

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JUNE 12, 2020



SENIOR AIRMAN JOVAN BANKS

U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Joint Task Force Bravo conduct a large-formation helicopter exercise May 28 out of Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. The exercise involved participation from the U.S. Army South's 1-228 Aviation Regiment "Winged Warriors" and the use of 10 U.S. Army CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60L Blackhawk helicopters.

JTF-Bravo, U.S. Army South conducts exercise in Honduras

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37th TRW NCO earns FAPAC award

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39th FTS T-6 team honors maintainer's 50 years of service

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Army targets COVID-19 vaccine by year's end

By Thomas Brading

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The global race to field a lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine may be nearing its last lap, as the Army aims for a vaccine by the end of this year to prevent the deadly virus, said the force's top medical research officer.

If all goes as planned, human testing will begin in late summer, Brig. Gen. Michael Talley, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, or MRDC, told reporters June 2, adding he anticipates wide distribution of a vaccine next year.

To do this, Army researchers are "following the science," he said.

However, when you follow the science, that lets science take charge of the timeline, said Col. Wendy Sammons-Jackson, director of the Military Infectious Disease Research Program at MRDC.

"It's reasonable to expect some form of a vaccine available by the end of the year," Sammons-Jackson said. "As long as we're able to continue to progress, learn, understand, and adapt, I think we have all of the resources available and pointed in the same direction that can make our timeline possible."

Although advances have been made, and goals are set, "we're in the learning phase with every aspect of this, whether it's the development of treatments or vaccines — it's a constant learning process," said Dr. Nelson Michael, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, or WRAIR.

That's why scientists around the globe, including the Army, are simply doing their best to keep up with the complex virus, he added.

"We're learning the science of COVID-19 faster than we have learned the science of any other



WILLIAM F. DISCHER

Spc. Taylor Wolik, medical laboratory specialist with the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, performs a diagnostic assay at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases field laboratory site at Fort Detrick, Maryland.

virus before," Michael said. "We're going from a concept, all the way to Phase 3 clinical trials and potentially licensure in an unprecedented timeline — but in this case, it's very much possible."

In January, after the virus' genetic makeup was published, the more than 700 Army scientists, researchers, and staff at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, or USAMRIID, at Fort Detrick, Maryland, began working day and night to develop medical countermeasures against COVID-19.

The WRAIR team, less than an hour away, just outside of the nation's capital, also started racing against the clock to develop a vaccine candidate to beat the novel coronavirus.

Army targets COVID-19 vaccine by end of year, human testing in summer

"We are moving at top speed at both labs, and yielding promising results," Talley said, regarding USAMRIID and WRAIR. At Fort Detrick, they "are safely replicating the virus to support countermeasure

development, meanwhile, the team at WRAIR has designed a unique COVID-19 candidate."

USAMRIID is also developing small and large animal models to support testing of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics developed by the Army and its collaborators.

Over the last few months, "we have been vaccinating hundreds of mice with different versions of our vaccine, and we will be making a decision as to which one is the best to take forward for manufacturing next week," said Dr. Kayvon Modjarrad, director of the Emerging Infectious Diseases Branch at WRAIR. "Then ultimately, clinical trials by late summer."

"Based on the data obtained this summer, we'll know which vaccine candidates to move forward with for larger trials toward the end of the year," Michael said.

Prior to the COVID-19 response, Michael's previous global health contributions include the Military HIV Research Program, or MHRP. His team was instrumental in the globally effective HIV-1 vaccine.

"Our team is fully engaged in the governmental structure called Operation Warp Speed," Michael said.

Operation Warp Speed, an initiative first announced by President Donald Trump and with Army Materiel Command at the helm, brings together experts from across the government to determine a vaccine for COVID-19 and distribute more than 300 million doses across the United States.

"We cover everything from therapeutics, diagnostics, and vaccines," Michael said. "But for our specific work in vaccines, we're heavily engaged across all agencies where the Army and Defense Department's capabilities and competencies with vaccine development can be brought to bear."

What this means is that they're not only testing potential vaccines invented during the intramural program, he said, but "we have the capability to also do pre-clinical and stage 1 testing" of potential vaccines outside of their laboratories.

In addition to WRAIR and USAMRIID, many unique subordinate commands are using their assets to support the overall government response to the virus, Talley said. "For example, in Natick, Massachusetts, at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, researchers are developing wearable technology to develop key early symptoms of COVID-19."

To date, COVID-19 has killed more than 370,000 people worldwide, including more than 100,000 in the United States.

"U.S. Army researchers were critical during the SARS epidemic, the Zika virus and the Ebola outbreak as they helped develop antivirals and vaccines," Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy previously said in April. "They've done it before and they will do it again."

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

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

Q. When will Basic Military Training graduations be open to the public and families again? I can't imagine what it must be like for those families that can't come to San Antonio to see their loved ones graduate and experience this milestone in their lives.

A. Thank you very much for your question. As we continue to move forward in our COVID-19 response and reopening of JBSA support and services, we are actively monitoring Department of Defense-level reopening and travel guidance as well as local conditions to ensure the health and safety of the training pipeline and our JBSA community.

We do not yet have a target date for when families and friends will be able to attend training graduations, but we are in close coordination with the military medical community, as well as the 37th Training Wing, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, Medical Education and Training Command, 19th Air Force, and other JBSA training pipelines and will notify the public as soon as we meet DOD-level guidelines and local health and safety conditions.

Q. I have several questions regarding a medical facility belonging to Brooke Army Medical Center. Westover Medical Home is located close to where my wife and I live. Several weeks ago, my wife attempted to pick up a prescription that she had requested through the normal process of calling it in. The automated system accepted it and gave her a date it would be ready.

When she tried to pick it up, she was told it was no longer available. She called Express-Scripts/TRICARE and was told the same thing. This was strange

because her sister, also a military dependent, had refilled a prescription for the same cream at the Westover Medical Home location just a week or so before my wife was told it was not available.

To further add to the confusion, my wife saw a provider at BAMC a few days ago and was given a prescription. She asked him if she could pick it up at Westover Medical Home. He said he would put in to be picked up at that location.

When my wife went to pick it up, she was told by the pharmacy staff she could not pick it up there and would need to go to BAMC to get it. Can you please clarify this situation for us?

A. We are very sorry for your inconvenience. Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. Your feedback helps us to identify areas for performance improvement.

We reached out to BAMC, and they asked that you please call the pharmacy directly or contact the BAMC Patient Experience line to speak with a Patient Advocate at 210-916-2330 or usarmy.jbsa.medcom-bamc.list.bamc-patient-advocacy-center@mail.mil.

Q. What are the fitness center hours and what do their limited operations look like? I want to get my routine back on track, and I want to make sure I follow the rules.

A. Great question and great initiative to get back into your fitness routine!

Effective May 26, JBSA Fitness Centers were reopened for active duty military, active Reserves, and National Guard only.

This week, the Warhawk Fitness Center at JBSA-Lackland and METC Fitness and Sports Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston remain active duty only, but the other fitness centers are open for DOD civilians, retirees, and dependents from 0900-1100, 1300-1500, and 1900-closing.

