

# JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JUNE 26, 2020



JOHNNY SALDIVAR

*Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Snow (right), 323rd Training Squadron military training instructor, briefs U.S. Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper during his tour of the 323rd Training Squadron's Airman Training Complex at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 16.*

## SECDEF visits Basic Military Training, sees citizens become Airmen

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## COMMENTARY

# Team MICC efforts crucial to nation winning war against COVID-19

**By Brig. Gen. Christine Beeler**  
U.S. ARMY MISSION AND INSTALLATION  
CONTRACTING COMMAND  
COMMANDING GENERAL

Our nation's war on the Coronavirus has been unprecedented, and I thank every Soldier and Army Civilian of our command for being dedicated to delivering ready, decisive and synchronized business solutions and contracting support to our mission partners in this difficult time around the world.

As many of the operational areas are beginning to demobilize and retrograde, we will continue to synchronize our efforts and deliver uninterrupted support across the joint operations area.

Through this all, one thing has become abundantly clear — Team MICC continues to lead the way in the Army fight against COVID-19. We have executed approximately 4,000 contracting actions valued at more than \$66 million. The flexibility in authorities and limitations granted for the use of the Government Purchase Card Program has made our team invaluable in meeting the immediate needs of our Army and joint mission partners.

Our COVID-19 mission is not complete. As you may have read, the president announced Gen. Gus Perna, the commanding general of Army Materiel Command, to co-lead Operation Warp Speed and find a COVID-19 vaccine by January 2021. As the contract execution arm for AMC, the Army Contracting Command is committed to supporting this operation and has expressed complete faith in our contracting workforce to take its operational excellence to the next level on behalf of the health and welfare of the American public.

At the same time, we will continue delivering on the day-to-day support essential to preserving installation readiness that serves as the Army's power projection platform. We must harness that conviction in continuing to deliver for our supported organizations in this COVID-19 environment.

The efforts by this command have demonstrated that we can get the job done, whether we are teleworking from home or



DANIEL P. ELKINS

*Brig. Gen. Christine Beeler (right) recently met with Maj. Gen. Greg Mosser and Brig. Gen. Tripp Bowles to discuss the Mission and Installation Contracting Command's role in support of the U.S. Army's COVID-19 response efforts.*

practicing safe distancing in the office. In May, I formalized implementation guidance on the reoccupation of the workplace that provides a conditions-based, phased approach to returning our workforce to the office. Available on the MICC SharePoint site, this standardized approach lays out criteria for each of the three phases for the transition. The guidance outlines measures for returning from telework as well as identifying vulnerable personnel so that we can continue to protect the force, retain, deliver and enable readiness, and methodically normalize our workplaces over time.

The overarching guidance includes requirements for personal protective equipment, social distancing and other local conditions. Supplies required to support the reoccupation of our workspaces have been ordered across the command; however, there still may be some delays in receiving them as supply chains are challenged to meet worldwide demands. The driver for any steps taken will remain synchronized with guidance set forth by your respective state governors, local city officials, senior mission commanders and garrison commanders.

Let me be clear, there is no rush to bring everyone back to the office at once. For some offices, it may be approximately 25 percent of the workforce, but each has its own unique challenges to address. Reoccupying our workplace demands a disciplined and measured approach by all leaders across the command.

As we enter into our busiest quarter of the fiscal year, exercising disciplined initiative is critical to managing this transition. Whether working from home or in the office, we must remain focused on delivering for our mission partners and obligating funds against their priorities.

To that end, I expect the workforce to complete the required mandatory online training modules in Total Employee Development no later than the onset of the fourth quarter. Our confidence, competence and capabilities are our bedrock, and we need the total team's attention on finishing the fiscal year strong in order to Win!

Team MICC is committed to taking care of our piece of the Army while we strive for excellence. Throughout the fiscal year, the MICC command team has achieved numerous outstanding accomplishments worthy of recognition and our public affairs office is always available to assist the total team with telling our story.

Among the outstanding performers, we would like to recognize Staff Sgt. Debra Stokes from the 923rd Contracting Battalion at Fort Riley, Kansas, for being named the Army Contracting Command Best Warrior and Staff Sgt. Kathlyn Stewart with the 900th CBN at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, who finished second runner-up. Through vigilant preparation, mentorship and dedication, the two contract specialists earned a spot to represent the ACC at the Army Materiel Command Best Warrior Competition in July.

Contracting for Soldiers! With Honor!

## JBSA LEGACY

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# Feedback Fridays

**Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller**

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](mailto:RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil) using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

**Q. Good morning and I hope all is well at JBSA. I am reaching out with hopes of getting clarification on Joint Base San Antonio's current COVID-19 visitor restrictions.**

**I am a Department of Defense ID Card holder and my fiancé and I are planning an educational/vacation trip with our kids to San Antonio and would like to include all that JBSA may have to offer.**

**My fiancé and her two daughters are not DOD ID card holders and I was unsure if they would be allowed to come on base under the current visitor restrictions?**

**Any information you could share on this would be greatly appreciated. Thank you and have a blessed day.**

**A.** As the City of San Antonio reopens the economy in a phased and deliberate manner, JBSA is taking similar actions to change our Health Protection Conditions, or HPCON, and expand daily operations.

There has been significant progress since the first cases of COVID-19 and subsequent declaration of a Public Health Emergency in March 2020.

For this reason, and coupled with the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and DOD guidance, as of June 17, JBSA has transitioned

to HPCON BRAVO+ (PLUS) from HPCON BRAVO.

HPCON BRAVO+ indicates a moderate disease threat and risk of exposure to personnel, and the Public Health Emergency remains in effect on JBSA.

All DOD-affiliated cardholders will still have access to the installation and have the ability to vouch for the occupants in their vehicle. Visitor pass procedures will be in effect, and commander sponsorship will not be required.

The main intent in transitioning to HPCON BRAVO+ is to reemphasize the importance of minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and implementing the public health recommendations which include social distancing, wearing face masks, practicing good hand washing, and taking appropriate actions if feeling sick. For more information, please visit <https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus/>.  
**Q. The Selfridge East and West**

**gates at JBSA-Lackland were closed after a mechanical problem many weeks ago. Selfridge East was scheduled to reopen and then canceled.**

**The last update was both gates were closed until further notice. Are there any updates you can provide as to when the gates may be open again. Thank you.**

**A.** Thank you for your question. In May, we believe a severe electrical storm caused the Selfridge East gate problem of anti-vehicle barriers popping up unexpectedly. The replacement electronic equipment is expected to arrive in late June.

Once the new equipment is installed, the entire system will be re-tested to ensure it won't unexpectedly deploy and cause harm to personnel or their vehicles.

Regarding the Selfridge West gate, it was hit and damaged by an intoxicated driver and must be repaired by contract. We hope to award the contract by the end of July

and complete the repair by the end of August.

Thank you for your patience as we work through these required steps to ensure your safety and get these gates back open as soon as we can.  
**Q. I'm so glad the "Taj Mahal" at JBSA-Randolph (building 100) is lighted when I come to work at 4:15 a.m. Such an iconic building should be visible. Thank you to whomever got the lights turned on.**

**A.** Thank you for your complement! We are glad to share joy by lighting the historic building. The Taj, built in 1931, is normally lit with standard white lightning to symbolize its beacon as the Air Force's "West Point of Airpower."

