

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 5, 2021



Air Force Senior Airman Kasey Ginn, medical technician, administers the COVID-19 vaccine to Army Capt. Christine Kasprisin, physical therapist, at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 26.

PHOTO BY JASON W. EDWARDS

SAMHS starts next phase of COVID-19 vaccine rollout

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433rd ASTS trains in receiving patients aboard Black Hawks

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Gladiator program helps ensure student medics' readiness

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‘Continuity,’ ‘maintaining momentum’ define acting Air Force secretary goals

By Charles Pope

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After decades of distinguished service, including at the highest levels of the Air Force's leadership, John P. Roth decided recently it was time to retire.

As a non-partisan civil servant for most of his career, Roth, 68, figured the new administration's arrival Jan. 20 would be the proper time to step aside after 47 years in federal service. It would be the perfect moment for a clean, natural break.

Then, reality arrived.

The transition team for President-elect Joe Biden asked Roth to step in as acting secretary of the Air Force. Roth accepted even though the job as acting secretary is one of the more difficult — and underappreciated — in all of government. It is a position that, by definition, is both temporary yet open-ended. It requires strong leadership but also restraint.

Even so, Roth didn't hesitate.

"If I can help, I'm happy to serve," Roth said during a Jan. 26 interview when asked how he responded to the Biden team's overture. "That's what I've done for 40-plus years; so a matter of perhaps a few more months, I'm all in."

No one knows how long Roth will be serving as acting secretary. The Biden Administration must find and vet a nominee to put forward as the next secretary of the Air Force and then the Senate must consider and approve that person.

Regardless of how long it takes, Roth is clear-eyed about his approach to the job and his priorities.

When asked for his mandate in the job, the words "continuity" and "maintaining momentum" pepper Roth's description. His job, he says, is to keep the Total Force prepared and ready and to make sure the elements that have defined the Department's success remain in place.

"We as an enterprise need to continue our momentum," Roth said. "I think we have a terrific leadership team, both military and civilian. When the Chief (Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.) talks about accelerating change or losing, I think that's an important concept. And obviously, we are little beyond the Space Force's one-year anniversary; we need to keep the momentum (Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. Raymond) has established to build the Space Force moving



ANDY MORATAYA

John P. Roth, Acting Secretary of the Air Force

forward, as well," he said.

"It should be transparent to Airmen and Guardians, and with any kind of luck, transparent to the nation, that we continue to do our mission," Roth said. "We're here to defend the country. We're here to represent U.S. interests. We're locked and loaded, and ready to go. Part of my job is to ensure that kind of stability and continuity."

Roth is perhaps the ideal candidate for the job.

As assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management prior to being selected acting secretary, Roth managed the Department's sprawling budget and complex fiscal matters. That job gave him an intimate view into almost every segment of the Department's operations.

Moreover, during his long tenure, he served temporarily twice as undersecretary of the Air Force, which carried an even broader portfolio.

"A lot of the things that go to the secretary run past the under's inbox," he said. "I'm a trained budgeteer, and that's my sweet spot, but I did get involved in manpower issues and things like promotion boards, Department-wide studies, and disciplinary matters. All of that, which I personally found fascinating, exposed me to other issues across the Department."

There's one other trait as well that Roth carries to the role. In a city where many are constantly reaching for the next, permanent post, he has a different perspective.

"I'm not auditioning for any job; I'm not looking for any other particular thing," he

said. "I'm here to serve Airmen and Guardians. We are a mission-oriented enterprise. We owe it to the American people to be ready to go and support American interests."

Roth uses a sports analogy borrowed from another acting official, Deputy Secretary of Defense David L. Norquist, who served briefly as defense secretary until Lloyd Austin III was confirmed and installed. Norquist told Roth the job is like running a relay race and requires the ability to "hand off the baton" cleanly to whoever comes next.

"My plan, in whatever time period required, is to hand the baton off to somebody else," Roth said. "My goal is to ensure that the enterprise is able to continue to operate in its normal, outstanding fashion and that I support the Airmen and the Guardians in terms of getting them what they need to do their jobs."

Asked for more specifics, Roth said, "Telling the Department of the Air Force's story and representing Air and Space Force interests as we launch into completing the (fiscal year) 2022 budget.

"My point is, the machinery needs to keep moving. We can't afford to sit idle. We need to keep the momentum on both the air side and the space side, and make sure we continue to focus ourselves on achieving the things the National Defense Strategy requires us to do," he said.

Serving as an acting secretary is a capstone in a career that has deep and multi-layered connections to the military for his entire life. Roth was a self-described "Army brat" who was born at what was previously known as Walter Reed Army Medical Center. His father had a long career in the Army and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

But his military roots are even more diverse. After earning his degree at the University of Virginia, Roth went to work for the Navy as a financial manager. He then moved to the Department of Defense and, finally to the Air Force. His brother, meanwhile, served in the Marine Corps.

"In the course of all this, I punched a ticket in learning about all of the services. Maybe if I'd stuck around long enough, I would have been able to join the Space Force," he joked. "I have about as joint a perspective on the enterprise as you can get."

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

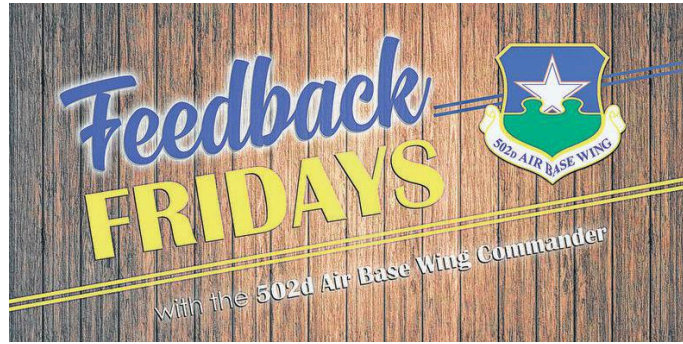
502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

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

Q. My question is about the JBSA-Randolph commissary parking lot. Are there any plans to redo the lot?

The lines are faded away causing



COURTESY GRAPHIC

people to park over the lines designated for wheelchair use in the handicap area. There are also potholes to maneuver around and it seems that it's overdue to be looked at.

A. Thank you for submitting your concern about the JBSA-Randolph Commissary parking lot.

Our 502nd Civil Engineer operations team, in coordination with commissary management, had scheduled parking lot

repairs to begin on or around Jan. 26, 2021, depending on the weather.

Work will consist of pothole repair and parking lot painting, which includes handicap spots.

Q. In October 2019, I inquired "The existing tennis courts on JBSA-Randolph H Street are in need of repair. This would be a great time to reconfigure them into a Pickle Ball court and move the practice wall from H Street to the

courts on C Street."

Thank you for the practice wall at the C Street facility. I've notice players are using it. I'm not sure if the lines that were painted on the C Street courts were the start of a conversion or were completed but as they stand now they are useless.

Are there any future plans to convert any courts to a complete Pickle Ball complex? Thank you.

A. Thank you for contacting us regarding your concern. Unfortunately, the tennis courts on H Street are closed due to safety hazards with the court surface.

Civil Engineering and base development have determined the courts will be demolished and the area will be repurposed.

On a positive note, the tennis courts on C Street will be maintained and kept serviceable. The Pickle Ball Court lines have been painted and the Rambler Fitness Center has purchased Pickle Ball equipment.

Please contact Marlin Richardson, Fitness Center Manager, for further information on equipment check out at 210-652-7263.

JBSA celebrates Black History Month

By Maria F. Rodriguez

JBSA AFFIRMATIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

Black History Month is held throughout February and members of Joint Base San Antonio are encouraged to celebrate.

African American/Black History Month was established by Public Law 99-244 and can trace its origins back to 1915 when historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. This organization is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, or ASALH.

Through this organization, Woodson initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926. Woodson selected the week in February that included the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two key figures in the history of African Americans.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford issued a Message on the Observance of Black History Week urging all Americans to "recognize the important contribution made to our nation's life and culture by black citizens."

In 1976 this commemoration of black history in the United States was expanded by ASALH to Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, and President Ford issued the first Message on the Observance of Black History Month that year. In subsequent years, Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan and each subsequent president continued to issue messages honoring African American History Month.

"The foremost purpose of Black History Month is to make all Americans aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity," Reagan said in his proclamation in 1986. "This month is a time to celebrate the many achievements of African Americans in every field from science and the arts to politics and religion."

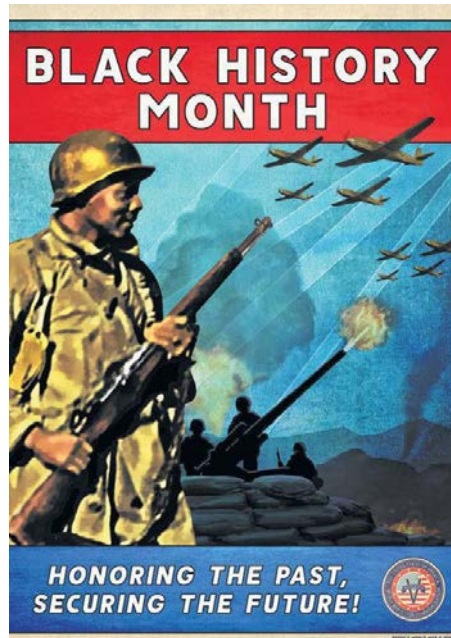
In observance of Black History Month, or BHM, Joint Base San Antonio is displaying BHM posters across Joint Base San Antonio. Posters will be displayed at all JBSA commissary locations, as well as at the Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, at the JBSA-Randolph Library and Military Personnel Services Customer Support Section.

