if you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19, which include a fever, cough, or shortness of breath. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html> for more information.

Order online or use curbside pickup

- » Order food and other items online for home delivery or curbside pickup, if possible.
- » Only visit the grocery store, or other stores selling household essentials, in person when you absolutely need to. This will limit your potential exposure to others and the virus that causes COVID-19.
- » Try to go alone. Leave children and older family members at home, if possible.

Protect yourself while shopping

- » Stay at least six feet away from others while



COURTESY GRAPHIC

shopping and in lines.

- » Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when you have to go out in public. This is currently required in San Antonio. For information on DIY cloth face coverings, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.
- » When you do have to visit in person, go during hours when fewer people will be there (for example, early morning or late night).
- » If you are at higher risk (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>) for severe illness, find out if the store has special hours for people at higher risk. If they do, try to shop during those hours. People at higher risk for severe illness include adults 65 or older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions.
- » Disinfect (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/essential-goods-services.html>) the shopping cart with disinfecting wipes if available.
- » Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- » If possible, use touchless payment (pay without touching money, a card, or a keypad). If you must handle money, a card, or use a keypad, use hand sanitizer right after paying.
- » After leaving the store, use a hand sanitizer that has at least 60 percent alcohol. When you get home, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- » At home, follow food safety guidelines.

Accepting deliveries and takeout orders

- » Limit in-person contact if possible.
- » Pay online or on the phone when you order (if possible).
- » Accept deliveries without in-person contact whenever possible. Ask for deliveries to be left in a safe spot outside your house, such as your front porch or lobby, with no person-to-person interaction. Otherwise, stay at least six feet away from the delivery person.
- » Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after accepting deliveries or collecting mail
- » After receiving your delivery or bringing home your takeout food, wash your hands with soap and water

for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.

- » After collecting mail from a post office or home mailbox, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.

Banking

- » Bank online whenever possible.
- » If you must visit the bank, use the drive-through ATM if one is available. Clean the ATM keyboard with a disinfecting wipe before you use it.
- » When you are done, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home.

Getting gasoline

- » Use gloves or disinfecting wipes on handles or buttons before you touch them.
- » After fueling, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.
- » Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when you get home or somewhere with soap and water.

Going to the doctor or getting medicine

- » Talk to your doctor online, by phone, or e-mail.
- » Use telemedicine, if available, or communicate with your doctor or nurse by phone or e-mail.
- » Talk to your doctor about rescheduling procedures that are not urgently needed.

If you must visit in-person, protect yourself and others

- » If you think you have COVID-19, let the office know and follow CDC guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html#minimize>).
- » Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>) when you have to go out in public.
- » Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- » Use disinfecting wipes on frequently touched surfaces such as handles, knobs, touch-pads (if available).
- » Stay at least six feet away from others while inside and in lines.

Limit in-person visits to the pharmacy

- » Plan to order and pick up all your prescriptions at the same time.
- » If possible, call prescription orders in ahead of time. Use drive-thru windows, curbside services (wait in your car until the prescription is ready), mail-order, or other delivery services. Do the same for pet medicines.
- » Check with your doctor and pharmacist to see if you can get a larger supply of your medicines so you do not have to visit the pharmacy as often.

JBSA receives \$9M in grant funding for upgrades

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Through a state grant, Joint Base San Antonio is slated for \$9 million in upgrades to bolster physical security for its electrical infrastructure and replace overhead transmission lines with underground lines at one of its installations.

Gov. Greg Abbott announced April 1 that the Texas Military Preparedness Commission had awarded \$5 million from the state's Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant, or DEAG, program to the Alamo Area Council of Governments, or AACOG. Grant funds will be utilized to improve power distribution throughout San Antonio and JBSA.

"The strength of our military communities in Texas is unparalleled in part because of state support like the DEAG program," Abbott said. "Not only are the 15 major military installations and Army Futures Command in Texas critical for the defense of our nation, they also add over \$101 billion to the state's economy and support,

directly and indirectly, more than 224,000 jobs in communities across this great state."

In addition, CPS Energy, which provides electrical infrastructure and power to JBSA installations, will provide \$3.4 million in matching funds and \$600,000 for in-kind contributions for electrical infrastructure improvements at JBSA, for a project total of \$9 million.