On holidays and certain months designated for non-holiday special observance, the lighting colors are changed to give tribute such as National Police Week and Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Halloween.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

# COVID-19 sparks changes to Army Combat Fitness Test

By Thomas Brading

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army Combat Fitness Test, or ACFT, will be the force's test of record Oct. 1, but the Army's top enlisted Soldier says troops will have more time to train for and pass the six-event test — without fear of it negatively impacting their careers during that time.

Despite hold-ups caused by COVID-19, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston is confident the long-planned ACFT will stay on track. In addition to the new training timeline, he also announced a handful of other modifications to the test, dubbing it ACFT 2.0.

It's the same six-event physical fitness test — just an updated version, Grinston said. So even though troops don't have to pass the test this year, they still have to take the ACFT as scheduled.

“When it's the test of record,

you have to put it into the system of record, and that's the only requirement right now,” Grinston said. This means the Army won't take administrative actions against Soldiers for potential ACFT failures.

Potential career impacts like separation, derogatory or referred evaluation reports and a Soldier's Order of Merit List standing are all off the table to be negatively impacted due to an ACFT failure.

This news comes as the Army, in response to social distancing guidelines, hit the brakes on all physical fitness tests in March. Although fitness tests slowed down, Army leaders went full-steam ahead to plan how Soldiers will jump from the 40-year-old Army Physical Fitness Test, or APFT, to the new ACFT 2.0.

So what are the changes?

First, for many, the APFT is gone for good. Once testing suspensions are lifted, the only Soldiers required to take an

APFT ever again will be troops without a current passing score, the sergeant major confirmed.

“As for everyone else with a current passing APFT score — they should start training for the ACFT,” he added.

As far as the evolution of the ACFT, the biggest change for Soldiers is the option to substitute a two-minute plank, once a Soldier has attempted the leg tuck.

The other six events are still locked in; the 3 repetition maximum dead-lift, standing power throw, hand release pushups, leg tuck, 2-mile run, and sprint, drag, carry. The plank is just an interim assessment.

The plank is seen as a transitioning tool for Soldiers jumping from the APFT to the six ACFT events, said Maj. Gen. Lonnie G. Hibbard, the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training commanding general.

Depending on an individual's physical starting point, switching back to the leg tuck should take “anywhere between six to three months,” Hibbard added, but for now, the plank is an alternative.

Planks are a core muscle-burning exercise, completed by individuals who remain static with their elbows planted to the ground directly beneath the shoulders at a 90-degree angle while maintaining a straight posture.

Plank exercises can be conducted almost anywhere, Hibbard said, and do not require equipment to train for. Under the current COVID-19 conditions, this could be an ideal transitional assessment.

Also, the stationary bike event dropped its initial 15,000-meter standard down to a 12,000-meter standard. Biking is an Alternate Assessment for Soldiers with permanent profiles unable to complete the two-mile run.

Additional changes for the fiscal year 2021 also include scoring standards. All Soldiers are challenged to pass the ACFT at the “Gold Standard,” Hibbard confirmed, which is an overall minimum total score of 60.

To pass, all troops are required to meet the moderately challenging “gold standard” instead of the more grueling “grey or black” scoring minimums — typically reserved for harsher, more physically demanding career fields. This standard applies to all Soldiers, regardless of age or gender.

Until COVID-19 hit, “we were seeing vast improvements with the ACFT,” Grinston said, adding the changes to the ACFT promotes a better physical fitness standard that will mirror the physical demands of the Army, while also decreasing injuries and having more effective Soldiers within the ranks.

## Operation Warp Speed accelerates COVID-19 vaccine development

By C. Todd Lopez

DOD NEWS

The national effort to accelerate the development, manufacturing and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine, called “Operation Warp Speed,” will hasten the delivery of that vaccine by conducting steps concurrently that normally would be conducted sequentially, senior administration officials said.

Operation Warp Speed is a partnership among components of the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the Defense Department.

Speaking on background during a conference call June 16, officials said that when creating a vaccine, things such as development, clinical trials and manufacturing typically would occur one after the other. In some cases, officials said,

Operation Warp Speed will do them at the same time.

“We expect to be producing large quantities of vaccines while the clinical trials are still underway,” one official said. “That is, when safety and efficacy have been demonstrated, there isn't a day's delay due to manufacturing ramp-up timelines. We will still complete all of the necessary clinical trials to determine safety and efficacy.”

Another senior administration official said that the manufacturing capacity for three to five selected candidates will be advanced while those vaccine candidates are still in development.

“That capacity will be used for whatever vaccine is eventually successful, regardless of which firms have developed their capacity,” that official said.

Private-sector drug

companies would not develop a drug in such a fashion, the first official said, due to the financial risk. But for a COVID-19 vaccine, the official added, Operation Warp Speed and the federal government — not private companies — will be assuming the risk.

“The return on this investment to our country in terms of lives saved and economic confidence is far greater than that of any single vaccine developer,” an official said. “So while we'll be lowering the financial risk for these companies, we will not be lowering any standards of development, safety and efficacy.”

While the timeline is speeding up, the science will not be compromised, the official said, nor will the safety of the American public, adding that Operation Warp Speed hopes to

have a vaccine by January.

So far, the effort has yielded 14 vaccine candidates from more than 100 that are in development. Some of those are in clinical trials now.

Those 14 will be further narrowed down to seven candidates, and the most promising of those will get further testing and clinical trials.

Operation Warp Speed has also been working with multiple companies to quickly manufacture a vaccine and to develop solutions for the distribution of that vaccine once it is ready. This includes tools such as pre-filled syringes, vials and containers.

Vaccine development is already proceeding at a record-setting pace, the second official said. He also discussed vaccine distribution.

“A tiered approach will be

used for this vaccine distribution,” he said. “This approach will be based on the methodology that has been used for pandemic influenza planning for decades, as well as what we've learned from the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

In a tiered system, he said, the elderly, those with preexisting conditions and people performing essential services would be given higher tiers.

OWS is a partnership between the Defense Department and the Department of Health and Human Services. Specific DHS components involved include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.

# U.S. Army aims to hire 10,000 new Soldiers during three-day event

From U.S. Army  
Recruiting Command  
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army is kicking off its first nationwide virtual hiring campaign June 30 through July 2 with a goal of recruiting 10,000 new Soldiers to serve in 150 different occupations.

Army National Hiring Days is an all-Army effort to inspire individuals across the nation to “Join Us.”

As part of the three-day hiring event, Army leaders, operational units, recruiters and community partners across America will focus on encouraging individuals to explore the Army’s career paths, ranging from traditional combat roles to support positions in logistics, engineering and technology. They will also highlight the benefits of military service, to include health insurance, retirement plans, training and education opportunities, and family support programs.

U.S. Army recruiters have focused heavily on virtual communications since mid-March when the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a socially distant society. This new virtual hiring event will be the first time the Army has come together as a whole to leverage the digital space in a concentrated all-Army nationwide recruiting effort.

“The last three months have challenged America, and our Army has been part of the team working to fight this pandemic together,” said Maj. Gen. Frank Muth,

commanding general for U.S. Army Recruiting Command. “We are adapting our recruiting efforts to the current environment to ensure we can continue to protect and support our nation in the future. We believe Army National Hiring Days will help us find the right people who are ready to ‘Join Us.’”

During Army National Hiring Days, interested individuals can visit [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com) to see if they meet the qualifications, learn about job opportunities and associated hiring incentives, and connect with a recruiter in their area.

“The Army has a career for every interest, and many people aren’t really aware of that,” Muth said. “You’ll receive the technical training to succeed in your field and then have access to education benefits to go even further.”

