

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

AUGUST 28, 2020



PHOTO BY JOHNNY SALDIVAR

From right: Lt. Col. Marie Han, 559th Medical Group, briefs U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett; Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass Aug. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

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Official urges Soldiers to report misconduct

By Devon Suits
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The lead official for the Army's Resilience Directorate emphasized the use of reporting procedures Tuesday for incidents of sexual harassment and assault to ensure the service is a safe environment for all.

While the chain of command and other Army agencies exist to maintain the safety and well-being of the force, the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program has specific measures in place to assist victims, said James Helis.

Reaching out for support will help stop the misconduct, he added, and allow the Army to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.

Sexual harassment

Harassing behavior can be a precursor to sexual assault, according to SHARP officials, and should be immediately addressed to deter escalation.

"The first step is to take care of the victim," Helis said. "The second step is to make the harassment stop."

Individuals subject to sexual harassment can lodge an informal, formal, or anonymous complaint to a range of official reporting agencies for support, Helis said.

These include:

- ▶ Chain of command
- ▶ Victim advocate or sexual assault response coordinator
- ▶ Inspector general
- ▶ Judge advocate general office
- ▶ Military police or a criminal investigation division, or CID
- ▶ Health care provider

Soldiers can always reach out to a military chaplain for support, but chaplains cannot take formal harassment complaints, Helis explained. "The chaplain is there to support a Soldier and help them understand what their options are. They can help connect them with the resources they need."

Outside the complaint process, individuals can always speak to their harasser directly,

Helis said. In some cases, the harasser will stop once confronted.

If a Soldier or civilian is less inclined to speak to a harasser directly, they can employ an indirect communications method by sending the harasser a written message or lodging an informal complaint.

Submitting an informal complaint will not trigger an official investigation, Helis said.

An individual can seek assistance before confronting a harasser. The informal complaint process enables a third party to step in on the individual's behalf to try and end the negative behavior.

Sexual harassment victims can also submit an anonymous complaint, which will be reviewed by the applicable chain of command. Other personnel who witnessed some form of sexual harassment can also lodge an informal or anonymous complaint, Helis said.

An individual's chain of command may or may not be able to act on the anonymous complaint, depending upon the information provided, he added.

Formal complaint

If the informal process is unsuccessful, or if a Soldier wants to lodge a formal complaint, they must fill out a Department of the Army Form 7746, or Sexual Harassment Complaint, and submit it to an official reporting entity.

The complaint reporting process "is not a sequence," Helis explained. "Individuals can go directly to a formal complaint if they feel comfortable."

Once a formal complaint is submitted, the chain of command has three calendar days to act, SHARP officials said. Soldiers who file a claim against an individual within their chain must be referred to a higher authority.

The commander or appointed investigating officer will then have 14 calendar days to investigate the allegations. They will then meet with the victim to

discuss the outcome and results.

Once the findings are released, the complainant will then have seven calendar days to appeal the decision, officials said. If a higher authority within the chain of command is dissatisfied with the investigation results or disciplinary actions, they can launch a new investigation. They have 14 calendar days to complete this process.

Final decisions on complaints rest with the general court-martial convening authority, officials said.

Sexual assault reporting

Anyone who is a victim of sexual assault, or suspects an assault, should not be afraid to seek immediate care, Helis said.

However, these individuals should understand the difference between restricted and unrestricted reporting, he added.

Individuals looking to file a restricted report can only do so through a sexual assault response coordinator, victim advocate, or health care provider, Helis said. A victim can confidentially disclose a sexual assault to a health care provider while still retaining the option to file a restricted report with a SARC or victim advocate. They will then have access to medical treatments, advocacy services, counseling, and the option for a forensic exam.

Communication between these entities is considered confidential and will not trigger an investigation.

Communication with a chaplain is also considered privileged and confidential. Soldiers can reach out to a chaplain for support, but not to report an incident, SHARP officials said.

In addition to the chaplain, personnel can call the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or go to their website for confidential and anonymous services. The helpline is available worldwide at any time.

CATCH program

An individual will also have the option to enter their restricted report information into the DOD Catch a Serial Offender program, or CATCH, Helis said.

Soldiers can enter as much information that they can remember or feel comfortable sharing in the CATCH database, he added. Information can include names, ranks, or other distinguishing factors such as height or tattoos.

If the program identifies a serial offender, all victims connected to the perpetrator will receive a notification from a SARC. An investigation will be launched if the victims agree to change their reports to unrestricted.

"Sexual assault is a crime, and punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice," Helis said. "If a Soldier files a restricted report, they can change it to an unrestricted report at any time ... they feel ready to participate in an investigation."

Unrestricted reporting

Soldiers who choose to file an unrestricted report can seek assistance through their chain of command, CID, judge advocate general, SARC or victim advocate, or through their health care provider, Helis said.

If a Soldier reaches out to their chain of command or through a law enforcement agency, they waive their option to file a restricted report. Upon reporting, victims will receive the necessary care and support, along with the option for a protective order against the other party, SHARP officials said.

"First-line supervisors and junior leaders are at the tip of the spear when it comes to preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment," Helis said. "If a Soldier approaches them and says 'I'm having an issue with a sexual assault or sexual harassment,' they need to listen and take appropriate action."

JBSA LEGACY

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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 have been trying to use the RAPIDS ID Card online to schedule an appointment for my daughter to renew her ID card. No appointments are available going out past October 2020.

I have also called all five ID card sites around San Antonio for almost three working days, with no one answering their phones. It just rings and rings.

I need the support of JBSA Staff or Commander to fix this issue. This is no way to support active duty and retired veterans.

A. We sincerely appreciate your patience during this time. Currently, all ID cards which expired after Jan. 1, 2020, have been extended through Sept. 30, 2020. The appointment window will repopulate once we receive clear guidance from the Defense Management Database Center.

During this period, JBSA ID Card offices continue to experience an extremely high volume of telephone inquiries. It may appear that the phones are just ringing, but they will do so when someone is on the phone. We are doing our best to answer while having limited staff as a result of COVID-19.

We advise all customers to take advantage of online services and procedures at <https://www.jbsa.mil/RESOURCES/802D-MANPOWER-AND-PERSONNEL-FLIGHT/ID-CARDS/>.

We will continue to post updates on JBSA ID Card policies as information becomes available.

Q. I am an Airman in technical school at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

I would like to know if they are allowed to triple bunk us in a room



COURTESY GRAPHIC

during Health Protection Condition Charlie even though COVID-19 is still a high concern?

How can we still maintain our social distance with three to a room? Thank you for your time!

A. Thank you for your question. While program managers make every effort to avoid triple bunking, there are times when the student population fluctuates and that option must be employed.

For example, under the recently rescinded travel ban, many graduated students had to stand by while transit to their duty stations was being coordinated, or sometimes an extensive maintenance issue impacts an entire wing of the building.

The 59th Training Group obtained permission to triple-bunk students by following a process managed by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center. This process involves several steps including an evaluation performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The services, including the Air Force's 59th Training Group, have adjusted their processes on the Medical Education and Training Campus to keep all students as safe as possible while maintaining the mission to train future medics.

