

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

AUGUST 21, 2020



Sgt. Spencer Caudill, a U.S. Army Reserve patient administration specialist from China Grove, N.C., arrives as part of Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force-7458 to Joint Base San Antonio July 26.

SGT. 1ST CLASS KENNETH SCOTT

JBSA supports task forces deployed to area hospitals

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Randolph grad earns Girl Scout award

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New Army Digital Garrison app serves as guide to on-post services

By Devon Suits
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army has launched the new Digital Garrison mobile app that provides information and facilitates access to a full array of on-post services, as part of a partnership with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES.

The app, which can be downloaded on Android and Apple devices, provides users with secure access to facility information and other “quality-of-life” services by consolidating data from three related networks, said Scott Malcom, Army Installation Management Command public affairs director.

“It puts real-time installation information in everybody’s pockets,” Malcom said. “There are hundreds of thousands of people that access Army installations every day. Almost everyone carries a cell phone. The app will add value to their time spent on an installation — whether it is to live, work, train, or play.”

App features

Within the easy-to-use app, Soldiers, families, veterans, and civilians living or working at a Digital Garrison-enabled post can access resources about their local exchange; Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program; and other services.

More than 60 installations are represented on the app, with plans to add more in future updates, Malcom said. Joint bases operated by other services and select garrisons without sites on the networks that feed the app will not be incorporated in the initial launch.

Users can customize the app to meet their needs. Digital Garrison will include an installation directory, gate

locations and hours, fitness and recreation options, weather, event information, and more, he said.

Soldiers and families who are new to an area can also access in-processing and other newcomer material before a permanent change of station, Malcom said.

“When they do move, they enjoy the continuity provided by an enterprise solution,” he added.

Digital Garrison also provides an in-app shopping function through ShopMyExchange.com, along with local AAFES shopping and restaurant details. It also features a mobile wallet function where shoppers can use their MILITARY STAR card.

Program officials are set to continually improve the app through daily updates, based on in-app feedback from users, in addition to regularly scheduled major updates.

One of the first major updates will include local commissary information and a link to Click2Go, the Defense Commissary Agency’s online grocery ordering portal and curbside pickup service, but only if the capability is available at a given installation.

“Feedback is very important to us,” Malcom said. “The app includes a feedback portion where users can communicate and help us shape it going forward. This is not a ‘one and done.’ Users can count on the fact that we will continually optimize the app after launch.”

Push notifications for emergencies are also an important feature of the app, Malcom said. For example, installation officials may send a pre-drafted notification during an active-shooter situation or at times of inclement weather.

Leaders will also have the ability to write their own



COURTESY GRAPHIC

customized messages and announcements to distribute to the force through the app after the first major update scheduled to occur at the end of August, Malcom said.

Residents of on-post housing can link to their installation’s privatized housing partner, he said. Personnel living in military housing will eventually have a similar capability.

Digital Garrison will become the Army enterprise mobile app for installations, Malcom added. Local app solutions will cease, ensuring all applicable garrisons comply with the Federal Information Security Management Act and other cybersecurity protocols.

Bridging capabilities

The partnership that brought the Digital Garrison app to life started in July 2019, Malcom said. At that time, the Exchange, IMCOM, and Army MWR were all developing apps to essentially do the same thing — provide information about on-post services or activities.

“The Exchange is honored to partner with the Army to ensure the 125-year-old Exchange benefit remains relevant to its communities,” said Karen Cardin, AAFES senior vice president for customer experience.

The team released a Digital Garrison beta version in January, which fueled a more significant test of it in early March. During the limited user evaluation, a total of 10 installations throughout the U.S., including Hawaii and Alaska, and Germany were chosen by program officials to participate, Malcom said.

“During that process, we learned how garrisons should prepare their online data to optimize its presentation in the app,” he said. “We learned that the better a garrison maintains its websites that feed Digital Garrison, the better the garrison is represented in it. The pilot allowed us to work out all the details and provide clear instructions to all the installations feeding the app to prepare their data for transmission.”

The decision to create the app shows the Army’s eagerness to transition from the “industrial age to the information age,” Malcom said.

“The Exchange worked side-by-side with IMCOM to put real-time information in the hands of Soldiers, families and civilians,” Cardin added. “Digital Garrison is another chapter in our long relationship with Army families, allowing us to fulfill our mission to make life better for those who serve.”

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Feedback Fridays

By 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 jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Q. I understand and support the Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center closing to the public recently, however I do not support continuing to keep all lifeguards on staff full time.

Now that the aquatic center is only open for lap swim and training, keeping all the summer hires on a full-time 40-hour-a-week schedule means most of them will be sitting around doing nothing most of the time. This is government waste and abuse of funds.

If we have so much extra money that we can afford to pay lifeguards to sit around an empty pool much of the day, why did we try to recruit free help this spring at the commissary during the COVID-19 rush with restocking instead of hiring stockers?

There are so many things I can think of that would be a better use of this money. We could pay to have gates open longer hours, fix small infrastructure issues, or offer free hours of childcare to essential workers or those parents who have small children but don't want to expose them to others when they have an appointment or go grocery shopping. If the hours and users at the aquatic center are being greatly reduced then lifeguard staffing should reflect these changes.

I appreciate the head of the pool trying to keep full time hours for his lifeguards, but I would question if it is necessary. I don't know the numbers of lifeguards hired this summer versus last summer when the pool was at full capacity, but it



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would seem with less people allowed in the pool at one time, there should be less lifeguards this summer or less hours if the number of lifeguards is the same as last summer.

A. Thank you for your comments and concerns. The Fort Sam Houston Aquatics Center reopened for recreational swim July 27 and the lifeguards who we retained are much needed to provide the quality of life and resiliency programs offered through open recreational and lap swimming.

As the summer draws to an end, the summer hire contracts will expire and the number of lifeguards will be greatly reduced. Also, the operating hours of JBSA pools will be reduced starting mid-August and some will close by September.

Q. Why do the workers at the Fort Sam Houston commissary have to re-verify DOD ID cards after the front door worker and the self-checkout machine has already done so? I understand that during HPCON Charlie patrons must show DOD IDs to get in. However, having

another person re-validate the DoD ID in a self-checkout counter doesn't make sense and slows the process.

A. Thank you for the honest feedback. The commissary is currently following DeCA regulation DeCAM 40-6.1, July 1, 2015. It states that if the installation commander has directed that everyone must be identified as an authorized patron when entering the commissary (i.e., 100 percent ID check at the door), and visitors or guests are not allowed, ID cards must still be presented again at the register and scanned.

ID's must be checked at the door to get in and then they must be checked once again at the register to verify the actual patron is making the purchase. We are sorry for any inconveniences this may have caused you.

Q. My son is a recent graduate of Basic Military Training, and the fourth of my children to do through the years.

However this time, due to COVID-19, there were no public graduations, and I get that. However, no parent pins were

offered to the Airmen.

I want him to get his parent pins to be able to give to us when he gets out of technical school.

I know it's just a pin, but to me, it is now a missing piece of my very proud collection that is displayed on my wall in my office that his siblings had the opportunity to do that he is not offered. How can this be corrected? I will look forward to your reply. Thank you for your service.

A. First, we want to say what an honor it is for our Air Force to have four siblings from your family serving in our ranks!

As for your inquiry of a parent pin, that is an item that can be purchased online through outside vendors. However, Basic Military Training does not have a customary pin that it gives out to graduating Airmen for their families.

We appreciate your understanding of in-person graduations not taking place at this time and wish you well in finding the pin you are looking for to honor your fourth child's graduation from BMT.

Community College of the Air Force reveals plans for new degree program

By **Airman 1st Class Jackson Manske**
AIR UNIVERSITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Community College of the Air Force announced plans for a new degree program slated for launch in 2021.