While in the fitness centers, the protective measures below will be enforced to protect the health and safety of all staff and patrons:

- ▶ 100 percent ID check is mandatory when not in uniform
- ▶ 100 percent health screening for all personnel prior to entering the fitness centers
- ▶ Masks/cloth coverings must be worn when entering/exiting the facility and in all areas when six-foot social distancing



COURTESY GRAPHIC

cannot be maintained

- ▶ Patrons must wipe down equipment prior and after use
- ▶ Patrons must limit their total workout time to 60 minutes maximum

The hours of operation for all fitness centers are listed below:

JBSA-Lackland:

- ▶ Chaparral Fitness Center; Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 0900-2100 and Tuesday/Thursday, 0500-1800
- ▶ Gateway Fitness Center; Monday-Friday, 0600-1500
- ▶ Gillum Fitness Center; Monday-Friday, 0500-1800
- ▶ Kelly Fitness Center; Monday-Friday, 0600-1500
- ▶ Warhawk Fitness Center; Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 0500-1800, Tuesday/Thursday, 0900-2100 and Saturday, 0900-1700

JBSA-Randolph:

- ▶ Rambler Fitness Center; Monday-Friday, 0500-1800 and Saturday, 0900-1600

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston:

- ▶ JBSA-Camp Bullis Fitness Center; Monday-Friday, 1100-1900
- ▶ Central Post Fitness Center; Monday-Friday, 0500-1900
- ▶ Jimmy Brought Fitness Center; Monday-Friday, 0500-2000 and Saturday, 0800-1600
- ▶ METC Fitness and Sports Center; Monday-Friday, 0530-1930

Q. When are churches on base opening back up?

A. Perfect timing! Our JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph chapel services resumed June 5 and JBSA-Fort Sam

Houston chapel services will resume this Sunday (Father's Day), June 14.

There will be no children's church at this time, and attendees over the age of 2 will be required to wear masks and maintain social distancing between families.

Q. I would like to bring this issue forward, because I still don't think it is right.

On Memorial Day/Family Day, a majority of our civilians were on LN status due to COVID-19. However, those of us that continued to come into work on our normal schedules during COVID were told that we had to take annual leave for that Friday.

Why did we have to take leave while others did not, even though they had been home for the past two months, not working?

A. Great question! I am grateful and proud of the hard work that #TeamJBSA has accomplished to ensure mission success during the COVID-19 crisis. Each and every one of you is appreciated for the support you have provided during this pandemic period.

Individuals that are not telework-eligible and are unable to safely perform their duties on site were approved for Weather and Safety leave on that day. These individuals will continue to be approved paid administrative leave, including on Family Day, May 22, 2020.

Unfortunately, employees who were scheduled to be on duty, had to request a form of approved leave if they wished to be off on that day. I encourage you to talk to your supervisor and leadership if you have any further questions or concerns regarding leave status.

‘Thank You’

By Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman
502D AIR BASE WING COMMANDER

When I think back over the last two years, I am filled with gratitude for the women and men of the 502d Air Base Wing, our mission partners and the greater San Antonio community.

When I arrived here, I knew in advance that the 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio played an important role in the national security of our nation with pivotal inflection points not only for the Air Force, but also for our sister services and for the Department of Defense.

I was also aware that San Antonio was known as “Military City USA.” What I did not know in advance was that this is a community firmly rooted in a foundation of partnership.

In the last 24 months, JBSA has engaged in an unprecedented number of DOD-level crisis response operations such as Hurricane Michael; southern border support; military family housing crisis; dorm and training campus mold remediation, and more.

I have always believed that together, we are stronger, and together, nothing is impossible. In every situation we have faced, this community has come together and demonstrated what true partnership means.

I am grateful for the women and men of the 502d for addressing every opportunity and challenge we have faced with open hearts and open minds, leading the way by living our motto: One Team ... One Mission!

Together, this wing earned back-to-back Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards and is currently a finalist for the Commander in Chief’s Annual Award for Installation Excellence — Congratulations!

“I have always believed that together, we are stronger, and together, nothing is impossible. In every situation we have faced, this community has come together and demonstrated what true partnership means. I am grateful for the women and men of the 502d for addressing every opportunity and challenge we have faced with open hearts and open minds, leading the way by living our motto: One Team ... One Mission!”

I am thankful for the 10 Major Commands, 22 Wings and Brigades, and 266 Mission Partners who played integral roles in making JBSA a premier joint base in the DOD’s constellation of installation.

This has been especially true throughout our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Working together, we established clear lines of communication and implemented critical protocols to safely deliver installation services and secure the health and safety of 80,000 joint base personnel and over 12,000 trainees in the basic military and advanced training pipeline.

I am indebted to the city, county, state and federal leaders in and around San Antonio who partner with us consistently to achieve the best results possible.

Among many of the civilian-military



Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman

partnership success stories this year, a collaboration with our regional municipalities resulted in the first-ever blanket Inter-Governmental Support Agreement and \$9 million in Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant funding from the State of Texas and local partnerships to bolster electrical resiliency.

I am so proud to be a part of this incredible joint team that ensures Joint Base San Antonio is the best place to live and work. That work will continue as Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller takes command of the 502d ABW on Friday, June 12. I am confident our team will support her with continued collaboration, trust and transparency.

As I near the last few days of this command, my thoughts are filled with love for all of you, our JBSA family, and the San Antonio community. Thank you and God bless.

Prevention, planning two things needed for a safe trip

By Richard S. Campos
JBSA FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES

A family excursion road trip is one of the many great things about summertime. But before hitting the road, a little prevention and planning before hooking up that new boat, camper, car, pickup, or recreational vehicle, pause to review these summer travel safety tips.

A little time spent in prevention and planning may spare you from dealing with the costs of a breakdown on the highway later.

Regular maintenance, such as tire rotations, tune-ups, battery checks, and oil changes go a long way in preventing break downs. Having your vehicle serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations should help bring peace of mind when traveling.

If you don't know the service history of the vehicle you plan to drive, planning a preventive maintenance checkup with your mechanic is highly recommended.

Recalls

People can find out if a vehicle has been recalled and needs to be repaired by checking for recalls from the manufacturer. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration VIN look-up tool lets you enter a Vehicle Identification Number to quickly find out if a specific vehicle has been part of a safety recall in the last 15 years.

Check for recalls on your vehicle by visiting [NHTSA.gov/Recalls](https://www.nhtsa.gov/Recalls) and sign up for email recall alerts at [NHTSA.gov/Alerts](https://www.nhtsa.gov/Alerts).

Lights

See and be seen! Make sure all the lights on your vehicle are in working order. Check your headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers, and interior lights.

Are you planning to tow a trailer? Be sure to also check your trailer, including brake lights and turn signals. A failure of the trailer light connection is a common problem and a serious safety hazard.

Tires

Check your vehicle's tire inflation pressure at least once a month and when your tires are cold. Don't forget to check your spare, if your vehicle is equipped with one.

The correct pressure for your tires is listed on a label on the driver's door pillar or doorframe or in the vehicle owner's manual — the correct pressure for your vehicle is NOT the number listed on the tire itself. A tire doesn't have to be punctured to lose air. A tire naturally lose some air over time and become underinflated.