Through great diligence on the part of the students and staff, METC has continued to conduct its courses throughout the pandemic. The services would not knowingly mix a COVID-19 exposed individual with healthy individuals.

When distancing is not feasible, the students' best defense is to practice non-pharmaceutical prevention measures such as wiping down frequently touched surfaces, using hand sanitizer or washing hands, and wearing a face covering.

Just as the services' collective efforts permit METC to continue to conduct its courses in light of this pandemic, much of this success depends on the individuals teaching

and those attending classes.

Please continue to wear your mask, wash your hands frequently, and avoid unnecessary gatherings.

Q. This question is in regards to certain outdoor and recreational park facilities at JBSA-Randolph.

Airmen's Heritage Park and Rambler Field are full of dirt and cobwebs. It seems that they only collected the garbage but they do not clean the toilets, sinks or walls. Please give better maintenance to the outdoor restrooms at JBSA-Randolph.

A. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Civil engineers performed a visual check of the outdoor restrooms at JBSA-Randolph and confirmed better cleaning is required.

The custodial contract representative has taken corrective cleaning actions, and ensured restroom supplies were fully stocked.

JBSA continues HPCON CHARLIE protective measures

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As Joint Base San Antonio prepares to begin reopening services through phased, deliberate measures, personnel continue to follow the guidelines, such as physical distancing and capacity limits, established by local and state leaders, as well as the Department of Defense and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 within the community.

Leadership at JBSA continues to prioritize efforts in accordance with the priorities of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force during the pandemic, to include safeguarding national security missions; supporting the administration's whole of government approach; and protecting service members and their families from COVID-19.

At JBSA, the person most pivotal in providing information to leaders to assist in decision-making is the JBSA Public Health Emergency Officer, or PHEO, Col. Charles Mahakian.

Many factors are considered when the PHEO provides advice, to include higher headquarters guidance and directives, and local directives given by the mayor of San Antonio.

"I serve as the lead PHEO for JBSA, and there are several alternates with whom I consult concerning any policy or directive changes that are being made," Mahakian said. "I make sure that they are in compliance with the CDC, DOD, Defense Health Agency, Air Force Medical Service, MEDCOM, and Air Education and Training Command. I also consider guidance and directives from the State of Texas, Bexar County, and the city of San Antonio.

"As we continue through the COVID-19 pandemic, the alternate PHEOs and I balance



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Soldiers in training wear face masks as they listen to Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, commander, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, during the MEDCoE Army National Hiring Days Soldier Forum June 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

the need to keep the JBSA population safe with the need to maintain the mission execution," he said.

Senior Master Sgt. Dale King, deputy team chief for the Emergency Support Function, and Surgical Operations superintendent at the 59th Medical Wing located at JBSA, said following all guidance provided is essential.

"We are recommending units adhere to CDC guidance and all recommendations provided by the PHEO," he said. "Due to the ever-evolving situation and ongoing study of the virus, we always recommend visiting the CDC website for the latest information."

King said the staff members at the medical wing and the PHEO can only provide the information needed for unit leadership to determine what is best for their mission and circumstances.

"Each unit has been encouraged to build their own practices based off published guidance and recommendations," he said.

"The ultimate decision lies with the individual unit commanders."

In determining HPCON levels and whether to implement or continue travel restrictions, the secretaries of the military departments, commanders of combatant commands, and the chief management officer continuously assess each DOD installation, facility or location under their purview for the feasibility of lifting travel restrictions, according to Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper.

In his memorandum dated May 22, Esper said decisions resulting from assessments are made in consultation with the services who have installations in the local surrounding areas and will take into account areas where installation personnel reside.

The first, and foremost requirement for travel restrictions to be lifted is for the location to be below Health Protection Condition CHARLIE. For this to occur, medical treatment facilities

locally must have sufficient capacity; testing capabilities and capacity must be in accordance with the Departments' tiered priority framework, to include surveillance and at-risk health care workers; and capacity to quarantine or isolate individuals returning from high exposure locations.

Any installation, facility or location which meets all of the criteria will be considered to permit movement to and from these areas. There are a few exemptions and waivers may be requested through the chain of command.

"Currently JBSA and San Antonio are experiencing a decline in the number of new COVID-19 cases," Mahakian reported Aug. 18.

"This is encouraging, but we are proceeding with caution," he said. "We have seen a spike in new cases following holiday weekends, and with this in mind, we will continue to reevaluate JBSA's HPCON level."

In order to protect the essential employees who are

currently reporting to duty at JBSA installations, work center spacing and other protective measures are key. This includes continuing to close or restrict access to common areas for physical distancing rules, continuing to identify where face coverings are required, and installing additional physical barriers such as clear plastic guards, plastic curtains or privacy screens.

Work centers are also encouraged to continue maximizing flexible work schedules, flexible work hours, staggering shifts, alternating work schedules, and maximizing telework continues. While HPCON C is in effect, only essential personnel should access JBSA installations for work.

As conditions on JBSA and in the local area continue to improve, there will be a phased return to work plan implemented at each unit level.

Mahakian said JBSA is doing well so far, but this is a marathon, not a sprint.

"The conservative estimates are that we have at least 6 to 12 months until a COVID-19 vaccine is ready for the general population," he said.

Mahakian also recommends everyone continue to take protective measures.

► Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet, at work and non-work settings.

► Wear a cloth face covering when indoors. This is required by the City of San Antonio, and protects both you and those around you.

► Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer.

► If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, to include fever, cough, or shortness of breath, do not leave your home. Contact your primary care physician for treatment options.

For updates on COVID-19 measures at JBSA and to read all current local directives and restrictions, go to <https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus/>.

Air Force top officials visit JBSA missions

By Capt. Kayshel Trudell

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For their first trip together, the Air Force's top three officials visited Joint Base San Antonio Aug. 20-21.

Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett was accompanied by newly sworn-in Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass to take a closer look at operations across JBSA during COVID-19.

JBSA was the ideal venue to witness missions at the air base wing, basic military, technical and flying training, with a final stop to learn more about the Sixteenth Air Force's (Air Force Cyber) cyber mission, under Air Combat Command.

The tour included visits to the 12th Flying Training Wing at JBSA-Randolph and the 37th Training Wing, 59th Medical Wing and 502nd Air Base Wing units at JBSA-Lackland to highlight how members at both locations are finding innovative solutions to continue to successfully execute the training mission during a global pandemic.

"From the moment recruits step off the bus at JBSA-Lackland, the Air Force core values permeate their experience," Barrett said. "America's military edge is derived from the discipline and professionalism of these exemplary service members."

During their first day at JBSA-Randolph, Barrett, Brown and Bass were provided an update on Undergraduate Pilot Training 2.5 at the 559th Flying Training Squadron. While there, they met the first 11 student pilots enrolled in the program.

"Undergraduate Pilot Training 2.5 is the first step in our effort to modernize how we train our pilots to meet current and future threats," said Col. Scott Rowe, 12th FTW commander. "UPT 2.5 scales the four key lessons learned from Pilot Training Next and innovation efforts across the pilot training enterprise through the use of immersive technology, seamless access to content, student-centered learning, and quality instruction."