The new Associate of Applied Science in Military Technology and Applied Sciences Management degree is a flexible alternative for enlisted personnel serving in Air Force specialties lacking enough formal skills training to meet current degree program requirements, said Dr. Hank Dasinger, the dean of CCAF.

Approximately 12,000 students in the following Air Force specialties will benefit from the roll-out of the MTASM degree:

- » iC5X1 Command and Control Battle Management Ops
- » iN7X1 Human Intelligence Specialist
- » 2A5X1A Airlift/Special Mission Aircraft
- » 3DoX1 Knowledge Operations Management
- » 3E851 Explosive Ordnance Disposal
- » 3F4X1 Equal Opportunity
- » 3NoX2 Broadcast Journalist
- » 3NoX5 Photojournalist
- » 3NiX1 Regional Band
- » 33N2X1 Premier Band
- » 8A200 Enlisted Aide
- » 8C000 Amn and Family Readiness Non-commissioned Officer

» 8B100 Military Training Leader

» 8F000 First Sergeant

» 8P100 Defense Attaché

» 9L000 Interpreter and Translator

“This degree also provides a pathway for enlisted personnel from other U.S. military services participating in CCAF-affiliated education and training programs as authorized by the recent National Defense Authorization Act of 2020,” Dasinger said.

There are several key differences between the MTASM and existing vocationally based degree programs:

- » Introduces requirement of 39 total semester hours for leadership/leadership-related courses and military science and technology courses in lieu of technical core and elective courses.
 - » Reinstates an oral communication requirement of three semester hours in lieu of a second written communication requirement.
 - » Eliminates the physical education requirement decreasing the total hours required for degree completion from 64 to 60 semester hours.
 - » Introduces opportunity for six semester hours in open elective courses.
- The MTASM degree also permits students to pursue a concentration in specific topics of compelling interest to the Department of the Air Force. Anticipated topics include areas such as



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The Community College of the Air Force announced plans for a new degree program slated for launch in 2021.

space operations, cybersecurity and ethical leadership.

In addition to developing this new degree program, CCAF has also made several academic policy changes regarding existing degrees. The following changes took effect April 1, 2020:

- » Reduced technical core requirement from 12 to nine semester hours
- » Discontinued awarding

apprentice-level specialty internship credit (INT3000/SDI3000)

» Discontinued special duty internship credit

» Replaced specialty internship credit (INT5000/7000) with upgrade training credit (UGT5000/7000)

For more information regarding the new degree program and policy changes, visit <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Barnes/CCAF/>.

Air Force improves assignment process for parents

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

The Department of the Air Force recently announced great news for parents — the ability to defer an assignment or be stationed near their children with a court-ordered child custody decree.

Assignment authorities will now be able to consider requests for an assignment or deferment to a location near their children, even if the co-parents are not married.

“We recognize family dynamics don’t always look the same and there is not a one-size-fits-all solution to managing people’s careers and assignments,” said



U.S. AIR FORCE

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Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services. “We ask our people to move

frequently and we know that can cause additional stress and sacrifices for their families. This change gives us the flexibility needed to better take care of them.”

Service members are still required to fill valid manning requirements, perform the duties in which they are trained, and meet all PCS eligibility requirements without waivers.

“This is one we’ve been working on for a while, and I’m glad we could get it across the finish line,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright. “You know, this Air Force life is a family business. As such, we owe it to our teammates to make sure they have every opportunity to keep their family

together whenever possible.”

Service members who are named as a parent, either biological or adopted, and have a court-ordered child custody agreement are eligible to apply. Assignment matches will be made when possible, and must meet the best needs of the Department of the Air Force.

Criteria for court-ordered child custody assignments and deferments vary, so consult the new Air Force Guidance Memorandum AFI 36-2110 for details.

In order to apply, Airmen can submit their application through myPers. Instructions are outlined in the PSD Guide, Voluntary Assignments: CCCA/CCCD.

Donating plasma may be key in fight against COVID-19

By Mackenzie Walsh

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Michael Place sits in a chair, squeezing a red droplet-shaped stress ball. The apheresis machine, which separates plasma from blood, beeps like a video game, echoing something Place said earlier.

"It's a virus — we can win."
COVID-19 doesn't discriminate against who it infects — even general officers are susceptible.

Place, commanding general of the 18th Medical Command and the U.S. Army Pacific surgeon as of July 31, contracted COVID-19 in March of this year before coming to Hawaii for his current assignment. He is an example of the importance of getting tested even with mild symptoms. He never developed a cough but experienced a few days of fatigue and was febrile overnight. He stresses the importance of seeking medical guidance and self-isolation to protect your loved ones, even though it is difficult after you no longer feel ill.

Known as COVID Convalescent Plasma — CCP — it's the liquid part of blood collected from patients who have recovered from the virus and now have antibodies that can be used to help others recover.

This is Place's third donation of CCP and his first at Tripler Army Medical Center's Blood Donor Center. An ardent supporter of the Armed Services Blood Program, Place has been contributing blood and blood products for more than 30 years.

When Place got the call asking him to donate CCP after recovery, he was excited to contribute to the fight and plans to continue donating as long as they let him.

"This is Soldiers and Soldiers' Families taking care of Soldiers," Place said.

Convalescent plasma is an additional therapeutic option being used under the Food and Drug Administration's Investigational New Drug protocol while the world searches for a coronavirus vaccine. The FDA hopes the treatment will improve clinical outcomes in COVID-19 patients. The Defense Health Agency is currently

leading an effort to collect 10,000 CCP units by Sept. 30. DHA was halfway towards that goal as of July 30.

After undergoing testing for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, collected units of plasma will be available for the treatment of COVID-positive patients in military treatment facilities, contributing to the readiness of our force and overall research on this virus. Cleared units are then frozen and remain usable for one year.

Similar to blood donation, plasma cannot be universally donated and units are only compatible with certain blood types.

"The more stockpiles we get filled up, the more lives we can potentially save," said 1st Lt. Joshua Boggess, the officer in charge of the Tripler Blood Donor Center.

The donation process takes a bit longer than a standard blood donation of five to ten minutes. Donating plasma takes just under an hour of collection time. After determining eligibility, staff checks vital signs to ensure patients are healthy enough to donate.

"You sit in this comfortable chair for a little while, they take the plasma from you," Place said, "and give you some cookies and snacks and some departure gifts."

In June 2020, the Department of Defense began an effort to collect donated units of plasma from patients who have fully recovered from COVID-19 to support the development of an effective treatment against the disease. The DOD's goal is to obtain 10,000 units by Sept. 30, 2020.

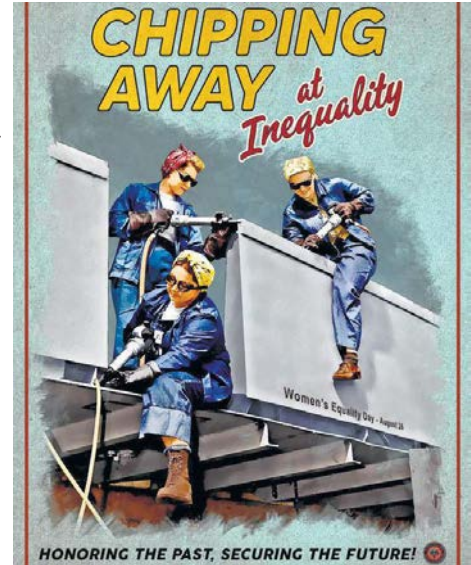
Donations will be accepted at Armed Services Blood Program donation centers across the continental United States, and in Hawaii, Guam and Germany, or through scheduled mobile collection drives.

