

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

NOVEMBER 20, 2020



PHOTO BY SEAN WORRELL

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller (right), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, speaks during the Lindbergh Demolition Project partnership recognition event Nov. 10 in Universal City.

JBSA partners with local governments to ensure citizen, pilot safety

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Civilian encourages Airmen to share innovative ideas

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ARSOUTH crew with JTF-Bravo rescues Hurricane Eta victims

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Technology, expertise help determine COVID-19 vaccine distribution

By Lisa Simunaci

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ten military officers assigned to Operation Warp Speed are embedded at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine.

Operation Warp Speed, led by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense, employs a “whole of America” approach to develop and deliver 300 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics to treat the virus.

More than 600 miles from Operation Warp Speed headquarters in Washington D.C., each of the Army, Navy and Air Force officers in Atlanta are teamed with a CDC regional coordinator responsible for a specific area of the country and its territories.

“The country’s existing public health infrastructure is well tested — we see evidence every fall when Americans receive the flu vaccine in large numbers. But these are not normal times,” Army Gen. Gus Perna, Operation Warp Speed’s chief operating officer, said. “Leveraging our military planning and logistics capability and combining that with proven methods will allow existing systems to scale quickly to get the vaccine to the American people.”

The military liaisons and partner regional coordinators are communicating daily with various agencies within their assigned regions to discuss how vaccines will be prioritized, packaged and shipped. Information exchanges are continuous as regions work through the special handling instructions — like cold storage — and other considerations surrounding delivery.



COURTESY PHOTO

An Operation Warp Speed contingent in Atlanta is working with regional coordinators on the distribution efforts for the COVID-19 vaccine.

“Like most of America, public health professionals are working through the challenges brought on by quarantines, telework and social distancing,” said Deacon Maddox, Operation Warp Speed’s chief of plans, operations and analytics. “While the pandemic stresses both people and systems, our expertise and technology tools provide a disciplined and deliberate approach to prioritize vaccine delivery and ease the burden of public health officials throughout the nation.”

Operation Warp Speed is using the Tiberius platform, a cutting-edge data platform to collect, correlate and visualize data across the entire operation. It is loaded with data from various sources — U.S. Census, Department of Health and Human Services, State Health Offices and the CDC.

Tiberius integrates the data related to manufacturing, clinical trials, supply chain, allocation, state and territory planning, delivery and administration of both vaccine products and kits containing

needles, syringes and other supplies needed to administer the vaccine. No personally identifiable or personal health information is contained in the Tiberius system.

All 50 states recently submitted COVID-19 distribution plans to the CDC, and the Operation Warp Speed team is involved in helping the CDC review those plans. Once the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices makes its recommendations on who should receive the vaccine first, the HHS secretary, in consultation with national leadership, will decide how to prioritize the initially limited doses.

OWS will input these decisions into Tiberius, and using several other logistical factors, compute the quantities to be allocated to each jurisdiction. The jurisdictions will work inside the Tiberius platform to decide where every allocated dose will go — from local doctors’ offices to large medical centers. These decisions will then be sent to distributors

to complete deliveries across the country.

“We still have several unknowns, but that is what the military is best at — planning for every contingency, and that is what we are helping states with now,” Maddox said. “Every state is different — no two information systems are the same.”

Through the Tiberius software though, Maddox said the team has visibility within one system to see a full snapshot across all U.S. jurisdictions to provide decision support for distribution and allocation using 2020 technology.

While most of the nation is eagerly anticipating the first vaccine delivery, Maddox noted the Atlanta team is looking beyond initial distribution to the hundreds of millions of doses expected in subsequent shipments.

“Timing for the first dose is the beginning, but we are going to be in continual distribution as production comes off the line daily or weekly — and it must be distributed,” Maddox said.

JBSA LEGACY

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Editorial Staff**

**502nd Air Base Wing
and JBSA Commander**

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CAROLINE M. MILLER**

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Public Affairs Director**

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**P.O. BOX 2171
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78297
210-250-2052**

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller
502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN
ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

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

Q. I have been seeing advertising on TV about adding additional items to my Medicare such as dental, hearing aids, vision care etc. I have medical care at the clinic/SAMC.

If I add these items to my Medicare, would this disqualify me for medical help at the clinic? I retired in 1990. I have tried to find out at the clinic/BAMC, but no one knows.

A. Thank you for your question. Medicare patients are still eligible to utilize the emergency room, pharmacy, laboratory, and radiology services within the Military Treatment Facility, or MTF. They will still be considered for specialty care and inpatient care on a space-available basis.

For patients aged 65-plus seeking primary care, they will be enrolled at a non-military treatment facility; however, they can apply to enroll at an MTF by exception. For more information, see <https://tricare.mil/Plans/SpecialPrograms/Plus>

For more in-depth information, you can visit <https://tricare.mil> or contact a Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator at any of our MTFs at 210-916-3586.

Q. I have two things I would like



COURTESY GRAPHIC

to suggest. The first is I hope someone in the chain of command will give the people updating the static aircraft by the JBSA-Lackland parade field a pat on the back for a great job.

The second is, would it be possible to have the area in front of fire station No. 1 marked as a no-stopping zone? Fire trucks will be able to exit the fire station without being blocked.

A. Thank you for acknowledging the team that cares for our historical aircraft. Their work to preserve Air Force heritage allows us to marvel at and acknowledge the contributions of the men and women that flew and maintained them.

Regarding parking in front of the fire stations, our civil engineers will review the signage in the vicinity and determine if they should be refreshed, updated, or enhanced.

Q. I am writing to make a suggestion regarding the JBSA-Lackland Luke East (Main) gate.

To get to this gate, one must turn in from Military Drive (Loop 13). There are two entry lanes after you turn in. It is a very short distance to the gate and most of the time only one lane is open. You cannot see which of the two lanes are open until you have already turned in from Military Drive.

If you happen to turn into the lane that is closed, you must then attempt to squeeze into the line of cars going in the lane that is open. There is not much time to do that and not everyone is nice enough to allow you in.

I am not sure why there is a need to change the open lane on what seems to be a random manner. My suggestion is to

designate the left hand lane (default lane) and open the right lane. This way one would know this in advance and could turn in accordingly. This situation may exist at other gates.

A. Thank you for your suggestion on easing the daily commute challenge. During daily peak traffic from 6 to 9 a.m., both entrance lanes of the gate are open.

After the peak, we minimize the guesswork by setting the left lane to be the default for entering the base. There are unannounced times that Random Anti-Terrorism Measures, or RAMs, are conducted at the main gates or when incidents are occurring that would cause the right lane to be open instead.