In the flightroom, officials took a closer look at immersive training devices and saw the benefits of a student-centric learning and technology-focused environment. UPT 2.5 began in mid-July at JBSA-Randolph and at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

On day two of their visit, the distinguished trio had an immersion at JBSA-Lackland. During their time there, members of the 37th TRW highlighted how Warhawks train and develop resilient Airmen to win, innovate and grow.

"Our strategic and global environment has changed; however, the constant is our people," Bass said. "Airmen are our most lethal weapons system and the competitive edge we have over our adversaries."

During COVID-19 operations, about 12,000 trainees graduated the Air Force's Basic Military Training, with only 3 percent of recruits being delayed and no trainees leaving the pipeline because of COVID-19.

"During the last six months, this wing has completely transformed the way it organizes, trains and equips to meet pipeline requirements," said Col. Rockie Wilson,



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Sarah Mitchell, 323rd Training Squadron military training instructor, delivers a presentation to Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass, and Secretary of the Air Force Barbara M. Barrett (right), during a tour of the Airman Training Complex Aug. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

37th TRW commander. "We continue to cultivate a spirit of Airmanship by safeguarding our team's energy and morale and leveraging technology to create a COVID-19 safe campus. We remind our adversaries daily that the Air Force training pipeline remains open and we are not only fighting through but are excelling during this pandemic."

While at the Pfingston Reception Center, the trio had the opportunity to address Airmen from across JBSA, to include Brown officiating a reaffirmation of the oath of enlistment for Airmen who graduated BMT the day prior and Airmen from across the JBSA community.

"Thank you to the Airmen for volunteering to join our long blue line to defend this Nation, and congratulations on your recent graduation yesterday," he said to the 300 Airmen who reaffirmed their oath with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. "Thank you to the cadre and leadership teams for preparing these graduates to live, learn, and lead as Airmen. Secretary Barrett, Chief Bass and I purposely decided where we want to visit on this first trip and there's no better place than San Antonio to look at how we develop leaders. The Air Force starts leadership development from the first day Airmen walk into work."

Reid Clinic and COVID-19 operations were highlighted next at JBSA-Lackland. Medical professionals at the 59th MDW partnered with the 37th TRW during the early onset of COVID-19 and implemented detailed procedures to screen and monitor newly arrived recruits. Their continued support of force health protection measures ensures trainees and cadre can safely continue fighting through COVID-19 and continue completing the mission.

After the medical wing, the leaders received a brief about operations at the Gateway Villas to better understand the restriction of movement, quarantine and isolation procedures.

During a working lunch Barrett, Brown and Bass hosted diversity and inclusion sensing sessions with Airmen. The sessions provide senior leaders the opportunity to hear firsthand the concerns and views of

Airmen on race relations in the Air Force.

The trip culminated with Barrett, Brown and Bass touring facilities and meeting members of Sixteenth Air Force (AFCYBER).

While visiting Headquarters Sixteenth Air Force (AFCYBER), Barrett, Brown, and Bass met with intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, cyber, information operations, electronic warfare, and weather Airmen who demonstrated how the Numbered Air Force integrates and synchronizes information warfare capabilities to produce outcomes in the information environment.

The tour of the Air Force's Information Warfare NAF included discussions of the organization's unique capabilities, global perspective, and authorities that are integrated and converged on global kinetic and information targets in support of the National Defense Strategy.

A global Numbered Air Force that also serves as the service cyber component to U.S. Cyber Command with support to U.S. European Command, U.S. Space Command, U.S. Strategic Command, and U.S. Transportation Command, the Air Force leaders also saw first-hand a demonstration from Airmen who operate and defend the Air Force information networks against external threats, a demonstration from an offensive cyberspace operator, and they gained insight into ongoing operations to defend U.S. elections. Additionally, they heard from Airmen who provide ISR support to the U.S. Space Force.

Finally, the Air Force's senior leaders learned about an initiative called, "Listen, Learn, Lead," a Sixteenth Air Force commander-led program aimed at getting to the root of bias and then leaning into meaningful change through candid, honest discussions. The facilitator-supported initiative was the pinnacle of the visit, followed by Barrett awarding several IW Airmen with the secretary of the Air Force coin.

"As the information warfare arm of the U.S. Air Force that takes the conflict in the information environment to the front lines, this visit is incredibly important," said Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force (AFCYBER) commander. "That the secretary, chief and chief master sergeant of the Air Force came here to show their support for our innovative, diverse and empowered Airmen, is a testament to our leaders' care for our people and their role in protecting and defending our great nation."

The two-day immersion demonstrated to the Air Force's top leaders just how effectively teams across the JBSA community are maintaining mission effectiveness, conducting daily operations with health and safety at the forefront and ensuring our Air and Space Forces are always ready to answer the nation's call.

"The success of the Gateway Wing is a strategic win for our nation and our Air Force," Brown said. "The wing's continuation of training under COVID-19 conditions has required a team effort and military training instructors have been at the forefront of that success. I'm extremely proud of everyone who ensured we were able to continue to keep the pipeline flowing and ensure military readiness for our recruits."

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Pandemic, physical distancing do not stop transitioning service members

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The coronavirus may have changed the way many things happen at Joint Base San Antonio, but they still happen. Service members still train, security forces still protect installations, firefighters still respond to calls, and transitioning service members still depart military service.

In an effort to provide all transitioning service members at JBSA with the services they are entitled to, ensuring a smooth readjustment to civilian life, JBSA's new Joint Transition Readiness Center, or JTRC, staff members stand ready to provide information and resources virtually to all who need them.

"When COVID shut us down for face-to-face appointments in March, the JTRC had to come up with a way to continue providing services without missing a beat. That avenue was through virtual meeting applications," said Sally Gonzalez, community readiness consultant and acting Transition Assistance Program manager at the center. "The Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance Program team transferred all in-person classes to a virtual format in April, without a break in service. We were actually one of the first locations to offer virtual classes."

Service members departing military service start their transition journey at the JTRC by contacting administrative staff members via telephone or email to set up an Initial Individualized Counseling Appointment.

Then, a counselor emails the service member the documents they will need to complete the transition process and an appointment by telephone is scheduled.

"During that appointment, the service member completes a self-assessment used to gauge what level of support, resources and tools the member will need to make a smooth transition into civilian life," Gonzalez said. "The self-assessment determines whether they will be in Tier 1, 2 or 3 for support."

Gonzalez said the team members at the JTRC are there to support the service members, not make decisions for them.

"The service members will work on their own Individual Development Plan, which sets the course for their transition," she said.

"Every person separating from military service is different, their situation is different, their goals are different, and we want to determine how we can best provide them with everything they need for a successful transition," she said.

To best determine what level each service member needs,



COURTESY PHOTO

In an effort to provide all transitioning service members at Joint Base San Antonio with the services they are entitled to, ensuring a smooth readjustment to civilian life, JBSA's new Joint Transition Readiness Center staff members stand ready to provide information and resources virtually to all who need them.

Gonzalez said counselors determining the tier of service for each person they assist.