Collected CCP will be available for the treatment of COVID-positive patients in DoD treatment facilities who meet established criteria and in accordance with approved protocols. CCP may also be pre-positioned with Combatant Commands in the event of approval for prophylactic use.

For more info on donating, visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

JBSA TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY VIRTUALLY

In observance of Women's Equality Day Aug. 26, Joint Base San Antonio will provide a virtual presentation, including a video featuring some of JBASA's prominent women leaders, the official Women's Equality Day poster, and a fact sheet. August 26, 2020, marks 100 years since the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees women's right to vote. Additionally, informational display tables will be placed at Exchange locations across JBASA. Visitors to the Exchanges are encouraged to follow COVID-19 health and safety measures, including practicing physical distancing. For more information, contact the Civilian Personnel Section at 210-221-1408 or usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.jbsa-fsh-cps@mail.mil.



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FORT SAM HOUSTON

New MEDCoE Combat Paramedic Program class graduates

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Overcoming challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, or COVID-19, the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston has graduated its first class from a new paramedic training program that started in January.

Service members completed the requirements for graduation from the Combat Paramedic Program, or CPP, a 30-week pilot course that teaches and trains students who want to become Army flight paramedics in more than 100 skills and competencies they will need to utilize for various operational and combat situations.

CPP combines aspects of the previously contracted paramedic program and the former Expeditionary Combat Medic Program, the advanced combat medic training pilot course that started in 2017.

Maj. Chris Gonzalez, MEDCoE CPP program director and instructor, said students and instructors in the CPP course faced many challenges that were brought about because of COVID-19. He said both students and instructors met the challenges head on by being flexible to changes that were made to ensure their health and safety, including going to a virtual learning platform in March, during the third month of the course.

"Exceptionally," said Gonzalez about how students and instructors adapted to the changes that were brought about in the course. "I give a great deal of credit to both the students and the instructors for their ability to remain flexible and patient and understanding with the situation and realizing that a lot of these events that are occurring around us are entirely out of our control, and then being able to focus on what is within our ability to control and what was within our decision space and implementing those things."

Gonzalez said instructors had about a week to come up with a plan when the decision was made in March to go to a virtual learning platform for classroom instruction.

The plan CPP instructors implemented for students included asynchronous learning, which includes a posting board and recorded lectures from instructors, and synchronous learning, which includes virtual meeting platforms that support live instruction.

Gonzalez said his team of 21 course instructors initiated modified teaching methods in a short amount of time that worked for the students while keeping the basic curriculum of the course intact.

"To my team's credit, they developed a lot of methods for ensuring that students were understanding the material," Gonzalez said. "I think early on they learned a lot of lessons on what worked and what didn't



COURTESY PHOTO

A service member with the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston participates in a field training exercise during the Combat Paramedic Program course at JBSA-Camp Bullis in June.

work and what was effective and not so effective. They were able to rapidly implement changes so that to ensure that students were receiving the most out of their education and we were able to most effectively validate their learning."

For training activities in which in-person instruction was necessary, Gonzalez said precautions were taken to flatten the coronavirus curve including wearing of masks and gloves for both students and instructors, maintaining social distancing and reducing proximity to those students and instructors directly involved in that skill.

In addition, training equipment was wiped down between uses.

The same health and safety precautions were also taken during the course's field training exercises at JBSA-Camp Bullis, which included tactical combat

casualty care to disease non-battle injury care to prolonged care scenarios.

The field training at JBSA-Camp Bullis takes 10 days, with students sleeping in the field. Gonzalez said to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, students were spread out in their living spaces in the field to maintain proper social distance.

The graduation ceremony for the first class of CPP students, known as Class 500, had been scheduled for Aug. 17. It was canceled after Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, MEDCoE commanding general, issued an order prohibiting in-person graduations of more than 10 personnel because of the pandemic.

Graduating students received their certifications of completion for the CPP and go through out-processing activities Aug. 17-18.

Gonzalez said what the

students experienced and had to go through in CPP, especially with the changes they had to adapt to, will prepare them for the next levels of critical care flight paramedic training and for what they will encounter as Army paramedics.

"The expectation is that Army Soldiers are able to deal with adversity and still continue to press forward to achieve our objectives," Gonzalez said. "Their successful graduation attests to their ability to navigate challenges and achieve those outcomes."

Graduates of the CPP course have an additional 12 weeks of training, eight at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in a critical care paramedic course and four at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in aviation crewmember training. Upon successful completion of the entire program, they will become Army paramedics and will go on to their duty assignments.

The second CPP class, Class 501, started March 31 and is expected to be completed by Oct. 30. The third group of CPP students, Class 502, started Aug. 10.

Gonzalez said he and the rest of the instructors have and will continue to make improvements in how they conduct the CPP course based on feedback they have received from students.

"Class 500, our first class, we learned a lot," he said. "We started to make adjustments already for Class 501 (the second class) to improve their experience and using feedback from both Class 500 and Class 501, we're making adjustments for Class 502 to make it even better. Again, we're in this process of continual improvement to ensure our students are getting the most benefit from their education."

Joint Base San Antonio supports task forces deployed to local hospitals

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As service members descended upon San Antonio to provide COVID-19 support to Texas hospitals, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron personnel were simultaneously conducting critical missions to ensure arriving health care workers were ready to relieve local hospitals and support communities across Texas.

The Deployment and Distribution Flight of the 502nd LRS supported arriving personnel for Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force-627, based out of Fort Carson, Colorado, and UAMTF-MEDCOM by providing lodging, transportation and other needed logistics.

"The Ground Transportation Element has been supporting the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), or 4th ESC, UAMTF-627, and UAMTF-MEDCOM, based here, with 21 self-drive vans and sedans in San Antonio," said Grace M. Cormier-Johnson, 502nd LRS executive director. "We have also transported over 570 medics for in-processing and lodging."

The commander of UAMTF-627, Lt. Col. Jason W. Hughes, said the resources provided by the 502nd LRS were critical to their mission.

"The JBSA logistics team allowed us to immediately move out to our five locations with transportation assets," he said. "They understood the criticality of our requirement, with multiple shifts at multiple facilities. Their help allowed us to get 78 physicians, nurses and medics into the facilities, prior to the peak to help sustain and save lives here in San Antonio."



SGT. 1ST CLASS KENNETH SCOTT

U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. Michael Grober, a practical nursing specialist from Augusta, Georgia, carries his bags upon arrival to San Antonio as part of the Department of Defense COVID-19 response, July 26.

In addition to ground transportation, Deployment and Distribution Flight personnel have assisted with Air Terminal Operations by offloading 88 medics and their baggage from one commercial aircraft and another 170 medics with eight tons of baggage from another, Cormier-Johnson said.

"Our highly-skilled workforce accomplished their assigned duties and responsibilities with such

dedication, professionalism, and empathy, supporting our local San Antonio community and the communities of our great State of Texas," she said. "Our workforce, our JBSA mission partners, and the City of San Antonio stood ready, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to receive all the augmentees in support of the Department of Defense COVID-19 response."

In addition to the reception of task force personnel for

local support, San Antonio is also the arrival hub for pandemic support personnel deploying to locations across Texas.

"The 502nd LRS's Passenger Movement Element, in support of COVID-19 response activities, coordinated and scheduled 15 commercial charter buses for onward movement of 410 medics to six other employment locations within Texas,"

Cormier-Johnson said.

"Our Plans and Integration Section supported the 4th ESC by validating all logistical bed-down and onward movement support requirements and validating the logistical feasibility of their Reverse Joint Reception, Onward Movement, and Integration, or RJROSI, Basic Concept of Operations," she said.