"This grant is an excellent example of the collaborative community relationships we are so fortunate to have at JBSA," said Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander. "The resiliency of our installation infrastructure is vital to the success of our missions."

"We're extremely grateful for our close partnership with the Alamo Area Council of Governments and our public utility, CPS Energy, who worked closely with us in support of this effort," Lenderman said. "Once again, this initiative proves that together, we really are stronger."



COURTESY PHOTO

Through a state grant, Joint Base San Antonio is slated for \$9 million in upgrades to bolster physical security for its electrical infrastructure and replace overhead transmission lines with underground lines at one of its installations.

DEAG funds will be used to upgrade physical security for 11 electrical substations, operated by CPS Energy, that provide power to mission-critical on-base facilities and infrastructure for JBSA, including the NSA Texas substation.

Grant funds will also be utilized to remove transmission lines in three of the four aircraft safety clear zones at

JBSA-Randolph, burying those lines underground. A total of 25 utility poles will be removed, resulting in a total of 8,990 linear feet of overhead conductor powerlines being placed underground.

Placing and burying the transmission lines underground will improve safety for aircraft crews, mitigating the risk posed to them if an accident occurs.

The physical security upgrades CPS Energy plans to make to the electrical substations that provide power to JBSA installations will provide additional protections against vehicles or large rifle projectiles.

Melissa Sorola, CPS Energy interim senior director of corporate communications and

GRANT continues on 19

JBSA ASAP adjusting to COVID-19 with virtual programs

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Through technology and social platforms, the Joint Base San Antonio Army Substance Abuse Program, or ASAP, is adjusting to the circumstances brought on by COVID-19 in providing access to programs and services that promote the well-being of active-duty and installation community members.

ASAP is currently conducting two of its programs in virtual platforms, the Personal Risk Reduction Workshop and the Commander's Risk Reduction Dashboard, or CRRD II,

training, and will resume its substance abuse prevention training presentations in a virtual format in May.

The Personal Risk Reduction Workshop allows individuals and families a chance to take a personal risk assessment and covers several topics including how personal risk impacts a unit's mission readiness and lethality and how to integrate personal risk reduction techniques in everyday work and family lives.

In addition, the workshop provides information on resources that are readily available in assisting individuals and families to set goals for personal risk reduction and

real-time referrals to community support agencies standing by to assist workshop participants.

Commanders have the ability to participate in CRRD II training virtually. This training provides commanders with tools for real-time insight into their servicemembers' individual readiness levels, utilizing personnel data covering more than 40 factors that could potentially facilitate high-risk events that may negatively impact overall mission readiness.

For information on both the Personal Risk Reduction Workshop and CRRD II, contact Alicia Cline, ASAP Risk Reduction Program coordinator

at alicia.m.cline.ctr@mail.mil or 843-670-8591.

Leslie Noel, JBSA ASAP prevention program manager, will be accepting requests from unit prevention leaders for the substance abuse prevention presentations that will restart virtually in May.

Noel will provide the substance abuse prevention presentation in PowerPoint. The substance abuse prevention presentations meet mandatory training requirements for units and their service members.

"I can design a presentation to fit the unit's needs," Noel said.

Noel said the virtual substance abuse presentations cover the same topics she has

focused on in face-to-face presentations to groups of servicemembers at unit locations, including alcohol and substance abuse, what a standard alcoholic drink is, proper consumption of alcoholic beverages, identifying different types of drugs and marijuana and the effects of drug usage on a person.

To request a substance abuse prevention presentation, unit prevention leaders can contact Noel at leslie.a.noel.ctr@mail.mil or 210-221-0326.

In addition, ASAP will conduct two webinars in May for unit commanders, active

JBSA ASAP continues on 19

LACKLAND

Under Secretary of the Air Force Shon Manasco (left) bumps elbows with Staff Sgt. Brandon Carlisle (right) from the 635th Material Maintenance Squadron at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, during his visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston April 22. Manasco, along with Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, visited with Airmen at multiple training locations across JBSA and at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, to see first-hand how Air Education and Training Command has adjusted operations to mitigate and minimize COVID-19 impacts to the basic, technical and flying training pipelines, all of which have been deemed mission essential.