In fact, underinflation is the leading cause of tire failure. Also, take five minutes to inspect your tires for signs of excessive or uneven wear. If the tread is worn down to 2/32 of an inch, it's time to replace your tires.

Look for the built-in wear bar indicators on your tires or use the "penny test" to determine when it's time to replace your tires. Place a penny in the tread with Lincoln's head upside down. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, your vehicle needs new tires.



COURTESY PHOTO

A family excursion road trip is one of the many great things about summertime. But before hitting the road, a little prevention and planning before hooking up that new boat, camper, car, pickup, or recreational vehicle, pause to review these summer travel safety tips.

If you find uneven wear across the tires' tread, it means your tires need rotation and/or your wheels need to be aligned before you travel.

For more information on tire safety, visit [NHTSA.gov/Tires](https://www.nhtsa.gov/Tires).

Wiper blades

Windshield wiper blades may need to be replaced due to the heavy toll levied by winter storms and spring rains. Wiper blades are vulnerable to the summer heat as all rubber products are.

Inspecting your blades for signs of wear and tear on both sides is also essential. The blades can fail to work properly in both directions if they are misshapen. Invest in new wiper blades before you depart on your trip.

Coolant level and servicing

To keep your engine working properly, the radiator in your vehicle needs water and antifreeze. Carefully check your coolant level to make sure the reservoir is full when your car hasn't been running and the engine is completely cool.

It's time to have your cooling system flushed and refilled when the coolant is clear, looks rusty, or has particles floating in it. Immediately take your vehicle to

a mechanic if your coolant looks oily or sludgy.

Fluid levels

Periodically check your vehicle's oil level and if needed, have the oil changed. Furthermore, look over the following fluid levels: brake, automatic transmission or clutch, power steering, and windshield washer. Take your vehicle in to be serviced if you see any signs of fluid leakage.

Belts and hoses

Make sure there are no signs of bulges, blisters, cracks, or cuts in both belts and hoses. Degrading accelerates when rubber belts and hoses are subject to high temperatures, so replace if they show signs of obvious wear. Additionally, check all hose connections to ensure they're secure.

For more information about recreational vehicle safety tips, visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at www.nfpa.org/education, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at [NHTSA.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov), or contact the Joint Base San Antonio Fire Prevention Offices at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-2727, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2921, or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6915.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

U.S. Army North concludes COVID-19 response operation



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS OMAR N. RUBEI

U.S. Army Maj. Esther N. Cleggs-Burns, commander, Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force 005-1, takes a moment to congratulate her team outside of the Javits Center in Manhattan, New York, May 24.

From U.S. Army North Public Affairs

U.S. Army North, as U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command, concludes its current COVID-19 response operation as support to two remaining public hospitals in New York City drew to an end June 3.

Over the past two months, military medical personnel supported 11 New York City public hospitals and staffed the Javits Center alternate care facility.

"Military medical teams were the lifeline we needed in New York City, when we needed it most. On behalf of a grateful city, I thank you," said

Deanne Criswell, Commissioner, New York City Emergency Management.

"I am tremendously proud of everyone who participated in the Department of Defense's COVID-19 response effort and helped flatten the curve of the pandemic. Thank you for your selfless service during a time of great uncertainty," said Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, the DOD's COVID-19 response JFLCC commander, and commander of U.S. Army North.

"As we move forward, we remain focused on understanding and monitoring COVID-19 trends and leveraging lessons learned, ensuring we remain ready to respond at a moment's notice,"

the general added.

In total, the JFLCC supported 134 FEMA approved mission assignments, deploying and integrating almost 9,000 service members from all components of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

Throughout the response, the JFLCC employed more than 3,100 medical personnel to help staff nine alternate care facilities and 24 civilian hospitals in nine states.

U.S. Army North remains prepared to provide flexible Department of Defense support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency should additional support be requested for future COVID-19 response missions.

SA-EMD participants meet to discuss progress, 5G implementation

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The San Antonio-Electromagnetic Defense collaborative, in conjunction with the Joint Base San Antonio-Electromagnetic Defense Initiative, held their spring quarterly meeting June 3 with a mixture of in-person and virtual participants at the University of Texas-San Antonio National Security Collaboration Center, or NSCC.

The meeting was hosted by Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, commander, 502d Air Base Wing and JBSA. It was the last EDI she will attend as commander as she relinquishes command to Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller on June 12.

In her remarks, Lenderman recognized the outstanding leadership within the group over the last, nearly two, years.

"You have been true leaders in the field, and it is about to pay off," she said, opening the meeting for more than 190 in-person and virtual attendees.

Dr. Taylor Eighmy, UTSA president, and Guy Walsh, NSCC executive director, welcomed attendees to the UTSA facility and were followed by the keynote speaker, Jim Platt, chief of Position, Navigation and Timing and Department of Homeland Security lead for Electromagnetic Pulse.

Platt began his presentation with background information on the Executive Order on Coordinating National Resilience to Electromagnetic Pulses, which is the foundation upon which the SA-EMD was founded.

"That order recognized that this effort required cooperation between all levels of government and, more importantly, the private sector," he said. "Why do I say, more importantly, the private sector? It's because 85 percent of the critical infrastructure in the United States is owned and operated by the private sector.

"There are a lot of things that the federal government can do, but we cannot prepare for electromagnetic pulse defense if we don't involve the private sector," Pratt said, thanking those in attendance for their willingness to step up and become active participants in securing the homeland.

Platt then discussed the DHS strategy for electromagnetic defense, the importance of improving risk awareness of electromagnetic threats and hazards; enhancing capabilities to protect critical infrastructure; and promoting effective electromagnetic incident response and recovery, all of which require a group effort.

"We think these goals are perfectly aligned with what is taking place in San Antonio," he said. "Just the sheer number of participants in this call, and the

numerous briefings that the JBSA team has done throughout the country to raise awareness of this is really helping with that goal of bringing awareness to the electromagnetic threat."

Following Platt's presentation, several mission partners and steering committees provided updates, including a 5G presentation on their vision, mission and goals.

The development of 5G capabilities is critical for the country, and the Department of Defense is fully engaged, in partnership with industry, in large-scale testing and experimentation to quickly develop 5G technology in accordance with the DOD 5G Strategy, which can be found at https://www.cto.mil/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/DoD_5G_Strategy_May_2020.pdf.

Part of the strategy includes 5G testing at stateside military installations, seven of which were announced the afternoon following the meeting. That list included JBSA.

"The addition of 5G capabilities at JBSA will have a critical mission impact and will help ensure the U.S. maintains military and economic advantages," Lenderman said following the announcement. "This would not have happened without the dedication of

JTF-Bravo, Army South conducts helicopter exercise in Honduras

By Maria Pinel

JOINT TASK FORCE BRAVO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo conducted a helicopter exercise May 28 out of Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. The exercise involved participation from U.S. Army South's 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment and the use of 10 U.S. Army CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60L Blackhawk helicopters.