We appreciate your understanding, as these measures are essential to protecting the JBSA community.

JBSA First Sergeant Diamond Sharp Awards

From the Joint Base San Antonio First Sergeants Council

The Diamond Sharp Award is sponsored by the Joint Base San Antonio First Sergeants Council and recognizes outstanding Airmen who continually exceed the standard to meet the Air Force mission.

Tech. Sgt. Richard M. Alldrin

Unit: 33rd Network Warfare Squadron

Job Title: Network Sensor Operator

When Tech. Sgt. Richard Alldrin's troop was diagnosed with leukemia, he personally escorted his troop to the emergency room because he was complaining of severe back pain. While at the ER, Alldrin provided support for his troop's wife, ensuring they both got food, kept his commander updated, all while never leaving

the ER. Once diagnosed, Alldrin built an online wish list and rallied the squadron behind a gift card donation drive for the family. The gift cards ensured they always had proper disinfectants to keep the house safe during his chemotherapy treatments. Feedback from the family was that "Alldrin was the supervisor people dream of."

Staff Sgt. Martin C. Brownlee

Unit: 502nd Security Forces Squadron

Job Title: Emergency Control Center Controller

Staff Sgt. Martin Brownlee exemplifies what it

means to be a Defender and all-around leader. He displayed exceptional job performance, scoring 100 percent on his Emergency Control Center certification, which is a high-stress position with a huge boost in responsibility. While performing controller duties, he managed the response to a gate

runner, a domestic dispute and offenders with warrants, safeguarding the installation and mission partners. As president of the Defenders' Association, Brownlee organized three squadron-level events to boost morale.

Staff Sgt. Trevor Daher

Unit: 93rd Intelligence Squadron

Job Title: Cryptologic Linguist

With no notice and with no preparation, Staff

Sgt. Trevor Daher became the acting flight chief for the unit's in-processing flight. He managed 60



Airmen and associated responsibilities, while leading a 543rd Group Commander facility project. This project included inventory for \$50,000 in equipment and furniture, as well as the conversion of multiple spaces for training and mission operations across two facilities located at

JBSA-Lackland. Daher also coordinated with two senior group staff members to secure a cleaning contract, government vehicle acquisition and storage space. Additionally, he coordinated manpower with two large organizations to enable last-minute Base Honor Guard support.

Staff Sgt. Shereka L. McCastle

Unit: Joint Personal Property Shipping Office (JPSSO)

Job Title: Shipment Distribution Technician

Staff Sgt. Shereka McCastle led five personnel and serviced shipments for 90,000 Department of Defense customers. A vital asset to the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office as a shipment distribution technician, she has coordinated 969 outbound shipments and obligated \$706,000. Additionally, McCastle has trained two

inbound personnel on direct procured method procedures and organized additional outbound training for nine personnel. McCastle also completed three credit hours towards her bachelor's degree in business administration, leaving her just 15 credits shy of completion.

Senior Airman Andrew Reese

Unit: 59th Medical Operations Squadron

Job Title: Aerospace Medical Technician

As a member of his virtual youth group, Senior Airman Andrew Reese leads bible study for his church youth ministry congregation. Taking on additional duties without hesitation during the COVID-19 crisis, he took on the task of



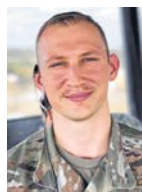
testing 2.4 thousand Airmen per week for three months. Reese is also the flight safety program manager and his diligence has provided a safe environment for 140 employees and 6,000 patients on a monthly basis. Reese acts as a mentor, assisting college students with obtaining financial aid and registering for classes, leading to several students pursue their Community College of the Air Force degrees. Reese is taking six college-level classes towards his bachelor's degree in computer science, while working a 40-hour work week.

Senior Airman Gerald Vollbrecht

Unit: 502nd Operations Support Squadron

Job Title: Air Traffic Controller

Senior Airman Gerald Vollbrecht has



distinguished himself as a member of the 502nd Operations Support Squadron at JBSA-Kelly Field Annex. As a trainer, he is responsible for balancing flight operations with the 300 percent apprentice-training load, sculpting trainees into fully-fledged controllers. Having

been recently selected for promotion to staff sergeant, he attended Airman Leadership School and was chosen as distinguished graduate. Vollbrecht dedicates his time towards myriad extracurricular activities, including as an Air Force Sergeant's Association legislative trustee and squadron booster club treasurer.

Airman 1st Class Abigail Wyman

Unit: 35th Intelligence Squadron

Job Title: Cyber Analyst

Airman 1st Class Abigail Wyman demonstrates



the Air Force core values by her caring nature and passionate work ethic. She continues to look for ways to step up and help those around her. Recently, while Wyman was out, she noticed the driver beside her hop the curb. As she pulled over to help, she saw that the individual was having a seizure.

During the events that transpired, Wyman called 911 and was able to get help just in time. Her keen sense of situational awareness led to her being a key contributor in saving the life of this individual.

Thanksgiving fire safety: food for thought

By Richard S. Campos

JBSA FIRE SAFETY OFFICE

The countdown to consumption of turkey and all the trimmings is on the horizon. The arrival of Thanksgiving also means many of us will be searching our closets for stretchy pants!

Giving thanks and spending a day with loved ones, friends, and neighbors is what this holiday is all about, but the Thanksgiving meal can lead to fires from the cooking process.

By following a few simple safety precautions in the kitchen, people can avoid any fires that may lead to injuries, deaths, or property loss.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, Thanksgiving Day has the highest number of home-cooking fire incidents. Fires are likely to occur about three times more on this day than any other day of the year.

Thanksgiving Day can produce a surge of residential

building fires that can result in millions of dollars in property damage, injuries, and deaths.

What causes most Thanksgiving fires? Cooking is attributed to more than 71 percent of the fires. Leaving food unattended while it was cooking was the leading cause of Thanksgiving cooking fires, according to the NFPA. The main timeframe for cooking fires was between noon and 3 p.m.

With all the festivities going on in your home, such as visiting with friends and relatives, you may be distracted and not keeping an eye on your cooking. Be aware to what's in the oven or on the stovetop.

Give your complete attention to one dish at a time this will help to keep food from burning and starting fires. Leaving unattended cooking is what brings cold sweats to firefighters across the nation.

If a pot catches on fire, never attempt to move it or pour water on grease or oil. This

splashing action might spread the fire. The best act is to put a lid on top of the pot to smother the fire, leave the pot where it is, and turn the heat off when the fire has been suppressed.