Visitors to these locations are encouraged to follow COVID-19 health and safety measures, including practicing physical distancing.

Keep watch for content being posted to the JBSA.mil website throughout the all month long featuring informative BHM video interviews.

These videos can be found on the JBSA Facebook pages at <https://www.facebook.com/JointBaseSanAntonio/> and <https://www.facebook.com/502ABWCommandTeam/>; at the JBSA Youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/JointBaseSanAntonio> and at the JBSA DVIDSHub page at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/502ABW>.

For more information, contact the Civilian Personnel Section at 210-221-1408 or email usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.jbsa-fsh-cps@mail.mil.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Army announces new grooming, appearance standards

By Devon Suits

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

New changes to grooming and appearance standards are slated to take effect next month, as part of the Army's commitment to improving the wellbeing of all Soldiers.

Army senior leaders approved several upcoming grooming and appearance modifications, said Sgt. Maj. Brian Sanders, senior enlisted leader of Army G-1's uniform policy branch.

The announcement will be followed by an all-Army activities message that will take effect in late February and will supersede the standards outlined in the grooming and appearance chapter of Army Regulation 670-1 until the next scheduled revision.

"This is one of the many facets of putting our people first and recognizing who they are as human beings," he said. "Their identity and diverse backgrounds are what makes the Army an ultimate fighting force."

The changes originated from a panel of 17 Soldiers — 15 women and two men — who assessed a list of proposed grooming and appearance modifications connected to the professional appearance, health and wellness, diversity, and inclusion of Soldiers.

The panel included Soldiers from all components, representing a cross-section of ranks, units, ages, cultural backgrounds, career fields and races. The process also included two Army dermatologists, an Army psychologist, and an Army equal opportunity advisor as subject-matter experts, who provided medical or EO knowledge to back the panel's findings.

The push to change the Army's grooming standards proves that the force is evolving and making a concerted effort to make everyone feel included, said Master Sgt. Quintana Mitchell, the uniform policy NCO for G-1.

"I use the analogy, 'If you look good, you feel good — and if you feel good, you perform [well]," Sanders said. "If I am in the Army long enough, it would be nice to see how these changes have improved productivity ... and make Soldiers perform better."

Minimum hair length

One of the updates will authorize no

minimum hair length for all personnel, to include making it an optional style for female Soldiers. Under the current policy, a Soldier's hair length can be no shorter than 1/4 inch from the scalp unless otherwise exempt due to a medical condition or injury.

Panel findings determined that females attending Ranger, Special Forces, or Sapper training were often encouraged to cut their hair to abide by health and hygiene recommendations while training in an austere environment, Sanders said.

If the Soldier were to washout or graduate from training, their hair was often below the 1/4 inch minimum length requirement and outside Army regulations.

Multiple hairstyles

Soldiers will also be authorized to wear multiple hairstyles as long as it maintains a neat and professional appearance, and if the hairstyle doesn't impede the use of headgear or other equipment, Sanders said.

Under the current standard, Soldiers are allowed to braid, twist, lock, or cornrow their hair if they are uniform and no greater than 1/2 inch in width. Individuals must also have appropriate size and spacing between each braid, cornrow, twist, or lock, and are authorized one distinct type of hairstyle at one time. The updated standard removes the constraints of dimension requirements.

By eliminating some of the restrictions, Soldiers will now have more flexibility, all while keeping it within the confines of professionalism, Mitchell said. Further, having a choice to wear multiple hairstyles will allow female Soldiers more ways to secure their hair so that it can fit appropriately under their headgear.

Females with long hair will now have the option to wear a ponytail while wearing an Army Physical Fitness Uniform, conducting physical training in a utility uniform, or while wearing tactical headgear or other equipment.

Ponytails

Female Soldiers with medium-length hair will have the option to wear a ponytail if the individual's hair length or texture prevents them from securing it into a tight bun, Sanders said. A medium-length hairstyle must extend



COURTESY PHOTOS

A female Soldier poses for an example photo with medium-length hair secured into a ponytail to support an upcoming change in Army grooming and appearance standards.



A female Soldier poses for an example photo with long hair while wearing tactical headgear to illustrate an upcoming change in Army grooming and appearance standards.

more than 1 inch from the scalp and cannot exceed the lower edge of the collar in all uniforms.

Under the new policy, medium-length ponytails are only authorized for wear on the back of the scalp and cannot exceed the head's width or interfere with the proper wear of a Soldier's headgear.

The updated standard will also allow females with long hair the option to wear a ponytail while wearing an Army Combat Uniform during physical training, or while wearing tactical headgear during tactical training or combat operations. The Army defines long hair as a length that extends beyond the collar. Army standards require this hairstyle to be neatly and inconspicuously fastened above the collar's lower edge.

"We can't tell a Soldier to cut their

hair so their helmet can fit," Sanders said. "We can still allow a female Soldier with longer hair to put into a long ponytail and tuck it in their ACU top so they can still conduct their mission."

Dermatologists involved in the review process provided critical input tied to the updated ponytail policy, Sanders said. The authorized wear of a medium-length ponytail could lower an individual's risk of hair loss, reduce scarring, or decrease the likelihood of migraine headaches caused by repeatedly pulling hair into a tight bun.

The lack of hairstyle options as a result of a Soldier's hair length or texture can often stress an individual as they try various techniques and devices to secure their hair to maintain a neat appearance, Mitchell said.

Hair highlights, root growth

The Army plans to authorize the wear of highlights if it presents a natural appearance and is not a prohibited color, Sanders said. Further, if a Soldier decides to color or highlight their hair, root growth of a different color should not exceed 1.5 inches of the original color.

"Some Soldiers develop natural highlights," Sanders said. "We cannot assume that a Soldier's hair should be a specific color" based on their complexion.

Under the current regulation, Soldiers are only authorized to dye, tint, or bleach their hair. The color of their hair must also be uniform and not detract from their professional appearance. Unauthorized pigments include, but are not limited to, purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright red, and fluorescent or neon colors.

"The emphasis is on natural hair colors," Mitchell said. "It doesn't necessarily have to be a color that is typically seen on a certain ethnic group. It just has to be a natural hair color" that presents a neat and professional image.

Optional wear of earrings with ACU

Female Soldiers will soon be authorized to wear earrings with their ACU. Earrings can either be screw-on, clip-on, or post-type earrings in gold, silver, or diamond and must be unadorned and spherical without

Air Force to allow longer braids, ponytails, bangs for women

By Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

As an outcome of the 101st Air Force uniform board, Air Force women will be able to wear their hair in up to two braids or a single ponytail with bulk not exceeding the width of the head and length not extending below a horizontal line running between the top of each sleeve inseam at the underarm through the shoulder blades. In addition, women's bangs may now touch their eyebrows, but not cover their eyes.

These new changes will be effective upon publication of the new standards in Air Force Instruction 36-2903 in February.

"As I outlined in Action Order A: Airmen, this decision is a commitment to supporting the Airmen We Need and sustaining the culture and environment of excellence that will continue to make the Air Force an attractive career choice for Airmen and families," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. "I'm thankful for the feedback and research conducted from a number of women leaders, the Women's Initiative Team, the Air Force uniform board, and our joint teammates."

The Air Force uniform board convened virtually in November 2020 to discuss ideas sourced from Airmen across the Air Force who participated in a dress and appearance crowdsourcing campaign. Participants on the board included 19 diverse Airmen of various ranks from across the major commands and headquarters directorates.

The board reviewed all ideas including a recommendation from the Air Force's Women's Initiative Team. Thousands of women across the Air Force provided feedback to the Women's Initiative Team, stating constraints to hair grooming standards resulted in damage to hair, migraines and in some cases, hair loss. The detailed work done by the Women's Initiative Team to research and support the recommendation was greatly appreciated by the uniform board.

"In addition to the health concerns we have for our Airmen, not all women have the same hair type, and our hair standards should reflect our diverse force," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass. "I am pleased we could make this important change for our women service members."

In addition to addressing issues associated with personal health and hair loss, adjusting female hair standards supports ongoing efforts to address diversity and inclusion in the ranks. Earlier this year and in her role leading the Defense Department's Diversity Board, then-Secretary of the Air Force Barbara M. Barrett played a prominent role in supporting these types of adjustments to ensure a more inclusive culture in the services.

The Air Force chief of staff approved the policy after considering feedback from the force, the uniform board recommendation, and the professional image and standards of the Air Force and U.S. military.

"We remain committed to removing barriers to service," said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "In an all-volunteer force, we want fully qualified volunteers who are representative of the nation to see us as a great opportunity to maximize their talent and serve."

