

JBSA

LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 12, 2021



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TYLER MCQUISTON

U. S. Air Force Capt. Kyle Maloney, a pilot temporarily assigned to the 559th Flying Training Squadron, test flies a T-6 Texan II simulator during an immersive training device evaluation Feb. 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

559th FTS pilots test new immersive training prototypes

Page 17



433rd SFS defenders return from deployment

Page 13



JBSA flips switch on for new Smartflower solar energy devices

Page 9

Secretary of Defense orders military stand down to address challenge of extremism in the ranks

By Jim Garamone
DOD NEWS

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has ordered a DOD-wide stand down to discuss the problem of extremism in the ranks, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said Feb. 3.

Austin and Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met with service civilian leaders and service chiefs to discuss the problem of extremism. Kirby noted that some of the extremists who stormed the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6 were active duty service members and others were military veterans.

Kirby was quick to say that “the vast majority of men and women who serve in uniform and the military are doing so with honor, integrity and

character, and do not espouse the sorts of beliefs that lead to the kind of conduct that can be so detrimental to good order and discipline and in fact is criminal.”

Still, Austin said in the meeting with military leaders that while the numbers may be small, they are not as small as anyone would like. “No matter what it is, it is ... not an insignificant problem and has to be addressed,” Kirby said during a press gaggle in the Pentagon.

The stand down will occur over the next 60 days, Kirby said. This is so “each service, each command and each unit can take the time out to have these needed discussions with the men and women of the force,” he said.

There is much that needs to be hammered out including the

details of the training that will go along with the stand down and what the secretary and all in the military want to accomplish. The stand down is similar to safety stand downs that units may have, Kirby said.

Austin called extremism in the ranks a leadership issue, and “it’s got to be a leadership issue down to the lowest levels, small unit leadership all the way up to him,” Kirby said. “So if you consider it a leadership issue, then maybe there will be some potential solutions there to allow us greater visibility.”

This is an interesting and thorny problem, one that has raised its head in the past. There is a DOD Instruction aimed at this very problem — DODI 1325.06 “Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of

the Armed Forces.”

The DOD Instruction expressly prohibits military personnel from actively advocating for and participating in supremacist, extremist or criminal gang doctrine, ideology or causes, Kirby said.

There are questions that need to be answered, like what constitutes extremist activity? What is permissible in looking for extremists in the ranks?

In the meeting Feb. 3, Austin made it clear that he is still mulling over how he wants to organize the effort to attack the problem from an institutional perspective, the press secretary said.

The secretary may establish a task force to get after the problem or perhaps another way. “He hasn’t ruled anything in or out,” Kirby said.

DOD requires wider use of masks on, off installations

By DoD News

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III signed a memo Feb. 4 that, effective immediately, directs all individuals on military installations and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of the Department from any location other than the individual’s home, including outdoor shared spaces, to wear masks in accordance with the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, guidelines.

Individuals must wear masks continuously while on military installations except: (1) when an individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door; (2) for brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors; (3) when the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; and (4) when necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability. Individuals must consistently wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth and that comports with all current guidance from the CDC and the



LISA FERDINANDO

Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Categorical or case-by-case exceptions to these requirements for service members and their families in environments other than office spaces that are necessary for military readiness, that are related to living on a military installation, or that are related to mask wearing by children (so long as such exceptions are consistent with CDC guidelines for mask wearing by children) may be granted in writing by Department of Defense component heads and should include appropriate alternative safeguards

whenever feasible, such as additional physical distancing measures or additional testing consistent with DOD testing protocols.

DOD components will comply with applicable labor relations obligations to the extent such obligations do not conflict with the agency’s ability to conduct operations during this emergency.

The memo can be found at <https://media.defense.gov/2021/Feb/04/2002576265/-1/-1/1/DOD-ANNOUNCES-USE-OF-MASKS-AND-OTHER-PUBLIC-HEALTH-MEASURES.PDF>.