The kitchen is also no place for children and pets during the turkey cooking frenzy. Have activities for the kids during the busy times. Games, puzzles or books can keep them entertained and out of the way. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.

It's equally important to keep pets out of the kitchen. Keep pets in a gated room or outside.

The NFPA believes currently designed turkey fryers that use cooking oil are not appropriate for safe use by even a well-informed and vigilant shopper. The significant amount of cooking oil used at high temperatures and units currently available for home use pose a noteworthy danger that

hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process.

Also, the burners that heat the oil can ignite spilled oil. The use of turkey fryers by consumers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries, and the destruction of property.

The NFPA urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments, such as grocery stores, specialty food retailers and restaurants for the preparation of the dish or consider a new type of oil-free turkey fryer.

But if you decide you want to try your hand at frying the turkey this year, take extra safeguards such as:

► Keep the fryer away from the house and on even ground. The fryer should be set up more than 10 feet away from the home and on level ground to keep the oil even.

► Completely thaw and dry the turkey first. Only fry a turkey after it has been fully thawed

and dried off to reduce the possibility of splattering grease, which can ignite fires.

► Keep children and pets away, and have a fire extinguisher nearby. The last thing you want on Thanksgiving Day is for a child or pet to knock over the fryer and get injured.

It's when people have tried to fight the fires themselves that the majority of non-fatal Thanksgiving Day fire injuries occurred. If the unspeakable was to occur and your home catches on fire and no fire extinguisher is available, your primary objective is to get everyone out of the house. Call 911 immediately.

For more information about Thanksgiving safety, visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at <https://www.nfpa.org/education> or contact the Joint Base San Antonio fire prevention offices at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-2727, at JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2921, or at JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6915.

Mailing holiday cards, packages best done early

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It's always prudent to begin holiday shopping as early as possible, and it's equally important to get cards and packages in the mail early so they reach their destinations in time for Christmas Day.

For the families and friends of service members deployed overseas or assigned to installations outside the United States, Dec. 9 and Dec. 11 are important dates for expected on-time delivery by the United States Postal Service.

USPS recommends mailing cards and parcels by first-class and priority mail to Air/Army Post Office, Fleet Post Office and Diplomatic Post Office ZIP code



COURTESY PHOTO

093 no later than Dec. 9 and to other APO/FPO/DPO ZIP codes no later than Dec. 11 for expected delivery by Dec. 25.

Other recommended send-by dates for on-time delivery to

APO/FPO/DPO ZIP codes are Nov. 27 for space-available mail, Dec. 4 for parcel airlift mail and Dec. 18 for priority mail express military service, which is available to selected military and

diplomatic post offices.

For delivery to the contiguous United States, USPS recommends send-by dates of Dec. 15 for USPS retail ground service, Dec. 18 for first-class mail service, Dec. 19 for priority mail service and Dec. 23 for priority mail express service.

The postal service offers a military care kit that includes items most frequently requested by military families. The kit contains two priority mail APO/FPO flat-rate boxes, four priority mail medium flat-rate boxes, priority mail tape, priority mail address labels and six custom forms envelopes. Call 800-610-8734 to order the kit.

Special care should be used in sending packages to APO/FPO addresses. The service member's full name should be

included along with the unit, APO/FPO address and nine-digit ZIP code, but not the country's name. In addition, a return address is required.

JBSA USPS locations are open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 1804 Stanley Road; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at JBSA-Lackland, 2261 Hughes Ave.; and 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday at JBSA-Randolph, 220 B Street West.

JBSA post office phone numbers are 210-226-0252 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; 210-671-0952 at JBSA-Lackland; and 210-652-2606 at JBSA-Randolph.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio welcomes new commander

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Cmdr. Michael Files assumed the role of commanding officer of Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio during a change of command ceremony at the Warrior & Family Support Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Nov. 12.

Files takes command of NTAG San Antonio from Cmdr. Nicholas Gamiz, who is taking over as commanding officer of Naval Technical Training Center at JBSA-Lackland.

In his remarks, Files said he will lead based on a culture of excellence in which command members strive to be the best they can every day and are constantly improving and developing in their jobs at NTAG San Antonio.

"We are in the business of not only changing people's lives but their family trees," Files said. "NTAG San Antonio has proven itself to be a passionate, charitable, mission-focused organization. I will do my best to be fair, firm, impartial and to lead with integrity."

NTAG San Antonio includes more than 30 Navy recruiting stations and officer recruiting stations covering 144,000 square miles of Central and South Texas.

Before taking over as commanding officer, Files served as executive officer of NTAG San Antonio, formerly Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, beginning June 2019.

He is from Austin, Texas, and started his naval career after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree in political science.

During his 22 years in the service, Files has served on many duty assignments, including as the assistant protocol officer and Guam liaison officer to the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas in Guam. Prior to coming to NTAG San Antonio, he was the section head for the Reserve Force Manpower Branch and Manpower and Accounting on the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education).

In addition, Files has been on deployments supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has completed two individual augmentation assignments, including as a United Nations Military Observer for a U.N. mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea and a military staff officer for a U.N. stabilization mission in Haiti.

Gamiz leaves after three years of service to NTAG San Antonio. He came to NTAG San Antonio in August 2017 to serve as the executive officer before taking over as the commanding officer in June 2019.

"Thank you for everything you did to make this tour so great for me," said Gamiz, addressing members of NTAG San Antonio. "You are in the business of changing lives and you do it every single day.



BURRELL PARMER

Cmdr. Michael Files speaks to Sailors and guests after assuming command of Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio during a change of command ceremony held at the Warrior & Family Support Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Nov. 12.

Please remember you also changed mine. Being part of this command has taught me so much and has made me a better person. You inspired me how to overcome any challenge and you reached

unbelievable goals."

Capt. Anthony Bayungan, commodore, Region West, Navy Recruiting Command, presented Gamiz with the Meritorious Service Medal for his service as executive officer

"NTAG San Antonio has proven itself to be a passionate, charitable, mission-focused organization. I will do my best to be fair, firm, impartial and to lead with integrity."

Cmdr. Michael Files, Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio commander

and commanding officer of NTAG San Antonio.

During Gamiz's tenure as commanding officer, NTAG San Antonio recruited and shipped more than 6,000 Sailors to boot camp and Officer Candidate School, going from the most improved recruiting district in Region West in 2018 to the number two recruiting district in the region last year, to the top-ranked recruiting district in the nation this year. For being the best Navy recruiting district within Navy Recruiting Command, the Gold "R" Award was presented to NTAG San Antonio during the ceremony.