Members must adhere to current occupational safety, fire and health guidance, and mishap prevention procedures emphasizing when and how to mitigate the potential for injury from hair of varying lengths around machinery, equipment, power transmission apparatus or moving parts. Airmen are encouraged to reach out to their safety office for assistance in analyzing any potential hazards, as applicable.

Another idea considered by the board related to beard wear for men. Unlike with women's hair standards, there are no known health or hair loss issues associated with current male grooming standard compliance. As such, the Air Force plans to continue under the current male grooming standards without adjustments. Beards are currently permitted in conjunction with medical exceptions or for approved religious accommodations.

At this time, Guardians will adhere to the female grooming standards of the Air Force. Eventually, the U.S. Space Force will develop its own policy.

Numerous other ideas from the board are still under consideration for implementation and will be released in the future. For more information, consult AFI 36-2903 Dress and Appearance.

Smoke alarms key part of home fire escape plan

By **Jessie R. Moreno**

902ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON
FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR

Fire detection plays a vital role in providing fire safety in protecting people, property and contents, in contrast to 50 years ago, when automatic fire detection was a rarity in any facility.

The National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, publishes fire statistics each year and the leading types of fires, for injuries and deaths, are residential. However, residential fire deaths have fallen by more than 50 percent since the introduction of the residential smoke alarm.

According to the NFPA, almost three out of five home fire deaths happened in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. A 2019 NFPA report further stated that the risk of dying in reported home structure fires is 54 percent lower in homes with working smoke alarms than in homes with no alarms or none that worked.

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give people an early warning so they can get outside quickly.

The NFPA gives several smoke alarm safety tips:

- ▶ A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- ▶ Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping

According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost three out of five home fire deaths happened in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.

- ▶ Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- ▶ It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- ▶ Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- ▶ There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- ▶ A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- ▶ People who are hard of hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- ▶ Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Your ability to get out of your house during a fire depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

- ▶ Get everyone in your household together and make a home escape plan. Walk through your home and look for two ways out of every room.
- ▶ Make sure escape routes are clear of debris and doors and windows open easily. Windows with security bars or grills should have an emergency release device.
- ▶ Plan an outside meeting place where everyone will meet once they have escaped. A good meeting place is something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox that is a safe distance in front of the home.
- ▶ If there are infants, older adults, family members with mobility limitations or children who do not wake to the sound of the smoke alarm, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the event of an emergency.
- ▶ If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Respond quickly — get up and go, remember to know two ways

out of every room, get yourself outside quickly, and go to your outside meeting place with your family.

Here are some facts and figures about smoke alarms:

- ▶ Of the home fires reported to U.S. fire departments, smoke alarms sounded in more than half (53 percent) of the home fires.
- ▶ Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (38 percent) or no working smoke alarms (21 percent).
- ▶ No smoke alarms were present in almost two out of every five (38 percent) home fire deaths.
- ▶ The death rate per 100 reported home fires was more than twice as high in homes that did not have any working smoke alarms compared to the rate in homes with working smoke alarms (1.18 deaths vs. 0.53 deaths per 100 fires).
- ▶ In fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, almost half (46 percent) of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries.
- ▶ Dead batteries caused one quarter (24 percent) of the smoke alarm failures.

For more information about fire 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.

GROOMING

From page 4

exceeding 6 mm or 1/4 inch in diameter.

Pearl earrings are not authorized with the ACU, Sanders said. Females are currently authorized to wear earrings when wearing their service, dress, mess, and evening mess uniforms.

Individuals will not be allowed to wear earrings in a field environment or during a combat-related deployment, or in locations where access to regular hygiene is limited.

“Our identity is important,” Sanders said. “If we care about people first and the Soldier as a whole, we have to care about the many aspects to who they are as well. This is a small, but significant change that positively impacts a considerable size of our force.”

Additional colors of lipstick, nail polish

Along with supporting a Soldier's identity, the Army approved the use of additional colors of lipstick and nail polish, including the wear of clear nail polish by male Soldiers. Females also have the option to wear an American manicure, a two-tone nail style that maintains a natural appearance.

“Some male Soldiers in certain occupation specialties rely on their hands, which are under constant bombardment while working with tools or harsh chemicals,” Sanders said. “A male Soldier would take this opportunity to keep their nails protected.”

According to the updated policy, extreme colors and nail shapes, such as a coffin, ballerina, and stiletto nails, are prohibited while in uniform or on duty in civilian clothes. Unauthorized

pigments include, but are not limited to, purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright red, and fluorescent or neon colors.

Offensive wording change, updated imagery

Another update will remove and replace potentially offensive and weaponized words and phrases, such as “Mohawk, Fu Manchu, dreadlock, eccentric, and faddish,” Sanders said.

Army officials are currently replacing phrases of concern with alternative verbiage to provide increased clarity and guidance about a Soldier's professional appearance based on safety, good order, and military bearing — instead of relying on the phrase at the discretion of the commander.

“This is how we shift the culture and embrace forward-thinking,” Sanders

added. “It is time to dig deeper and use our lexicon and vocabulary to describe what is authorized and what does not conform to a professional military appearance, good order and discipline.”

The updated standard will also include a link to imagery and videos to provide Soldiers with specific examples of proper grooming and appearance standards, Sanders said. Current images are too vague, outdated, and leave too much room for interpretation without adequate guidance.

“Pictures speak 1,000 words,” he said. “We won't be able to capture every grooming and appearance standard, but we will be able to categorize them to equip Soldiers at all levels” with the information needed to ensure regulatory standards are being realized in a fair and inclusive way that is easily understood across the force.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

SAMHS starts next phase of COVID-19 vaccine rollout

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The San Antonio Military Health System is starting the next phase of the Department of Defense's COVID-19 vaccine rollout — expanding the scope of who is eligible to get vaccinated against the virus.

Phase 1b includes beneficiaries age 75 and older, personnel who perform critical national capabilities, personnel preparing to deploy to locations outside of the U.S., and frontline essential workers.

“We are doing everything we can do to put shots in arms as quickly as possible,” said Air Force Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes, SAMHS market director and commander of 59th Medical Wing, which oversees Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center. “We continue to focus on efficiency while maintaining the highest emphasis on safety.”

In a cooperative market effort, BAMC and WHASC will each take on distinct vaccination roles in the days ahead. BAMC will focus on vaccinating eligible 1b military personnel, while WHASC will finish vaccinating their eligible 1b military personnel and begin vaccinating civilian TRICARE beneficiaries age 75 and older starting Feb. 3.

Vaccinations for eligible 1b military personnel will be coordinated by their military units. WHASC is opening a limited number of appointments for beneficiaries age 75 and older to be booked by calling the Consult Appointment Management



JASON W. EDWARDS

Air Force Senior Airman Kasey Ginn, medical technician, administers the COVID-19 vaccine to Army Capt. Christine Kasprisin, physical therapist, at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 26.

Office, or CAMO. The status of those appointments will be posted on the JBSA COVID-19 website <https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus>. For CAMO information and contact numbers, visit <https://www.tricare.mil/FindDoctor/AllProviderDirectories/MSM/SAMHS/Appointments?p=1>

As the market expands to additional populations, SAMHS remains committed to the completion of Phase 1a vaccinations, which includes personnel in the vaccine program's top priority tiers: healthcare providers, support

staff and service members directly supporting the national COVID-19 response.

With an ongoing Level I trauma mission and more than 8,600 staff members at BAMC alone, Phase 1a has been a considerable undertaking, noted Army Col. Michael Wirt, BAMC's deputy commanding officer.

“It's a milestone to expand to the next phase of the vaccine process while still ensuring we provide our healthcare workers vaccine opportunities,” he said. “We could not have moved out this quickly without the efforts

of our entire team, from planning and logistics to clinical vaccination teams and support staff.”

Following Phase 1b, the market will later expand its efforts to include Phase 1c, which encompasses eligible beneficiaries age 65-74 and beneficiaries age 16 and older at increased risk for severe illness as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For detailed information on the DOD's phased plan, visit <https://www.health.mil/About-MHS/MHS-Toolkits/COVID>

-19-Vaccine-Toolkit/COVID-19-Vaccine-Who-Can-Get-the-Vaccine-First.

SAMHS is administering the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine under special authorization by the Food and Drug Administration. The vaccine, which is administered in two doses 21 days apart, is expected to have a 95 percent efficacy rate following receipt of the second dose, according to the CDC website.

For detailed information on the Pfizer vaccine, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html>.

Even with such a high efficacy rate, people must stay vigilant even after getting the vaccine until more is learned about the protective immunity these vaccines confer, noted Air Force Col. Heather Yun, BAMC's deputy commander for medical services and an infectious disease physician.

“Remember the 3 Ws — wear a mask, wash hands or hand sanitize regularly, and watch your physical distance,” she said. “Taking protective measures and getting the vaccine when available are the best ways to protect ourselves, our families and our communities and put an end to this terrible pandemic.”

For more information on the DOD's vaccine program, visit <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Combat-Support/Public-Health/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccine-Efforts>.