JOHNNY SALDIVAR

“We simply can’t accomplish our mission without the dedicated training and medical experts across the AETC enterprise.”

**Shon Manasco,
Under Secretary of the Air Force**

USECAF, CMSAF visit AETC to see adjusted training

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

While performing duties as Under Secretary of the Air Force, Shon Manasco, along with Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, observed the ongoing, critical operations at multiple training locations at Joint Base San Antonio and at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, April 22.

The visits allowed senior leaders the opportunity to see first-hand how Air Education and Training Command has adjusted operations to mitigate and minimize COVID-19 impacts to the basic, technical and flying training pipelines, all of which have been deemed mission essential.

“We simply can’t accomplish our mission without the dedicated training and medical experts across the AETC enterprise,” Manasco said.

“Across every aspect of our training pipeline, we are seeing Airmen innovate and find new ways of executing the mission to recruit, train and educate exceptional Airmen and Space Professionals while balancing their health and safety.”

The traveling party maintained a small footprint and adhered to all CDC and DoD social distancing guidelines to ensure protection of their health and those around them.

Upon arrival at Keesler, Manasco and Wright met with Second Air Force leaders to learn more about how the numbered air force is fighting through the COVID-19 response with force health protection measures in place throughout basic and technical training.

Maj. Gen. Nina Armagno, director of space programs for the office of the assistant secretary for acquisition, accompanied Manasco and Wright during the visit.

“At any given time, there are

30,000 Air and Space professionals in our various pipelines and in order to maintain a trained force, we must continue to bring in new recruits and train them,” said Armagno. “Protection measures put in place proactively have reduced potential COVID-19 exposure to all of our trainees and instructors.”

The senior leaders observed BMT proof of concept operations at Keesler Air Force Base, and also how the 37th Training Wing at JBSA-Lackland handles BMT COVID-19 restriction of movement on arrival, as well as quarantine, persons under investigation and isolation operations.

“The BMT proof of concept allows the command flexibility to make necessary adjustments to the training production pipeline as needed during contingencies,” Manasco said. “As one of a number of options for dispersing basic military

training under a range of contingencies and in the current COVID-19 situation, Keesler presented the most favorable option.”

After observing new recruits in basic military training, the service’s senior enlisted leader was impressed with the agility of training and perseverance from the soon-to-be Airmen.

“As it always is, seeing the commitment in person of America’s sons and daughters as they transition from civilian life to becoming Airmen is inspiring,” Wright said. “To each and every one of them, we want to say thank you for your dedication to our country and for stepping up to defend her even during these truly uncertain times.”

Manasco and Wright also visited a technical training classroom and experienced the virtual capstone lab for cyber transport training. This allowed the leaders to see how technical training is adapting its

curriculum and technology to be more agile in training delivery.

For their final stop, the team visited with instructor pilot students and staff from the 559th Flying Training Squadron at JBSA-Randolph where they learned about the use of virtual reality and the future of pilot training, as well as changes during COVID-19 operations.

Throughout the day, Manasco seized the opportunity to thank all first responders, medical professionals, and trainee health teams in the 8th Medical Group at Keesler and Reid Clinic at JBSA-Lackland for standing ready during the coronavirus response.

“To say we’re proud of every single Airman and Space Professional standing directly on the front lines of this COVID-19 fight would be an understatement,” Manasco said. “The courage with which our Airmen have responded in the face of this unknown enemy has been second-to-none.”

FROM THE FRONTLINES

149th Medical Group assists with COVID-19 testing in the Texas Hill Country

By Charles E. Spirtos

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

Members of the 149th Medical Group from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's 149th Fighter Wing joined Texas Air and Army National Guard service members in Fredericksburg April 19 to establish a community-based COVID-19 testing facility.

The Texas Military Department, in tandem with state partners, has established testing facilities to provide drive-in COVID-19 screenings to communities not served by a county health department. These facilities will allow Texas to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Members of the 149th FW are part of a Joint Texas Military Department response team. Their missions include food bank assistance at multiple locations, enhancing medical supplies, supporting medical distribution, bolstering manpower to produce N95 respirator masks, and evaluating non-medical buildings for possible conversion to alternative healthcare facilities.