JTF-Bravo rescues Hurricane Eta victims

By Capt. Rachel Salpietra
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A U.S. Army South Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopter crew assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo in Honduras rescued victims of Hurricane Eta stranded in floodwaters Nov. 6 following the effects of Hurricane Eta.

At the request of the governments of Honduras and Panama, the task force is supporting immediate, life-saving efforts in Honduran and Panamanian communities impacted by the disaster.

“As partners and neighbors to Honduras and Panama, we are assisting our friends in their time of need,” said U.S. Army Col. John D. Litchfield, JTF-B commander. “Our hearts go out to everyone who has lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods in this disaster. We are determined to save as many lives as we can.”

The JTF-B Situational Assessment Team of approximately 27 military personnel, two UH-60 Black Hawks

and two CH-47 Chinooks rapidly deployed from Soto Cano Air Base to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, where they are providing immediate life-saving support to the people of Honduras in areas devastated by the recent hurricane.

In Panama, JTF-B is supporting rescue efforts with approximately 20 military personnel, a UH-60 Black Hawk and two CH-47 Chinooks.

Department of Defense commanders are authorized to direct assigned forces at or near the immediate scene of a foreign disaster to take prompt action to save human lives.

The mission of Joint Task Force-Bravo includes being prepared to support disaster relief operations in Central America, South America and the Caribbean when directed by U.S. Southern Command. JTF-B's training and strategic location allows them to mobilize and respond to an emergency with very short notice, enabling them to rapidly respond to the needs of our partners.



CAPT. RACHEL SALPIETRA

A U.S. HH-60 Black Hawk helicopter assigned to the 1-228th Aviation Regiment, Joint Task Force-Bravo rescues victims of Hurricane Eta stranded in floodwaters following the effects of Hurricane Eta in Honduras, Nov. 5.

U.S., Colombia Armies begin PISAJ 14

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

U.S. Army South held an opening ceremony for the first virtual iteration of the semi-annual military-to-military engagement, "Programa Integral para Suboficiales de Alta Jerarquía," or PISAJ, on Nov. 9 at the Army South headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

PISAJ is a U.S. Army South-hosted engagement between the U.S. and Colombian armies. This year, senior enlisted service members from Brazil and México have also been invited to participate.

"We are here to enhance essential leadership skills of the Colombian senior non-commissioned officers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor C. Walker, U.S. Army South command sergeant major during the 14th iteration of PISAJ. "We are fully committed to assisting our partners in designing and developing a course map for the future sergeant major academy that reinforces the Colombian commitment and goal to professionalize their NCO corps. The U.S. NCO corps is an interval part of what has made the U.S. Army so successful throughout 245 years of service to our nation."

The PISAJ series focuses on increasing NCOs' capabilities in the Colombian Army and reinforcing the professional development program of NCOs serving in our military forces.

In addition, PISAJ 14 will allow participants to conduct a professional lecture with various command sergeants major from various U.S. military components virtually to maintain the COVID-19 guidelines of

social distancing. Our sergeants major and strategic allies will further develop the Colombian Joint Sergeant Major Academy students' with essential leadership competencies while increasing critical thinking capabilities and understanding of mission command concepts.

"I am very grateful for this opportunity and this chance that you have given us," said Sargento Mayor de Comando Conjunto Luis Alfredo Bueno Marquez, Colombian Military senior enlisted advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "We have a variety of students participating who are sergeants major and up from the Colombian, Brazilian and Mexican armies."

Bueno said he is looking forward to strengthening the partnerships between the armies' NCO corps and discussed how the PISAJ 14 seminar objectives would assist in Colombia joining different doctrines. This capability will allow the various militaries to participate in operational, strategic planning and integrate human rights into their plan as they share their experiences from across the participating armies.

"This iteration has a strategic leadership approach," said Sgt. Maj. Alejandro Pereyra Alaniz, U.S. Army South PISAJ 14 coordinator, "We also want to give you the necessary tools to create a curricular template for the future Academy of Sergeants Majors in Colombia. Instructors from the U.S. Army NCO Leadership Center of Excellence will facilitate the creation and development of a curricular plan consistent with the needs of the future academy of sergeants major for the Colombian armed forces."



PHOTOS BY SGT. ASHLEY DOTSON

Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor Walker (right), U.S. Army South command sergeant major, and General-de-Brigada Alcides Faria, Jr., U.S. Army South deputy commanding general, virtually take part in the PISAJ 14 opening ceremony at Army South Headquarters on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Nov. 10.



U.S. Army South held an opening ceremony for the first virtual iteration of the semi-annual military-to-military engagement, "Programa Integral para Suboficiales de Alta Jerarquía," or PISAJ on Nov. 9 at the Army South Headquarters.



CPL. SAMANTHA HALL

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, three U.S. Air Force Medical Specialty Teams, including members of the 59th Medical Wing, were part of a Department of Defense COVID-19 operation in Texas that deployed Nov. 6 to El Paso. U.S. Army North, U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command, will oversee the military operation in support of federal efforts and the state.

ARNORTH oversees military COVID-19 operation in El Paso

By U.S. Army North Public Affairs

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, three U.S. Air Force Medical Specialty Teams, including members of the 59th Medical Wing, were part of a Department of Defense COVID-19 operation in Texas that deployed Nov. 6 to El Paso. U.S. Army North, U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command, will oversee the military operation in support of federal efforts and the state.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to assist those in need as part of the whole-of-nation response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in support of FEMA," said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, ARNORTH and JFLCC commander. "Alongside our

local, state and federal partners, we will work to mitigate this virus and care for El Pasoans."

The teams, each comprised of approximately 20 military medical providers and several administrative personnel, will support three El Paso city hospitals: the University Medical Center of El Paso, the Hospitals of Providence Transmountain Campus and the Las Palmas Del Sol Medical Center.

The approximately 60 medical providers come from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi; Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, and elsewhere.

Elements of Task Force 46,

formed primarily by the Michigan National Guard's 46th Military Police Command, deployed to El Paso Nov. 4 to set the conditions for the arrival of the Air Force Medical Specialty Teams. Designated Task Force Center, this scalable organization will provide command and control of the teams.

Additionally, elements of the U.S. Army Reserve's 377th Theater Sustainment Command from New Orleans, and the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command from San Antonio, along with elements of the 1st Infantry Division's Sustainment Brigade from Fort Riley, Kansas, will provide multi-component sustainment services to the joint force.