To become an enlisted Soldier in the U.S. Army, individuals must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident; be 17-34 years old; achieve a minimum score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test; meet medical, moral and physical requirements; and be a high school graduate or equivalent.

Qualified applicants are eligible for bonuses up to \$40,000 or student loan reimbursement up to \$65,000, depending on the selected occupation, ASVAB scores, contract length, and timeline for shipping to basic training.

For more information about Army opportunities and to find a local recruiter, visit [goarmy.com](http://goarmy.com).



**ARMY NATIONAL HIRING DAYS**

**June 30 - July 2**

**150 Career Fields**

**10,000 Positions**

**JOIN US.**

COURTESY GRAPHIC



# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## BAMC lab techs: Hidden workers crucial to success

By Zaria Oates

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is home to the busiest military hospital in the United States, known as Brooke Army Medical Center, where lab technicians have processed more than 10,000 COVID-19 tests.

As one can imagine with a hospital this large, COVID-19 has spurred an alteration in the normal mission of the hospital in various areas. Nurses and doctors all over the world are doing a phenomenal job day in and day out, but lab technicians are often overlooked and are a huge part of the discovery.

The lab techs at BAMC are unsung heroes. They aren't on the frontline swabbing patients and they aren't caring for patients face to face. They have been working diligently in recent months, aiding the fight against the novel coronavirus.

Army Capt. Eric Coate, chief of BAMC Molecular Diagnostics and Immunology, explained that prior to COVID-19, the lab's day to day work consisted of screening for sexually transmitted infections (STI)/HPV, carrier screening for cystic fibrosis, and viral load for patient disease status (HIV and hepatitis B/C).

"Since COVID started we have added additional personnel to help with the large mission requirements that COVID has presented us," Coate said.

"Routine tests have decreased in number, while COVID testing has become the main focus," said Leslie Contreras, medical technologist. "Some tests have been put on a hold and are

being sent to a reference lab to accommodate the priority of COVID."

Coate said although the hours of the lab are from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., the lab often runs testing for 24 hours depending on the number of testing samples collected. The workers wear the proper mandated personal protective equipment when working, which consists of a lab coat and gloves in their Biosafety Level 2 lab environment.

The section that tests for COVID is led by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert Cybulski, Jr. and supervised by Marisa Fernandez.

Cybulski recognizes the help the lab has received in its efforts to combat the virus.

"Those with whom (the lab) has the closest relationship — aside from our teammates within the Department of Pathology, we collaborate with the staff that is running the BAMC testing and screening operations, the staff of the Infectious disease service, and the staff of the preventive medicine department," he said. "We have benefited from support provided by separate commands located on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Health Laboratory and retired Army officers who have been reactivated to support the COVID-19 response."

Along with these departments, the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at JBSA-Lackland and Food Analysis and Diagnostics Laboratory technicians have volunteered their time and resources to assist the ongoing COVID-19 mission at BAMC. All of this assistance has aided the lab in conducting so many COVID tests while still



SENIOR MASTER SGT. SARAH HANAWAY

*From left: Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyler Byrd (right), Immunology NCO In Charge, and Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Weigl, Microbiology NCOIC, prepare patient samples for COVID-19 extraction at Brooke Army Medical Center June 1.*

maintaining focus on their regular mission.

So what happens when a test comes back positive?

"Immediately after a positive result is generated in the lab and reviewed at the appropriate level, the results are reported to senior leadership in the hospital," Cybulski said. "Immediately after that, they are passed to a group of infectious disease physicians for appropriate clinical follow up."

"On a daily basis (once every 24 hours), the total list of positives generated during that time period is sent to infectious disease, as well as the Public Health personnel at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Lackland, and select physicians within BAMC

schedules, the anxiety has somewhat subsided," she said while stressing the importance of ongoing vigilance.

"The lab's biggest impact on COVID-19 is laboratory leadership and the molecular section leadership being 100 percent engaged from the beginning and getting the testing for this virus in-house as soon as possible to serve our beneficiary population in the JBSA area," Miller said.

Air Force Col. Samantha Butler-Garcia, Department of Pathology and Area Laboratory Services chief, revealed that her favorite part about coming to work is providing safe and high-quality healthcare for active duty and veteran personnel.

"They have made sacrifices for their country in ways that are often unimaginable so they deserve the best healthcare," Butler-Garcia said.

"The laboratory has not only shown amazing resiliency as it has adapted to the evolutionary changes that have come from the CDC, DOD, and other agencies regarding the understanding of COVID-19, but the staff has shown a level of teamwork and camaraderie that is only experienced under the most high-stress environments," said Army Master Sgt. Jeffrey Thomas, Department of Pathology and Area Laboratory Services noncommissioned officer in charge.

"Civilians and military members from other sections of our laboratory and exterior DOD organizations with laboratorians stepping forward to be a part of the testing teams to assist us is a thing of true professional harmony," Thomas added.

Family Medicine, to ensure that patient follow-up is completed and documented appropriately, and to facilitate additional reporting on the Public Health side," he said.

This chain of events allows for safe and proper acknowledgment for those infected to seek treatment and be able to quarantine, along with an effective follow-up of patients.

Air Force Lt. Col. Carolann Miller, laboratory manager, believes in the beginning of the pandemic there was increased anxiety due to "fear of the unknown" as this is a novel virus.

However, over time and with proper guidance like wearing face masks, social distancing, and the adjustment of work

# Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio contributing to COVID-19 fight

By Randy Martin

NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT SAN ANTONIO  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In early March, Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio, or NAMRU-SA, joined the fight against COVID-19 and future pandemic viruses by contributing knowledge from relevant studies and providing backup medical support at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"From the onset of this disease we took steps to protect our shipmates, we looked for ways to help the local community and much more," said Capt. Andrew Vaughn NAMRU-SA commanding officer, who is also a Navy doctor and public health expert.

The "shipmates" Vaughn is referring to includes more than 120 military and civilian scientists, doctors, and support staff that work in two separate laboratories near BAMC.

NAMRU-SA's physicians and scientists searched through their research portfolios for relevant studies to fight COVID-19.

The lab's chief science director, Sylvain Cardin, Ph.D., read about a doctor in New York City who reported COVID-19 patients beginning to compensate for low oxygen. This information helped Dr. Cardin to understand what is triggering the compensation.

"One indicator that a patient's condition is deteriorating is when oxygen delivery to tissue decreases," Cardin said.

To save lives and improve the quality of life for survivors of traumatic injuries, Army, Navy and Air Force scientists at the Battlefield Health and Trauma, or BHT, building on the BAMC campus are studying how the human body distributes oxygen in trauma cases.

Cardin is proposing to leverage emerging technology through joint studies at the BHT to detect compensation in some COVID-19 patients earlier in the onset of that disease.

"The lead physiologist at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, Dr. Victor Convertino, at the BHT is working on new artificial intelligence



RANDY MARTIN

*Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio's chief science director Sylvain Cardin, Ph.D., stands for a photo in one of NAMRU-SA's labs June 17 in the Battelfield Health Trauma Building at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*

technology that is capable of learning the clinical status of individual patients who are experiencing low oxygen delivery and give an early warning of the presence of the condition," Cardin said. "My peers and I will continue to pursue research initiatives like these," he added.

Inside the lab isn't the only place where NAMRU-SA's team is helping fight COVID-19. Medical doctors have headed to the bedside to work with fellow clinicians treating patients at BAMC.

"As a team, we have many important players that have interwoven themselves into various aspects of the response to this pandemic," said Lt. Cmdr. Drew

Havard, a Navy dentist and NAMRU-SA's deputy director of craniofacial health and restorative medicine.