"For example, a Tier 1 service member is retiring with 20 or more years of service and has an adequate plan for transition, such as a year's worth of savings, has made connections with companies who have jobs in their own career field, or may already have a job offer," Gonzalez said. "That member does not need all the services available at the JTRC."

Gunnery Sgt. Marcus A. Ricks, administrative chief at 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, is retiring from the Marine Corps next year with 20 years of service and already plans to work in human resources for the federal government after his military service. Therefore, he is considered in Tier 1.

"Be proactive on how you engage in your transition, meaning having a running resume already established, have an idea of what you really want to do as you leave the military, and research different programs that the military has for personnel transitioning out

of the military," he said.

Ricks also advises transitioning service members to have a financial plan that includes a projection for not being able to find employment when first separating from military service.

"Having these things already in mind can better help the counselors point you in the right direction," he said.

"A Tier 2 separating member may not be retiring, may not have much in savings, and may have a plan, but is in need of guidance on resume writing, job searching or reviewing a budget to develop a financial plan," she said.

"At Tier 3, a service member might be getting out of the military after the first enlistment with no real plan, not much work experience, and needing to select a career track," she said. "In this case, the person might need assistance in finding full-time employment, locating educational opportunities or vocational training, or they might need information on starting a business."

Each tier has a different set of mandatory classes and deliverables due 90 days before separation, Gonzalez said.

Completing the requirements and transitioning out of military service during a pandemic can be a challenge for anyone at any level of preparedness.

"The transition thus far has been a little bit of a challenge, mostly because the pandemic is affecting a lot of things," Ricks said. "It affected the Transition Readiness Seminar I attended in April.

"I am a person who prefers things like this to be presented in person," he said. "Although this is not my preferred method of learning, the team conducted themselves very well, providing resources and answering questions."

Ricks said that while the counselors have been amazing, providing information to help him embark on his new journey, servicemembers must take the lead in their own transition.

"The thing I would recommend for any service member, regardless of the branch, is to do your own research ahead of time," he said. "Remember no one will take care of you better than you."

Service members should start their transition process up to 24 months before retirement or 18 months before non-retirement separation, Gonzalez said. At a minimum, in accordance with NDAA-19, the National Defense Authorization Act, transition must start 365 days prior to separation.

To schedule an initial virtual appointment with a counselor at the Joint Transition Readiness Center, call 210-916-7322 or 210-916-6089, or email usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.mfrc@mail.mil.

BAMC implements temporary patient visitation policy

**From Brooke Army Medical Center
Public Affairs**

The health and safety of our patients, visitors, staff and our community remains a top priority at Brooke Army Medical Center.

While the importance of family support during hospitalization is understood and appreciated, BAMC is temporarily adjusting the visitation policy to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread as of Aug. 19.

BAMC will no longer allow visitors into the facility, to include the Emergency Department. Exceptions to this policy include:

- ▶ Pediatric outpatients: 1 adult caregiver (no additional children other than the patient)
- ▶ Pediatric inpatients (including NICU): 2 visitors
- ▶ Cognitively impaired adults (inpatient and outpatient): 1 primary caregiver
- ▶ Adult and pediatric inpatients at end-of-life: 2 visitors
- ▶ Labor and Delivery (including postpartum): 1 primary support person (may not leave L&D or inpatient unit and return)

For questions/concerns, please ask a

member of the patient's healthcare team.

For all patients and visitors:

- ▶ Everyone entering the facility will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19.
- ▶ Visitors who are sick will not be permitted to enter.

Visitors may be re-screened by BAMC personnel at their discretion.

- ▶ Everyone must wear a face-covering according to current guidance.
- ▶ Everyone should practice social distancing measures as appropriate.

Patients are encouraged to remain closely connected to their loved ones through virtual means including Skype, FaceTime, Zoom, and phone. Be careful not to impede healthcare, display HIPAA information, or include patients or staff who have not consented to being filmed/photographed.

This guidance is subject to change based on new or additional information. For updates, visit the BAMC COVID-19 website at <https://www.bamc.health.mil/articles/covid19/>. For general COVID-19 information, visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

Some masks not permitted in SAMHS facilities

**From Brooke Army Medical Center
Public Affairs**

For safety purposes, effective Aug. 24, masks with filter valves or vents will no longer be permitted for wear in all San Antonio Military Health System facilities, including Brooke Army Medical Center, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center and all outlying clinics.

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, masks with exhalation valves or vents should not be worn to help prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading COVID-19 to others.

The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control. However, masks with one-way valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, which can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others.

This type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from

transmitting COVID-19 to others.

(Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html/>)

As a reminder, all personnel, patients and visitors are required to wear a face covering upon entry and while in common areas of a San Antonio military medical facility regardless of social distancing.

Common areas include medical malls, waiting areas, entrances and main hallways, pharmacies, and shared workspaces such as nursing stations, conference rooms, classrooms, huddle areas, workrooms, non-personal offices, etc. In general, anywhere that multiple people are gathered in close proximity.

Please continue to do your part to slow the spread of this virus: wear a proper face covering, wash your hands regularly and socially distance from others, both at work and in your communities. That is the best way to preserve the health of our patients and staff.

If you feel sick, stay home and call before coming in.

Army South makes preparations for hurricane season

By Sgt. Ashley Dotson
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army South's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion conducted a validation exercise to notionally deploy a contingency command post, or CCP, Aug. 10-14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston to establish standard operating procedures in preparation for hurricane season.

"The purpose of the exercise is to replicate alert, marshal and deploy conditions within a garrison environment in order to assess our ability to effectively deploy both equipment and personnel to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility," said Lt. Col. Mark A. Katz, HHBN U.S. Army South commander. "This is important because our ability to force tailor, forward project, and provide a rapid response will minimize human suffering, but more importantly, will save lives."

U.S. Army South, as the U.S. Southern Command Joint Forces Land Component Command, conducts security cooperation operations and activities with partner



Sgt. Ashley Dotson

Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army South conducted a validation exercise of the battalion's deployment of the contingency command post personnel from Aug. 10-14 to establish standard operating procedures in preparation for hurricane season at Joint Base San Antonio- Fort Sam Houston.

nation armies in Central and South America to strengthen regional security and counter threats in support of a networked defense of the homeland including humanitarian missions.

"We can bring an enormous level of capability to bear at the speed of relevance to reduce human suffering," Katz said.

The CCP is a rapidly deployable team

consisting of about 70 personnel from the U.S. Army South headquarters capable of providing Joint Task Force leadership that conducts planning for small-scale contingency and humanitarian operations.

"Overall this week, we were able to go after the spirit of the intent of the exercise, and I believe we have met the objectives of the mission," said Command Sgt. Maj. Damon C. Smith, HHBN, U.S. Army South command sergeant major, as he discussed the completion of the validation exercise. "There will be some things that we need to improve on, and for the next exercise we will incorporate more readiness while continuing to follow the COVID-19 precautions."

The HHBN command team said they also plan to simulate a deployment of the CCP personnel to Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis along with a field exercise in the fall of this year.

"While we have a shared responsibility with our partners, the United States has always led the world in humanitarian assistance; and we will continue to do our part here at U.S. Army South to enable that outcome," Katz added.