This was a routine exercise conducted by the battalion for continuity of flight operations. The training allowed participants to test capabilities that are essential for enhanced performance during an emergency situation. Routine

training such as flying in large flight formations are conducted in close coordination with the host nation and with prior approval.

"This large formation was an ideal opportunity to accomplish valuable routine multiship training," said Capt. Ben Ferrell, 1-228 Aviation Regiment Air Mission commander. "Our battalion rarely has the opportunity to fly 10 helicopters in a single mission within Central America and this experience allowed us to boost readiness for pilots and the battalion as a whole."

Typical missions for the 1-228 include humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, air movement of people,



COURTESY PHOTO

U.S. Army soldiers assigned to Joint Task Force Bravo conducted a large formation helicopter exercise May 28 out of Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.

equipment and supplies, limited search and rescue, and medical evacuations.

In addition to these operations, the battalion has provided aerial firefighting capabilities and has actively participated in

counter-narcotics missions and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief efforts in support of our partners throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

The 1-228 supports the U. S. Southern Command's

engagement and security cooperation strategy under Army South, providing heavy lift, medical evacuation and general aviation support, spanning the area of responsibility, in support of JTF-Bravo.

Local Army civilians help World War II veteran celebrate 94th birthday

By Susan A. Merkner

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On a day when many San Antonians' heads were tilted upward trying to catch a glimpse of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds' fly-by, one local veteran was the guest of honor at his 94th birthday drive-by.

World War II veteran Raul Garza was surprised by a neighborhood parade May 13 that included vintage jeeps owned by Army veterans working at U.S. Army Installation Management Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, and elsewhere, who took some personal time to pay respects to a veteran.

Garza's granddaughter, Stephanie Palacios Morris, started planning his birthday party weeks ago to honor a relative she calls "an amazing, awesome man."

"My grandfather always tells us that he wasn't a hero during the war," Morris said. "He doesn't consider himself a hero. He says the fallen soldiers are the heroes."

When social distancing forced a change in plans, Morris and other friends and family created banners and signs to set up in front of her grandfather's South Side home.

Although Garza missed seeing the Thunderbirds' flyover, which honored health care workers working during the COVID-19 pandemic, he was surprised and pleased that his relatives, neighbors and even strangers had gathered outside his home for a celebration that included a parade of 50 cars and trucks.

Garza, a native San Antonian, joined the Army when he was 18. He started as a ball turret gunner in B-17s in the



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pacific theater, served for 26 years after the war, and retired from the Army Air Corps, which was transitioned to the U.S. Air Force.

Following his military service, Garza and his brother ran a mechanics shop, from which Garza retired four years ago, at age 90.

The drive-by party, which included two vintage jeeps and vets wearing period uniforms, was created by circles of friends and others drawn together by their military past, their interest in historic military vehicles, and the San Antonio Police Department.

Morris' daughter, 15, is in the SAPD's Explorer group and mentioned her great-grandfather's upcoming birthday to one of her instructors, which set into motion a network of volunteers eager to make Garza's 94th birthday a special occasion, despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Dan Martin, an inspector general at the U.S. Army Installation Management

Dan Martin and Bob Shaw donned Army uniforms and displayed vintage jeeps to help Raul Garza celebrate his 94th birthday. Martin works at the U.S. Army Installation Management Command Inspector General's office at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Shaw, who retired from the Army in the 1980s as a field artillery forward observer and a friend of Martin.

Herr still works in the sustainment division.

Herr, who owns a 1985 M998 HMWVV, volunteers with the San Antonio Police Department's search and rescue crew. He heard about the event through his police contacts.

Another vintage jeep at the party was a July 1944 Willys MB, owned by Martin's friend, Bob Shaw, who retired from the Army in the 1980s as a field artillery forward observer.

"Dan and Bob definitely stole the show with their vintage jeeps and World War II uniforms," Herr said.

Martin said that when family members helped Garza into the jeep alongside him, "that's when the stories started."

"Mr. Garza said, 'This brings it all back.' He talked about flying to Hawaii in a B-17, then said, 'I never saw that thing again.' I believe he spent the rest of the war in B-29s."

Garza, who uses a wheelchair, was thrilled and overwhelmed by the drive-by party, his granddaughter said.

"When we got him outside, we heard sirens coming from the right and realized the parade was for him," Morris said. "He enjoyed himself very much."

Martin said networking is common among retired military in San Antonio.

"Historic military vehicle owners in San Antonio are always notifying each other about events," he said.

Col. Joseph O. Ritter, ICOM Inspector General, praised his employee's generosity.

"Dan Martin took the time to help a WWII veteran celebrate his 94th birthday by doing a drive-by 'reenactment' in traditional military uniform and gear of that era — it was a great day," Ritter said.



World War II veteran Raul Garza sits behind the wheel of a vintage jeep.

Command Inspector General's office, said, "Being an Army type of guy, I opted to skip the fly-by and attend a drive-by for a World War II veteran."

Martin took his jeep, a Willys MB dated December 1944, to Garza's party for display.

Martin was drawn to the event by his friend, Eric Herr. The two men worked together at U.S. Army South, where

JBSA 5G PROGRESS

From page 7

the military and civilian representatives participating in the San Antonio-Electromagnetic Defense Initiative.

"This makes 12 installations where DOD is partnering with industry to

create leap-ahead technology that will underpin U.S. military and economic leadership, and the future digital economy," she said, emphasizing that the large-scale experimentation and prototyping of 5G will be dual-use, military and commercial.

A fifth-generation of cellular network technology will increase connectivity of everything and everyone everywhere —

through wireless communications, offering higher speeds, quicker response times, and handling many more wireless devices.

As the meeting came to a close, Col. Michael "Apollo" Lovell, JBSA-EDI executive director, thanked participants, volunteers, and the City of San Antonio for their support.

"Today was a success and we

genuinely appreciate everyone's support," Lovell said. "The support for Joint Base San Antonio from government, academia, research, industry, and the virtual partners who are with us today is tremendous. When we say 'Military City USA,' if you are not part of San Antonio, that might not really translate, but when you are here, you feel it."

METC celebrates 10 years training enlisted medical force

By Lisa Braun

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
CAMPUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When the Department of Defense's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission directed nearly all enlisted medical training be colocated at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, it may have unknowingly changed the landscape of enlisted medical training for the foreseeable future.

In addition to collocating, the BRAC legislation also called for training to be consolidated where possible, meaning two or more services would share curriculum and classrooms.

During a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 30, 2010, the Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, celebrated its entry into initial operating capability, along with the distinctions of being the world's largest enlisted allied-health campus and largest consolidation of U.S. military training in Department of Defense history.

Rear Adm. Bob Kiser, METC's inaugural commandant, said at the time that the event marked a significant milestone in military medicine.

"Everywhere our nation sends our finest to serve, our graduates will be there with them serving as a force for good because of the work done here," he asserted during his remarks.

Fast forward a decade. METC is a world-class teaching facility and the only one of its kind in the world. Consolidating and streamlining medical training works to improve the quality and caliber of medical enlisted personnel, no matter their service or area of specialty.