For information on the SAMHS vaccine program, visit <https://bamac.tricare.mil/>, <https://www.59mdw.af.mil/>, or follow BAMC or WHASC on social media.

MEDCoE adds antigen testing lab to COVID-19 mitigation strategy

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It took nearly 8,000 COVID antigen tests, at least that many screenings and 14 days of restriction of movement, but in-person learning at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, safely resumed after post-holiday block leave reintegration recently at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Nadia Pearson, MEDCoE Command Surgeon and Chief of the MEDCoE Force Health Protection Cell responsible for the reintegration plan, said she credits Soldier and leader professionalism and discipline for the successful execution of holiday block leave, or HBL, and subsequent reintegration of more than 3,000 trainees who traveled all over the continental United States on leave.

“Our plan relied on a robust Force Health Protection education plan for trainees and their families on ways to protect themselves and their loved ones from COVID,” Pearson said. “However, knowing what to do to prevent COVID-19 and doing the right thing when no one is looking are two different things.”

Before HBL, MEDCoE instructors and leaders worked hard to advise Soldiers on the impacts of travel and helped them review mitigation measures that the Soldiers would need to continue while on leave, locally or otherwise.

The Soldiers also departed with many hard-copy and digital resources with important information like safer ways to celebrate the holidays, how to lower their COVID risk, signs and symptoms for self-monitoring and how to report any changes

in their COVID status.

During travel to and from HBL, Soldiers were responsible for wearing facemasks and adhering to COVID-19 protocols to protect themselves and their loved ones. Soldiers were also required to check in with their chain of command over the break and report any COVID symptoms or risk factors immediately.

Prior to returning, trainees were advised to self-screen and quarantine in place in the event of symptoms or close contact with known COVID positive personnel.

Upon arrival back to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, students were immediately screened for signs and symptoms that may have developed during travel.

If they had an elevated temperature or any COVID symptoms, they were seen by one of MEDCoE's on-site healthcare providers. When necessary, the healthcare provider sent Soldiers to be tested for COVID-19 by the HBL testing team at a separate location.

“Based on the relatively small number of post-HBL COVID cases, or suspected COVID cases, we have seen, our Soldiers did the right thing while on leave,” Pearson noted. She said she was pleased that the vast majority of trainees returned to base well-rested, healthy and COVID-free. “With that as the measure, Holiday Block Leave was extremely successful.”

Once all of the initial post-HBL screening and testing was complete, students entered a mandatory 14-day restriction of movement, or ROM, during which they completed virtual training. Pearson explained that coordination between course managers, instructors and Force Health Protection was a



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Pfc. Jagher Jones with Company A, 232nd Medical Battalion, tests COVID-19 antigen samples.

critical aspect of the HBL reintegration plan.

“Our courses and cadre have done a great job in the facilitation of continued learning through virtual capabilities so that Soldiers do not miss instruction during ROM, and we can re-establish the relative safety of the training bubble,” Pearson explained.

After the ROM period, the Force Health Protection Cell conducted antigen tests on

each trainee at least twice in the COVID-19 Surveillance Center, or CSC, the new Point-of-Care Lab.

“The antigen test is a great tool that gives our team and instructors confidence that the students don't have asymptomatic infections and can return to in-person training,” Pearson said.

Pearson plans to keep the CSC open as a means of surveillance of trainees, instructors and staff for

COVID-19 as long as there is a need as determined by elevated COVID cases in the surrounding community.

Asymptomatic MEDCoE Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians eligible for care at Brooke Army Medical Center are eligible to get the antigen test at the CSC. She says, however, MEDCoE antigen tests are not currently used for symptomatic personnel.

“At this time, anyone who has symptoms should seek care and a test at their primary care, local drive-through testing site, or BAMC or Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center,” Pearson said.

Pearson wants to clarify that the antigen test is not the same as the PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test.

PCR tests detect the presence of the virus's genetic material with results usually within 24-48 hours. Antigen tests detect specific proteins on the surface of the coronavirus. Antigen test results are quicker than PCR and may be provided in as soon as 15 minutes.

While positive tests are said to be highly accurate, antigen tests are not as sensitive as PCR tests and have had some instances of false-negative tests.

“The antigen test is not the PCR test,” Pearson said. The COVID Antigen Test is being used by the MEDCoE as a surveillance and screening tool to detect those with no symptoms or close contacts of known positive people in order to stop the spread early. “The Antigen test indicates someone who may have an acute infection and may be spreading the illness unknowingly.”

The Force Health Protection Cell plans to publicize walk-in hours of operation for the COVID-19 Surveillance Center in February.

ARNORTH to oversee military COVID-19 response in Texas

By Lt. Col. Martin O'Donnell
U.S. ARMY NORTH (FIFTH ARMY)
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, approximately 80 military medical personnel from across the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force, will deploy to Texas as part of a Department of Defense COVID-19 response operation. U.S. Army North, the Joint Force Land Component Command of U.S. Northern Command, will oversee the military COVID-19 response in support of federal efforts and the state.

"This is the fourth time Department of Defense medical assets have deployed to support our home state," said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, ARNORTH and JFLCC commander. "While COVID-19 continues to challenge communities here and across the U.S., we remain steadfast in our support of our local, state and federal partners."

The military medical personnel, including nurses, respiratory therapists and



SGT SAMANTHA HALL

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jarimar Garcia, a registered nurse stationed at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, prepares medical equipment for incoming patients within the emergency department of Del Sol Medical Center, El Paso Nov. 24, 2020.

medical doctors, will support three hospitals in three Texas cities: Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, CHI St. Luke's Health - Memorial Hospital in Lufkin, and Fort

Duncan Regional Medical Center in Eagle Pass.

"As the National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness states, we can and we will beat

COVID-19," said Richardson. "This is truly a joint effort and I am confident that collectively our service members are up to the task."

While ARNORTH continues

to oversee multi-service military medical personnel in the Navajo Nation as well as in Yuma, Arizona, it has adjusted its support to Wisconsin and California.

On Jan. 14, approximately 45 medical personnel concluded their deployment in Wisconsin after supporting four hospitals in four cities in the state.

On Jan. 29, approximately 40 military medical personnel will also conclude their deployments at two hospitals in California: Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton and Dameron Hospital in Stockton. Approximately 185 military medical personnel, however, remain in California, supporting six hospitals in five cities in the state.

Managing the operation for ARNORTH are elements of Task Force 46, formed primarily by the Michigan Army National Guard's 46th Military Police Command, which recently assumed command and control of the response from Task Force 51, ARNORTH's forward-deployable headquarters.

USAISR Burn Center raises awareness for National Burn Awareness Week

By David DeKunder
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is joining the American Burn Association in raising awareness and prevention of electrical burn injuries during National Burn Awareness Week Feb. 7-13.

The USAISR will be providing information and tips about electrical burn injuries, prevention and what to do if someone is injured by an electrical burn through

BURN CENTER continues on 11



Amps to Zap

The Alphabet of Electrical Safety

Join us February 7-13, 2021



#NBAN
National Burn
Awareness Week
FEBRUARY 7-13, 2021

National Burn Awareness Week is observed annually the first full week of February by the American Burn Association providing an opportunity for organizations and burn, fire and life safety educators to share a common message of burn awareness and prevention in communities across the U.S.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF AMERICAN BURN ASSOCIATION

Gladiator program helps ensure readiness

By Daniel J. Calderón
BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Once they complete basic training, Army medics receive an array of training to ensure they are ready to deploy around the world at a moment's notice.

The new Gladiator program, which was initiated by the Soldiers in Training Physical Therapy Clinic at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, is designed to improve the physical readiness of Soldier medics throughout their training.

"Gladiator begins with initial screening by senior drill sergeants, identifying Soldiers who need a physical therapy evaluation for new or lingering injuries from Basic Combat Training," said Army Maj. Nicole Brown, the officer in charge of Outpatient Physical Therapy at the Capt. Jennifer Moreno Clinic at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. "Soldier medics are then either medically cleared or placed into the new Gladiator program where they take part in rehabilitative physical training."

The training for Soldiers in rehabilitation can include pool therapy, standard physical therapy, and training designed to help them with the Army Combat Fitness Test. Since its



DANIEL J. CALDERÓN

Soldier medics in training in the Gladiator program at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston go through morning exercises at the Fort Sam Houston aquatic center.

inception, the 232nd Medical Battalion, the unit to which the medics are attached while in training, has seen an increased return to duty, increased on-time graduation rate and decreased medical evaluation boards.

"The treatment and care of these new Soldier medics are fully integrated with their training and takes place both in and out of the military training facility," said Army 1st Lt. Emily Whitby, OIC for the SIT Clinic.

"The Gladiator program allows for Soldiers to participate in rehabilitative physical training without missing classroom time during their rigorous and fast-paced curriculum. Soldier medics take place in challenging physical training during Gladiator PT, all while rehabbing their injury and allowing for healing."

Army Capt. Cristina DeHaas, the company commander for Soldiers in the Gladiator program at the 232nd Medical

Battalion, said one of the challenges Gladiator program leaders faced was a shortage of personnel trained to ensure Soldiers who needed to be enrolled in the new program were properly screened and identified. Staff Sgt. Timothy McCool, relocated to the Gladiator Program to work as the non-commissioned officer in charge. His experience as an Army physical therapy specialist was invaluable in the early days of the program.