MICC programs ensure contract performance

By Ryan Mattox

MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Mission and Installation Contracting Command quality assurance specialists and contracting officer representatives enforce the Federal Acquisitions Regulation in support of quality assurance and surveillance actions for government contracts that support the Army warfighter.

Quality assurance specialists, or QASs, are involved in planning, developing and administering quality assurance programs to support the acquisition of services and supplies required by the Army. QASs are primarily concerned with the prevention of defects and non-conformance, the identification of trends and conditions, and the correction of factors that may contribute to defective items.

Through the quality assurance program, MICC contracting officers rely on contracting officer representatives, or CORs, assigned to supported mission partners to conduct oversight to ensure that its quality control programs are effective.

Contractors must ensure they carry out their obligations under the contract in terms of quality, timeliness and cost, while the government is responsible for ensuring that services and supplies

conform to the contract. The MICC Quality Assurance Program implements procedures, processes and practices to improve the overall effectiveness of contract administration and oversight.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MICC QAS and COR programs have modified their approach to supporting the mission.

To assist QASs collect inspection data and process non-conformance reports from CORs, Army Contracting Command officials introduced a database for the collection of performance data on contractor performance, COR performance and non-conformance reports tracking for COVID-19 actions performed. Once the data is inputted, QASs can pull pre-made reports for leadership reflecting overall contract performance.

"Most of us are teleworking, but still provide the oversight and mentorship for the CORs," said Karl Fischer, the quality assurance functional manager for the MICC Procurement Operations Division at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. "For COVID-19 actions at Forts Hood, Bragg and Bliss, I have processed 136 audits with 2,670 observations or inspections with a base compliance rating of 90.03%."

The two programs complement each other.

Together, MICC QASs and

organizational CORs provide a level of contractor oversight to ensure MICC contracted services are within the standards of the contract. This provides readiness to the warfighter guaranteeing them supplies or services that meet their expectations. Certified MICC QAS instructors provide required face-to-face enhanced training to all CORs appointed by a MICC contracting officer on all service and construction contracts.

"We had to revise and adjust our training for a virtual environment when COVID-19 broke," Fischer said. "Currently, we are delivering some of our classes in this manner. For the CORs to perform to expectations, it is important they receive the best COR training MICC QASs can provide. The better the training, the better the results, the better equipped the CORs are to provide oversight and surveillance of contractors that in turn provide supplies and services to the warfighter, on time and at cost. Once the COR has been appointed and starts to perform on a contract, the local QAS provides mentorship, instruction and reach back capability."

The MICC is responsible for administering approximately 7,800 active contracts, and quality assurance specialists and contracting officer representatives are involved in all of them.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left: Staff Sgts. Marilyn Tangonan and Jacob McGriff review documentation at a dining facility on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

COVID stress: How you can help your furry friends cope

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The global coronavirus pandemic has caused many changes in households across the country, including major adjustments to routines for school, work, shopping, and even visits with friends and family. While people have the ability to express themselves verbally while coping with their new normal, pets cannot.

"As changes occur in a pet's environment, they may experience anxiety," said Maj. Marty G. Roaché, chief of Behavioral Medicine and Working Dog Studies for the Department of Defense Military



ED PRINCE

Separation anxiety in pets can occur because of a pet's anticipation of a negative outcome, which is being left alone or being denied access to the owner.

Working Dog Veterinary Service, Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Annex.

One type of anxiety pet parents may be seeing is separation anxiety, or SA.

"Separation anxiety occurs because of a pet's anticipation of a negative

outcome, which is being left alone or being denied access to the owner," Roaché said, reminding pet parents that the separation is not always absence from the home. "For example, the owner may be working in a home office but has shut the door, causing a physical barrier between themselves and the pet, thus preventing the pet's access to the owner. This is what would be termed virtual absence."

There are many reasons some animals develop SA and others do not.

"Common risk factors include previously experiencing a traumatic event, such as a severe thunderstorm, while alone," Roaché said. "The pet may also be inexperienced at being left alone; they may have never learned the skill

of being independent of the owners.

"Older aged pets beginning to experience cognitive deficiencies, loss of hearing or vision, may also begin to show signs of separation anxiety," she added.

Roaché said it is important to recognize that pets can sense when a change is coming, which can lead to anxiety in anticipation.

"Our pets are very smart and will quickly identify cues that are predictive of being separated from the owner, such as picking up a purse or wallet, putting on shoes, or grabbing car keys. In turn, these cues become conditioned stimuli for anxiety," she said.

PET STRESS continues on 11

U.S. ARMY SOUTH COMMEMORATES PERUVIAN ARMY'S 199TH ANNIVERSARY

From left: U.S. Army South Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor Walker; Lt. Col. David Esteban Diaz Janampa, partner nation liaison officer, U.S. Army South; and Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Walrath, commanding general, U.S. Army South, commemorate the 199th anniversary of Ejército del Perú, or Army of Peru, Aug. 18 at the Army South main conference room at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Janampa

presented remarks to highlight the Peruvian Army as it was officially established in 1821 when the government of General José de San Martín established the Legión Peruana de la Guardia (Peruvian Guard Legion). Six years later, in 1827, the U.S. established diplomatic relations with Peru, and the U.S. and Peru's strategic partnership continues to enhance security and prosperity across the region today to collectively meet complex global challenges.



LEANNE THOMAS

PET STRESS

From page 10

To help determine if a pet is experiencing SA, there are four clinical signs to look for when the owner is not present, either really or virtually. These are destruction, elimination, vocalization or salivation.

“When an owner leaves and a dog is confined to a crate, they may chew on the bars until they are bleeding from the mouth,” she said. “Less apparent clinical signs might include drooling, pacing, panting or licking.”

Cats are a little harder to figure out. “As domestic cats have traditionally been viewed as asocial or even antisocial, SA is not as well documented as in dogs,” Roaché said. “However, recent research has suggested that cats do form social bonds with people and may be at risk for SA. It has been suggested that owner-absent house soiling and over-grooming behaviors may be signs.”

It is important for owners to prepare their pets for separation, and in some cases, the assistance of a veterinary

behaviorist may be needed, Roaché said.

“Helping your pet cope with SA may take time, so be prepared,” she said. “You are thinking, ‘I do not have the amount of time that is going to be required to help my pet, or it is going to be too hard and neither of us will get it right.’ I design my behavior modification treatment plans so that the homework assignment only requires 5 to 10 minutes a day.

“I know how busy people are, and how tired people are at the end of the workday, and here I am asking them to do one more thing. Short sessions lessen the chance that the owner or pet will become frustrated,” she said.

Short sessions also help to attain goals, which, when done correctly, will help pets build confidence, which in turn helps make them a happier pet, she said.

To help a pet adjust to being alone, have the pet spend a few moments by itself during the day.

“This could be having the owner work outside for 30 minutes while the pet remains inside, or the pet gets to go to a different room for alone time,” Roaché said, adding that it is important

for the owner to follow their previously normal routine prior to starting the alone time.

This could also be accomplished with a family, where everyone is required to leave the living room and remain quiet for 30 minutes 2-3 times a day, leaving the pet alone, Roaché said.