Classroom excellence pays off with AAFES 'You Made the Grade' program

By Loyd Brumfield

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE
SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For military children, good grades can earn great rewards and a chance at a \$2,000 prize thanks to the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's "You Made the Grade" program. The program, in its 20th year, celebrates the unique service and sacrifices of our Nation's youngest heroes.

With the program, first-through 12th-graders, including homeschooled students, who have a B average or higher are eligible to receive a \$5 Exchange gift card each grading period during the 2020-21 school year.

Students who make the grade qualify to enter a worldwide sweepstakes to win a \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500 Exchange gift card. Drawings are held in December and June.

Being a military child presents unique challenges. According to the Department of Defense Education Activity, military children switch schools an average of three

times more often than civilian children. In addition, a military child will move six to nine times during their school years.

"Our nation's youngest military family members remain committed to their education, despite frequent moves, changing schools or having parents deployed," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Osby, the Exchange's senior enlisted advisor. "The Exchange celebrates these scholars, their resiliency and hard work in the classroom."

To receive the \$5 Exchange gift card, students must present a valid military ID in stores and proof of a B average or higher during any grading period at their local Exchange customer service area. More information is available on the Exchange's community Hub, its Facebook page and in this video.

You Made the Grade sweepstakes entry forms are on the back of the \$5 gift card sleeve. Students can send completed forms to: You Made the Grade, PO Box 227398, Dallas, TX 75222-7398.

COURTESY GRAPHIC

LACKLAND

Airman Heritage Museum honors legacy of Airmen

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Located inside a building that was a hub for World War II aviation cadets, the Airman Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland chronicles the history of the base, the early beginnings of the Air Force and honors the proud legacy of those who have served as Airmen.

Founded in 1956, the Airman Heritage Museum is the oldest field museum in the Air Force, outside of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and contains 35 exhibits on the history on JBSA-Lackland.

Formerly known as the History and Traditions Museum, it was renamed the Airman Heritage Museum in 2010.

The museum is part of the Airman Heritage Training Complex at JBSA-Lackland that consists of indoor and outdoor exhibits and displays of base and Air Force history, including the Air Park and the U.S. Air Force Security Forces Museum Exhibit Annex.

Airman Heritage Training Complex director Bill Manchester said the museum's exhibits cover the scope of history of JBSA-Lackland, from when it was part of Kelly Field in 1942 to when it became its separate base and the home of basic military training for the Air Force in 1947, earning the designation as "The Gateway to the Air Force," to the present day.

"A third of the museum is dedicated to early Lackland, early Kelly (Field) history and then two-thirds of the museum



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

The USAF Airman Heritage Museum collects, researches, preserves, interprets and presents the United States Air Force, along with predecessor organizations, enlisted corps, history, heritage, and traditions to develop Airmen today for tomorrow.

is the history of basic military training," Manchester said. "This is 'The Gateway to the Air Force' and our museum highlights that."

The building the Airman Heritage Museum is housed in has a historical significance to the early origins of JBSA-Lackland. Constructed in 1942, it was the in-processing center for the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, which comprised all of the dorms and classrooms at Lackland for aviation cadets training at then Kelly Field.

"Cadets did their basic training, their initial acculturation in the Air Force here at Lackland," Manchester said. "Eventually turning it into what we know as basic military training."

Manchester said the Airman Heritage Museum contains several unique exhibits on JBSA-Lackland and Air Force history and on the life and

legacy of Airmen. Those exhibits include an original Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny" bi-plane, the primary training aircraft used by the U.S. Army Air Service before and during World War I; nine dioramas on life and basic training for trainees during the 1950s, 60s and 70s; the "Green Monster," the nickname for the in-processing building for basic trainees that stood at Lackland from the 1950s to 1975; a setup of a modern-day barracks or dorm and the Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training, or BEAST, which provides an interpretation of the field training for basic trainees conducted at the JBSA-Chapman Annex, formerly JBSA-Medina Annex.

Visitors can also walk around the Air Park, a static display of more than 40 aircraft spanning eight decades, and go to the U.S. Air Force Security Forces Exhibit Annex, which

houses 47 exhibits and displays on the history of the Air Force Security Forces.

Each year, thousands of visitors and Airmen at JBSA-Lackland come to both the Airman Heritage and U.S. Air Force Security Forces Exhibit Annex museums.

Manchester said the modern-day dorm and the BEAST exhibits are a favorite among young Airmen and their families who visit the Airman Heritage Museum.

"What happens is these young Airmen get to show their families, 'Yes, my dorm was like this and I got to make my bed like this,'" he said. "During BEAST, they live in tents out in the field."

Manchester said he hopes Airmen and the visitors who go through the Airman Heritage Museum leave with a greater appreciation of the Air Force and its history and the role JBSA-Lackland has had in that.

"I hope when they go through the museum, they understand that from its beginnings within the Army the Air Force has created a service that today we see is the world's finest air force, with the world's finest Airmen and that it all starts here," Manchester said.

The Airman Heritage Training Complex contains more than 3,700 artifacts in its collections, including artifacts kept in a storage warehouse at the JBSA-Chapman Training Annex. The artifacts belong to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

In addition, the Airman Heritage Museum houses a library with several archival collections that is open by appointment.

The Airman Heritage Museum is located at 2051 George Ave, building 5206. Admission to the museum is free. Museum hours are Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum is closed Sunday through Tuesday.

The Security Forces Exhibit Annex Museum, located at 1300 Femoyer St., is open Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Information about the Airman Heritage Museum and the Airman Heritage Training Complex is at www.airmenheritage.com. To schedule a tour of the museum or make an appointment to view the archival collections, contact the museum at 210-671-3055 or aetc.ho.ol-ho@us.af.mil.

DOD civilian encourages Airmen to share their innovative ideas with Spark Tank

By Rachel Kersey
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jason Rios is a material handler work lead for the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron on Joint Base San Antonio. It is his job to provide protective equipment, such as bulletproof vests and chemical suits, to those who need them. Recently, upon hearing about the Air Force Spark Tank competition, he decided to enter with an idea he came up with several years ago.

Rios has carpal tunnel syndrome, which has affected the use of his hands.

Because of this, about two years ago he came up with the idea to use a commercially-available water pump to clean gas masks, as opposed to the old way of using a canteen.

"The original method involves hand squeezing one canteen of cleaning solution and two canteens of clear rinse water through the drinking tube of the mask," he said. "No matter how hard you squeeze it, it only goes through it so fast. It was very painful after a couple of masks. Your wrist and hand would hurt a lot."

Rios' idea to use a water pump effectively eliminated the need to perform the slow and arduous squeezing action, and greatly increased the speed in which he was able to clean the masks.