CHARLES E. SPIRTOS

Second Lt. Monica Hutchinson, 149th Medical Group Texas Air National Guard medic, prepares to receive patients by properly securing her personal protective equipment at a community-based testing facility in Fredericksburg, Texas, April 19.



MASTER SGT. MINDY BLOEM

Capt. Jarrod Taber, Capt. Craig Ameduri, 2nd Lt. Monica Hutchinson, Staff Sgt. Hailie Anderson, all 149th Medical Group members, work alongside other National Guard members in tandem with their state partners to assist in providing greater access to medical testing in Fredericksburg, Texas.



CHARLES E. SPIRTOS

Texas Air National Guard Airmen triage and check in a patient for COVID-19 testing at a community based testing facility in Fredericksburg, Texas, April 19.



MASTER SGT. MINDY BLOEM

Capt. Craig Ameduri, Tech. Sgt. Amber Harrison, and Lt. Col. Joseph Rogalinski, 149th Fighter Wing Medical Group members, work alongside National Guard members in tandem with their state partners, to monitor COVID-19 testing in Fredericksburg.

433rd Airlift Wing deploys more Reserve Citizen Airmen to New York

From 433rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 433rd Airlift Wing has deployed more Reserve Citizen Airmen to the New York City area to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Five members of the 433rd Medical Squadron and one from the 433rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron deployed to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, April 22 to join about 20 Alamo Wing members previously mobilized in response to the novel coronavirus earlier this month.

The Airmen were among a group of about 150 doctors, nurses and respiratory technicians deploying to assist medical providers in the New York-New Jersey region.

“We’re proud to be continuing our participation in this response to assist our fellow Americans,” said Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd AW commander. “The opportunity to help alleviate suffering and save lives is extremely important to us. Our medical Reserve Citizen Airmen are proud and honored to serve during our nation’s time of need.”

The New York City area is widely viewed as the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States. Nationwide, roughly 770 Air Force Reservists have been mobilized to help with the relief efforts.



COURTESY PHOTO

Air Force Reserve Citizen Airmen gather during preparations to deploy to New York area to help battle COVID-19 April, 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

JBSA ground transportation adapts to fight COVID-19

By Rachel Kersey

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio installations have begun segregating buses by health status to contain the spread of COVID-19 and ensure that the JBSA community stays healthy. As of March 21, all buses on any of the bases will be labeled either green, yellow, or red, to denote who can and cannot ride in which vehicles.

The buses have a colored sign on the side of each vehicle. In the case of green buses and bus stops, the sign is also affixed to the map hanging at the bus stop.

Green buses are for personnel who are not Persons Under Investigation.

“You’re not allowed to ride the buses if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or if you’re a PUI, or if you’re infected,” said Lt. Col. Glen Langdon, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron commander. “So the green routes are just for personnel who are presumed healthy.”

A yellow sign indicates that a certain bus is specifically for personnel who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the virus. Anyone who rides the yellow bus must wear a mask and use hand sanitizer before

boarding the vehicle.

“The red transportation is for transportation of personnel that are COVID-19 positives,” Langdon said. “And some examples could be the person has been diagnosed with the virus but they need to be moved to an isolation facility from the med clinic, or they need to move from one isolation facility to another or back to the medical folks for further assessment or further care if required.”

Those riding red buses must also wear a mask and use hand sanitizer before boarding the vehicle. In all buses, riders must keep six feet between them and any other person on board. In a 44-passenger bus, only twelve people are allowed to board. In a twelve-passenger van, there can be no more than two passengers.

Yellow buses and red buses are requested specifically by a squadron to transport personnel to specific locations. In accordance with guidelines developed with the Centers for Disease Control, the Public Health Emergency Officer, and JBSA, the yellow and red buses are cleaned with a mixture of bleach and water after each ride to curb potential transmission of the virus to other people. Green buses are cleaned every hour.

RANDOLPH

558th FTS uses 3-D tech to fight COVID-19

By Benjamin Faske

12TH FLYING TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor's note: For security purposes, some members of the 558th Flying Training Squadron are indentified using their first names only.

We call on our friends when times get tough, we lean on them for advice, comfort, friendship and help. The bonds that bind us together as Airmen are instilled in each and every one of us, and when our nation calls we step up.