“At the end of 30 minutes, everyone returns to the living room, and the dog settles into a new semi-normal routine,” she said.

Obtaining a diagnosis from a veterinarian is the first step toward treatment, Roaché said, as there could be underlying medical or other anxiety-related concerns that can exacerbate the situation.

“For cases with milder distress, but not true clinical SA, something as simple as giving the pet a toy that has been stuffed with yummy treats is enough to alleviate the pet’s concern,” she said. “If full blown signs of SA are present, it may be necessary to enlist the help of a specialty veterinary behaviorist who can formulate an in-depth behavior modification treatment plan and prescribe behavior medications if needed.”

Roaché said it is important for a pet’s

health to resolve the issue.

“Try not to assume a pet is eliminating or destroying things because it is angry or getting back at you for being left alone. In truth, dogs do not need to be with their human 24 hours per day,” she said, adding that punishment is not the answer.

“While punishment might reduce undesirable behavior in that one setting, you must remember that fear is an emotional state and punishment, or any stimulus that might lead to a negative or unpleasant consequence, will further increase the fear and anxiety,” she said. “If the return of the human leads to punishment, but the dog does not know why it is being punished, this will increase the fear and anxious state of mind and could damage the human-animal bond.”

If your pet is displaying signs of SA, eligible members may contact the JBSA-Randolph Veterinary Clinic at 210-652-3190 or the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Clinic at 210-808-6101. Currently, there is no vet available at JBSA-Lackland, but pet parents may contact one of the other two clinics for availability.

LACKLAND

Airman Heritage Museum displays Women in the Air Force's rich history

By Capt. Kenya Pettway

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Shortly thereafter the official formation of the U.S. Air Force as a distinct force, then-President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948 that established the Women in the Air Force program, allowing women to become service members in the military.

In spite of this unprecedented legislation, women were not exempt from gender disparity in the military. There were only 300 officers and 4,000 enlisted slots open to women — 2 percent of the force — and the women who were able to serve were limited to clerical and medical duties.

Located in a single exhibit area of the Airman Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is a WAF gallery that invites people to remember these unique plights — and inevitable triumphs — of the first women who were afforded the opportunity to serve.

"As a heritage museum, it falls upon us to tell that story, no matter how painful the memory," said William Manchester, Airman Heritage Training Complex director. "We focus on the success of these women, while also ensuring our visitors know the difficult struggles of various eras, and how our Air Force has worked to overcome them."

The WAF gallery consists of mannequins adorned in various WAF uniforms from the 1940s–1980s, including the Wool Winter Service Dress and Green-and-White sere sucker fatigues carried over from the Women's Army Corps personnel, and 50s-era uniforms that showcase the transition from Army green to Air Force blue.

Other uniforms displayed are those first worn by the WAFs, which were adaptations of men's uniforms with standard neckties. As the need grew for

more practical wear for women, the Air Force developed uniforms that mirrored clothing worn by commercial flight attendants, highlighting the impact WAFs had on shaping our modern Air Force, according to Manchester.

The gallery also includes a patch, stripes and insignia pin regalia of the WAF Band, subsequently known as the 543rd Air Force Band, an all-women band that formed in 1951 at JBSA-Lackland.

Among additional artifacts on display is the pen used by then-President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 to sign legislation eliminating the 2% limit on female officers — a symbol of emerging equality.

"The display showcases another milestone in our diverse Air Force heritage," said Senior Master Sgt. Sonjia Rodriguez, museum superintendent. "It honors the women who actually lived and served prior to and during the Air Force's full integration of women into the service."

Nine years later, the WAF program ended in 1976 when women were integrated into the Air Force on many of the same conditions as men, but its rich history still echoes in the halls of the Airman Heritage Museum, inspiring future generations of female Airmen.

"We want to pass on to our young female trainees that not only are they part of a rich Air Force tradition but that they are the newest in a long line of women who have answered our nation's call to service," said Manchester.

With over 55,000 visitors last year, the primary mission of the museum is to educate Airmen on the history of the Air Force and to educate, train, inspire and serve as a recruiting tool for civilian visitors.

For more information on the USAF Airman Heritage Museum, visit <https://myairmanmuseum.org/>.



PHOTOS BY SARAYUTH PINTHONG

Artifacts from the Women in the Air Force (WAF) gallery are displayed for visitors to view in the USAF Airman Heritage Training Complex, Aug. 10, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



CMSgt. JoAnne S. Bass installed as 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

By Charles Pope

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne S. Bass formally took the reins Aug. 14 as the Air Force's 19th Chief Master Sergeant, in the process becoming the first woman and the first person of Asian American descent to be elevated to the service's highest-ranking enlisted officer.

In remarks after the formal "Change of Responsibility" ceremony in which she assumed the job from retiring Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, Bass marveled at the arc of her career and the moment in history.

"Twenty-seven years ago, I joined our United States Air Force with the plan of doing four quick years and figuring out what I wanted to do in life," she said. "Never would I have imagined I would be standing before you today as your 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force."

Bass's claim to history followed by one week another major milestone, when Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., her new boss, was formally installed as the 22nd Air Force Chief of Staff. That act made Brown the first African-American in history to become the highest-ranking officer of a U.S. military service. Brown acknowledged the significance by noting the path created by "Tuskegee Airmen, Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Chappie James and African American leaders across our Air Force and military."

"The same holds true today," Bass said. "It is a moment that could not have taken place without the efforts of many women who have gone before me."

"Our Air Force today is on the right side of history. We are creating not only historic



ERIC R. DIETRICH

Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne S. Bass salutes during the national anthem at the beginning of a Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force change of responsibility ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, Aug. 14.

moments with the first African American service chief and the first female and Asian American Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, but we are focused on setting a foundation for all Americans to see themselves in this great institution," she said.

"To anyone who never thought they could be a Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, a Chief of Staff, or a Secretary of the Air Force, or a commander or a first sergeant, this historic moment is for you," she said.

Bass also paid tribute to Wright and to Gen. David L. Goldfein, the 21st Air Force Chief of Staff.

Wright and Goldfein, she said, "had a monumental impact on each of us. It's been a true honor to watch and serve under you both."

As for what comes next and how she plans to lead, Bass was direct, "We have much to get after."

Bass said she would continue to adhere to leadership principles gleaned from her parents and from her husband, Rahn, a retired Army First Sergeant.

"What my parents did instill in me is the value of hard work and treating people well. That is something that I will continue on as your Chief — hard work and treating people well," she said.

Her husband, Bass said, "taught me to always take the 'hard right' versus the 'easy wrong.' And my word to all Airmen is that we will always take the hard right; meaning, we will always do the right thing even when it's not comfortable."

Similar to the previous week when Brown became Chief of Staff and Goldfein officially retired, Friday's ceremony took place in the same hangar at Joint Base Andrews and was equal parts a celebration of Bass and a heartfelt tribute to Wright's service.

"Chief Wright epitomizes servant leadership. He's a mentor, an inspiration and a leader," said Department of the Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett.

"Chief Wright offered sage advice on issues ranging from welfare and morale to readiness and the resiliency of his more than 400,000 enlisted Airmen. His influence on Airmen will

endure," she said.