According to Havard, two Navy dentists are tasked with training clinicians who might need to provide anesthesia if the need arises and two surgeons who are treating patients.

"I'm just trying to care for patients like always, maintain a high level of care, and offload the additional burden that's on the entire hospital group," said Cmdr. Jacob Glaser, a Navy trauma and critical care surgeon who is also NAMRU-SA's department head for trauma and expeditionary medicine.

Glaser is on a 24-hour,

seven-days-a-week, backup call. When he is active in the hospital, he typically works a 60-hour week. At the same time, Glaser's department in NAMRU-SA has been working on proposals to do more COVID-19 research.

"I think COVID in some ways allows us to practice critical care and disaster management at the highest level. I think that all hospital personnel have risen to the challenge and see it as our chance to serve the community in the best way we can," Glaser said.

NAMRU-SA's core mission is to improve survivability, readiness, and safety for military personnel in routine and expeditionary operations.





JOSHUA FORD

*Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram, commanding general, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, gives his remarks kicking off a three-day housing summit from June 15-17.*

## Army, partners strengthen integration at housing summit

By Scott Malcom

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In the midst of the Department of Defense's COVID-19 global pandemic response, Family housing remains a top priority for the Army. U.S. Army Installation Management Command and Residential Communities Initiative partner companies.

Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram, commanding general, IMCOM, hosted Army senior leaders, garrison commanders from across the globe, and privatized housing company executives for a three-day housing summit beginning June 15. The leaders met to further integrate their actions in anticipation of a summer surge in Permanent Change of Station moves that will require thousands of housing occupancy transfers across the Army.

"Summer PCS moves have been delayed and will be compressed into a shorter timeline," Gabram said during his opening comments. "This housing summit will facilitate quality of life for PCS'ing Army Soldiers and Families during this summer's move cycle by confirming installation-level plans to support housing transitions."

Gabram stated the theme for the summit is "Move Forward Together," a phrase that captures the growing integration of Army and RCI leaders on behalf of Soldiers and their Families.

"This integration is vital if we are to turn houses at a quality rate during the

summer surge period," said Lt. Gen. Ed Daly, the deputy commanding general of Army Materiel Command.

Gabram said each garrison commander and their local RCI partner will jointly update the group on their plans to address the backlog of routine housing work orders, post-COVID-19 related issues impacting this year's summer surge, and housing scorecards that will provide a common framework to view privatized housing across the Army.

"This housing summit brings us together to share best practices, lessons learned and innovative ideas from our garrisons and different partner companies around the Army," said Gabram.

Monday's sessions also included a video teleconference between Daly, Gabram, RCI executives and senior members of the Army staff involved in privatized housing. This group will reassemble Wednesday afternoon to close out the summit.

Gabram was very clear about what will happen during this last session. "We will summarize the list of things we need to accomplish and assign accountability and timelines for action. Housing remains a priority and we are not going to let up."

During his opening comments, Gabram listed a number of recent accomplishments by the summit participants, including reducing the number of displaced families in the Army from 178 last September to 43 today.

## ARMY NORTH HOLDS VIRTUAL ARMY BIRTHDAY CEREMONY



SPC. ASHUNTEIA SMITH

*From left: Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, U.S. Army North Commanding General; Pfc. Macy White, 543rd Geospatial Detachment; Robert Gonzales from the Staff Judge Advocates Office; and ARNORTH Command Sgt. Maj. Alberto Delgado cut the ceremonial cake at a virtual recognition ceremony for the U.S. Army's 245th Birthday at the Quadrangle June 12 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*



# Army South Headquarters, Headquarters Battalion welcomes new commander



SGT. ASHLEY DOTSON

*Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Walrath (center left), U.S. Army South commanding general, passes the unit colors to Lt. Col. Mark A. Katz (center right, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion incoming commander, to formally represent the transfer of authority during a change of command ceremony June 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*

By Sgt. Ashley Dotson

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army South's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion welcomed Lt. Col. Mark A. Katz and virtually bid farewell to Lt. Col. Heather Clevenger during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston June 16.

"Thank you, everyone, for joining us today, wherever you are," said Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Walrath, U.S. Army South commanding general, as he presided over the ceremony that was live-streamed due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. "Just as we have been doing for several months of this COVID pandemic and having to figure out how to adjust to a set of change in conditions while still pursuing and conducting our mission, we are doing the same thing here this morning — following through with a very important event where we recognize the change in commanders."

The general continued by recognizing some of the many positive changes Clevenger made and thanked her for reigniting the culture of readiness across the command.

"The Army has to be ready for the away game — we don't do our mission here at home base," Walrath said. "This requires Soldiers, units, and equipment that are ready to deploy. Heather has comprehensively addressed training and medical deployability shortfalls that resulted in an almost a doubling of our Soldier readiness."

Due to unit COVID-19 precautions, Clevenger was unable to attend the ceremony; however, she was able to participate remotely.

"Thank you for taking the time to be here this morning to mark the passing of the Spartan battalion colors," Clevenger said. "The COVID pandemic has forced us into uncharted territories. This ceremony is a testament to the challenges of our current environment and how creative we have become to keep Army traditions alive."

"This battalion has truly lived up to its motto 'Spartans make it happen,' all while demonstrating a genuine and sincere care and empathy for the very real Soldiers and their families who make up this great organization," Clevenger added.

Katz said he is looking forward to taking command of the battalion.

"Command is an extraordinary privilege, something I don't take for granted, and I'm extremely grateful that I have the opportunity to command here at Army South," Katz said as he thanked Walrath for the opportunity to be a part of the team. "To the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion Spartans, you look great. Thank you for your support in bringing me on board and everything that you will do in the future to support this command."

"I want you to know that I will treat each and every one of you with dignity and respect. The health, welfare and morale of this unit is one of my top priorities," Katz added. "All I ask is that you do your best. I know I will."

Although there are many restrictions due to COVID-19, the unit kept with military traditions while also maintaining the guidelines of social distancing and the use of face masks. Only a small group of family members and guests were allowed to attend, while many watched the ceremony via live-stream.

## WTB prepares to take on new 'SRU' designation

By Robert A. Whetstone

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On Nov. 5, 2019, the Army announced the restructuring of its Warrior Care and Transition Program and formally recognized itself as the Army Recovery Care Program. The Warrior Transition Battalions would soon restructure and re-designate as Soldier Recovery Units.

Brooke Army Medical Center's WTB made the formal announcement of the pending change June 3 with a brief tree dedication ceremony.

Lt. Col. Andrea Castillon, BAMC WTB commander, designated a special site near the organization's offices where a commemorative "WTB" tree will be planted.

"Trees are well known as symbols of immense and enduring strength, which couldn't be more appropriate given the mission of our battalion," she stated.

Inactivating a unit looks easy to bystanders attending a ceremony, but there is much coordination and work behind the scenes to execute it in accordance with Army Regulation 870-20, Army Museums, Historical Artifacts, and Art. Units must work closely with the Center of Military History for the proper handling of organizational history files, unit historical

property, and operational records.

Members of a unit often develop a bond with the history and pride in its colors, or guidon. Change can be difficult to get used to, particularly when WTBs have countless testimonials of past and present Soldiers and veterans, expressing how the programs within them saved their lives.

"Although change is inevitable, we will remain a premier organization for the healing and transition of our Soldiers," Castillon said. She is confident in the smooth re-flagging of her unit because the fundamental foundation of WTB's culture is adaptability.