It all began with a phone call, and two weeks later over 200 face shields were delivered to the 559th Medical Group to be distributed to medical clinics at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland.

"Late last week, Chief Master Sgt. Keith Scott, 559th MDG superintendent, reached out to me to see if I knew anyone with a 3-D printer. I didn't know anyone personally, but I checked with Senior Master Sgt. Dale Eslinger, 558th Flying Training Squadron superintendent, and within two hours we had the right people talking to each other to determine what was needed and what could be done to support," said Chief Master Sgt. Jason Dahlquist, 12th Flying Training Wing command chief.

The 558th FTS is accustomed to thinking outside the box, the very nature of their mission implores them to because Remotely Piloted Aircraft pilots and sensor operators have learned to adapt to an ever-changing battlefield. Whether they're building virtual reality trainers from the ground up or using 3-D printer



BENJAMIN FASKE

Master Sgt. Mike, 558th Flying Training Squadron flight chief, inspects one of the completed 3-D printed face shields April 14, 2020 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The face shields will be delivered to clinics on JBSA-Randolph and Lackland as medical personnel continue to fight the spread of COVID-19.

technology to create parts for training aides, the Phantom Knights get the job done.

"I think it's important to reach out to the community, I know that we aren't the only squadron with a 3-D printer, but as brothers-and sisters-in-arms, we want to reach out to our local medical teams and see if they have what they need, a call to arms if you will," said Master Sgt. Mike,

558th FTS flight chief. "We have global deployment contingencies now and our medical staff is always there for us making sure we are fit to fight medically, it just makes sense that we can return the favor."

In the last week alone, the 558th FTS was able to further increase their efficiency by securing a new printer nozzle resulting in a 50 percent

production increase. Instead of printing 12 per day, the 558th FTS can now produce up to 26 frames daily. The streamlined process has also resulted in a production cost decrease from 50 to 33 cents per unit.

"Our philosophy at the 558th FTS is that we are all in this together and over the years our teammates in the medical group have supported us and

kept us in the fight and so this is an opportunity to keep them safe and help them continue their mission," said Lt. Col. Corey Hogue, 558th FTS commander.

The delivered face shields will go to work immediately shielding our brothers- and sisters-in-arms as they fight back against the spread of COVID-19, and preserve the nation's combat readiness.

Airmen, space professionals bring safety home while teleworking during pandemic

By Leslie Irwin

SAF/IEE

As the nation moves to adapt and minimize the spread of the Coronavirus 2019, the Department of the Air Force is prioritizing the health and safety of our Airmen and Space professionals, civilian personnel, and families.

By encouraging prevention measures and making modifications to ensure all essential missions get off the ground, many now find themselves supporting the Air Force mission to 'fly, fight, and win' from a home office.

"Despite the inherent challenges that come with the reality of working from home," says Air Force Chief of Safety Maj. Gen. John T. Rauch Jr.,

"assuring the Air Force mission calls for sustaining a safe and productive work environment."

This means that in addition to following strict personal hygiene, social distancing, staying home if sick, and self-quarantining if exposed to those with COVID-19 symptoms (coughing, fever, shortness of breath), ensuring safety throughout ones designated workspace is a priority.

An effective telework environment goes beyond best practices for staying productive on the job. From securing safe operation and storage of cords and electrical appliances to optimal ergonomic support at the workstation and reducing

"Our air and space professionals are known for their innovation, determination, and resilience. I trust in their abilities to realize the Air Force mission through these complex times."

Mark Correll, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety, and Infrastructure

physical strain, the Air Force is also providing resources to promote and instill better safety habits for the home.

"Our air and space professionals are known for

their innovation, determination, and resilience," says Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety, and Infrastructure Mark Correll. "I

trust in their abilities to realize the Air Force mission through these complex times."

As the Air Force continues to direct maximum telework, the Air Force Safety Center wants to make it easier. Starting Monday, April 27 and ending Friday, May 1, the Safety Center will be sharing home safety knowledge and tips with the aim to inspire Airmen, Space professionals and their families to employ the same safety measures they embrace at the office in their new home workspace.

Visit the Safety Center's Home Safety page for resources and follow the hashtag #BringSafetyHome on Twitter @AFSAFETY, Facebook @AFSAFETYCenter and on the AFSEC YouTube channel.