Then turning to Bass, Barrett said, "Today, the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, JoAnne Bass, becomes a worthy successor to Chief Wright."

"Chief Bass, your extraordinary record of service has prepared you well to serve as the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. I look forward to working with you as we lead the Air Force toward the future," Barrett said.

Barrett also announced a new Air Force award, the "Goldfein-Wright Inclusive Leadership Award" that recognizes the legacy of both previous leaders on questions of diversity and inclusion across the Air Force.

"Recognizing the colossal impact of Gen. Goldfein and Chief Wright together on Department of the Air Force diversity and inclusion, today we are unveiling a new award — the Goldfein-Wright Inclusive Leadership Award," she said.

The award, she said, will "recognize the command team that best fosters inclusion to achieve mission success."

In his remarks, Brown honored both Bass and Wright. "It is a privilege to be part of this special ceremony marking the historic transfer of responsibility to honor two tremendous enlisted leaders and to give thanks to two phenomenal Air Force families," he said.

As for Bass, Brown said after listing her career highlights, "What is more important to know about Chief Master Sergeant Bass is that she is ready and she is willing to serve. She has the passion, the skills and the strength of character we need to lead us, to face head on the demanding challenges of today and of the future."

In the global search for the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of

the Air Force, Bass emerged as the consensus choice from a group of more than a dozen finalists from across the Air Force, officials said. The finalists were selected based on breadth of experience, recommendations from senior commanders and performance across each candidate's Air Force career.

Prior to becoming Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Bass served as command chief master sergeant, Second Air Force, at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. In that assignment, Bass was the senior enlisted leader and advisor to the commander on all matters relating to the professional development, proper utilization, and the readiness of the enlisted corps.

In his farewell remarks, Wright thanked a long list of people who guided him throughout his career, including his wife Tonya, his family and a broad array of Air Force colleagues. Chief among them was Goldfein.

"The one thing I can say is, you always, always, always stood by me.... I cannot tell you how much I appreciate you as a boss and maybe more importantly, as a friend and as a brother," Wright said of Goldfein, who attended the ceremony with his wife, Dawn.

Goldfein reciprocated earlier in the ceremony when he served to formally retire Wright.

"Ladies and gentlemen, Chief Kaleth Wright is an inspirational leader of Airmen and servant of Airman, and together with Tonya, a voice for their families," Goldfein said.

"You have well and faithfully — well, and faithfully — discharged the duties of the office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. Dawn and I and the rest of the Air Force family wish you and Tonya clear skies and fair winds as we start our next chapters."



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MELODY BORDEAUX

59TH MEDICAL WING COMMAND TEAM SPEAKS AT SNCO SEMINAR

Chief Master Sgt. Marc Schoellkopf (left), 59th Medical Wing command chief, speaks about how to be an effective leader during a senior NCO professional enhancement seminar Aug. 13 at the Robert D. Gaylor NCO Academy, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Schoellkopf spoke about the importance of demonstrating effective work-life balance for subordinates. Technical sergeants selected for promotion to master sergeant were also instructed by Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes, 59th Medical Wing commander, at the seminar, which also covered how to supplement the information taught in basic military training, technical training, ancillary training, enlisted professional military education and job experience.

RANDOLPH

AF Personnel Center welcomes new commander

By Staff Sgt. Sahara L. Fales
AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the Air Force's Personnel Center tuned in virtually Aug. 14 as Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Toth relinquished command of the headquarters to Maj. Gen. Christopher E. Craig in a change of command ceremony officiated by Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

"To the men and women of AFPC, I know you'll continue performing at the same exceptional level for Major General Craig as you have for Major General Toth," said Kelly in his opening remarks. "There is no global vigilance, global reach, or global power without the men and women of AFPC."

"You've all performed



STAFF SGT. SAHARA L. FALES

Maj. Gen. Christopher E. Craig provides his first salute as the new Air Force Personnel Center commander to members of AFPC during a change of command ceremony Aug. 12 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

admirably; you've been agile, innovative and responsive — incredible work done," Toth said, in his final words to the AFPC team. "Ending my career leading this team was the icing on the cake."

Turning his attention toward Craig, Kelly said, "I admire your leadership and passion. Your level of care for Airmen is unmatched, which makes you a perfect leader for AFPC. You were the right choice to follow

in Drifter's [Toth's] footsteps."

During his first remarks as the new AFPC commander, Craig said, "We're excited to be here and humbled by the opportunity to lead this storied center in San Antonio. I just came off a Joint tour and saw firsthand how our service develops and cares for our current and next generation of warfighters."

"We have a great responsibility here at AFPC and much work to do in supporting our Department of the Air Force and our nation," he continued. "We will adapt and thrive in the COVID environment and we will stay laser-focused on our most precious resource - our people."

Prior to taking command at AFPC, Craig served as the Director, Strategy, Engagement, and Programs, U.S. Africa

Command, Stuttgart-Möhringen, Germany. Craig also previously commanded both the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Kabul, Afghanistan and the 39th Air Base Wing, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Craig earned his commission through the U.S. Air Force Academy and is a command pilot with more than 3,900 flying hours in a variety of aircraft.

AFPC ensures commanders around the world are provided with skilled Airmen to conduct Department of the Air Force and Joint missions. Additionally, AFPC executes programs covering the entire life cycle of military and civilian personnel for the Department of the Air Force, from accession through retirement, including readiness, growth, development and deployment.

Program helps keep warriors united through community networks

By Bianca Soto
AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

The Air Force Wounded Warrior, or AFW2, Program continues to lead the way in fostering an environment of connectedness with warriors, caregivers and their families. AFW2 regularly provides multitudes of support resources with the help of AFW2 Community Programs, to ensure Warriors and their families connect to a network of support and receive aid throughout their journey of recovery.

AFW2 Community Programs connects warriors and their families to events, opportunities and resources from the roughly 46,000 veteran service organizations located nationwide. The team uses social media platforms to connect with veteran

service organizations and obtain vital information, which they streamline and share to warriors and their families.

"We create a monthly calendar broken down into the six AFW2 care management regions and publish a quarterly newsletter to highlight specific events and organizations," said Bobby Puckett, AFW2 Community Programs manager. "We provide personal assistance locating resources on a case-by-case basis, but the most efficient way to share information from these organizations is through the AFW2 Community Programs Facebook page."

The Community Programs team works to ensure warriors and their families never feel isolated, particularly during times of transition such as residing in a new community or retiring from active duty. Their newest

initiative, Warrior and Family Social Connections, or WAFSC, allows AFW2 Warriors to stay connected with fellow Warriors in their local area and engage in community-based events. The goal is to build national local communities amongst Warriors and their families.

"I've definitely enjoyed having that sense of community and ability to connect with other local warriors and getting out and doing fun stuff," said retired Capt. Rob Hufford, AFW2 warrior. "I've seen it help me in my recovery and I know it's helped others in theirs. We've even expanded our local WAFSC with warriors from other service branches and shared social experiences with them."