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen are transformed into allied health professionals ready to serve in



STEVE ELLIOTT

Medical Education and Training Campus commandant Rear Adm. William R. Kiser (center) celebrates cutting the ribbon opening the center in 2010 along with Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles Green, U.S. Air Force Surgeon General (left) and AMEDD C&S commanding general and chief of U.S. Army Medical Services Corps Maj. Gen. David A. Rubenstein (right).

hospitals, on ships, at field assignments, and joint environments anywhere in the world.

With 49 allied-health programs of instruction in 180 classrooms and 115 labs, the 1.1 million-square-foot campus averages 5,500 students on any given day. Depending on the course, students spend anywhere from six weeks to 13 months learning their skills.

About 16,500 METC graduates each year go on to support the military's medical forces. A third of METC graduates are Reserve and National Guard personnel, who will also return home to practice in their communities. So far, approximately 140,000 alumni have been trained at METC.

Technology plays a large role in the curriculum.

METC's unique training environment allows students to learn and hone their skills using hi-fidelity human

patient simulators, digital anatomy tables, mock intensive care units, and operating rooms. Additionally, the use of simulated combat settings prepares students for operational environments.

"The future of enlisted medical training will see METC transitioning to more of a virtual campus, utilizing digital technology where feasible," stated current METC Commandant, Navy Capt. Thomas Herzig. "As METC incorporates cutting edge training tools and platforms into our programs of instruction, our graduates continue to be the finest medics, corpsmen, and technicians who are ready to serve the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard."

So how did METC get here?

Over the course of five years following the BRAC decision, the services' combined expertise, best practices and, with extensive planning,

determination and dedication, created the new schoolhouse almost exclusively from the ground up.

The Navy moved three major enlisted medical training centers from Portsmouth, Virginia; San Diego, California; and Great Lakes, Illinois, while the Air Force relocated its enlisted medical training from Wichita Falls, Texas. Army enlisted medical training was already located at Fort Sam Houston.

The training requirements were determined by the services and executed at METC. Courses were combined where it made sense to do so, while still retaining some service-specific programs, such as Army combat medic, Air Force medical technician, and Navy hospital corpsman training.

Although students trained in a joint environment, they also maintained their separate service identities outside of the

academic environment. All activities and functions beyond the classroom, including meals, physical training, and living quarters, were managed by the respective service component.

In the first year following IOC, METC had quickly reached several milestones. The first training program, radiography specialist, had already classed up. Other courses would be phased in throughout the summer and fall. Buildings were named. Awards were presented.

A handful of Air Force students who attended a two-week pharmacy craftsman course were the first METC to graduate Nov. 4, 2010.

Finally, the remaining medical instructional facilities were completed and opened for classes. METC reached full operational capability, or FOC, Sept. 15, 2011, with a ceremony during which the last two instructional facilities — Heritage Hall and Heroes Hall — were officially named.

From saving lives on the battlefield to fighting the COVID-19 coronavirus in their own communities, METC graduates have gone on to succeed in impressive ways.

All of them embody the core values that make them the world's finest medics, corpsmen, and technicians.

Back during the historic IOC ceremony, Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Lambing, Kiser's senior enlisted advisor, envisioned the future quite clearly when he said, "METC will serve as the birthplace for joint interoperability for corpsman, medics and technicians. The souls that will walk the hallowed halls of this institution will make a difference in faraway lands for centuries to come. In five years, every medic and corpsman under the grade of E-5 will have been educated here at METC."

The rest, as they say, is history.

JBSA financial counselors offer tips to keep finances in order during COVID-19

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Keeping a careful eye on spending, not getting deeper into debt and being on the lookout for scams is the advice Joint Base San Antonio financial counselors are giving installation members who are trying to manage their finances during COVID-19.

Sarah Henson, JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center community readiness consultant, said there are several strategies servicemembers and military families can utilize in helping them manage their money better during the pandemic.

First, she said service members and families should review their expenses and determine what items are needs and which ones are wants. Second, consider options that can help save money on their grocery bill, including using coupons and putting together a menu or meal plan.

By using coupons and planning meals, Henson said families can get into the habit of only purchasing food items they will need to create their meals while avoiding wasting food.

Also, she said monitoring utility usage can be helpful in determining where individuals and families might be able to cut back.

Henson said service members and families should review their expenses by looking at their credit card or bank statements, add up the charges on those statements, and look at what is being spent on fast food and other unnecessary items that are not really needed.

She said service members, military spouses and families can also get a handle on their finances by creating a budget.

"Creating a budget or spending plan is



COURTESY PHOTO

Keeping a careful eye on spending, not getting deeper into debt and being on the lookout for scams is the advice Joint Base San Antonio financial counselors are giving installation members who are trying to manage their finances during COVID-19.

key to making sure your money is going to things that you value and not wasted on things that you don't," Henson said. "Accountability with other family members can be helpful too. Sit down and create a financial plan together, or better yet, reach out to your M&FRCs to schedule a virtual appointment with a financial counselor."

With more people staying in quarantine and working from home, increases in costs for items such as groceries and utilities can strain family finances, possibly forcing them to purchase items with credit and putting them deeper in debt.

Kevin Keith, JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center personal financial readiness manager, said individuals and families with significant debt should strive to live within their means by not adding new credit balances for two months. While doing that, he

stressed the importance of continuing to make at least the minimum payment on any credit balances.

Keith said these measures should be followed up with a debt elimination plan.

"This prevents the yoyo effect of paying off debt just to create new debt," he said.

In addition, Keith said to set aside some money for emergency savings. "Otherwise, all the debt reduction is wasted when they have to use their credit card to fix the car," he said.

Henson said service members and military families who are wanting to pay off their debt should create a debt repayment plan they can stick with. She said JBSA financial counselors are available to help with creating a debt repayment plan.

Also, JBSA members can utilize Power Play, a free online program that provides tools to individuals to help them develop

a personalized debt elimination plan. The program is available at <https://powerpay.org>.

Roy Bolton, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center financial readiness specialist, said service members and families should check with their finance and insurance companies to see if they are willing to delay payments on home or car loans. He said many insurance companies are offering discounts on car insurance, some as high as 20 percent.

During these uncertain times, service members and military families need to be on the lookout for scammers, who will use electronic means to try and take advantage of them.

Bolton said JBSA members should be aware of scammers who are using fabricated notices posing as health organizations or agencies to solicit funds for fake tests or equipment, using fake updates from an employer about policies or procedures to address the risk of a scam, setting up phony websites containing maps and dashboards, sending information about protecting yourself, your children or your community that contains a malicious link or attachment, sending charitable appeals to help victims of COVID-19 that are not legitimate, and providing false information about stimulus checks.

Check with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to learn about the latest financial scams associated with COVID-19 pandemic at: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov>.

Virtual meetings with a certified financial counselor can be arranged by contacting JBSA M&FRCs, including Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-2705, Lackland, 210-671-3723 or Randolph at randolphmfr@us.af.mil.

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER ADJUSTS ENTRANCE HOURS AS OF JUNE 1

As part of Brooke Army Medical Center's phased re-opening, effective June 1, adjustments are being made at entry locations and hours to best accommodate patients and their access to clinics.