Since then, DeHaas said four additional drill sergeants have been recruited to the program because of their "knowledge and passion about sports medicine and overall fitness."

"The program has relied on the support and partnerships with various installation resources," DeHaas said. "The Vogel Resiliency Center and the JBSA Aquatic Center, in particular, have been instrumental in the success of our program. They have supplemented and provided the resources needed for our trainees; going so far as adjusting their schedules to accommodate our mission throughout the pandemic."

Since the program started, nearly 300 Soldier medics have participated. More than 100 of those Soldiers have returned to full duty and graduated their training programs, and about 150 Soldiers are still in the program and going through their training at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. DeHaas said the program has saved the Army more than \$8.5 million in lost training funds since the program began.

"I am incredibly honored to command this program because we are making an impact on the lives of individual Soldiers as well as the Army as a whole," DeHaas said.

Navy recruiting assistance council looks forward to its mission

By Burrell D. Parmer
NAVY TALENT ACQUISITION GROUP
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To continue supporting the U.S. Navy's recruitment of high-qualified men and women in Central and South Texas, San Antonio's Navy Talent Acquisition Group Assistance Council, or NTAGAC, held its first meeting of the year via video conference Jan. 19.

The meeting was attended by members of the community to include retired

service members, civic/veteran groups, educators and business representatives.

According to retired Navy Rear Adm. Eric Young, NTAGAC chairman, council members assist Navy Recruiting by joining talents available in Navy-related organizations, the civilian community and the Naval Reserve.

"It is a resource for NTAG San Antonio to tether the talents available in the civilian community to assist

in the recruiting effort," said Young, a local financial advisor. "Additionally, the NTAGAC provides direct referrals, help increase Navy Awareness, provide inroads to centers of influence and assist in promotion and support of special events."

One of the key topics of the meeting was continuing to educate the community about career opportunities in the Navy to include the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship Program and maintaining/increasing

recruiter visibility in high schools.

Cmdr. Michael Files, NTAG commanding officer, briefed the attendees on the state of Navy recruiting in the region and members of his staff provided recommendations on engagement with future Sailors currently in the Navy's Delayed Entry Program.

Another recommendation to be researched is hosting a virtual town hall meeting to provide future Sailors' families and the public the opportunity to ask questions

about the recruiting process and life in the Navy.

"Recruiting is not only the responsibility of the military recruiter," Young said. "It's every veterans' responsibility as well."

NTAG San Antonio's area of responsibility includes two Talent Acquisition Onboarding Centers, which manage more than 34 Navy Recruiting Stations and Navy Officer Recruiting Stations spread throughout 144,000 square miles of Central and South Texas territory.

Civilian Challenge program designed to kick-start wellness journey

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In an effort to enhance wellness opportunities for Department of Defense civilian employees on Joint Base San Antonio, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Army Wellness Center is now offering a motivational Civilian Challenge to a small group of U.S. Army North civil service personnel as part of a pilot test.

"While soldiers must integrate physical fitness and total wellness into their everyday lives because their position demands it, civilian workers are not required to meet those same standards for their positions," said Patrice Hickey, director of the Army Wellness Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. "As such, healthy habits may be difficult or intimidating for them to undertake alone."

The Army Wellness Center Civilian Challenge, or AWC3, is designed to help walk members of the DOD civilian workforce through a 12-week wellness

journey by focusing on activity, nutrition, mindfulness, and sleep, Hickey said.

"We highlight and provide tools and activities, such as classes led by health education specialists, that are designed to offer improvement in both mental and physical health and wellness," she said. "We also offer personalized assessments to meet the more individual needs of our civilian workforce."

The challenge operates on a point-based system that allows participants to track progress quickly and easily on the Challenge Runner website.

"Points are earned by attending classes, completing wellness assessments, logging physical activity, and participating in other challenges sent to participants through the weekly challenge email," Hickey said. "The challenge website shows the visual impact that the holistic health program has on their wellness and lifestyle changes. Comparing pre- and post-measurements will also provide participants with quantifiable results of their



COURTESY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

The Army Wellness Center Civilian Challenge, or AWC3, is designed to help walk the DOD civilian workforce through a 12-week wellness journey by focusing on activity, nutrition, mindfulness, and sleep.

lifestyle changes."

Hickey said a healthy workforce is a productive workforce.

"Behavioral risk factors lead to devastating effects on the Army and DOD communities and can lead to chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke and cancer," she said. "The Army Wellness Center's mission has always been to support the health of our community, and with this responsibility in mind, we set our goal to also prioritize the

health and wellbeing of our civilian workforce."

Even though the Army Wellness Center beneficiaries include active-duty service members, their spouses, dependents over 18, retirees, and DOD employees, historically, services have not been well utilized by the civilian beneficiary population. This is why, Hickey said, they designed the new program for DOD civilian employees, although it is not open to all just yet.

"While in the pilot stage, the

program is being offered to a small sub-set of JBSA federal civilian employees," she said, thanking U.S. Army North headquarters staff members for participating in the initial pilot.

"We are excited to be a part of the testing and development of this new wellness program," said Cheryl Wallek, family programs manager for U.S. Army North. "Over two dozen civilian teammates have jumped at the opportunity to improve their own wellness and are already providing feedback to refine the program for rollout to a wider audience."

Jeff Carter, evaluation analyst at U.S. Army North, agrees that the program may help civilian employees lead healthier lives.

"It gives civilian employees the resources needed to get and stay healthier," he said. "Healthy employees spend more time at work and less time at medical appointments."

Hickey hopes to see AWC3 offered to the wider JBSA civilian population after the pilot outcomes and recommendations have been reviewed.

BURN CENTER

From page 9

educational slides on electronic display screens located at the burn center and Brooke Army Medical Center.

National Burn Awareness Week is observed annually the first full week of February by the American Burn Association, or ABA, providing an opportunity for organizations and burn, fire and life safety educators to share a common message of burn awareness and prevention in communities across the U.S.

The educational slides will follow the theme for National Burn Awareness Week, "Electrical Safety from Amps to Zap (A to Z)!" Starting Feb. 7, each day of the week will

have a different slide covering four letters of the alphabet, starting with the letter A, with the last two letters of the alphabet being covered Feb. 13.

"The slides will give an example of some common electrical precautions that you might possibly come in contact with for each letter of the alphabet," said Brent Sabatino, USAISR Burn Strong outreach and injury/prevention coordinator. "For example, 'A' is for appliances, 'B' is for batteries. Each letter will have good information on how to use precaution when dealing with electrical items in the household as well as things you might possibly work with."

According to the ABA, electrical injuries account for approximately four percent of

burn patients treated at burn centers annually across the United States. Sabatino said this nationwide statistic is close to the same percentage of burn patients whose injuries are electrical-related who are treated annually at the USAISR Burn Center.

Sabatino said most electrical injuries that occur usually involve people working with outlets, lighting, generators, air conditioning units or coming in contact with live electrical wiring, be it from a cherry picker bucket, new construction or remodeling, tree trimming, digging or when dealing with unknown electrical energy sources.

Before proceeding to work on or around any kind of electrical equipment, Sabatino said people should take safety

precautions to prevent getting electrocuted or injured from electrical burns.

"It is always best to hire a licensed electrician when possible, for any electrical projects around the home," Sabatino said. "Accidents still do happen regardless, it really is all about taking every safety precaution possible when dealing with electricity."

Sabatino said if you are injured by an electrical shock or burn and are coherent, call 911 and have medical personnel check you out. If you find someone who has been electrocuted and is not conscious and has no pulse, call 911 for them and begin CPR. If attempting to help an electrical burn injury victim, make sure the area around them is safe for you to enter

by checking to see if there is any live wiring, sparks or water by the patient.

Sabatino said injuries caused by electrical burns may not appear externally on the body, but are more serious because those injuries cause damage internally to muscles and bones and can cause the heart to defibrillate or stop, or cause a heart arrhythmia later on. He said these are the reasons why the ABA recommends that electrical burn patients be taken to a burn center immediately to be checked out.

Resources and information about electrical and other burn injuries can be found on the ABA website at www.ameriburn.org, the USAISR Facebook page and at usaISR.amedd.mil.

LACKLAND

Fighting through COVID-19: 502nd OSS Airman perseveres through pandemic

Rachel Kersey
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The coronavirus pandemic has affected every aspect of human life, including military operations at Joint Base San Antonio.

Service members continue to do a stellar job even while making significant adjustments to their daily routines. Tech. Sgt. Tammy Valles is one such Airman.

Valles is the noncommissioned officer in charge of airfield management operations at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's 502nd Operational Support Squadron.

"Our mission is simple: To create a safe, effective and efficient environment for our flying agencies," she said.

She is also the additional duty first sergeant for the 502nd OSS.

"My job is people," she said. "Anything to do with people. I take care of any needs or concerns they may have and, while considering the unit's needs, ensure the personnel are getting their needs met as well."