"Once you put the pump in water, you connect the coupler that is on the mask directly to the pump," he said.

Rios competed against seven other ideas at the Air Education Training Command, or AETC, level of competition, and while his water pump idea was not chosen to represent the command at the Air Force's



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

Jason Rios, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron material handler, stands for a photo Jan. 17 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



JOHNNY SALDIVAR

Personnel assigned to the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron use a water pump to squeeze water through a gas mask drinking tube to clean out a gas mask more efficiently Nov. 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

"I feel they really listened and are pushing forward with this idea. We had a meeting today with AETC/A9 Analysis and Innovation Directorate about implementing my idea, and we will have another meeting next week. Don't hesitate to tell someone your idea, and get help from others pushing it through, no matter how simple it is. It can really be helpful."

Jason Rios, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron material handler work lead

Spark Tank competition, the idea is being refined and may be expanded to other AETC installations.

"I feel they really listened and are pushing forward with this idea," Rios said. "We had a meeting today with AETC/A9 Analysis and Innovation Directorate about implementing my idea, and we will have another meeting next week."

Rios encourages Airmen with innovative ideas that make their job easier, faster, or will save the Air Force money, to speak up through one of the wide-variety of innovation competitions listed on the Airmen Powered by Innovation website:

<https://usaf.ideascale.gov.com/a/ideas/recent/campaigns/156>. One such competition is the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center's Innovation Rodeo, which is accepting submissions through Dec. 1.

"Don't hesitate to tell someone your idea, and get help from others pushing it through, no matter how simple it is," Rios said. "It can really be helpful."

JBSA Family Child Care providers of the year recognized

By Andrew C. Patterson

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio selected Paloma De La Llata and Tammie McIlroy as the 2019 Family Child Care providers of the year for the 502nd Force Support Squadron's Child and Youth Services Flight earlier this year.

"These providers are true nurturers. They are providing a much-needed service for our JBSA military and civilian families," said Andrea Nicholas, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Community Family Child Care coordinator.

McIlroy was excited about the recognition.

"I was very surprised and happy," McIlroy said of the news. "I have been a provider for five years, and there are always so many deserving providers. To have been selected solidifies that I am doing something great and that I have touched so many hearts and families. It is a very fulfilling feeling."

De La Llata was also thrilled to be selected.

"I have been doing this for 20 years

and was happy, proud and blessed to be selected," she said.

The JBSA Family Child Care Program offers care in providers' homes for children ages 2 weeks to 12 years old and may be available seven days per week. The program is open to active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian employees of the Department of Defense.

"Providers offer an enjoyable, educational environment where children can grow and develop at their own pace," said Linda Salazar, JBSA-Lackland Family Child Care Coordinator. "The homes they provide truly exemplify the motto of our program: 'CYP, Where Kids Want to Be!'"

Both of the recognized providers said they are honored to be able to provide care for the children of military members. As mothers themselves, they said they understand how it feels to worry about their children's care.

"I hope they know I take care of each child in my care as though they were my own," De La Llata said. "I want parents to feel confident that I take care of their children in a caring, loving environment



COURTESY PHOTO

The 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio selected Paloma De La Llata (pictured) and Tammie McIlroy as the 2019 Family Child Care providers of the year.

... a home away from home. "

McIlroy, who moved to a different military installation this year, hopes parents will consider FCC providers when they are looking for child care options.

"A lot of military members do not know that we exist, and when they find out, most of them are very weary of their

child being in someone else's home," McIlroy said. "Being a provider is about helping families to be able to work, go to school, go to doctor appointments, move without stress, take a break during spousal deployments and to be able to provide a better life for their children."

Military spouses looking for a way to earn income might also look into the FCC program as an option.

"The Child and Youth Services FCC is recruiting new providers to join our team," said Jeanie Smith, JBSA-Randolph/Fort Sam Houston Family Child Care Coordinator. "If you are interested in increasing your family's income; providing quality, available, and affordable child care; and assisting the Air Force with meeting the child care need of patrons, call the FCCC for JBSA-Randolph or JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-3820, or for JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Chapman Training Annex, call 210-671-3376."

Additional information about FCC may be found on the JBSA Today website at: <https://www.jbsatoday.com/FamilyChildCare> under the Child & Youth Services tab.

RANDOLPH

JBSA partners with local governments to ensure citizen, pilot safety

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To ensure the safety of base aircrew and citizens residing near Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, a blanket Intergovernmental Support Agreement was utilized for the first time with the Alamo Area Council of Governments which incorporates a contract managed by Universal City, Texas. This historic partnership was publicly recognized at an event Nov. 10.

The first phase of the project initiated under the blanket IGSA included purchasing homes within JBSA-Randolph's Airfield Clear Zones, safely demolishing those homes through the contract, and creating open green spaces to increase flight and community safety.

During the 1970s and 80s, the Department of Defense conducted studies and found most aircraft accidents historically occurred on or near a runway. Policy was created requiring a specific area near the ends of each DOD runway be kept clear of housing and other development.

The policy states all Class B runways, like those at JBSA-Randolph, must have a 3000-foot x 3000-foot Clear Zone, which is currently not the case. Prior to 2015, the JBSA-Randolph runways were operating under a waiver to use 2000-foot x 3000-foot Clear Zones.

"The demolition of these aged houses will help ensure the safety of our neighbors in



SEAN WORRELL

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller (right), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, speaks during the Lindbergh Demolition Project partnership recognition event Nov. 10 in Universal City.

Universal City and Schertz, while also allowing JBSA mission partners to continue focusing on their core mission of training tomorrow's military aviators," said Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, during an event recognizing the partners involved in the project Nov. 10.

Among those showing their support at the event were Lt. Gen. Marshall B. "Brad" Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command; retired Maj. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, former 502nd ABW commander; Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman, director of plans, programs and requirements at AETC; Diane Rath, AACOG executive director; John

Williams, Universal City mayor, as well as his city council and several political representatives.

"What you see before you is an incredibly important project for JBSA, particularly the flying-training missions of JBSA-Randolph, AACOG, and the City of Universal City," Rath said. "Demolition of these derelict homes is going to improve flying safety for the Air Force, promote public safety and remove blight for the City and residents of Universal City, and help AACOG promote our important contributions to protecting the missions of JBSA from incompatible land uses."

Home to one of JBSA's largest mission partners, the 12th Flying Training Wing,

JBSA-Randolph offers the only Air Force installation with dual simultaneous instrument approaches on parallel runways and is one of the busiest in the Air Force, as it averages over 200,000 flight operations annually, said Col. Scott Rowe, 12th FTW commander.