Some entrances will remain closed to ensure we are able to effectively

screen patients and visitors for COVID-19.

Entrance information and hours

Weekdays

- Medical Mall: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Flagpole: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Garden : 24/7 (entrance for staff riding the parking garage shuttle)
- ED (for emergency patients only): 24/7

Saturday and Sunday

- Garden Entrance: 24/7
- ED (for emergency patients only):

24/7

COVID Screening and Testing Site (1st floor, parking garage)

- Weekdays 8 a.m. to noon
- Be advised that patients may receive additional COVID-19 screening at their individual clinics.

LACKLAND



SENIOR AIRMAN XAVIER NAVARRO

433rd Medical Group Reserve Citizen Airmen, along with other personnel deployed to help during the pandemic in New York hospitals, were given a celebratory send-off May 22 at the Queens Hospital Center, in New York City.

Reserve Citizen Airmen return home after pandemic battle

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

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 433rd Airlift Wing's Medical Group, arrived on a C-17 Globemaster III at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland May 28 following a 54-day deployment to New York City.

The Alamo Wing activated 10 Reservists, who deployed to the Queens Hospital Center in the Jamaica Hills area of the city, to help assist medical staff at the hospital with the

overwhelming number of coronavirus or COVID-19 infected patients.

"Overall, we cared for approximately 50 patients at the hospital," said Lt. Col. Kyle Suire, 433rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, who was the officer in charge of the deployed members.

According to Suire, their duties were to help treat and alleviate the overwhelming amount of COVID-19 infected patients in New York.

"This virus is real; it's

serious, and people need to heed the warnings that are being put out by the CDC and other health organizations," said Master Sgt. Julie Fuleky, 433rd Medical Squadron aerospace medical technician.

According to Fuleky, some of the duties the deployed Airmen were tasked with, were aiding nurses with preventing bedsores for bedridden patients; measuring vital signs, such as blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and respiration; and assisting

bedridden patients with bathroom needs.

As hard and challenging as this deployment may have been for the Alamo Wing Airmen, they also got to see the gratitude the people of New York had for them. According to Capt. Sarah Arellano, 433rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron clinical nurse, said they were always greeted and applauded by the people and medical staff there.

First responders and the police were constantly saluting

the team. Additionally, firefighters and police would also pass, blaring their sirens while waving at the military personnel helping around the hospitals.

"Being there made me feel what my purpose was and that I was being recognized," Arellano said about working with the staff and seeing the people there. "There's no better feeling than having someone able to see your purpose, your skills, and your heart."

Risk and resilience: Help for those who may be struggling with thoughts of suicide

By Rachel Kersey
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor's Note: With the implementation of shelter-in-place orders nationwide and new schedules for those still working, citizens at home have an increased risk of severe interpersonal and intrapersonal conflicts, such as sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and suicide, and those continuing to report for duty have relational difficulties to overcome as well. This is the second in a series on risk and resilience. Resources can be found at the bottom of the article. Please do not be afraid to reach out if you need help!

"My background is Army. I have 27 years of active duty service."

With nearly three decades of military experience, Jose Villareal, chief of the 502nd Air Base Wing's Integrated Resilience Program, is intimately acquainted with the unique mental health challenges that come with serving in the Armed Forces.

He had three peacekeeping tours and three combat tours, including the Global War on Terror, and he experienced the loss of people in his unit due to suicide.

"It's a tremendous loss," Villareal said. "Any loss of life is. I also saw people lose their lives downrange, but when it's self-inflicted, and you see a person who has their whole life ahead of them making such a tragic decision to end their life, it's very hard on me personally, and for the organization, it takes a long, long time to recover from that."

Villareal said his work with the Integrated Resilience Program is a calling, not a job, birthed from the impact of losing his comrades in the field.

"I'm very passionate about being an advocate for service



HEIDE COUCH

members, families, civilians and retirees," he said.

Advocacy is the heart of the work of the Integrated Resilience Program. Found in the 502nd Air Base Wing headquarters building at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, the Integrated Resilience Program provides services to each JBSA installation to enhance the quality of life. These services include resources for suicide prevention as well as help for those struggling with substance abuse and having mental health concerns.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, periods of prolonged isolation might exacerbate some of the issues people are struggling with, including suicide, but the Integrated Resilience Program has resources for people in need.

According to Villareal, every single person has risk factors for suicide.

"It's everything that life hits

you with," he said. "It could be finances, it could be relationships, it could be an injury, it could be a divorce. We all have them because we're not immune to having issues in life."

For prevention of suicide, he said Basic Military Training and technical school, as well as individual military units, host resiliency training that can teach techniques such as practicing gratitude, mindfulness, and maintaining physical and mental health to help people process any crisis that comes their way.

"If you never practice gratitude, you're going to think, 'Nothing good ever happens to me. Just bad things,'" Villareal said. "But when you really look back and ask, 'How many good things have happened? How many bad things have happened?' most of us will realize that there are more good things that happen than bad things. So, you rely on the good

If you know someone who is struggling with thoughts of suicide or self-harm, take action. Use the acronym, ACE: Ask, Care, Escort. First, you should ask how they are doing and if they are thinking of hurting themselves. Second, you should care for your friend by remaining calm, being a good listener, and removing any objects that they could use to hurt themselves. Finally, you escort the person to get professional help. You can call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline as well. Never leave a hurting person alone.

should ask how they are doing and if they are thinking of hurting themselves. Second, you should care for your teammate by remaining calm, being a good listener, and removing any objects that they could use to hurt themselves. Finally, escort the person to get professional help. You can call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline as well. Never leave a hurting person alone.

"Things are always going to happen to us. This is not the first time something like COVID-19 has happened to us," Villareal said. "There's obviously a lot of tragedy, but a lot of people come out of it transformed. There's always another day."

Resources

National

- ▶ Military One Source: 800-342-9647
- ▶ National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

- ▶ Chaplain (Spiritual Wellness and Counseling) Office: 210-221-5004 or 210-221-5937
- ▶ Mental Health (Therapy/Assessments /Evaluations) Office: 210-539-9589
- ▶ Military And Family Life Counselors: 210-421-9387
- ▶ Emergency Room: 210-916-0808

JBSA-Lackland

- ▶ Chaplain: 210-671-2911
- ▶ Mental Health: 210-292-7361
- ▶ Military and Family Life Counselors: (210) 984-1076
- ▶ Urgent Care Lackland: 210-292-7331

JBSA-Randolph

- ▶ Chaplain: 210-652-6121
- ▶ Mental Health: 210-652-2448
- ▶ Military and Family Life Counselors: 210-744-4829 or 996-4037

37th TRW NCO earns FAPAC Uniformed Services Award

By Rachel Kersey

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tech Sgt. Sarahlizamarie Pante-Berrios from the 37th Training Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland was awarded the Uniformed Services Award for the Federal Asian Pacific American Council in recognition of her fostering harmonious relationships with Asian and Pacific Islander communities, exhibiting distinguished behavior, and being a leader in overcoming discrimination, promoting equal opportunity, and developing all members of the civilian and Uniformed Services.