In these two positions, she has had to make considerable adjustments.

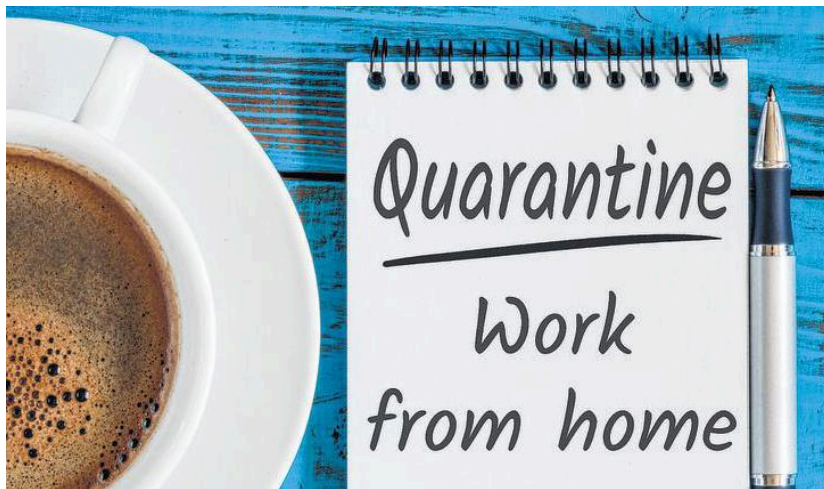
Before COVID-19, she would go into the office and greet everyone at work, file paperwork, review data, discuss events with leadership, conduct dorm inspections, maintain order and discipline, and get everyone on the same page about priorities. She has had to do most of this work from home now, while balancing her responsibilities as a mother.

"I have four children at home who are also conducting school



COURTESY PHOTOS

Throughout the pandemic, service members continue to do a stellar job, even while making significant adjustments to their daily routines. Tech Sgt. Tammy Valles (above) is one such Airman.



"Through proactive use of technology, she's been able to keep tabs on our Airmen, offer them opportunities to grow and advocate for their needs. Now that isolation is almost a matter of policy, this connection is even more important."

Lt. Col. Edward Walker, 502nd Operational Support Squadron commander of Tech. Sgt. Tammy Valles

virtually," she said. "Now, my day not only includes the virtual prioritization meetings, but I add in the breakfast and lunch for the children as well. Distractions are pretty continuous with an eight-year-old."

As a first sergeant, her role includes intimately getting to know the Airmen and civilians under her care. Social distancing requirements have made a job that was once face-to-face now, at best, screen-to-screen. But Valles has risen to the challenge.

"Through proactive use of technology, she's been able to keep tabs on our Airmen, offer

them opportunities to grow and advocate for their needs," said Lt. Col. Edward Walker, 502nd OSS commander. "Now that isolation is almost a matter of policy, this connection is even more important."

She added this new responsibility to her plate and then another obstacle came her way.

"She had just taken over the role of first sergeant at the beginning of the year, when a week later she found out that three of her children were positive for COVID-19," Walker said. "As a parent of three myself, I am constantly afraid of my children getting sick, but

three at one time ... it would be all I could handle just to take care of them."

Valles managed to hold down both forts, but it was a struggle.

"It was harder than I honestly thought it would be. Before work, I was making everyone's breakfast putting it on a sanitized tray, giving it to them and getting a slight glance at them as they came out. At lunch, it was the same way," she explained. "Through all of this, trying to keep up with my duties at work, I admit — I was worried I was going to drop the ball somewhere."

At this point, her children are all recovered and enjoying their

freedom. Valles is thankful for many things, especially that nobody developed severe symptoms and that the people she works with were understanding and flexible.

"Along the way she hasn't missed a beat," Walker said. "Tech. Sgt. Valles is truly an example of fighting through."

And Valles knows she doesn't fight alone.

"The 502nd Operations Support Squadron is the backbone to the flying community. I have amazing supervision and an amazing work center," she said. "I am very proud of my unit and everything we do as a team."

Gold Star survivor becomes Bronze Star recipient

By Staff Sgt.

Amanda Stanford

59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Losing a loved one forever changes someone's life. For some, it shatters them. For others, it pushes them to better themselves. Master Sgt. Brandon "Hock" Hockenbarger, 959th Medical Operations Squadron Internal Medicine flight chief, it's the latter.

Two days after his 22nd birthday, Hockenbarger got the call that he had lost his older brother, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Neil Christopher Hockenbarger, in a car accident, leaving his family as Gold Star survivors.

Hockenbarger swore he would never join the military, even though he came from a long line of military men, with a grandfather in the Army, the other Navy, and his father a Marine.

"I always felt like the black sheep of the family," Hockenbarger stated. "I was extremely hard-headed."

Neil was the inspiration for Hockenbarger's recruitment into the Air Force after he continuously pushed his little brother to join.

"He showed me how life could be better in the Air Force, and how it had given him purpose after losing his wife to cancer," Hockenbarger said. "When my brother spoke, I listened, even when he thought I wasn't."

The loss of his brother came 18 months after Hockenbarger followed his brother's advice and enlisted.

Since then, Hockenbarger continues to do everything he can to honor his brother's memory.

Hockenbarger's latest deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan, in 2020 was no different.

"I hit the ground running when I arrived in Bagram," Hockenbarger said. "It was a dream come true to be the flight chief of the trauma department,

and to see our team work together seamlessly, just made it that much better."

A few days after arriving, Hockenbarger was tasked to forward deploy to Kabul, Afghanistan. The COVID-19 pandemic was ravaging the camp and the Headquarters Resolute Support Role 1 Clinic was in need of help.

Immediately, Hockenbarger jumped headfirst into training in multiple medical Air Force specialty codes including everything from pharmacy to radiology, to ensure he supported the base as efficiently as possible.

Once in Kabul, Hockenbarger moved the COVID-19 testing site away from the main medical facility to ensure the safety of both U.S. service members and NATO counterparts.

"When I arrived, within 15 minutes I was going door to door swabbing isolation patients," Hockenbarger stated. "I took a step back and saw the U.S. and NATO service members were not able to socially distance while in line to get tested, so I worked with our civil engineers to move the testing site to allow everyone to safely distance while testing more efficiently."

His efforts to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus helped lower the COVID-19 positive rates from 30 percent to less than one in a matter of three months.

During this time, the camp came under indirect fire while Hockenbarger and other medical personnel were outside testing patients for COVID-19. Together, they ensured all personnel and patients safely made it inside the Role 1 clinic; one of the only fully bomb-proof buildings,

"I was in the middle of swabbing a patient when the alarms went off," said Hockenbarger. "I quickly finished the swab, and I made sure everyone hit the ground. Once the all-clear sounded, I



STAFF SGT. AMANDA STANFORD

Master Sgt. Brandon Hockenbarger, 959th Medical Operations Squadron Internal Medicine flight chief, displays his Gold Star survivor pin, remembrance bracelet, and Bronze Star medal Jan. 25.

collected all of the samples, and I remember grabbing patients and personnel, leading them across the open terrain into the Role 1. After I made sure everyone was inside, I started prepping for the possibility of a mass casualty event."

While improving medical processes and ensuring patient safety, Hockenbarger also ensured service members had the necessary outlets to help bolster their resilience and mental well-being as well.

"I worked with the chaplains to setup social distanced church services as well as broadcast them virtually every Saturday to help promote the spiritual

pillar of comprehensive airman fitness," said Hockenbarger. "I also facilitated virtual teleconferencing mental health capabilities in a quiet room that was conducive to helping the coalition forces."

Hockenbarger's master resilience training played a vital role in his ability to mentor personnel through their trying times of quarantine and isolation.

Hockenbarger credits his 13-year career for being prepared for the challenges and obstacles he faced. His Tactical Air Control Party training to working with security forces and his years as a medic, all

contributed to his success in this unique and trying environment.

"Everything happens for a reason," stated Hockenbarger. "Every misguided supervisor, every good supervisor, everything I have been through in my career led me to this point. It made me into this melting pot of knowledge that I was able to use during this deployment."

Even with his years of experience and numerous deployments, Hockenbarger still had days where he struggled to stay positive. Deployments take their toll on service members while they're away from family, friends, and daily routine, but Hockenbarger had a "why" that kept him disciplined in his mission.

"I would think about my wife, my kids, and my brother," Hockenbarger said. "I knew everything I was doing over there was nothing compared to what my wife was juggling back home between raising three kids and being a full-time nursing student during a pandemic. I also would think about my brother, and how no matter what, he would hold his head high and keep going. They were my motivation to keep pushing through."

The lives Hockenbarger saved and the obstacles he overcame led to him being nominated and awarded the Bronze Star medal, the fourth-highest ranking decoration a service member can receive for meritorious service in an armed conflict.

"It is extremely humbling to be nominated and then awarded the Bronze Star," Hockenbarger said. "Being an Air Force medic during COVID-19 is trying, but to know the hard work I had done was seen and recognized meant a lot to me. I know I made my family proud, and I know the things I accomplished and the people I helped would make my brother proud."