"The 12th's mission is vital to the Air Force's overall pilot production efforts and produces all Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training instructors through our instructor training program," he said.

"Through multiple local partnerships and the Intergovernmental Support Agreement with AACOG, we have been able to proceed with

"The demolition of these aged houses will help ensure the safety of our neighbors in Universal City and Schertz, while also allowing JBSA mission partners to continue focusing on their core mission of training tomorrow's military aviators."

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander

correcting JBSA-Randolph's clear zones to meet established safety standards," Miller said. "Please keep in mind that the clearing of all the required spaces will take time though.

"The progress we are making here together is a good start, and an excellent example of our various of partnerships that will allow us to accomplish more, spend less, and support each other," Miller said.

In the future, Miller hopes these kinds of partnerships will continue with AACOG.

"AACOG and Universal City's support to the military community is phenomenal, and truly appreciated," Miller said. "Your efforts on this project and ones to follow are vital to our mission success."

AETC commander outlines Strategic Action Plan updates

By Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command's Strategic Action Plan, designed to accelerate change across the recruiting, training and education enterprise, was recently updated. The updates are in response to progress made on initiatives during the past year and to align with recently updated Department of the Air Force strategic guidance.

In announcing the updates to focus areas under each priority, Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, the commander of AETC and the force development commander for the Air Force, reaffirmed the First Command's priorities, which remain fourfold: Advance force development, Enhance lethality and readiness, Transform learning, and Cultivate an environment of excellence.

The general also explained that updated focus areas under these priorities will ensure the command continues to train and develop Airmen of character who are ready for a more competitive and dangerous international security environment than seen in generations.

"AETC's priorities remain constant, and every Airman in AETC should be able to see themselves and how they contribute to our mission, vision and priorities in this strategic action plan," Webb said. "Focus areas beneath each of the priorities, however, will evolve over time. In some areas we have gotten initiatives over the goal line. In other areas we have received new guidance from the Chief of Staff, and things have obviously changed in America and in our national security environment in the past year."

The AETC Strategic Action Plan, first approved in the fall of 2019, was designed to support strategic intent found in the National Security Strategy, National Defense Strategy, Department of Defense and Department of the Air Force priorities. The document focuses the headquarters staff's efforts and guides resource decisions to advance the command's ability to perform its mission and vision of developing Airmen of character — the foundation of a lethal force.

The most-significant change to the focus areas aligned the Strategic Action Plan with the Air Force chief of staff's strategic guidance to Accelerate Change or Lose and four action orders that Gen.

Charles Q. Brown announced in August.

The AETC priorities and focus areas are:

► Advance Force Development

As the Air Force's Force Development command, members assigned to AETC are developing strategically-minded, agile and complex problem-solvers — the Airmen needed to operate and dominate in joint, all-domain, multi-national conflicts with one or more major powers.

Within this priority, AETC Airmen are partnering with Headquarters Air Force to accelerate changes for the Chief of Staff's Action Order: Airmen.

Updated focus areas under the command's priority of Advance Force Development include:

- Develop the Airmen We Need (DAWN) and Refine the Systems That Support Them
- Value and Prioritize Force Generators

"Force Development is mission-focused, Airman-centric and competency-based learning," said Webb. "In the First Command, developing the Airmen we need aligns the right training at the right time with the right focus, while infusing agility in our workforce. We are also developing leaders who understand commander's intent and mission-type orders, and then have the agility of mindset to execute their portion of the mission regardless of the disruptions in communications or their environment."

To maintain the competitive edge over adversaries, ensuring top-quality Airmen are selected to train and educate the next generation of Airmen and Space Professionals is critical.

"Filling our force generation positions within the command with high-performing Airmen is a top priority," said Chief Master Sgt. Erik Thompson, AETC command chief. "We have to ensure AETC is a command where people desire to be assigned, where everyone wants to work hard while they are here, and where they are recognized for their incredibly hard work recruiting, training and educating exceptional Airmen."

► Enhance Lethality and Readiness

AETC's success in recruiting, training and educating exceptional Airmen is directly linked to Air Force and Space Force readiness. This priority recognizes the achievements within the First Command while fighting through the novel coronavirus pandemic. It also establishes goals to measure progress in

programs that are important to readiness and continued operations in a more competitive and dangerous international security environment.

Updated focus areas under the command's priority of Enhance Lethality and Readiness include:

- Drive and Validate Resourcing Decisions to Support Strategic Priorities
- Adapt the Command for Resilient Ops in a Disrupted Environment

Current and future budget pressures will require the most-difficult resource decisions in generations. Developing the Airmen the Air Force needs requires deliberate and effective investment in people and training and education programs. These requirements include programs and capabilities needed to deliver transformed, on-demand, on-command curriculum and the command's weapon system — training dormitories.

With an eye on the innovation displayed in training and education while fighting through COVID-19, AETC's efforts are focused continuing to adapt the command to operate in disrupted and contested environments.

"We continue fighting through COVID-19 while navigating the risk-to-force and the risk-to-mission with operational readiness always in mind," Webb said. "We have used the conditions brought on by the pandemic to accelerate change and transform how we train and educate the force."

Aspects of AETC's mission that were changed during COVID-19 also need to be resourced for future sustainability.

► Transform the Way We Learn

The focus areas under the Transform the Way We Learn priority remain:

- Aggressively and Cost Effectively Modernize Education and Training
- Develop and Foster Strategic Relationships and Partnerships

AETC is continuing to invest in learning opportunities that allow Airmen to learn the way they live: connected, collaborative and agile, using high-quality interactive content available across multiple devices, on-demand, with self-paced, experiential, and multi-modal options.

"The game-changing decision for AETC was to move from the industrial-age model to learner-centered, modern training and education," Webb added. "This affects every corner of our command, and our challenge now is to operationalize the transformation going on in every organization."

Transforming the way the command develops Airmen and Space Professionals will require collaborating more effectively with military, industry, congressional, academia, and allied partners, to accelerate change from the force we have to the force required to succeed in a more competitive and dangerous international security environment.

► Cultivate an Environment of Excellence

Updated focus areas under the command's priority of Cultivate an Environment of Excellence include:

- Drive a Culture of Air Force Core Values, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Care for Airmen and their Families

"Achieving victory takes hard work, training, good equipment, and most importantly it takes people of strong character, driven by our core values of integrity, service and excellence," Webb said. "We have the responsibility to arm our Airmen to out-think, out-perform, out-partner, and out-innovate any potential adversary. We do this with commitment to values, because military prowess and economic might alone are not enough. Our values and our character are our guiding beacons."