As deployments in support of COVID-19 operations continue, the personnel at the 502nd LRS will sustain logistical support during augmentee arrivals and as they travel to their destinations to join the fight.

"The extreme importance of providing this type of logistical support to our assigned UAMTFs is two-fold," Cormier-Johnson said. "It eliminates the stress and worries for the medical personnel to have to obtain or figure out where they will lay their heads to recharge, and how they will get to-and-from their assigned hospitals to aid and care for the citizens of San Antonio and elsewhere. Our actions allow these highly-skilled, medical professionals the ability to focus on providing critical, top-notch medical care to our citizens in need."

U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) as the Joint Force Land Component Command for all federal ground troops, remains committed to providing flexible support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in support of the whole-of-America COVID-19 response. The 502nd LRS continues to deliver responsive and efficient logistics support to enable mission partner success as "America's LRS - Supporting Those Who Serve!"

Back to school immunizations: What you need to know

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Whether children physically attend classes or participate in online learning this fall, getting their scheduled immunizations remains an important part of back-to-school planning.

The San Antonio Military Health System stands ready to help parents meet their children's immunization and vaccination requirements, as well as back-to-school and sports physicals.

"Brooke Army Medical Center and the entire SAMHS have been working together in the primary care setting to maintain access to immunizations for our patients," said Army Col. Timothy Switaj, chief, Department of Family and Community Medicine at BAMC.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, the process is different and may change throughout the course of the summer and early fall based on the burden in our area," Switaj said. "Clinics are working hard to ensure that our patients have access to timely immunizations."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on-time

vaccination throughout childhood is essential because it helps provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases. However, following the arrival of COVID-19 the medical community has seen a decrease in the use of routine preventive medical services, including immunization services. Vaccines are tested to ensure that they are safe and effective for children to receive at the recommended ages.

"Ensuring that routine vaccination is continued during the COVID-19 pandemic is essential for protecting our children and our community as a whole from vaccine-preventable illnesses," said Army Maj. Kayla Jaeger, chief of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at BAMC. "By preventing these illnesses, together we can work to decrease unnecessary medical visits, hospitalizations and strain to the healthcare system at BAMC and across the San Antonio Military Health System."

"This is going to become especially important during the upcoming influenza season," she added. "Getting the influenza vaccine on time, when



SPC ADAM TURNER

The San Antonio Military Health System stands ready to help parents meet their children's immunization and vaccination requirements, as well as back-to-school and sports physicals.

released in the early fall, will be essential to reducing the impact of respiratory illnesses in our community and also reducing the resulting burden on our healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic."

According to HealthyChildren.org, most childhood vaccines are 90 to 99 percent effective in preventing disease. And, if a vaccinated child does get the disease, the symptoms are usually less serious than in a child who hasn't been vaccinated.

For the CDC's 2020 recommended child and adolescent immunization schedules, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html>

How to Schedule an Appointment

To schedule a virtual appointment for your child for any routine or acute concern, beneficiaries are encouraged to call CAMO at 210-916-9900. At this time, each individual clinic is scheduling its own face-to-face encounters.

"There are several ways to get into contact with your clinic to schedule a face-to-face appointment for immunizations or a needed health maintenance visit," Switaj said. "Parents can schedule an appointment by calling CAMO to leave a telephone message for their child's Primary Care Management team, can send a secure message, using Tricare Online Secure Messaging, or call their child's primary care clinic to coordinate a face-to-face appointment for immunizations if the clinic does not

offer walk-in services."

For children enrolled in the BAMC General Pediatric Clinic, the Schertz Medical Home, the Westover Hills Medical Home, or the Taylor Burk Clinic, immunizations will be given in conjunction with a booked appointment. Any immunizations needed in conjunction with a well-baby visit or well-child physical (4- and 11-year-olds) should have the well visit first in order to receive immunizations.

For patients enrolled in the Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine Clinic, immunizations can be given in conjunction with a booked appointment or are available on a walk-in basis Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., or Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Enrolled patients can also walk-in for repeat Depo-Provera injections or screening/treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.

For patients enrolled in the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center Pediatric Clinic, immunizations can be completed on a walk-in basis at the WHASC Immunization Clinic, located on 3rd floor D wing Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., or Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Immunizations are also available on a walk-in basis at the Randolph Pediatric Clinic Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additional Safety Precautions

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all patients and family members entering any Joint Base San Antonio facility will be expected to wear a face mask and practice social distancing.

All patients, 18 years and older, are expected to enter the clinic alone. Patients under 18 years old are allowed one person to accompany them. If necessary, the provider can call the parent/guardian who's waiting outside for any specific concerns.

If there are any forms that will need to be completed by the provider during the visit (physical forms, etc.), parents are asked to have their portion of the forms completed prior to the appointment and to bring the forms to the appointment.

If anyone attending the appointment develops signs or symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, sore throat, vomiting or shortness of breath, the appointment should be rescheduled for when they are feeling well.

BAMC doctor hopes to 'level the playing field' for women

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force Col. (Dr.) Heather Yun is the epitome of being in the right place at the right time. Less than a month after she became the newest leader on the command team, Yun found herself perfectly situated to help shape Brooke Army Medical Center's COVID-19 pandemic response.

Coincidence or just good fortune, the new deputy commander for medical services also happens to be an infectious disease physician, a specialty that's accustomed to scrutinizing the globe for potential viral outbreaks and devising ways to contain them.

"I was fortunate to be in the command suite early on with the expertise and opportunity to ring those early warning bells and help put the pieces in motion," Yun said.

Yun first became alarmed in January after reports emerged of a growing viral threat overseas. By the time it reached the U.S. via a traveler from Wuhan, China, later that month, Yun was already advocating for a forward-thinking and fast-moving plan to help protect the hospital's staff and patients from the intensifying viral threat.

Collaborating with leaders across the organization, Yun helped form teams to tackle everything from personal protective equipment supply to medications to testing protocols. In March and with a national emergency declared, BAMC began implementing key aspects of that plan, to include a screening and testing site in the parking lot, curbside pharmacy and a delay in elective procedures.

"We made quick decisions," she said. "I had to forgive myself in advance for mistakes. I always say, 'You can't let perfect be the enemy of good.' It's better to put a plan in motion and adjust fire later than wait for a perfect plan that may never come."

It's a lesson Yun learned over the course of her more than 20-year military medical career.

Family footsteps

The Delta, Colorado native had always been a hard-charger who dreamed of following in the footsteps of the men in her family — all doctors. She'd look under her father's microscope as a child and later would tag along when her dad, an internist, went on rounds.

At the time, she didn't give her gender a second thought in relation to a career. "My dad was really supportive of his kids pursuing their passion. I didn't have any reason to believe I couldn't achieve my goals."

She set her sights on Yale Medical School, and with the help of an Air Force Health Professions Scholarship Program, was given a free ride at an Ivy League school in exchange for military service.

When she graduated, she became her family's fourth-generation doctor and first Air Force officer, diverging from her family's Army legacy. Her father had served in the Army and three of her four grandparents were Army World War II veterans, including a grandmother in the Army Nurse Corps.

Yun recalled how her grandfather, also a physician, had an above-the-knee amputation from a childhood



JASON W. EDWARDS

U.S. Air Force Col. (Dr.) Heather Yun, Deputy Commander for Medical Services, is an infectious disease physician playing a critical role in BAMC's COVID-19 response.

infection but was intent on serving. "During the war, you could get a waiver to serve as a physician if you had a below-the-knee amputation; he wanted to serve so he said his amputation was below-the-knee. No one checked until much later when it was time to come home again."