Community Programs also assists Warriors who may be seeking adaptive sports equipment to further their recovery or use to participate in our

virtual sports competitions. Warriors may register through the VA at, www.benefits.va.gov/compensation, to determine their eligibility for adaptive sports equipment. They can also connect with non-profit organizations such as Hope for the Warriors, Play Foundation, Independence Fund, Team Semper Fi/America's Fund, IM Able Foundation and Kelly Brush Foundation to learn more about their qualifications and application process.

Visit the AFW2 Facebook page and witness the first-ever AFW2 Virtual CARE Week happening Aug. 18-21. Learn more about the recovery and support programs our Warriors and Caregivers will be participating in this week. To refer an Airman, or learn more about the AFW2 Program, visit www.woundedwarrior.af.mil for additional information and resources.

Testaments of Healing: Path of an AFW2 Ambassador

From Shannon Hall

AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR
PROGRAM

When most people hear the word ambassador, they think of someone educated, professional, and of high importance but no one really considers how they got to that position. The path of an Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) program Ambassador is not an easy one by any means.

AFW2 takes care of the U.S. Air Force's wounded, ill, and injured Airmen, veterans, and their families. Ambassadors with AFW2 have gone through, and continue to fight through, the darkest days of their life and are living testaments to all that you can overcome anything with the right tools, training, and family beside you. The biggest part of their healing process, as an Ambassador, is learning to share their story with the world.

"An Ambassador's role is to publicly share their story to military and civilian audiences," said Melissa Weist, Outreach and Ambassador Program manager. "To be successful in doing that, we offer workshops with instruction on public speaking, knowing your audience, military and community engagement, social media practices and other training."

Even though AFW2 has gone virtual with their training and education services, they have



ROGER PLACIDO

Master Sgt. Dee Parks talks to senior leaders during the 2019 Pacific Air Forces Warrior CARE Event at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, in early January. This was one of 29 briefings the Ambassador Program conducted around the base reaching over 2,000 new Airmen, highlighting the program and how it helps Airmen facing what may be the worst situation in their life.

not stopped the healing portion of any Warriors recovery. Ambassadors still go live on Facebook to tell their story; they still attend virtual training to learn how to be successful and play a pivotal role in helping others get through their hardest days.

"You not only heal by being resilient but also telling my story heals me," said Master Sgt. Deondra Parks, AFW2 Ambassador. "I still struggle daily, so having this family in

blue, most definitely helps me get through my toughest days."

This week AFW2 is hosting its first-ever Virtual CARE Week, and a diverse group of Ambassadors joined the call to perfect their story-telling skills and be a guide for those who are learning to tell their story for the first time. Throughout the week they will learn how to engage with their audience, speak with media agencies, learn about the other programs within AFW2 and give their

testimony to each other.

Ambassadors provide a front-row perspective on how AFW2 helps Airmen, like no one else. Ambassadors allow attendees into their world, sharing their lowest points in life, and how they made it out with the help of the program.

By telling their stories, the audience gains knowledge of the program and is also shown that they are not the only ones struggling and that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

"An Ambassador's role is to publicly share their story to military and civilian audiences. To be successful in doing that, we offer workshops with instruction on public speaking, knowing your audience, military and community engagement, social media practices and other training."

Melissa Weist, Outreach and Ambassador Program manager

Part of getting to that light is helping others to get to theirs through sharing their testament.

Visit the program's Facebook page to hear stories of resiliency and engage in wellness activities hosted by AFW2 Warriors and staff. For additional information, visit www.woundedwarrior.af.mil to refer an Airman to the program, read about the program's mission, or learn about additional programs offered to Caregivers and families.

AETC podcast features virtual reality in TACP initial training

From Air Education and Training
Command Public Affairs

A look at the use of virtual reality in Tactical Air Control Party initial skills training is the focus of the latest episode of "The Air Force Starts Here," released Aug. 19.

In this episode, Dan Hawkins from the Air Education and Training

Command public affairs team sits down remotely with Tech. Sgt. Scott Eubanks from the Special Warfare Training Wing's 353rd Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland to talk about the incorporation and use of virtual-reality simulator in Tactical Air Control Party initial skills training. Eubanks talks in-depth about what a TACP does, what training is done in

initial skills training, as well as all the details of the Joint Terminal Control Training Rehearsal System and its impact on training.

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 recent changes to the Air Force basic military training physical training program and much more.

Spark Tank 2021: Your ideas ignite the future of our Air Force

From Headquarters AETC/A9A Innovation Advancement Division
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

Air Education and Training Command can't wait to hear what our innovative Airmen have to offer in this year's Spark Tank competition.

It is critical that you enter early and often as it will allow innovation consultants to assist you with your video and preparedness for the competition.

As a reminder, the campaign does run until midnight Oct. 16, 2020, and all AETC Airmen are encouraged to submit ideas that they believe may make significant impacts on Air Force missions within six to 24 months. Spark Tank ideas must be submitted via the U.S. Air Force Ideation Platform at <https://usaf.ideascalegov.com/>.

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, the AETC Commander, will chair the command's judging panel that will review submissions and choose the top five entries. Those five individuals/teams will then have the opportunity to virtually pitch their idea to the AETC selection committee. The top two will be selected to represent the First Command at the Air Force-level semi-finalist competition. In addition, to qualify for the "Wild Card" selection your idea needs at least 50 votes from your fellow Airmen to compete for the special division that could get you a top six spot at AFA.

Winners at the semi-finals move on to the final round of competition, which is scheduled to be held at the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida, Feb. 24-26, 2021.



GRAPHIC BY BRIAN C. MARCHITELLO

Airmen can get Innovation consultant support by contacting their local Wing Process Manager that can be located in your Innovation Collaboration APAN platform: AETC APAN WPM LOCATOR.

The HQ AETC/A9A Innovation Advancement Division is the lead action office for AETC Spark Tank 2021. For more information or assistance, Airmen can email the HQ AETC/A9A Innovation Advancement Division workflow at aetca9.workflow.2@us.af.mil.

Disasters don't wait: Make your plan today

By Allen Mendiola
JBSA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month and serves as a reminder to plan and prepare for emergencies that could impact homes, workplaces, schools, and communities.

Accordingly, the Air Force's "Be Ready," the Army's "Ready Army" and the Navy's "Ready Navy" awareness campaigns were established to ensure military and civilian members have the knowledge required to enhance resilience, equip readiness and increase security by being prepared to respond and recover from any emergency situation that occurs at Joint Base San Antonio.



Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Planning and preparation are essential in building resiliency and coincide with this year's theme, "Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today." This serves to remind us to take the necessary steps now to be prepared today and throughout the year.

Four weekly themes have been

developed to assist in planning and preparation, with the goal of fostering a culture of preparedness across the installation and in the local communities.

September is a dedicated time to develop emergency response plans for units and homes; as well as partnering

in local efforts to enhance JBASA's overall preparedness.

Commanders at all levels must ensure the JBSA Emergency Management Program and the National Preparedness Month initiatives listed above are a priority in September and throughout the year. Failure to get the word out may have a negative impact on the installation's emergency preparedness and mission continuation.

Look for weekly updates across JBASA social media platforms during the month of September to assist in making sure everyone stays prepared. Contact your JBSA Office of Emergency Management for additional information at 210-671-2260.