Recruiting Service Airman helps people on COVID-19 front lines

By Master Sgt. Chance Babin

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

During this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, people from around America are finding innovative ways to contribute to those working on the front lines and Air Force recruiters are no different.

Staff Sgt. Brandon McKeever, 342nd Recruiting Squadron, B-Flight recruiter, learned about the needs of a local hospital while he was talking to one of his nurse applicants and found a way the Air Force could help.

"The applicant mentioned a shortage of supplies and necessities," McKeever said. "She said in some cases her coworkers were having to switch out scrubs multiple times a day."

This sparked an idea in McKeever, who knew there were boxes of special promotional items in his

storage closet that could be used on the front lines of the COVID-19 battle.

"We've had countless boxes of scrubs in our office since I arrived here in Nashville," he said. "They are branded with the Air Force logo and Air Force Health Professions."

McKeever reached out to Vanderbilt Medical Center to see if our scrubs could be utilized.

"I decided on Vanderbilt because it is the focal point for the COVID-19 response to cases in the Central Tennessee area," he said. "My flight has done a few presentations and conducted business with Vanderbilt University Medical Center or Vanderbilt University on a few occasions, so it seemed like the most logical place."

He noted that most health care facilities have regulations on what scrubs they can wear unless branded with their own logo. But during this pandemic,



COURTESY PHOTO

Healthcare workers at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, wear scrubs that were donated by recruiters from Air Force Recruiting Service. The donation of these Air Force Health Professions scrubs was lead by Staff Sgt. Brandon McKeever, 342nd Recruiting Squadron, B-Flight.

the rules have changed due to tremendous shortages of private protective equipment.

"They were genuinely excited for the donation," he said. "There has been a huge outreach of people donating handmade face masks, but for us to be in the position to

donate as many sets of scrubs as we did was undoubtedly extremely helpful and needed during these times."

"We are very appreciative at Vanderbilt University Medical Center to receive these scrubs," said Teresa L. Dail, a nurse who is the chief supply chain

officer at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "They came right at the time we were talking about the need to ensure our clinical staff caring for COVID-19 patients could start wearing scrubs, provided and laundered by the hospital, verses wearing their traditional uniforms to and from the hospital,"

"The staff was overwhelmed by the generosity and quickly embraced wearing them, with pride, in our emergency department." Dail continued. "This donation allowed us to focus funds on other much-needed supplies to help support our staff and our patients."

McKeever's resourceful thinking lead to other recruiting flights donating gear to the front lines, which he acknowledges was special. In total, the squadron donated 1,582 sets of scrubs to medical centers throughout their area of responsibility.

Air Force Recruiting goes digital with new portal

By Wes Fleming

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force Recruiting Service has been preparing for an online world for a while now, COVID-19 has just accelerated that process.

In a digital world where everything is at your fingertips, the old “hurry up and wait” processes are becoming a thing of the past.

With the digital world as the primary option for reaching recruits during the COVID-19 pandemic, AFRS has created a digital means to shorten the time for potential new recruits to digitally upload their information on the path to joining the Air Force.

“Once we had their interest we’d have to do a lot of paperwork. Which required sitting at a desk for 1-2 hours just getting and filling out

background information,” said Master Sgt. Ernest Coleman, 369th Recruiting Squadron enlisted accessions recruiter.

“Getting the Air Force Commission and Enlistment Portal online is awesome.”

The AFCEP gives the applicant the ability to fill out their own information. Information that is used to complete all of the forms needed for commission or enlistment into the Air Force.

“Applicants will be able to see what they are missing. What they need to fix — providing an additional bit of stake in their future.” said Master Sgt. Carlton Carpenter, Air Force Recruiting Service Total Force Infrastructure Support Systems Superintendent. “It will also relieve the recruiter’s 60 plus minutes of time spent creating these documents then reviewing them for errors.”

The goal for AFCEP is to cut

“This really was truly a Total Force effort; active, Guard, Reserve, civilian, and our contractors all had major roles in getting this fielded, and at an unprecedented speed!”

Master Sgt. Carlton Carpenter, Air Force Recruiting Service
Total Force Infrastructure Support Systems Superintendent

down on errors and reduce the delays as part of the security investigation and help with the creation of personnel files giving the recruiter and applicant an opportunity to review and check the status of the records.