Citing the ongoing unrest throughout the nation and growing awareness of racial disparities within society and the military, Webb passionately said conversations on diversity and inclusion should be happening at all levels of the command.

"Leaders in AETC need to remove barriers, promote mutual respect and encourage tough conversations in safe spaces," said Webb. "These conversations are about national security, about readiness, about teamwork, but more importantly are about unity and at the end of the day, humanity. We should be talking about this every day in the First Command because we set the foundation for the entire Department of the Air Force."

Caring for Airmen and their families also cultivates an environment of excellence. This includes ensuring safe, quality and well-maintained housing, access to quality primary and secondary education and advocacy for spouse employment and family medical needs.

Winning in the future requires innovation today. While the AETC Strategic Action Plan is reviewed and updated periodically, it remains focused on accelerating change needed to posture the command for future success.

AETC launches 2021 Innovation Challenge

From Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Do you have a great idea that just needs funding, but first support from leaders? Have you tried an idea that didn't quite work out, but you learned enough to try again, if only you had funding? Here is your chance to get that support and highlight your unit's innovative spirit!

This week, Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, launched the AETC 2021 Innovation Challenge or iChallenge.

The intent of the iChallenge is to capture and fund innovative

ideas that directly align with the chief of staff of the Air Force's 'accelerate change or lose' action orders or AETC Strategic Action Plan priorities. The first prize is \$75,000, which is given to the winner's wing and the second prize is \$50,000 for the winner's wing.

Also included in the iChallenge is the Adapt Award. This award recognizes Airmen who had a great idea, accepted the risk to try it out and didn't quite hit the mark. AETC will reward those who made an attempt that led to a learning experience and will therefore recognize two Adapt Award winners; each will receive \$25,000 for their wing.

"Here at the First Command

we have the distinct honor of being charged with establishing the foundation of excellence for our entire Air Force and part of this foundation is excellence with an innovative approach," said Webb, "I challenge every Airman in AETC to participate in the iChallenge by either submitting an idea or voting on the ideas submitted that can positively impact our organization and the mission."

Here is how the iChallenge works

Airmen must submit their idea through IdeaScale at AETC 2021 iChallenge by March 5, 2021. Each nomination must support at least one of the following categories/focus areas:

Category 1:

CSAF Accelerate Change or Lose Action Orders (The Accelerate Change Award)»
Focus Area A - Airmen
» Focus Area B - Bureaucracy
» Focus Area C - Competition
» Focus Area D - Design Implementation/USAF Force Structure

Category 2:

AETC Strategic Action Plan Priorities (The Torch Award)
» Focus Area A - Advance Force Development
» Focus Area E - Enhance Lethality and Readiness
» Focus Area T - Transform the Way We Learn
» Focus Area C - Cultivate an

Environment of Excellence

Up to 21 nominees will present a three-minute virtual idea pitch in April 2021, to the AETC Selection Committee, chaired by Lt. Gen. Brad Webb.

Timeline

Nov. 9, 2020 — March 5, 2021: Idea submission window

April 2021: Finalists pitch presentations

Spring 2021: AETC Gathering of the Torch—winners announced

Call to Action

For more information about the iChallenge, contact HQ AETC/A9, Innovation and Analysis, at aetc.a9a.workflow.2@us.af.mil.

Interservice Physician Assistant Program application season open through Jan. 22, 2021

By Toni Whaley

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Interservice Physician Assistant Program, or IPAP, is accepting applications through January 22, 2021 from active duty enlisted and officer service members interested in caring for Airmen, Space professionals and their families.

IPAP is a 29-month, two phase program that includes 16 months of academics followed by 13 months of hands-on training at a military medical treatment facility.

"This unique multi-service opportunity is open to enlisted members and officers from any career field," said Col. Melanie "MJ" Ellis, Physician Assistant Associate Corps chief. "We typically have more than 300 people start the application process. Of those, approximately 150-200 submit their applications, with 120-150 actually meeting the board to vie for only 42 seats. This is a highly competitive program seeking the best and most qualified applicants."

"It is imperative for applicants to notify their chain of command, to include their career field manager, of their intent to apply for this program," said Michelle Cardassi, Biomedical Sciences Corps education officer. "For officers we recommend that their entire leadership chain, up to the wing commander level, should be aware."

Enlisted members in the grades of E-4 through E-8 as of Sept. 1, 2021 with a minimum of three years up to a maximum of 14 years of service as of Aug. 1, 2021 are eligible. Officers in the grades of O-1 through O-3

"This unique multi-service opportunity is open to enlisted members and officers from any career field. This is a highly competitive program seeking the best and most qualified applicants."

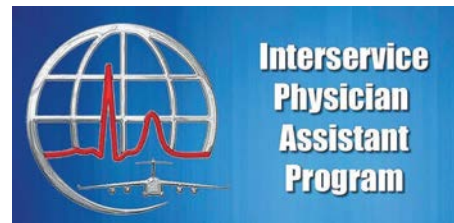
Col. Melanie "MJ" Ellis,
Physician Assistant Associate Corps chief

as of Sept. 1, 2021 with less than six years of service as of Aug. 1, 2021 can apply.

The program requires specific academic courses as prerequisites before applying. It is highly recommended that most of the applicant's classes be completed within the last five years. However, all mandatory math and science courses must be completed within the last ten years.

"IPAP is a very unique, accelerated program with a lot of volume," said Capt. Kevin Graham, IPAP instructor and Air Force Phase II coordinator. "The academic requirements may seem intense, but they provide an assessment of an applicant's ability to get through the program and provide world-class medical care to service members and families."

One requirement essential to the application process is 80 hours of shadowing a physician



COURTESY GRAPHIC

assistant. Due to COVID-19 this can be challenging and a waiver must be requested if the applicant is unable to accomplish all 80 hours.

"The goal of shadowing for applicants is to understand the rigors of family medicine and the commitment you are about to make," said Maj. Brandon Mondfrans, 42G Career Field operations officer. "For example, a PA could see a baby in one appointment then roll into caring for a 92-year-old veteran in the next. If a PA is unavailable locally, we recommend shadowing a physician or surgeon, who also follows the medical model PAs are educated in and practice under."

For more information on the application process contact your local Education Service Office, the Knowledge Exchange (Kx) website at <https://kx.health.mil/kj/kx3/afbsceducation>, or view the Interservice Physician Assistant Program FAQ webcast at <https://youtu.be/GHpJDttYBPA>.