Bright future

Ingrained with that same determination, Yun moved on to a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in infectious disease at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

"I was fascinated by infectious disease; it's a

field that's constantly challenging and ever-changing," she said. "It also crosses over every specialty so we have tremendous opportunities to help a wide array of patients."

Infectious disease physicians specialize in illnesses caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites, whether airborne, waterborne or transmitted by a person or animal. A key area of focus is preventing hospital-acquired infections and organisms resistant to antibiotics. Within the military, infectious disease doctors commonly work with population health, trainee outbreak investigations, medical research, policymaking and more, she explained.

"In ID, we obtain the story, the patient history, that no one else gets," Yun said. "We investigate to find the link between what is going on and what caused it."

In 2007, Yun moved with the infectious disease mission to BAMC and has climbed the ranks since, serving most recently as the chief for the Department of Medicine before taking on a deputy commander role.

When Yun isn't leading the five major departments that fall in her leadership lane, she's in scrubs conducting COVID-19 patient consults in the intensive care units and mentoring the infectious disease fellows at BAMC, a longstanding program that trains up to 12 physicians per year. Mentorship is a topic that's always been near and dear to her heart, she said.

"I had amazing mentors and sponsors, both men and women, who supported me throughout my career," she said.

Inspiring others

The only exception, she recalled, was as a major when confronted by diverging paths. When she looked around, the military medical landscape was nearly devoid of women senior to her, particularly those who were married with children, and she briefly considered

a civilian career.

"I at first wondered if my situation wasn't practical or desirable," she said. "But then I realized I needed to be here to show other women that they can do it too. Over the years, I've had younger women tell me that it's been important to have someone senior to them whose life looks like theirs."

While the military has come a long way regarding females in the higher ranks, Yun sees more progress to come. To foster mentorship, Yun led the "Women in Medicine" program at BAMC for three years and helped pilot a co-ed military medicine mentorship program for physicians. Most recently, she became the command liaison for the new Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

"Even if you only get discriminated against 1-2 percent at each transition point over the course of your career, it adds up and it's easy to get the message that you don't belong. We can't just assume by being patient, these issues will take care of themselves. We have to address those pivotal moments at every transition point and level the playing field for everyone."

Yun has tackled many roles over the course of her career — student, doctor, mentor, leader, wife, mother, singer (she's a member of the San Antonio Choral Society), and endurance triathlete, but is nowhere near the finish line. With COVID-19 at hand and other challenges ahead, Yun is eager to continue contributing on every front.

Navigating and integrating the challenges of work and home life hasn't always been easy, but it's been worth it. "I had to learn to have grace with myself, and to lean on my faith, my family and my colleagues," she said.

"I just hope that when women look around the current landscape, they see strong leaders of every gender, race, ethnicity and background and, most importantly, their own potential."

USAISR Soldiers on front line of national efforts to combat COVID-19

By Dr. Steven Galvan

U.S. ARMY INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL
RESEARCH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In the military medical world, perhaps no one plays the role of the unassuming hero better than U.S. Army medical laboratory specialist.

These vital players traditionally serve in military hospitals and clinics around the world, supporting lab services for patients while also providing expeditionary laboratory support to deployed service members.

At the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, or USAISR, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, laboratory specialists enjoy a more unique role away from direct patient care. At the USAISR, these Soldiers work in tandem with researchers and scientists to develop innovative ways to improve the care provided to wounded warfighters on the battlefield.

The current COVID-19 pandemic and the damage it has inflicted across the United States has provided a unique opportunity for 12 of the USAISR's medical laboratory specialists. These Soldiers have been called to apply their skills and experience in direct support of the national effort to combat this pandemic and help save the lives of patients suffering from the COVID-19 virus.

As part of Operation Warp Speed, a multi-agency, U.S. government initiative to facilitate and accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutic treatments, and diagnostic tests, the USAISR deployed these service members to the South

Texas Blood and Tissue Center, or STBTC, in San Antonio for 30 days to assist in the collection and distribution of COVID-19 convalescent plasma from volunteers who have recovered from COVID-19 infections.

"COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma, or CCP, is a licensed plasma product, the same as fresh frozen plasma, collected from COVID-19 patients whose infection was confirmed by laboratory tests and whose symptoms have resolved at least 14 days prior to collection," said Col. (Dr.) Andre Cap, USAISR director of research.

"The use of this product to treat COVID-19 is considered investigational by the Food and Drug Administration and can only occur in the context of an Expanded Access Investigational New Drug, or EA-IND, protocol or a single patient Emergency IND," Cap said. "CCP is available to civilians under the Mayo Clinic EA-IND or E-INDs and to military patients under both of these mechanisms as well as a Force Health Protection EA-IND."

The convalescent plasma collected at the STBTC is ordered by doctors and given to patients in both San Antonio and south Texas with severe COVID-19 disease to boost their ability to fight the virus.

According to Cap, patients whom he knows that have been treated with CCP have had positive results; an outcome which has only increased demand for the product.

The requests for CCP from the STBTC spiked in late spring and early summer; a demand which could not be met immediately due to a shortage of manpower. As a result, a call for



DR. STEVEN GALVAN

Sgt. Stephen Freed from the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research inspects a batch of COVID-19 convalescent plasma ready to be shipped from the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center.

support went out to those aforementioned USAISR Soldiers — along with four U.S. Public Health Service, or USPHS, officers — to help collaborate with STBTC staff to meet the demand.

Jose Quesada, STBTC director of manufacturing, said the additional personnel has made a positive impact since deploying in early July.

"Their contributions have tremendously impacted the operation and the production of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma at the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center," he added. "With the support of the USAISR Soldiers and the USPHS officers, the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center has been able to increase donor recruitment by 400 percent and collection by 150 percent in a two-week period. The STBTC organization is on target to provide 100 percent of the community needs within a week or less."

STBTC also plans on collecting and storing additional units of CCP in case there is another spike in COVID-19 cases in the future.

"The recruitment, collection, distribution and storage plan is underway to not only produce for the COVID-19 plasma needs of the community but to start storing for the required storage

of a national stockage plan as assigned by the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, or BARDA," Quesada said.

Sgt. Stephen Freed, USAISR non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the mission at the STBTC, said that being part of a mission that is supporting our nation and the local population to recover from this pandemic is extremely rewarding.

"The feeling that I get is beyond words that could express how each and every one of us feels for aiding in saving people's lives," Freed said. "The best part of being involved with this mission is knowing that one CCP unit collected is five more lives that have a better chance of recovering from COVID-19."

Volunteer donors like Christian Villalpando are provided information from healthcare providers on how to donate CCP after they have tested positive for COVID-19.

In Villalpando's case, he contacted the STBTC and was then screened to determine if he met the donation criteria. When asked why he was donating blood, he stated his mother was given a blood transfusion when she was alive.

"This is my way of giving back for something that was done for

her," he said.

As a part of the process of developing CCP, plasma is first separated from the blood before undergoing another, different separation process. By the end, one unit of plasma yields four to five units of CCP. On average, STBTC distributes more than 500 units of blood products and 30 to 40 units of CCP daily.

"This is crucial not only right now for the mission, but also for these Soldiers in future events like going down range to a blood support unit and being able to conduct a whole blood collection walking blood bank in the event of a mass casualty," Freed added. "The benefit that the Soldiers and the USAISR can get out of this whole mission is knowing that there is hope. Having COVID-19 donors and providing the next line of defense for those who are on respirators with the little bag of gold gives hope to everyone making this exponential."

"I am extremely proud of the work that our Soldiers are doing to support this mission," said Col. (Dr.) Mark Stackle, USAISR commander. "It's also gratifying to see how the Department of Defense can work together with other governmental and state agencies to make a difference in this national crisis."