"I am truly humbled by the award," she said. "This award means a lot to me because it has given me a chance to reflect and look back on the accomplishments — not just specific to me but more importantly to my family and the Filipino culture as a whole."

Pante-Berrios is a Filipino-American who enlisted in the United States Air Force in October 2008. She serves as the instructor supervisor for the Security

Forces Craftsman Course at the Chapman Training Annex for the 343rd Training Squadron.

"I oversee academic records for more than 1,000 students, ensuring an objective application of standards and equal opportunities for advancement and successful course completion for both technical and craftsman level students," she said. "I have been told many times that I work too much but to be honest it is because I truly love what I do and I take a lot of pride in it."

According to Pante-Berrios, hard work is one of the hallmarks of her culture, along with passion, drive, and determination in the face of any challenge or task given. She credits her parents with instilling these values in her. She was born into a military family at her father's duty station in Oak Harbor, Washington, and he set the example of staying true to his roots while serving—something she strives to do as well.

"There are a lot of aspects of my culture that I share with others," she said. "One of the most popular is the delicious Philippine cuisine. I love to



COURTESY PHOTO

The Uniformed Services Award for the Federal Asian Pacific American Council was awarded to TSgt. Sarahlizamarie Pante-Berrios, April 8.

share my cultural experiences and stories every chance I get because sometimes I feel that being able to share those experiences is a way that others learn."

She is also grateful that through serving in the U.S. Air Force, she gets to meet so many people from so many

different cultures and learn about their experiences, too. She sees that as a way of traveling without having to go anywhere.

Pante-Berrios finds the diversity across the United States to be heartwarming and in the Asian and Pacific Islander community specifically, she has seen many success stories. She hopes that Asian and Pacific Islanders maintain their identity even in a multicultural society.

"I see myself as an example to stay true to who you are and represent your heritage with pride," she said. "As a Security Forces instructor, I have had many students who are of Asian Pacific Islander ethnicity come up to me with many questions and I always tell them to embrace our culture and to remember your roots."

For her, this embrace of her culture is what has enabled her to embrace the Air Force Core Values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do with pride.

May was Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, with more information at <https://asianpacificheritage.gov/>.

RANDOLPH

Black box sheds light on night vision challenges for aircrew students

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A device that was developed at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph to help aircrew and paratrooper students understand night vision threats during initial aerospace physiology training will soon become a standard trainer across the Air Force.

A collaborative effort of the 502d Trainer Development Squadron and Air Education and Training Command Aerospace Physiology Lead Command, the unaided night vision trainer, also known as an NV light bar, demonstrates how dark adaptation and various types of lighting enhance unaided night vision.

The Air Force has been working with a night vision box/light bar for more than 30 years, but these devices were permanently affixed to classrooms and over time have broken or no longer work, said Senior Master Sgt. Ismael Paez Jr., AETC aerospace physiology functional manager.

"The device the 502d TDS is developing for us is bringing us into the 21st century," he said. "This device will be mobile, can be controlled via remote and can operate on batteries."

The aerospace physiology career field has a waiver in place to forgo the requirement to use the night vision device while ensuring training objectives are met, Paez said, but that will change with the new device.

"Once the new night vision light bar is produced, we'll go



COURTESY PHOTO

A collaborative effort of the 502nd Trainer Development Squadron and Air Education and Training Command Aerospace Physiology Lead Command, the unaided night vision trainer, also known as an NV light bar, demonstrates how dark adaptation and various types of lighting enhance unaided night vision.

from having a handful of legacy devices to more than 40 devices across the Air Force," he said.

Work on the unaided NV trainer began a few years ago in response to a request from an aerospace physiology technician and aerospace physiology training systems program manager, said Josh Chesney, 502d TDS program manager.

"The current training is done in a classroom setting with a projector and PowerPoint presentation," he said. "This device will provide more realistic training."

The training teaches students about the limitations of the human visual system

under low lighting conditions and the illusions they may experience under those conditions.

A rectangular black box that works in tandem with a remote control, the NV light bar demonstrates a variety of anomalies that challenge aircrews.

One of these is autokinesis, a nighttime visual illusion that causes a stationary light to appear to move.

The demonstration of this illusion helps fliers recognize the causes, effects and appropriate prevention of autokinesis during flight, free fall and while under canopy.

The instructor turns on a

single red light in the middle of the NV trainer and students stare at a single, fixed light for a minimum of eight to 10 seconds to experience the illusion of an erratically moving light, which is the autokinetic phenomenon.

Next, the instructor turns off the single red light and turns on the outer two red lights of the trainer, and students stare between the two lights for eight to 10 seconds, causing the movement of light to increase. When there are up to four lights with little to no visual references, the illusion increases.

Students learn to avoid autokinesis illusions by concentrating on a single light

while maintaining it in their peripheral vision, a technique called nighttime scanning.

Other anomalies the NV trainer addresses are the Purkinje shift, which is the tendency of the eye to shift toward the blue end of the color spectrum at low illumination levels as part of dark adaptation, and flash blindness.

During the flash blindness demonstration, instructors explain to aircrew and parachutists that their eyes perceive afterimages following glare exposure, which affect their vision for different lengths of time, and tell them how to compensate for these "whiteout" afterimages.

Use of the unaided NV trainer in aerospace physiology classes helps aircrew and parachutists develop their inherent visual abilities to the greatest possible degree, Paez said.

The training is intended for aircrews with normal but untrained night vision and is not a method of testing night vision abilities, he said. "A trained person with fair vision may see more at night than an untrained person with superior vision."

"Although the ability to see at night varies from person to person, experience shows that most people never learn to use their night vision efficiently," Paez said. "However, proper training can markedly improve night vision ability. Night vision training improves aircrew attentiveness, scanning techniques and mental interpretation of the images within their eyes."

39th FTS T-6 team honors 'beloved maintainer' upon retirement

From 340th Flying Training Group
Public Affairs

Carl Powers, retired Air Force senior master sergeant, closed the book on his federal civilian career last month, tallying nearly half a century of service in and out of uniform.

Retiring amid the COVID-19 pandemic meant his unit would be unable to render traditional, full honors to the T-6 Texan maintainer, who is the "T-6's most beloved maintainer," said Maj. John Camponovo, 39th Flying Training Squadron T-6 flight commander.

The 39th FTS is one of seven Air Force Reserve squadrons under the



COURTESY PHOTO

Carl Powers, T-6 maintainer from the 12th Flying Training Wing retired May 31 after 50 years of uniformed and civil service.

340th Flying Training Group headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Instructor pilots assigned to the 39th FTS fly T-38 Talons, T-6 Texans and T-1 Jayhawks side-by-side with regular Air Force instructors from the 12th Flying Training Wing.

While physical distancing rules affected their farewell plans, it was unthinkable for the Cobras to allow the occasion to go uncelebrated. To ensure Powers knew how much he means to his teammates, 39th FTS, 12th Flying Training Wing and 559th FTS Airmen planned an outdoor, physically distanced, masked celebration that

culminated with Powers being presented a print on canvas of his T-6 team and aircraft.