The SRU's three primary platoons are Complex Care, Veteran Track, and Return to Duty. This restructuring will simplify and streamline policy, remove barriers, and tailor services to fit the unique needs of every Soldier.

"Our adaptability and resilience prepare us for what is on the horizon, and will help us successfully navigate this new terrain together as a team," Castillon added. "We pride ourselves in being a place to heal and transition, and our camaraderie transcends re-naming and time."

The official re-flagging ceremony took place June 23.



COURTESY PHOTO

*Army Lt. Col. Andrea Castillon (left), Warrior Transition Battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Camacho (right), put the finishing touches on a tree dedicated to all who previously and currently served in the unit at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston June 12.*

# LACKLAND

## SECDEF visits BMT, sees how citizens become Airmen

By 1st Lt. Kayshel Trudell  
37TH TRAINING WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper visited U.S. Air Force basic military training cadre and recruits at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland for a first-hand look at how the service transforms citizens into American Airmen June 16.

Esper, accompanied on the visit by the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Ramón “CZ” Colón-López, observed how the 37th Training Wing, with the support of a tri-wing partnership with the 502nd Air Base Wing and 59th Medical Wing, has protected Airmen during the COVID-19 pandemic. The traveling party adhered to all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Department of Defense social-distancing guidelines to ensure the protection of their health and those around them.

“The basic military training mission remains absolutely vital to renew our Air and Space Forces and underwrites our ability to defend the nation and deliver air and space power anytime, anywhere,” Esper said. “The entire team here has demonstrated what fighting through COVID-19 looks like with flexibility and tenacity, ensuring the safety of the recruiting, training and education pipeline.”

The first stop was at BMT’s Pflinston Reception Center for an overview of Gateway Wing operations and an in-depth look at how BMT has adjusted operations in the wake of COVID-19 in order to continue developing the Airmen needed to ensure readiness, including



JOHNNY SALDIVAR

*U.S. Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper administers the oath of enlistment during his visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 16.*

restriction of movement implementation, person-under-investigation and isolation operations.

More than 34,500 Airmen will graduate from BMT in fiscal year 2020 and the wing has graduated more than 8,500 Airmen since March 16, when the service first implemented a 14-day restriction of movement protocol for new accessions arriving to training. Since May 19, BMT has 100 percent testing of new recruits and has realigned the training campus to prevent the interaction of Airmen in different weeks of training.

“Two of our top priorities during COVID-19 have been the safety of our people and ensuring the mission of national security continues,”

Esper said. “The rapid implementation of safety protocols here has been extremely successful on both of these fronts thanks to the partnership of health experts and the BMT team.”

Military training instructors and cadre had the opportunity to discuss BMT’s tempo, successes and ways forward with Esper before taking him on a walkthrough of new trainee in-processing, daily operations at an Airman Training Complex, as well as the Reid Clinic, where the 59th MDW conducts BMT medical support operations.

BEAR base, also called tent city, was another stop on the visit. This area was established by the 49th Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico,

to support potential BMT contingency operations for the Gateway Wing should swing space be required in the COVID-19 environment.

How the service recruits more than 31,000 new accessions every year into the total force was also highlighted for the Department of Defense’s senior leader, including the use of agile shipping methods to adjust the numbers of Airmen reporting to BMT each week.

“What the U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service has done in response to COVID-19 by being ready to pivot, prioritize, and match applicants to an optimal job and enter active duty date on a weekly and sometimes hourly basis, has been incredible,” Esper said.

**“The entire team here has demonstrated what fighting through COVID-19 looks like with flexibility and tenacity, ensuring the safety of the recruiting, training and education pipeline.”**

**Mark T. Esper**  
U.S. Secretary of Defense

Esper also learned about the recent integration of the U.S. Air Force Reserves and Air National Guard into total force recruiting and the recent roll-out of the new Aim High phone application by AFRS, which is aimed at helping better communicate, inform and inspire new recruits, with embedded tools to guide them into the right Total Force career path, as their transition from citizens to American service members.

“It’s evident BMT’s success in the COVID-19 environment can be largely credited to the MTI corps creating a culture of safety,” Esper said. “The work they do year-round laid the foundation for them to adapt swiftly with health recommendations and develop a mentality of early symptom reporting.”





COURTESY PHOTO

*Trainees in Basic Military Training view exhibits at the Airman Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, which visit familiarizes the trainees to the historical roots of the Air Force and what it means to earn the title Airman.*

# Airman Heritage Museum welcomes BMT trainees

By Senior Airman Kelvin Ngo

37TH TRAINING WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Air Force Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland began welcoming Basic Military Training flights on June 1. The purpose of the visit is to familiarize trainees to the historical roots of the Air Force and what it means to earn the title American Airman.

The 322nd Training Squadron reached out to the director of the Airman Heritage Museum, Bill Manchester, to restart the tradition of trainees immersing into the museum and its exhibits. The team determined required COVID-19 safety measures and the first flights were able to begin visiting the museum. Thus far, 392 Airmen across 13 flights have had the opportunity to experience the museum.

"Our primary responsibility [at the museum] is education," Manchester said, as he noted the importance of the role of the Airmen Heritage Museum. "We want is to acculturate trainees, get them excited about graduation and being Air Force blue. Of course, history and heritage are already part of the BMT curriculum, but it is one thing to talk about it and another to see it with your own eyes."

During the pandemic, the museum has only been open for training purposes. These initial

trainee visits were so successful, the 737th Training Group plans to continue tours for trainees, allowing the museum to hosting an average of 400 trainees per week, including weekends.

As the museum director since February 2019, Manchester has continued to seek improvements for the museums and secure its relevance. Renovating historical stands, adding ventilation and revamping the flow of the museum to accommodate more traffic allowed for the museum to thrive within the past year receiving over 60,000 visitors.

These renovations and other developments to the museum enable it to safely accommodate these volumes of trainees during the pandemic. Trainees and visitors wear masks and museum staff facilitate the flow of people between museum exhibits.

"This museum is a valuable experience for any visitor, but particularly for these trainees who are so close to becoming Airmen," Manchester said. "It has allowed them to be immersed into the culture and history of the Air Force they are about to enter."

To learn more about the history of the BMT, the Gateway Wing and the Air Force, visit <https://www.bmtflightphotos.af.mil/>. The BMT graduation can be live-streamed on Thursdays at 9 a.m. CST on the USAF BMT Facebook Page.

## Ruck Racism: JBSA community leans in

By Command Chief  
Master Sgt. Stefan Blazier

37TH TRAINING WING  
COMMAND CHIEF

The 341st Training Squadron hosted an event at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 13 for solidarity and inclusion. People from across Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, came together. Why ... because we all needed it!

#RuckRacism was born from a dream last week (literally) of Chief Master Sgt. Erik Blanco who had the vision to create an outlet which showed UNITY as a military community and allowed dialogues to flow freely. And today, many lives were brought closer to each other because of it.