BAMC microbiologist deploys to mobile medical lab

By Zaria Oates

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Brooke Army Medical Center microbiologist has deployed to a COVID-19 mobile medical lab at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. U.S. Army Capt. Eric Coate is the only BAMC staff member deployed to Camp Ripley and is the acting lab manager on the ground.

Mobile medical labs are moveable units that are modeled on the inside to handle COVID-19 specimen testing carefully and efficiently. The inside of the lab consists of bench space, biosafety cabinets and COVID-19 testing instruments.

While at Camp Ripley, Coate is surrounded by contractors and people affiliated with the Army's Criminal Investigation Division and Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense.

"There were very spur of the moment things we had to do at first and at times it was stressful but we built resiliency and were able to adapt to the change," Coate said.

While Coate was the only BAMC Soldier on the ground in Minnesota, he

also worked with Lt. Col. Robert Cybulski, Jr., director of microbiology, who oversaw the work remotely from BAMC.

Cybulski explains that the labs have sped up testing and if it weren't for the mobile medical labs, the national guardsmen being tested would have had to mail all of their tests to another medical location and wait for results before being deployed to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California.

There have been nearly 4,000 COVID-19 tests run at Camp Ripley as of the last testing date on July 28, 2020.

"This has been rewarding even from my remote work because I can see that we've been able to give medical providers and leaders their results quickly so they can get their deployment process moving," Cybulski said.

The workers on the ground in Minnesota have been able to give Soldiers their test results within an hour or two. If a Soldier tests positive they are put in barracks for designated isolation for 14 days. If a Soldier has been in contact with someone who tests positive, they are put in a different set of barracks to quarantine for 14 days. The local dining facility delivers three meals

a day to those in isolation and quarantine. Soldiers can place outside orders through a local store to be picked up by someone working at the site each day.

Army Lt. Col. Dean Stulz, the deputy state surgeon for the Minnesota National Guard, is currently caring for Soldiers in California but was crucial to early initiatives taken at Camp Ripley.

While Coate had to create a system for specimen labeling and accessioning, tracking specimens and making sure the test results were received by the provider, Stulz assisted with ensuring that the measures and guidelines were met.

"The test turnaround time exceeded expectations and helped things flow better," Stulz said.

Prior to any testing, Coate and Stulz had to ensure that all testing was Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act compliant and during testing, there was a collective force to ensure that every Soldier's results were uploaded to their medical records.

"The fruit of this experience was to hear from commanders and their thank-yous about being able to isolate those who are sick," Coate said.



JASON W. EDWARDS

Army Capt. Eric Coate, Molecular Diagnostics officer in charge, loads patient samples for COVID-19 ribonucleic acid (RNA) testing at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, April 9.

USAISR welcomes new senior enlisted leader

By Dr. Steven Galvan

U.S. ARMY INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL RESEARCH
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sgt. Maj. Jennifer A. Redding assumed responsibility as the senior enlisted leader of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research during a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Aug. 10.

Redding joins the Institute after a tour as the command sergeant major at the Medical Professional Training Brigade, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence/Training and Doctrine Command at JBAS-Fort Sam Houston.

"The USAISR has and will always be ready to answer the nation's call," Redding said. "We stand strong together in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. I am excited and honored to be a part of the USAISR and its full glorious history and accomplishments."

Redding has been in the Army for more than 21 years and has served as the



COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. Maj. Jennifer A. Redding (right) assumed responsibility as the senior enlisted leader of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research during a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Aug. 10.

command sergeant major with the 421st Medical Multifunctional Battalion in Baumholder, Germany; the 1st Medical Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas; and the MEDCoE/TRADOC at JBAS-Fort Sam Houston.

It is clear to me that Sgt. Maj. Redding

possesses exactly the kind of diverse experience that we need at the USAISR," said USAISR Commander Col. (Dr.) Mark E. Stackle during his remarks. "Your reputation as a caring and compassionate professional who not only upholds the high standards of the Army profession but does so while teaching, coaching and mentoring those around you epitomizes the ideals of the senior non-commissioned officer."

Redding enlisted in the Army in 1998 and has served in a variety of assignments as a pharmacy specialist (68Q) and has deployed twice overseas. Her first deployment was with the 10th Combat Support Hospital to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the second was to Qatar in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

She takes over as the USAISR senior enlisted leader from the interim senior enlisted leader, 1st Sgt. Diana McCleary, who filled the position from Sgt. Maj. Willie Harris III, who is retiring from

the Army.

"To Sgt. Maj. Harris and his family — fantastic job. The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and its people are better because of your dedication and unwavering leadership," Redding added. "I also want to say strong work to 1st Sgt. McCleary and all the Soldiers and civilians who helped make today's event special in spite of our current circumstances."

"Sgt. Maj. Redding, it is excellent leaders like 1st Sgt. McCleary that you have inherited at this Institute. From the most junior Soldier to our outstanding NCO and officer corps, to the talented civilians and contractors who work here, you have joined one of the truly exceptional units with the Army," Stackle said while concluding his remarks. "The individuals of the USAISR routinely give their best every day to ensure that future warfighters return home safely from combat to be with their loved ones."

LACKLAND

New AFSFC commander focuses on lethal, ready Defenders

By Vicki Stein

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Security Forces Center welcomed Col. Aaron Guill as its new commander during a change of command ceremony Aug. 11.

Guill becomes the center's third commander since it became a primary subordinate unit under AFIMSC in 2015. He takes over from Col. Brian Greenroad, who retired Aug. 14 after a 28-year Air Force career. Guill previously served as director of the Air Force Profession of Arms Center of Excellence at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

"To the Air Force Installation

and Mission Support Center team, we are excited to join this team and to collaborate with you as together we execute the IMSC mission," Guill said. "To the Air Force A4S team, I also look forward to collaborating and working with you as we work to enhance the lethality and readiness of the Defenders worldwide."

Guill accepted the command from Maj. Gen. Tom Wilcox, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center commander, who noted Guill's nearly 30-year-career spanning assignments at various levels, including three squadron commander assignments and leading five squadrons and 1,200 Airmen as the 341st Security Forces Group commander at Malmstrom Air

Force Base, Montana.

"We are getting a tried and true warrior in Aaron," Wilcox said. "He has proven himself across the Air Force multiple times and I am absolutely looking forward to where he is going to lead the center over the next two, three, four years."

The Security Forces Center trains, equips and manages program execution for the Air Force Security Forces enterprise across the globe. AFSFC's subject matter experts provide support across the Security Forces mission set, including integrated defense, law and order operations, asset protection, equipment acquisition and distribution, Defender training, military working dog support and Air Force corrections programs.



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

Col. Aaron Guill (right), Air Force Security Forces Center gaining commander, salutes Maj. Gen. Tom Wilcox (left), Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center commander, during the AFSFC change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Aug. 11.

149TH FW KEEPS FIGHTING FALCONS CLEAN AND MEAN



An F-16 Fighting Falcon, assigned to the Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing, receives a jet wash at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland July 24.

MASTER SGT. MINDY BLOEM

433rd Maintenance Squadron welcomes new commander

By Senior Airman
Monet Villacorte

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Capt. Nicholas Velazquez assumed command of the 433rd Maintenance Squadron during a virtual change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Aug. 8.

Because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the video-streamed event provided members of the 433rd MXS the opportunity to be a part of the commemoration while practicing social distancing.

Velazquez will be one of the few company-grade officers commanding a squadron. A feat that doesn't go unnoticed by Lt. Col. Stuart Martin, 433rd Maintenance Group commander, who presided over the ceremony.

"Becoming a commander as a company grade officer does not happen very often," Martin said. "However, I am certain you are the right person for the job. The command

is a privilege that I know you will not take lightly."