433RD ASTS TRAINS IN RECEIVING INCOMING PATIENTS ABOARD BLACK HAWKS

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 433rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron transport a simulated injured patient from a UH-60 Black Hawk to a Humvee during training Jan. 9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex. The training provided experience to medics in receiving and transporting combat-injured individuals. Texas Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter crews from Martindale Army Field, Texas, airlifted simulated patients from JBASA-Camp Bullis to JBASA-Chapman Annex. Once the aircraft arrived, the 433rd ASTS medics practiced offloading patient litters and transporting them to a field hospital staging area. The exercise focused on best practices for receiving air medivac wounded personnel from the battlefield.



TECH. SGT. MICHAEL B. LARHMAN

AFIMSC announces 2021 Innovation Rodeo finalists

By Shannon Carabajal

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland announced finalists for the 2021 AFIMSC Innovation Rodeo.

The AFIMSC leadership team and Ventures Innovation Office staff picked eight finalists out of more than 370 submissions to compete for a share of \$1 million in funding and resources to pursue their ideas.

Conducted virtually this year due to COVID-19, the 2021 AFIMSC Innovation Rodeo takes place Feb. 5.

"The pandemic has changed things for us this year, but we will keep innovating and looking for ideas that will improve the way the Air Force delivers installation and mission support capabilities and support our families," said Marc Vandever, AFIMSC chief innovation officer.

Finalists will spend a week learning from leading innovators and honing their pitches before trying to convince a board of senior Air Force installation and mission support leaders that their idea is the best.

The theme of this year's Innovation Rodeo is "Base of the Future," a broad topic with endless

mission support-centric possibilities, Vandever said. Through the competition, Airmen can help shape how installations can look and function in the future.

"Installation and mission support Airmen are resilient problem solvers. Since the pandemic forced the Air Force to adjust to a new normal, they've shown they are able to adapt and innovate to keep delivering crucial support to military families while maintaining readiness at our installations," he said. "We're excited to hear more from the finalists next month, and look forward to working with them to build the base of the future."

The top ideas are:

» DBIDS Scanner Auto-Ping Script

Submitted by Staff Sgt. Jordon Varnier, 30th Security Forces Squadron, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California

Idea: Use a Defense Biometrics Identification System scanner auto-ping script to eliminate the need to physically go to every installation gate for accountability.

» MIPR Processing Solution

Submitted by Dan Gibson, AFIMSC Resources Directorate, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas

Idea: Use robotic process automation, or bots, to streamline and improve the military interdepartmental purchase request process and address system limitations and auditability challenges.

» 21st Century Air Force Facility Management - 3D Structural Scanner

Submitted by Scott McClure, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and Master Sgt. Luke Rogan, 775th CES, Hill Air Force Base, Utah

Idea: Incorporate the use of high-resolution 360-degree cameras and 3-D scanners into Air Force civil engineering. These technologies integrate seamlessly with cloud-based solutions to create entirely new, visual-spatial facility management techniques that can be used in space utilization, facility assessments, housing inspections and fire and safety inspections.

» Agility for Firefighters

Submitted by Joseph Suddarth, 96th CES, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

Idea: Cost-effectively standardize fire departments across Air Force installations with an innovation that has been researched, developed,

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RANDOLPH

JBSA senior secures Valero Alamo Bowl scholarship

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

When Bradley Ludington, a senior at Randolph High School, attended the Valero Alamo Bowl Dec. 29, 2020, it was not only to see a great football game, he was also there as one of the recipients of a Valero Alamo Bowl scholarship.

The Valero Alamo Bowl scholarship program works with partner universities to award San Antonio area high school and college students an average of \$1 million distributed between 140 or more deserving students each year.

Ludington said he has not decided on a university yet but has applied to Baylor, Vanderbilt, Harvard, Stanford and Yale, and many of his applications are still pending.

Growing up, Ludington said he enjoyed studying science and is hoping to major in biology or biochemistry, adding that the scholarship will help pay for eight semesters of tuition.

"I was extremely excited when I realized I was receiving the scholarship," he said. "This is a huge chunk of money that's going to be incredibly helpful in

getting me the education I want."

The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, honors received, teacher recommendations, financial need, extracurricular activities, and a written personal narrative.

Bradley is a member of the varsity swimming team and has varsity letters for cross-country as well. He has also obtained his Eagle Scout ranking with the Boy Scouts of America.

Ludington said his scholarship is worth \$7,500, and he applied online for consideration and by going through Randolph High School counselor Simone Galeana.

"Bradley is a remarkable young man. He has a great work ethic and unrelenting ambition," Galeana said. "He consistently exudes sincerity, tenacity and a maturity that is not typical to that of his peers. It is uncommon to find a student who encapsulates all these qualities, coupled with humility, and he is ranked number one out of 121 students in his cohort."

Even the young man's father recognized that putting in the time and effort, then meeting the requirements



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TYLER MCQUISTON

Randolph High School senior Bradley Ludington is a 2020 Valero Alamo Bowl scholarship recipient.

needed to apply for scholarships, was no easy task for the high school student.

"High school seniors, in particular, have huge demands on their time," said Col. John Ludington, Air Education and

Training Command Inspector General. "Routine school activities, extracurricular activities, the stress and strain of impacts from COVID-19, while also applying for multiple colleges, is a huge task."

Galeana said students cannot begin preparing too early for college scholarships.

Students who are interested in applying for the Valero Alamo Bowl Scholarship should be fully engaged in their school's culture and academics, even during their freshman year of high school, she said.

"Often times, students start acclimating and settle down after their freshman or sophomore year, but this is usually too late in their high school career," said she said. "Stay curious, be informed and have great follow through."

While Bradley's hard work isn't over, he said this accomplishment has motivated him for his next tier of education, and his father agrees.

"I'm so proud of Bradley for getting everything done and that his hard work and his record of accomplishments were recognized by the Valero Alamo Bowl scholarship committee," his father said.

Air Force recruiting launches E.C.H.O. to test cognitive skills

By Master Sgt.
Chance Babin

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force recruiting is continually innovating to better reach potential recruits. Harnessing technology to improve the recruiting process, the Air Force is releasing a new online, interactive gaming experience, E.C.H.O. - Enhanced Cognitive Human Ops.

This new recruiting tool helps engage and build awareness of different opportunities in the Air Force that recruiters can send out to target audiences. The experience takes players through three different

challenges, testing a variety of cognitive skills that Airmen use every day. At the end of the experience, the results will highlight which Air Force career path would be viable based on their performance and how they can continue to improve their cognitive skills.

"We always say 'Airmen are our greatest weapon system,'" said Maj. Jason Wyche, Air Force Recruiting Service national events chief. "While the Air Force has the most advanced technology in the world, an Airman's cognitive skills are still the key to effectively employing that technology. E.C.H.O. is a fun way to showcase the cognitive skill sets needed by our Airmen while educating

players on the various career fields the Air Force has to offer."

While the initial launch of E.C.H.O. will be an online version, AFRS plans to have a mobile asset for events with a virtual reality experience for fans.

"While the pandemic has put a pause on live experiences, we are pushing the needle on what is possible with virtual options," said Master Sgt. Zachary Atkinson, AFRS events marketing superintendent. "We're excited to bring a test of skills to players across the country who may end up being the next generation of Airmen in the U.S. Air Force. The mobile asset with the game should be

out in the field as soon as we are safely able to resume events."

The E.C.H.O. game has the ability to test people's skills. The hologram of a real Airman will walk users through the gaming experience comprised of three different missions where they will be tested on how they perform through each challenge.

"Through a series of challenges, players' cognitive skills will be tested, measured and given feedback on so they can develop them further," Atkinson said. "It's up to the participants to combat task saturation by working strategically and efficiently to accomplish each challenge and of course, have fun while

they're at it."

At the end of each challenge, the results will highlight which Air Force career path would be viable based on their play and how their cognitive skills can be optimally used. Participants are permitted to retake the challenges in order to improve and compare scores.

"E.C.H.O. gives potential Airmen confidence that they have what it takes," Atkinson said. "It helps recruiters sell specific career fields while narrowing down potential applicants to target specific career fields. It gives recruiters another virtual tool to inspire and recruit potential Airmen."

The online version of E.C.H.O. can be found at <http://airforceecho.com/>.

Air Force Civilian Service goes digital, continues to hire

By Air Force Civilian Service Talent Acquisition Division

COVID-19 has changed the world and placed unforeseen obstacles in the way business is conducted. Job searchers are seeking stability in an unstable workforce while talent acquisition consultants face new challenges.

The Air Force Civilian Service has also adapted to this new environment and in ways different than others. While some companies and organizations are navigating layoffs, reassigning workloads, and downsizing, AFCS is hiring.

“Our TA consultants are as vital as ever as they work to fill open positions,” said Mike Brosnan, AFCS Talent Acquisition division chief. “While there have been unforeseen challenges we’ve created a seamless recruiting experience for hiring managers to use and for job seekers to explore their next opportunity.”

Moving Online & Going Live

Virtual recruiting has become AFCS’s go-to method to keep hiring systems moving forward while protecting the health of recruiters and candidates, while also saving money.