Enlisted in 1970, Powers served as an F-4 and T-37 maintainer throughout several stateside and overseas assignments. A year after his 1994 retirement from active duty, he was hired as a head blast operator on the T-37, T-38 and F-16 aircraft, working his way into supervisory roles and retiring as a work leader.

Powers' retirement celebration was May 31. His goals for the retirement phase of his life are to travel, do volunteer work and "Spend time with my lovely wife, Arlene," he said.

RPA Training Next transforming pipeline to competency-based construct

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Education and Training Command is integrating modern technology and innovative strategies in an effort to transform how remotely piloted aircraft pilots and sensor operators are developed through the RPA Training Next initiative.

Current RPA training has focused on training similar to T-6 Texan II centered training in undergraduate pilot training, with RPA students focusing on learning the fundamentals of flying in a simulator and followed T-6 instrument training.

"Building off the T-6 UPT model has left little flexibility for the ever-changing needs of the Air Force," said Maj. Adam Smith, RTN director. "Technology is changing the way we live and learn and it has opened up many opportunities to improve training so we can develop the Airmen we need. Our program is a Learning Next initiative aimed at helping us examine how the command has historically trained Airmen, then explores alternatives to potentially modernize training practices."

This effort to move to a competency-based training concept where RPA students undergo a tailor-made program based on their capabilities and needs rather than an entire class following a rigid construct and transitioning through the entire pipeline together has been the long-term goal, Smith said.

"RPA Training Next is an umbrella with a lot of other programs within it," Smith said. "We are moving out of the experiment phase and connecting different methods of competency-based learning for the students to create a holistic RPA training pipeline experience."

The old version of RPA training included two phases of training.

"In the past, students went through RPA Instrument Qualification Course where they would fly a T-6 Texan II simulator and trained on instruments," Smith said. "After that, students would go to the RPA Fundamentals Course, which was more of an academic course with a mission-focused simulator they would fly sorties in to get used to building operational missions and how to control an RPA."

With the revamp, the RTN team is taking the two separate courses and blending them into one course, the RPA Course, with the first class beginning later this year at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph under the 12th Flying Training Wing.

"RPAC is a missionized course, which means there are more defined reasons for why students are accomplishing certain training objectives," Smith said. "Students are not just flying a teardrop hold as the FAA might ask them to do, but there is a reason why they are holding — it's to talk to a joint terminal attack controller on the ground, or to avoid a threat, or wait to get clearance."

These types of mission elements are also being introduced earlier in the



SHELBY PRUITT

Maj. Tim, 558th Flying Training Squadron Remotely Piloted Aircraft instrument qualification instructor pilot, oversees 2nd Lt. Ethan, 11th Attack Wing, RPA student, Oct. 23, 2019, in the Texan T-6 Simulator.

training so when students arrive at the RPA Formal Training Unit they already have a rudimentary concept of what a JTAC is and how to talk to the JTAC, Smith said.

"We believe by getting that exposure earlier in the training, students will show up more prepared at the FTU, allowing instructors to train students on higher-level skills," Smith said.

After completing undergraduate training, pilots on the MQ-9 Reaper track will head to a formal training unit at Holloman, March Air Reserve Base, California, or Syracuse, New York. Students on the RQ-4 Global Hawk track will complete their formal training at Beale Air Force Base, California.

"MQ-9 pilot or sensor operators will focus on the more Combat Air Force style skills, like employing munitions and working with JTACs," Smith said.

"The RQ-4 track will focus on the high altitude intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and transoceanic crossings, which are more in line with that platform's mission sets."

The entire training process is expected to last about a year, but there are breaks in training that can make the process longer, which is a part of what RTN is trying to fix through seamless transitions throughout all phases of training.

The baselining of technology across all phases of training is also a major tenet of RTN.

"The idea is to keep the same levels of technology for RPA students across both undergraduate and formal training," Smith said. "This allows the pipeline to have a seamless transition in all phases of training."

As part of the technology initiative, the RTN team is more broadly incorporating artificial-intelligence capability initially tested by the Pilot Training Next team to build trust in AI principles early in an Airmen's career so the capability can be used throughout a pilot's career.

"We are making changes to the AI in regards to how we train RPA pilots and sensor operators and then we will take the same AI software and embed that in with the MQ-9 Reaper simulator at the FTU," Smith said. "The plan, once proven, is to export that software to the combat squadrons so they have access to the same AI instruction and other AI instructor aids in their simulators for

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Take time to prepare so you can enjoy your summer plans

By Shane MacDonald

340TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

When you think summer, chances are, you immediately begin thinking about having barbecue cookouts, spending time at the lake or coast, or taking a long-awaited vacation.

Unfortunately, summer also means storms, and when you're involved in typical summer activities, it's easy to overlook the dangers.

Although the summer months are the most vulnerable time, severe weather can occur anytime, anywhere, and can produce hail, damaging winds, tornadoes, flooding, lightning or a combination of any or all of these.

In addition, some regions are susceptible to specific weather dangers, such as hurricanes. If you are in a hurricane-prone area or an inland area vulnerable to indirect hurricane impact, be aware that summer is also hurricane season (traditionally June 1 through Nov. 30).

With the right planning, you don't have to let potential storm danger ruin your summer. It all boils down to

preparation.

When you plan summer activities, your plans should include a designated shelter. If you're home, where in the house will you all locate to shelter from dangerous weather? Ideally, your home shelter should be on the lowest floor and center-most part of your home, away from windows (e.g., hallways, closets, bathrooms). Once a shelter location is designated and a plan is in place, brief every family member so they know the 'who, what, when and where' of severe weather safety.

If you are planning an outing away from home, preparation is still the key. Do your research and make sure where you're headed has the right facilities and services for a fun, safe trip.

Several local or non-local sources can help you and your family prepare, including the Air Force Be Ready website at <https://www.beready.af.mil>, or go to the Department of Homeland Security's Ready website at <https://www.ready.gov>. You can also contact your base Emergency Management office.

No matter what resources you use, if you take the time to prepare, you will Be Ready!

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continuation and mission qualification training."

Smith also noted they have made modifications to the T-6 simulators to expose students to the large amounts of data coming into an RPA pilot that manned-aircraft pilots are not typically exposed to. Modifications such as chat functions that need to be watched and used to communicate with entities around the globe based on mission needs and tasking, as well as moving map displays.

"A big portion of RPA training is cross-check and task management," Smith said. "We need to make sure the students have the task management capabilities, so we are left-loading that training earlier in the process so they have that data right off the bat and understand the information process right off the bat."

There have also been T-6 simulator modifications made from the sensor operator perspective.

"We attached a targeting pod on the bottom on the T-6 simulator to allow us to have the sensor operator participate in the training, which has been a game-changer," Smith said. "In our past training construct, the sensor operator only had about four days of training with their pilot in the undergraduate phase, which means when they have arrived at the formal training unit we have had to spend extra time to show them how to work together as an aircrew."

Sensor operators are now getting earlier exposure to topics such as crew resource management skills for four weeks instead of just four days, Smith said.

RTN is quickly finishing the development phase and the outcomes from this program are poised to truly evolve how the RPA community has trained.