The sun not only shined on

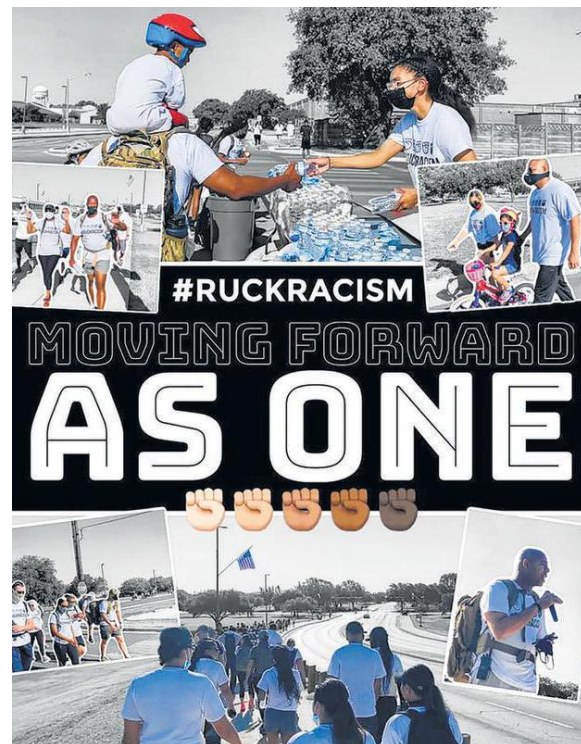
the faces of those in attendance - but most importantly...on our hearts as well. As brothers and sisters-in-arms, we stay true in our resolve that we are better through compassion, reflection, respect and understanding.

As a friend reminded me earlier this week, "These are not new conversations, they are just happening between groups who haven't shared them before. That's what makes this time so special."

The stories, perspectives, and connections were powerful. And the beauty is — they are taking place all over. This is the fuel that will drive us forward.

Let's keep moving ahead as one.

Watch the event video on Facebook or Youtube.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

# Wounded Warrior recalls dark days, bright recovery

By Malcolm McClendon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND  
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*"I remember standing in front of formation; it was 0530 and I was leading PT. I yelled out the command for the over-head arm clap, 'IN CADENCE,' and then at that moment, I realized something was seriously wrong."*

It was June 2000, and Bernard Lawson was a platoon sergeant for an Army chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear technical escort team responsible for the accountability, security, storage, transportation and destruction of chemical weapons at Johnston Atoll, a military chemical weapons storage and demilitarization site.

The night before, an alarm went off at one of the bunkers where old World War II VX nerve agent munitions were stored. These were the types of calls Lawson and his team had responded to many times before, so they headed to the briefing room before dressing out in protective gear and heading to the site.

Once suited up, the three-man entry team made its way into the bunker. "As soon as we entered, I immediately felt like throwing up and began to get a pounding headache," Lawson said. "One of the protocols, if we don't feel something is right, is to stop the mission, so I did. I tapped the person to my right and left, to give the signal, and we immediately exited as the doors slammed shut behind us."

The team went through a thorough decontamination process and by the time it was all over, Lawson said he felt fine and was released to his quarters.

"It wasn't until the next morning at PT when I noticed something was not right," Lawson said. "I physically could not raise my right arm. I can't describe the feeling."

He headed to the emergency room. The medical team there began checking vitals and drawing blood, but the facilities were limited, so the call was made to medevac Lawson more than 800 miles away to Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii.

"It all happened so quickly," Lawson said. "Within hours a plane landed on Johnston and there I was, on my way to Hawaii; and all I kept thinking was that I wanted to get back to my unit and continue the mission."

At Tripler, Lawson was assigned to a

neurologist for further testing and treatment. The neurologist concluded Lawson was suffering from major nerve damage and referred him to a doctor he felt could help him further at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

In the following weeks, Lawson underwent further treatment and testing, but the diagnosis was not any better. Doctors then tried muscle transfer surgery in hopes that the new muscle might restore movement, but after a year of intense physical therapy following the surgeries, there was little to no improvement.

"I remember sitting in a room full of doctors staring down at their notes," Lawson said. "After their diagnosis, the lead doctor looked at me and said, 'It doesn't look like you're going to be in the Army anymore due to your condition.' I almost broke down and cried at that moment."

"I wasn't handicapped! I was young, physically fit, a leader of Soldiers, and now they're telling me I'm not fit enough to be in the Army?"

In the months to come, Lawson struggled with depression and hit rock bottom as he came to terms with this new reality. It was here that a small act of kindness had a huge impact on the rest of his life.

"I remember sitting there, staring out the window and I just broke down and cried," Lawson said. "Then from behind me appeared a man and said, 'Thank you for your service; it's people like you that keep us safe,' then he handed me a hat with 'Wounded Warrior' on the front."

The stranger told him to keep the hat and wear it to remember all the people who appreciated what he did. Lawson said, it was from that simple moment he drew the strength he needed to get past his time at BAMC and face whatever life threw at him next.

A short time after that encounter, the sergeant major of BAMC at the time met with Lawson and offered him a job while he waited for the medical board to conclude and out-processing to begin.

"The sergeant major heard of my previous experience as a CBRN technical escort Soldier, so he offered me the position of NCOIC of security plans and operations," Lawson said. "I eagerly accepted. This is what I was trained to do and best of all it gave me a purpose."

Lawson set up the first patient decontamination team at BAMC, helped



COURTESY PHOTO

Then Army Staff Sgt. Bernard Lawson in an official photo circa 2003.

establish a response plan for code orange hazardous material spills, converted the ambulance garage into a decontamination facility, and trained more than 400 medical personnel throughout the center to respond to any kind of hazardous material emergency or contaminated patient arrivals at the hospital.

Still awaiting his medical board, Lawson then became an instructor at the U.S. Army Medical Department teaching medical officer candidates.

"It was great, I loved that I had a hand in shaping these future doctors and nurses on courses I helped create," Lawson said. "Leadership took notice and began looking at how to keep me on board after my medical discharge."

Their plan was to convert Lawson's enlisted job into a civil service position, so he could continue teaching as a civilian at AMEDD. Knowing processes like that take time and might not exactly coincide with discharge orders, a familiar face came to offer some guidance.

"Once again the sergeant major comes into my life and asks, 'Do you have a resume?'" Lawson said. "I didn't, and was sure I didn't need one, since I was going to work at AMEDD. However, the sergeants major being who they are motivated me to prepare one and apply for a job with the Air Force."

"He said, 'They're looking for a CBRN specialist over at Lackland, and Bernard, I read through this thing and you're a number one candidate for it.'"

Lawson prepared his resume and sent it off. Two weeks later he received a call for an interview and was subsequently hired as the emergency management CBRN assessor for the Air Force Vulnerability Assessment Team that operates out of the Air Force Security Forces Center.

"It all worked out for me, like someone was watching over me," Lawson said. "I was medically boarded out and a few months later I began working for the Air Force, doing the type of stuff I loved."

From 2004 to 2018, Lawson worked with the team as a contractor and then was hired as a permanent civil service employee, becoming the subject matter expert for emergency management. His duties included assessing more than 20 program areas, such as all hazard threats, emergency response to critical assets, fire emergency services, explosive ordnance disposal, and exercise and training programs.

In those same years after his discharge, he also took the time to work on his physical recovery.

"I took up firearm sports, because it forced me to move my right arm and hold it steady to aim," Lawson said. "Then I became a certified firearms instructor, not only to help others learn to shoot and enjoy the sport, but to make me use my facial muscles to help with my speech therapy."

Lawson said through hard work, movement in his right arm has improved and he can speak more clearly now, but he'll never forget how difficult the road was and those who helped him through it; and he pays it forward every chance he gets.

"I sometimes go to the VA for check-ups and if I walk by another service member who looks like they're having a rough day, I stop to say hi and talk for a while," he said. "If my time can make a difference, as someone else had on me, then I've done something good."

Lawson is now the emergency manager for the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, leading the effort to develop emergency management plans and procedures.

He said the work he's done for the Air Force for the past 16 years has taken him full circle.