“We’ve moved our in-person, brick-and-mortar recruitment events, which cost anywhere from \$85,000 to \$165,000, to the digital realm,” said Jesse I. Diaz, marketing and branding. “Each event is targeted toward different occupations, hosted by different bases, and allows attendees to have one-on-one conversations with TA consultants, similar to what their experience would be at an in-person career fair.”

AFCS is using a new method of hiring called Digital Hiring Projects that exists solely in the digital space and includes initiatives like Live Q&A chats on Facebook. These options provide candidates a number of advantages including real-time discussion with a TA consultant, the ability to set reminders, invite



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friends through a link, and the ease of tuning in with personal devices.

In addition to providing job candidates a productive experience, digital hiring events are approximately 1/10th the cost of traditional in-person events and are promoted using AFCS’s existing social media platforms. The cost savings has enabled AFCS to conduct more digital events where candidates submit their resumes directly to the hiring authority — several per month, if needed — instead of one or two third-party vendor-hosted virtual events per year.

“We’ve been promoting job openings across Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, keeping our job opportunities at the forefront for those following our pages, and making posts shareable with just a click of a button. To kickoff 2021, our job opportunities are now accessible on the AFCS website under the ‘Find a Job’ heading and visible in one place,” Diaz said. “The Department of the Air Force also offers qualified applicants opportunities to be hired for certain occupations covered by direct hire authorities. The use of DHA is a method of hiring applicants from the general public who have no prior federal service employment so we can help fill critical hiring needs.”

The Benefits of Digital

Although AFCS has had a

digital presence for a while, transitioning the recruitment efforts to the digital space has tremendous promise for attracting enthusiastic candidates to serve the Air Force and Space Force in many different career specialties, Brosnan added.

These digital events spark interest from thousands of possible candidates and have high participation from diverse audiences. Accessibility and visibility have increased ways to connect through social media, Zoom, and Webex. Engagement has also increased across AFCS’s social media platforms and email campaigns have attracted a larger target audience.

“These digital projects and hiring event collaborations with organizations, such as Air Force Materiel Command, U.S. Cyber Command, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Space and Missile Center, and Sixteenth Air Force have produced successes in our recruitment efforts, benchmarks and overall growth,” Brosnan said. “We’ve taken these challenges from COVID and turned them into opportunities to be agile, innovative, and responsive ... continuing to fuel the fight.”

For more information about Air Force Civilian Service, opportunities to serve as an Air Force civilian, and digital recruiting events, visit www.afciviliancareers.com.

12th FTW selects 2020 annual award winners

By Benjamin Faske

12TH FLYING TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“Please join me in congratulating our wing’s 2020 annual award winners. Last year brought forth some new challenges, but your hard work is what made the wing successful in 2020,” said Col. Scott Rowe, 12th Flying Training Wing commander. “Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence.”

- » Junior Enlisted Member: Senior Airman William Manriquez, 98th Flying Training Squadron
- » NCO: Tech Sgt. Joseph Dyas, 558th FTS
- » Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Tiffany Brilinski, 1st FTS
- » First Sergeant: Master Sgt. Kimberly Caturla, 479th Flying Training Group
- » Company Grade Officer: Capt. Orion Kellogg, 559th FTS
- » Field Grade Officer: Maj. Daniel Bourgeois, 559th FTS
- » Civilian Category I Non-Supervisor: Robert Wydler, 12th Maintenance Group
- » Civilian Category II Non-Supervisor: Julie Catlett, 12th FTW
- » Civilian Category III Non-Supervisor: Keith Tolley, 98th FTS
- » Civilian Category I Supervisor: Juan Arenas, 12th MXS
- » Civilian Category II Supervisor: Katrina Scott, 12th FTW
- » Civilian Category III Supervisor: Richard Porter, 12th MXG
- » FLT/CC: Maj. Jacob Breth, 559th FTS
- » Instructor Combat Systems Officer: Capt. Sean Sullivan, 479th Operations Support Squadron
- » Instructor Pilot: Maj. Dennis Nita, 455th FTS
- » Enlisted Instructor: Senior Airman Fabian Cancel Pancorbo, 479th OSS
- » Wing Innovation (Individual): Maj. Kevin Fickert, 558th FTS
- » Wing Innovation (Team): 12th Operations Group



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Department of the Air Force offers civilians more than 30 development programs

By Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

The Academic Year 2022 Civilian Developmental Education (CDE), Civilian Strategic Leader Program (CSLP), and Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program (ESEP) application call runs Jan. 13 through Feb. 26.

The Department of the Air Force provides developmental education, academic programs and leadership assignment opportunities to prepare civilian Airmen and Guardians to anticipate and successfully meet challenges across the wide range of Air and Space Force operations and missions, and ultimately any high-end fight.

"The goal of civilian force development is to identify interested civilians who want to increase their professional development and select them for the developmental education or experience that aligns with their personal and professional goals and the needs of the Department of the Air Force," said Becky Venters, chief, Civilian Leadership Development at the Air Force Personnel Center. "Participation in developmental programs positively impacts retention and is one of the ways the Department invests in its people."

Civilian development experts encourage eligible Air and Space Force civilians to review available developmental opportunities with their short and long-term goals in mind. Before applying, civilians should share their intent and get input from their supervisors.

Civilian force development programs cultivate leadership and institutional competencies while expanding participants' understanding of the role of air, space, and cyberspace power. Force development opportunities are divided into four categories:

► Developmental Education (Basic, Intermediate, and Senior)



COURTESY GRAPHIC

- Academic/Fellowships
- Leadership Seminars and Short Courses
- Experiential Assignments

The first category, Developmental Education, offers 13 unique programs. New opportunities for AY22 include space-focused programs of study within Air Command and Staff College and Air War College.

The second category, Academic/Fellowships, is launching an in-resident Bachelor's degree option and the President's Management Council-Interagency Rotation Program this year. The third category, Leadership Seminars and Short Courses, includes multiple opportunities that target specific leadership competencies—many in a one-week format.

The final category, Experiential Assignments, includes CSLP and ESEP. CSLP selects garner a

broad, three-year, senior-level leadership experience outside their traditional functional areas and is open to civilians from all career fields. ESEP provides civilians from the Scientist and Engineer career field the opportunity to work with allied governments to promote international cooperation in defense research, development, testing, and evaluation. This program provides a unique, two-year broadening opportunity in one of 16 allied nations.

"The Department of the Air Force will always need leaders with the right competencies and professional development to accomplish the mission," Venters added. "This requires taking a deliberate approach to developing our force. Supervisors and leaders are an essential element of this process and will have access to review and endorse applications in MyVector through March 13. Ideally, supervisors will invest in learning about the development opportunities available and facilitate honest conversations with team members about applying for the right opportunity at the right time in their careers."

Department of the Air Force civilians in permanent positions are eligible to apply. Applicants must submit their applications by Feb. 26 using MyVECTOR at <https://MyVECTOR.us.af.mil/MyVECTOR>. Google Chrome is the recommended browser to register, create, and access your account.

For more information on eligibility requirements and full program details, visit the myPers Civilian Force Development website at <https://mypers.af.mil/app/categories/p/2/c/549>.

For additional CDE information, contact the AFPC Leadership Development Office, afpc.civilian.development.cde@us.af.mil; for CSLP, contact AFPC CSLP Office, AFPC.DP2Z.CSLP@us.af.mil; and for ESEP, contact AFPC Science & Engineering Career Field Team, afpc.sc.cft@us.af.mil.

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tested and evaluated by the fire and emergency services flight at Eglin Air Force Base.

► Advanced Disaster Management System - Virtual Reality Command and Control Exercise Reformation

Submitted by Joseph Suddarth, 96th CES, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

Idea: Invest in a single platform that offers challenging, true-to-life scenarios that provides multi-discipline training for response. The platform would capture the ability to train on all hazards anytime, anywhere without disrupting daily operations.

► The 'SMART' Locker - 24/7 Mail Access for Airmen in Air Force Dorms

Submitted by Airman 1st Class Ricardo Morales, 461st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia

Idea: A smart locker providing Airmen at base dorms with a 24/7 accessible mail locker that would eliminate repeated visits to the base post office, which has limited operating hours, and reduce the time it takes Airmen to receive packages.

► Resource Management Unusual Activity Heat Seeker — Artificial Intelligence Enabled

Submitted by Daniel McDermott, AFIMSC Resources Directorate, JBASA-Lackland

Idea: Use artificial intelligence to monitor volatility in the Automated Budget Interactive Data Environment System, or ABIDES, appropriated

fund updates for unusual activity using historical and implied volatility values. AI can reduce human error and improve speed and quality of APF resource management reporting.

► eCitation System for Base Security Forces

Submitted by 1st Lt. Tyler Moore, 366th Security Forces Squadron, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho

Idea: An eCitation system for security forces Airmen that would substantially cut processing time and increase the confidence of inexperienced defenders who haven't issued many citations. The system would mirror similar programs run by civilian police departments.

For more information about the AFIMSC Innovation Rodeo, email AFIMSC.Innovation@us.af.