During the ceremony, Velazquez thanked this support system and mentors who had an instrumental part in his career and established goals he vowed to accomplish in his new position.

"Family serves with you," Velazquez said. "Their support is the key to success, whether at home or abroad."

"Another reason I am in this position is from the care and mentorship of other leaders along the way in my Air Force career," he said. "Their influence was key in areas of my life. Empowerment, servant leadership, and a faithful mission focus. This is how I will lead and command in the maintenance squadron."

The 433rd Maintenance Squadron, which consists of nearly 170 personnel, provides essential on and off-equipment repair and support maintenance for all assigned C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft.



SENIOR AIRMAN MONET VILLACORTE

Lt. Col. Stuart Martin (left), 433rd Maintenance Group commander, presents the guidon to Capt. Nicholas Velazquez, 433rd Maintenance Squadron commander, at an assumption of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Aug. 8.



149TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON 'GUNFIGHTERS' CONDUCT WEAPONS TRAINING

Staff Sgt. Christina Richards, 149th Security Forces Squadron, Air National Guard, shoots her weapon from the prone position at a firing range at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Annex Aug. 12, as Security Forces "Gunfighters" from the 149th Security Forces Squadron conduct weapons qualifications training.

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS NATHAN MAURICIO

Contracting offices join forces to tackle Sixteenth Air Force Information Warfare mission

By Sharon Singleton

SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE (AIR FORCES CYBER)
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) reached full operational capability earlier this month, solidifying the convergence of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, cyber, electromagnetic warfare, information operations, and weather operations, federal agencies' and joint partners' need for these capabilities continues to skyrocket.

In order to deliver Information Warfare, or IW, outcomes for the nation, a strong, unified acquisition organization must be in place to meet those growing demands.

As such, and in line with the Air Force's newly created IW organization that stood up Oct. 11, 2019, Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force (AFCYBER) commander, recently realigned the cyber contracting mission from the 688th Cyberspace Wing to the Headquarters Air Combat Command Acquisition Management Integration Center, or AMIC, formerly focused solely on ISR contracts through its division supporting Sixteenth Air Force, Det. 2. This move integrates and closes the separation gap between cyber and ISR efforts thereby creating a one-stop shop under a unified director.

Merging the capabilities of the respective organizations under AMIC provides both the Air Force and Sixteenth Air Force a reach-back capability of uniformed Airmen, government civilians, and contractors specializing in largescale, cradle-to-grave contract and program management for both ISR and cyber operations.

While AMIC headquarters is located at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, the newly merged AMIC Det 2 will be located at JBSA-Lackland, Texas; Patrick Air Force Base, Florida; and Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

As the contracting service provider for ISR and cyber-related contracts for the Sixteenth Air Force, AMIC's mission is to deliver responsive, cost-effective, mission-focused acquisition solutions to maximize joint warfighter effectiveness and capabilities.

“Every dollar we save in acquisition and contract costs is another dollar the warfighter can spend on critical requirements. Our number one priority is fulfilling mission needs at a fair and reasonable price to the government and our contractors.”

Carissa Heuert, AMIC Det. 2 contracting officer



This objective will be accomplished primarily through AMIC's contractual arrangements which will help solidify Sixteenth Air Force's footprint in "Military City USA."

Timothy Applegate, AMIC director, believes the merged depth of AMIC's capabilities will continue to advance IW, and industry partners will be the key to the IW NAF's success.

"For the Numbered Air Force to stay on the cutting edge of technological developments, it is imperative to have the continued integration of innovation and expertise from industry partners," he said.

"Our direct engagement with businesses through industry days and their access to our small business offices will provide the support and guidance they need to thrive," Applegate said, adding that AMIC serves both small and large businesses, locally and globally, but makes a sustained effort to proactively research the market in search of small, non-traditional businesses that can provide the services needed.

Veronica Solis, AMIC Det. 2 director, said recognizing and utilizing innovation and strategic sourcing to gain efficiencies can greatly reduce costs, allowing mission partners to be more effective with their resources, and provide savings for local businesses as well as the Air Force.

"We rely on their innovative ideas to keep us in the game. Our strengths lie in the expertise and knowledge of a highly-skilled workforce that has adapted to the evolving needs of ISR and offensive and defensive cyberspace operations," said Solis.

The new merger also has the potential benefit of streamlining processes which will in turn lead to enhanced utilization of funds stemming from cost savings.

"Every dollar we save in acquisition and contract costs is another dollar the warfighter can spend on critical requirements," said Carissa Heuert, one of AMIC Det. 2's contracting

officers. "Our number one priority is fulfilling mission needs at a fair and reasonable price to the government and our contractors."

Dr. Lisa Anderson, AMIC Det 2 small business professional, suggests businesses searching for government opportunities contact the AMIC office by email at 16AF.AMICDet2.OrgBox@us.af.mil.

RANDOLPH

39th Flying Training Squadron welcomes new commander

By Debbie Gildea

340TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. Thomas Lessner assumed command of the 39th Flying Training Squadron Aug. 6 during a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, officiated by 340th Flying Training Group Commander Col. Michael J. Vanzo. Relinquishing command was Lt. Col. Kristen Kent, who assumed command of the squadron in 2018.

Formerly the 39th FTS director of operations, Lessner is responsible for the success of the Air Education and Training Command/Air Force Reserve Command Reserve Instructor Pilot Program for the squadron, which trains and provides experienced pilots to augment AETC's instructor pilot force. He is also responsible for more than 90 military and civilian personnel

supporting JBSA-Randolph's undergraduate pilot training mission.

Lessner's new director of operations is Lt. Col. Thad Reddick, who transitioned to the Reserve, and accepted an introduction to fighter fundamentals instructor pilot opportunity with the 39th FTS in 2015.

The 39th FTS is comprised of 93 instructor pilots who fly side-by-side with 12th Flying Training Wing instructor pilots to accomplish the AETC mission. Squadron instructors routinely accomplish more than 6,000 training sorties per year in the T-38, T-6, and T-1 aircraft. The squadron is one of seven assigned to the 340th Flying Training Group, which is the largest flying group in the Air Force.

Kent, a traditional Reservist, moves to the group headquarters where she will serve as an aviation instruction subject matter expert.



SEAN WORRELL

Lt. Col. Thomas Lessner (right) accepts command of the 39th Flying Training Squadron from 340th Flying Training Group Commander Col. Michael Vanzo (left) during the squadron change of command ceremony held Aug. 6 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.



JOHNNY SALLIDIVAR

Lt. Col. Anthony P. Erard (right) accepts command of the 433rd Training Squadron from Col. Michael J. Vanzo (left), 340th Flying Training Group commander, during an Aug. 7 ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

New commander takes over 433rd Training Squadron

By Debbie Gildea

340TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. Anthony Erard assumed command of the 433rd Training Squadron during a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Aug. 7, officiated by Col. Michael J. Vanzo, 340th Flying Training Group commander.

As commander of the all-Reserve military training instructor squadron, Erard and his team, in cooperation with Air Education and Training Command's active duty basic military training teams, are responsible for Air Force Reserve support of the Total Force Integration mission of developing and maintaining an integrated cadre of highly qualified Reserve military training instructors in support of U.S. Air Force basic military training operations. He leads a cadre of traditional

Reserve, Active Guard Reserve, and Air Reserve Technician military training instructors.

Erard, formerly the 433rd TRS director of operations, earned his commission through Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, in 2002, transitioning to the Air Force Reserve in 2012, after 10 years of Regular Air Force service as an F-15E weapon systems officer and electronic warfare officer. The colonel has more than 1,000 flying hours in six airframes, and served as an instructor in two of those airframes, amassing 315 combat hours in the F-15E supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The 433rd TRS is one of seven squadrons assigned to the 340th FTG and is the only all-Reserve military training instructor squadron in the Air Force.