"Even though I never made it back to my Soldiers at Johnston, I find comfort that I'm here, now, at AFIMSC with an awesome group of people taking care of my Airmen."



# 433rd AW aircrew doubles-down on missions

By Staff Sgt. Lauren M. Snyder

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In mid-April, while en route from Texas to Norway, a 433rd Airlift Wing C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft and its crew were informed they were going have a small change of plans.

Instead of one mission across the Atlantic Ocean to the Arctic Circle, now they were running an additional delivery that spanned the United States from the east coast to the west coast in the same timeline.

In Delaware, loadmasters from the 68th Airlift Squadron expertly loaded a high-priority, one-of-a-kind prototype for safe travel to southern California.

The sensitive item could only be transported by a C-5 aircraft.

After dropping off the special delivery, the Alamo Wing aircraft and crew could resume their original mission, picking up equipment from the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point in North Carolina, and take it to northern Norway.

The aircrew members' flexibility and hard work, embodies the wing's mission of having Reserve Citizen Airmen ready to respond anywhere, anytime.

"Our job is to move cargo: anyplace, anytime, and we have a worldwide mission," said Capt. Kyle P. Byrne, a pilot with 68th AS. "This mission really showcases that, because we were told to go to Norway, at the last second. We got dropped a high-contingency/tempo task, and the crew was able to take that and run with it."

The team powered through the extra trip and work.

"Not only did they get that one-off mission done, but also to get the mission done getting to Norway was because the loadmasters, flight engineers, and pilots



ROLV MALLAUG

*A C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft, assigned to the 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland touches down at Royal Norwegian Air Force Bardufoss Air Station, Norway, May 26th. The aircraft was crewed by U.S. Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the 433rd AW's 68th Airlift Squadron and delivered equipment for the U.S. Marine Corps.*

all leaned forward to complete that without adjusting the initial timeline," said Byrne.

The crew pulled together to get the work done.

"It was 100% teamwork," said Master Sgt Freddie J. Kondoff, 68th AS loadmaster. "Cargo is cargo. The C-5 was built to move outsized cargo; that's what we train for, to figure out what we need to do to load items into the airplane safely. As a team, we worked together to get the cargo loaded and then get the cargo off."

The will-do attitude of the crew members made a problematic situation achievable.

"Finishing both of those missions in the time we did was incredible—between the loadmasters and the engineers—they really allowed this mission to continue

on time," Byrne said. "It's the hardest I've ever worked as an aircraft commander coordinating things, but without everybody on the crew doing a

great job, it wouldn't have mattered. Being in a position to complete the job and getting it done wouldn't be possible without our people's effort."

# RANDOLPH

## Operation Echo seeks reduction in airfield intrusions at JBSA-Randolph

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 12th Operations Support Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph is leading a collaborative effort to minimize the potential of airfield intrusions on the south side of the JBSA location where a well-traveled roadway crosses the intersection of three active taxiways.

The initiative, called Operation Echo, focuses on the area of the airfield where Taxiways Delta, Echo and Foxtrot intersect with Crossover Road, also known as Golf Course Road, a thoroughfare that is traversed daily by thousands of privately owned vehicles, commercial vehicles, pedestrians and joggers.

The effort so far has resulted in the placement of signs directing motorists to maintain a straight path over Crossover Road as well as signs designating no left or right turns onto the taxiway; it also includes an increased presence by the 902nd Security Forces Squadron.

“Due to the design of the airfield at JBSA-Randolph, there are several areas that are open and not protected by fencing,” said Lee Sims, 12th OSS Airfield Operations Flight chief. “For this reason, we often have individuals who mistakenly turn onto actual taxiways.”

Another problem at the intersection of the three taxiways and Crossover Road is the failure of some vehicles and runners to yield the right-of-way to taxiing aircraft and airfield

vehicles traveling through this intersection, Sims said.

“Vehicles and runners have actually run in front of maintenance vehicles, fuel trucks and even aircraft transitioning between the two runways,” he said. “The intersection of Taxiways Delta, Echo and Foxtrot is the only juncture between the two airfields as the east runway and west runway are considered separate airfields. This problem has been going on for more than the five years I’ve been at JBSA-Randolph and can be traced back further than 10 years.”

Although there have not been any accidents due to these incursions, there have been many close calls, Sims said.

“There have been times when aircraft and maintenance vehicles have had to abruptly stop to avoid collisions,” he said. “Additionally, we have had three incidents within the past six months where individuals and vehicles have actually entered the active runway. Fortunately, no aircraft were involved thanks to the fast actions of our air traffic controllers.”

Prior to Operation Echo, safety measures at the hazardous crossroads included signs, flashing lights and periodic surveillance of the area, Sims said. The initiative has resulted in the recent addition of more safeguards.

“Our partners at the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron have placed visual signs at the intersection of Crossover Road and the three taxiways, including arrows painted on the street with the words ‘straight



BENJAMIN FASKE

*New “no-turn” signage has been added to an existing stop sign at the South ramp taxiway at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Operation Echo is a 12th Operations Support Squadron effort to bring down vehicle runway incursions.*

only’ as well as signs under each stop sign with the universal pictures for no left/right turn and straight arrows with the word ‘only’ on them,” Sims said. “Our partners at the 902nd SFS have increased their presence at Crossover Road to provide a visual reminder to drivers and to respond to any incidents immediately.”

Other components of Operation Echo have included an exercise to help increase situational awareness of maintainers, an update of the checklist used by airfield management and air traffic control to respond to airfield

intrusions and a request for input from users of the airfield to address safety issues at the intersection.

Through Operation Echo, the 12th OSS – primarily airfield management and air traffic control – has partnered with the 902nd SFS, 502nd CES, 12th Maintenance Group, safety, public affairs, the Traffic Management Safety Board and the base executive agent to confront the challenges posed by the traffic issues at the Crossover Road intersection and bring down airfield incursions as close to zero as possible.

The Operation Echo working

group led by the 12th Operations Group commander looks forward to more safety improvements at the Crossover Road intersection and the airfield as a whole, including the placement of small but visible cones on the roofs of authorized vehicles driven on the airfield, Sims said.

“These will be mainly for privately owned vehicles and contractors,” he said. “The addition of these cones will make it easier to identify vehicles that are authorized on the airfield from a distance.”

A more distant vision is to reroute traffic away from this hot spot with the ultimate goal of closing the road, Sims said.

“We understand this may not be financially possible, but that is our overall goal,” he said.

The base community can also play a role in improving airfield safety, Sims said.

“Our advice to anyone who uses Crossover Road for driving, walking or jogging is to remain vigilant and understand they do not have the right of way over vehicles and aircraft on the taxiways,” he said. “Remember that JBSA-Randolph is the busiest airfield in the Air Force, with more than 200,000 operations per year. When you cross the taxiway, you are crossing an active airfield that has dozens of vehicles and aircraft transiting it at any given time and through all hours of the day and night.”

Operation Echo has had an immediate impact, Sims said.

“We have great hopes for continued progress and reduction of intrusions,” he said.



# Air Force Recruiting Service releases Aim High app

By Master Sgt. Chance Babin

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To help better communicate, inform and inspire new recruits and with embedded tools to guide them into the right Total Force career path, the Air Force Recruiting Service's Innovation team launched the "Aim High" mobile phone application June 15.

With recruiters no longer meeting potential recruits or applicants in person due to the COVID-19 outbreak that has crippled much of the nation's industries, AFRS expedited the release of the app to help recruiters overcome this obstacle and allow them to communicate better with recruits throughout the process of joining the service on active-duty, or going to the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve.