“Most importantly this is about taking care of our Airmen, giving time back to our recruiters and allowing the

applicant to fill out their own application. Recruiters have a very hard job, and this will allow them to be more efficient with their time,” Carpenter said.

While the timeline for AFCEP began long before COVID-19 was a global pandemic, there were a few approvals needed before the program could be rolled out.

“Senior Air Force leadership got involved. Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt (AFRS commander) reached out to Air Education Training Command and senior leaders to explain the need for an accelerated authority to operate approval,” Carpenter said. “There were a lot of people involved. We had more than 20 people testing this system over the last few weeks to get all the security measures in place. There was also a huge effort in the testing of its functionality on our team and with 80 recruiters across all three components.

“This really was truly a Total Force effort; active, Guard, Reserve, civilian, and our contractors all had major roles in getting this fielded, and at an unprecedented speed!” Carpenter said.

The program has reached the field and training is occurring now.

GRANT

From page 10

marketing, said work on the projects specified in the grant are expected to start in May and be completed within two years as required by the grant.

CPS Energy CEO Paula Gold-Williams said having a secure electrical infrastructure for JBSA is a priority for the public utility.

“We recognize the importance of security around this infrastructure, and we’re thrilled that we can work with AACOG and JBSA to accomplish this as a team,” Gold-Williams said.

AACOG officials commented on the benefits the DEAAAG grant will provide for both JBSA and the public.

“This DEAAAG grant will promote military installation resiliency and bolster an already strong public-public partnership between AACOG and JBSA,” said Diane Rath, AACOG executive director.

Larry Dotson, AACOG compatible use program manager, said the grant funds will benefit the public because the same electrical substations that power JBSA installations also serve nearby municipal customers and

communities.

“The increased physical security of the substations will help assure power to the surrounding communities as well,” Dotson said.

Dotson said AACOG submitted the application for the DEAAAG grant in February. As a political entity of the state, AACOG met the criteria to submit the grant application on behalf of JBSA. AACOG is a voluntary association of local governments that cover 13 area counties, including San Antonio and Bexar County.

Dotson said the scope of the projects included in the grant came about through the JBSA Public/Public/Public/Private Community Partnership Initiative, or P4, process.

The improvements to the electrical infrastructure that serve JBSA and surrounding CPS Energy customers will provide a boost to the local economy, according to Dotson.

“It will infuse the local economy with \$8.4 million (\$5 million in grant funding, \$3.4 million in matching CPS Energy funds) in economic construction that will go towards the companies that bid and are awarded the actual work,” Dotson said.

JBSA ASAP

From page 10

duty and JBSA community members.

The first webinar is May 1, focusing on COVID-19 and substance abuse and the effects of drug and alcohol use for people who have the virus.

“We are talking about the different health issues that come along with tobacco, alcohol and drug use that make you become more at risk for COVID-19,” Noel said.

Plans are for the COVID-19 and substance abuse webinar to be conducted on Zoom.

The second webinar is from 9-11 a.m. May 13 and will be led by Jermaine Galloway, a law enforcement officer known as the “Tall Cop,” and will be for JBSA health professionals, commanders, unit prevention leaders, security forces and Criminal Investigation Division members.

Galloway, a recognized national and international presenter in the field of drug education and prevention with 21 years of law enforcement experience, will talk about the newest drug and vaping products found in communities and over

the counter drugs that are used and abused.

“What we are hoping to do is to give our health professionals, police officers, security forces members, commanders and unit prevention leaders information that they can use to identify people and servicemembers who are abusing drugs and alcohol,” Noel said.

For information on the webinars and to participate, call 210-221-0326.

“By engaging in prevention training and webinars, it will remind personnel that there are resources to help them with their circumstances, no matter how big or small it may seem,” Noel said. “As the prevention coordinator, I want to assist personnel with their readiness and resiliency to carry on the mission of the military. It is vital to understand that excessive drinking and the use of an illegal substance or the misuse of prescription drugs affect the mission’s readiness.”

Information on risk reduction, substance abuse, alcohol and suicide prevention can be found on ASAP social media pages: Facebook (@JBSA.ASAP) and Twitter (@JBSA_ASP).