Want greener grass? Randolph Oaks Golf Course manager offers advice

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

South Texas is not the easiest region for homeowners to maintain a lush green lawn throughout the year, but a program offered this month at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph will help attendees achieve greater success with the care and feeding of their turf.

Kenneth Boyce, Randolph Oaks Golf Course manager and superintendent, will share his years of experience tending the greens and fairways of JBSA-Randolph's golf course during a presentation called "Get Greener Grass! — Preparing for Winter" from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Aug. 22 on the facility's back patio.

During the program, which will adhere to social distancing guidelines, Boyce will discuss how property owners can choose the right grass for their situation, what fertilizers they should choose, how to prevent the proliferation of weeds, proper mowing techniques, top dressing and other topics.

Bermuda, Zoysia, St. Augustine and buffalo are the four types of turf that work best in South Texas, Boyce said, but people often choose the wrong kind of grass for their yards.

"I would say the biggest mistake people make is trying to grow the wrong grass type for their particular environment, like trying to grow a sun-loving Bermuda grass in a shaded environment," he said.

Attendees will learn how often they should fertilize their lawns and what fertilizers they should use.

Boyce usually recommends two to four feedings per year — the first three through spring and early summer and the final one in autumn, before the first frost. He will discuss synthetic and organic fertilizers and the benefits of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in stimulating turf health.

Boyce said nitrogen aids with greening and growth, phosphorus encourages root growth, and potassium helps with resilience to stress such as drought, disease and cold

weather.

"The best thing you can do to prepare for winter is to give your grass a high-potassium feeding prior to dormancy, coupled with a pre-emergent herbicide that will kill winter weeds before they surface," he said.

Boyce will address weed control, talk about the common warm and cool season weeds in South Texas, and will discuss pre-emergent, grassy weed, broadleaf and nutsedge herbicides.

Weed control involves prevention and elimination, and the best preventive measures are a healthy, thick turf and pre-emergent herbicides, he said.

Pest control is another topic that will be addressed during the presentation. It involves the use of insecticides and baits to eliminate insects such as grub worms and fire ants, and herbicides to address brown path and St. Augustine decline.

The cost of the program is \$20 per person and \$25 per couple. The registration deadline is Aug. 21. For more information, call 210-652-4653.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TYLER MCQUISTON

Attendees at an upcoming presentation will learn how to make their lawns green and weed-free like the Randolph Oaks Golf Course's greens and fairways with advice from Kenneth Boyce, the golf course's manager and superintendent. The presentation is from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Aug. 22 on the golf course's back patio.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

MTI, MTL developmental special duties focus of latest "The Air Force Starts Here" podcasts

**From Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs**

A two-part look at Military Training Instructor and Military Training Leader developmental special duties is highlighted on the latest episodes of "The Air Force Starts Here," both released Aug. 12, 2020.

On a special two-episode series on the podcast, Chief Master Sgt. Stefan Blazier, 37th Training Wing command chief, sits down with separately with both military training instructors and military training leaders from the 37th TRW to discuss the impact of those jobs on both the Airmen they lead and in the MTI/MTL's personal and professional development.

Blazier talks with the MTIs and MTLs about how quickly they learned the developmental

special duty role they are filling was as important as it is to both the Airmen they lead and themselves, as well as how the DSD assignment has directly resulted in their leadership growth, and much more.

The professional development podcasts are designed to help communicate and inform Total Force Airmen across the globe on relevant, timely topics related to the recruiting, training, education and development fields and can be listened to on the government network on the AETC website, or via mobile application as well as on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Play.

Future episodes are set to cover a wide range of topics, including the use of virtual reality in Tactical Air Control Party training at the Special Warfare Training Wing and much more.

Randolph HS Girl Scout earns prestigious award

By Airman 1st Class Tyler McQuiston
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An intuitive mind and community involvement can touch many lives. With a vision, hard work, and determination anything is possible.

For Madison Wright, her vision was to relieve the stress children can face when visiting the emergency room. For realizing her vision, Madison recently earned the organization's prestigious Gold Award, which is presented to fewer than 6 percent of Girl Scouts annually.

A 2020 graduate of Randolph High School, Madison joined the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas 10 years ago. Growing up, she enjoyed being with friends and participating in extracurricular activities.

Madison's parents decided that the Girl Scouts were a good fit for her. Throughout her time in the Girl Scouts, she has learned the quality of leadership responsibility and how to facilitate a final project.

"Ever since Madison was really young, she seemed like the adventurous type of kid," said her father, Jon Wright.

To be eligible for the award, Girl Scouts must spend one to two years creating a final project that consists of a few steps.

First, a Girl Scout must identify an issue within her community, and then investigate the issue and search to find support. During this time they also create a plan and present it to their leadership and fellow scouts.

Lastly, they take action and aim to educate people on the issue. Completing a community service project with a mandatory minimum of 80 hours and submitting a final report are also requirements for the final project.

The project Madison conducted was titled "Trinkets for Tykes," and was focused on comforting children who visit the Schertz-Cibolo Emergency Clinic by creating toy packages for them to enjoy.

A trip to the ER can be a traumatic experience for anyone and especially for young children. Madison had heard about children who had trips to the emergency room from her mother and knew she wanted to help.

"My mother is a nurse, and she would share with me the concern that young children faced traumatic times visiting the emergency room," Madison said. "I studied what items I should order to put in bags to occupy the attention of young children."



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TYLER MCQUISTON

Madison Wright poses for a photo at the Schertz-Cibolo Emergency Clinic in Schertz, Texas, Aug. 1. She worked with the Randolph Chapel youth to create more than 100 packages to give to children visiting the clinic.

She correlated with her religious leader, Terese Gould from the Randolph Chapel, to secure the funds needed for care packages as well as the help of the Randolph Chapel's middle school youth to organize and fill packages. She also conducted meetings for planning and packaging.

"I separated toys and crafts so the Randolph Chapel middle school youth could help me fill bags up with toys," Madison said. "I'm very proud of myself and the youth that helped. It's an amazing feeling to do something great

for my community."

"Seeing Madison grow through this time has made me very proud of her accomplishment and her involvement," her father said. "Her final project was independent, so her mother and I could only do so much. She took on the majority of the responsibility."

Madison's senior year was full of core classwork, her final project and extracurricular activities. Some of those activities included Junior ROTC, National Honor Society, STEM and sports. She also taught a Sunday school

"The mission of Girl Scouts is to build girls of courage, confidence and character. Their mission is to make the world a better place. I'm proud of Madison as one of our Girl Scouts receiving the Gold Award. She had the courage to tackle an issue she cares about, was confident to lead others and has demonstrated the strong character it takes to be an empathetic leader."

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Angela Salinas, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas

class. Throughout her final year in the Girl Scouts, she said she learned the importance of time management.

"The mission of Girl Scouts is to build girls of courage, confidence and character. Their mission is to make the world a better place," said retired U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Angela Salinas, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas. "I'm proud of Madison as one of our Girl Scouts receiving the Gold Award. She had the courage to tackle an issue she cares about, was confident to lead others and has demonstrated the strong character it takes to be an empathetic leader."

"Being so involved can be tough, but using good time management was the key," Madison said. "It was definitely worth it in the end."

Madison has future plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio. She wants to major in biology and minor in chemistry to be a nurse like her mother. After she graduates from college, she wants to join the Air Force.

Editor's note: The mention of non-federal organizations is simply informational and not intended to imply endorsement by the U.S. Government, the DOD, or the U.S. Air Force.