"The Aim High app has been in the works since 2018 and was originally set to be released this summer," said Chief Master Sgt. Jason O'Donley, Superintendent of AFRS Innovation. "But with the current COVID-19 situation, we have been working tirelessly to get it released sooner to help our recruiters accomplish their mission. The app is full of information about the Air Force and many of the features will help recruiters and applicants communicate, allowing people to make an informed decision based on the information all in one location."

The Aim High app is a comprehensive, intuitive recruiting tool powered by a data-rich, enterprise solution that helps the Air Force find elite Airman, as well as guides recruits to discover their passions through intuitive, interactive means. The app also provides family and friends a way to have insight into a recruit's training and keeps Airmen involved in recruiting well after being assigned to

their first duty stations.

"What we have developed is a one-stop-shop for all things Air Force," O'Donley said. "Currently there is a lot of information about the Air Force, careers, delayed enlistment, etc., but the information is in different locations, which has meant recruits have to visit multiple resources to get informed. With the app, information is pulled for them from a variety of sources, and the recruits are connected with the information in one location so they don't have to go looking for it, which can be frustrating."

For recruiters, the app includes tools like messaging that allows them to stay in touch with recruits throughout the process.

"Having informed customers usually leads to more satisfied customers," O'Donley said. "Focusing on our potential recruits and the informed decision of what career they want in the Air Force, the messaging feature provides a more robust capability as opposed to just using text."

Using Google Analytics, recruiters can monitor the number of active users, the pages they visited, as well as how long they viewed each page. Additionally, mobile traffic and specific page performance information can be obtained. This will help determine any efforts requiring enhancement and/or modification to the app's features.

A major feature of the app that all Airmen can utilize is the ability to capture leads and refer them to AFRS, enabling the We Are All Recruiters program to better managed.

"One of the main tenets of the Aim High app is to enable all Airmen to capture leads and be able to pass them directly to AFRS," O'Donley said. "By broadening recruiting, the Air Force will increase the pool of qualified recruits and, in turn, increase the appropriate



CHRISSY CUTTITA

*Tech. Sgt. Dave Valencia (left), Air Force Recruiting Service Innovation, and Chief Master Sgt. Jason O'Donley, Superintendent of AFRS Innovation, prepare for a briefing on the Aim High mobile application earlier this year at Headquarters AFRS, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.*

career-to-Airman matches."

In its current state, the Aim High app can send normal and "A-list" referrals, which is a lead captured within the app that is given priority and by-passes normal recruit filtering. Instead, the referral goes straight to a recruiter, ensuring quality leads are handled in a timely and expedient fashion, O'Donley said.

The app can also be used by recruits' family and friends of those as they attend Basic Military Training, giving them a sneak peek into the training environment of their loved one.

"Through the app, recruits can invite family and friends to experience basic military training through photos throughout the entire process," O'Donley said. "This feature does two things: increases the

number of people using the Aim High app and shows a snapshot of what the initial steps into the Air Force are really like for their Airman."

As AFRS continues to evolve into a Total Force enterprise, it is important that all events throughout the Total Force are available to be seen by everyone.

"The Aim High app currently integrates active duty and Reserve events into one location," O'Donley said. "The integration of the Air National Guard events is in progress. The events feature is the first step of Total Force integration in the app. The Aim High app is taking disparate, component-centric data sources (normally viewed separately) and integrating them into a comprehensive, user-friendly experience."

Additionally, capturing direct user feedback allows users to report issues all within the framework of the app. Utilization of this feedback will enable management to prioritize requests and provide features quickly.

"One cool feature with the app is any user can send feedback and it goes straight into a log we keep with developers," O'Donley said. "We review all the feedback from our users, whether it's a glitch or an issue that might have outdated information or if they want a feature added. With this information, we will consider future capabilities of the app. We want to know what users want."

The Aim High app can be download on android or IOS. Type in "Aim High" in the app store to find and download.

# Weeklong voter registration effort for military kicks off June 28

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Service members and their voting-age family members will soon be able to participate in a weeklong voter registration effort.

During Armed Forces Voters Week, June 28-July 5, Federal Post Card Applications will be delivered to service members and their families as part of a program to encourage them to vote.

“Since the general election is right around the corner on Nov. 3, now is the time to register to vote and request your absentee ballot,” said Shancii Brown, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph voting assistance officer. “This process ensures that voting requirements are met by deadlines prior to the election. The FPCA acts as both a registration and absentee ballot request form.”

Military families may be uncertain of

deciding where to register to vote due to factors such as duty locations, place of birth and home of record, Brown said.

“While some want to vote locally, there are others who choose to vote in their state of permanent residence or hometown,” she said. “In short, that decision is up to the individual.”

Because voting requirements vary from state to state, it is important for people to stay informed and know what the requirements are for wherever they plan to vote, Brown said.

“It is also vital that voters know how to request their absentee ballot as well as when, where and how to return it to their election office,” she said. “This is where your unit voting assistance officer can assist.”

Prospective voters also have the option of downloading the FPCA online at the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at

<http://www.fvap.gov>, printing it and submitting it by mail to complete the voter registration process.

The FVAP is a Department of Defense organization that works to ensure service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so from anywhere in the world.

During Armed Forces Voters Week, U.S. military installations, embassies, consulates and overseas citizens groups offer voter registration opportunities as part of Independence Day celebrations.

For more information, contact the unit voting assistance officer at any JBSA location. For JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, contact D.C. Lanier at 210-221-2705 or 210-221-2418; Hazel Wong at JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-3722; or Shancii Brown at JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-5321.



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# T-7A Red Hawk achieves another design goal

From Air Force Life Cycle Management Center Public Affairs

The Air Force is a step closer to finalizing the design for its 4th and 5th Generation Advanced Pilot Trainer, the

T-7A Red Hawk.

Boeing and the U.S. Air Force recently conducted both the Aircraft Critical Design Review, or CDR, and overall System CDR during a 3-day summit culminating 18 months of development work on the

program, in which Air Education and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph also participated.

“This is an important step forward in the life of this program,” said Shanika Sims,

Air Vehicle Branch Chief. “This design review further solidifies the aircraft and subsystem designs, bringing the T-7A Red Hawk closer to production.”

The CDR analyzed the ability of the T-7A subsystems and overall platform to deliver the capabilities required to train 4th and 5th generation fighter pilots. Specifically, these reviews looked carefully at subsystems such as the new escape system, engine/proulsion integration, and external pylons. Systems engineering processes were used to ensure that the platform design can effectively and successfully deliver the advanced level of training required by new pilots headed for fighters like the F-22 and F-35.

“The combined Government and Boeing team continues to leverage outside-the-box thinking, process tailoring, and are ‘breaking the norms’ by utilizing advanced engineering digital design practices to design, test, and produce aircraft, enabling faster delivery of a high-quality

product to the warfighter,” Sims said.

Many such design reviews are conducted face-to-face, but COVID-19 required personnel from around the country to adapt and collaborate remotely. These design reviews were conducted virtually, between the Air Force program office out of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Boeing T-7A Red Hawk program office in St. Louis, Missouri. Air Education and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, and the Air Force Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California, also participated.

The T-7A program kicked off in September 2018 when the Air Force awarded Boeing a \$9.2 billion contract to replace Air Education and Training Command’s aging T-38C fleet with 351 T-7 training aircraft, along with 46 simulators and associated ground equipment. The capabilities of the T-7 will provide student pilots with skills necessary to more effectively transition to 4th & 5th generation fighter/bomber aircraft.



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