JBSA LEGACY

Joint Base San Antonio
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing
and JBSA Commander
BRIG. GEN.
CAROLINE M. MILLER

502nd ABW/JBSA
Public Affairs Director
MAJ. KIM BENDER

Editor
STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff
LORI BULTMAN
DAVID DEKUNDER
RACHEL KERSEY
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
TYLER MCQUISTON
SABRINA FINE

JBSA LEGACY
ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE
EN COMMUNITIES
P.O. BOX 2171
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78297
210-250-2052

This Department of Defense newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of the JBSA Legacy are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DoD, or the U.S. Air Force.

Published by EN Communities a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force under exclusive written contract with the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office.

Everything advertised in this publication will be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

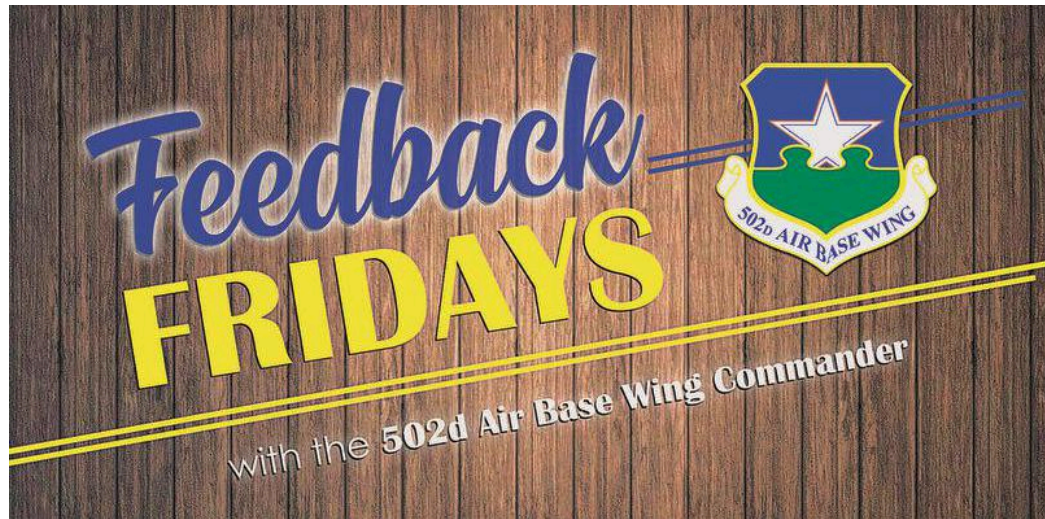
If you have a question or concern, please send an email to jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Q. I am presently a Government Scale employee of the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron at JBSA-Randolph Vehicle Maintenance.

I have concerns about the response of our squadron leadership in response to your setting of HPCON Charlie. I have received a copy of your guidance dated Dec. 30, 2020, but I did not receive a copy of this guidance from any of the leadership where I work or any others from within the squadron.

In your guidance, it clearly indicates the following: Commanders and supervisors at all levels need to balance employee schedules to accomplish the mission and accommodate high-risk members and other family considerations. This may include teleworking or adjusted work shifts.

We were notified last week that we were going into HPCON Charlie. I am a 75-year-old with some comorbidities which place me in a high-risk area. Up to the present day, by my own local leadership, I have not been offered any alternatives to working as normal. I am on an alternate work schedule where I work eight nine-hour days and one eight-hour day.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

I do think that leadership based on the general's guidance should be offered some type of change in the work schedule. A possibility could be an alternating schedule to work one week on and one week off.

A. Thank you for the opportunity to address your concerns. The 502nd Vehicle Management team does its best to ensure that all Airmen both military members and civilians are working within safe conditions and are notified of HPCON changes.

Upon the initial wave of COVID-19, the section responded by establishing alternating shifts but found it to be not conducive with the mission set.

The team takes COVID-19 mitigations and all high-risk matters seriously and has worked to provide safe working conditions, ample workspace and distancing for employees and ensure 6 feet or more spacing between desks and other work areas.

They have also provided

personalized office space for those individuals that fall into the high-risk category. HPCON Charlie signage was pushed out to all 502nd LRS personnel via the unit control center on Dec. 31, 2020, with directions that the change would take effect Jan. 4, 2021.

On Jan. 4, JBSA IC DIR 21-010401 JBSA COVID-19 Guidance Memo #47 and HPCON Charlie Implementation was provided to the flight leadership for distribution. All guidance is enforced as much as possible based on mission requirements; however, any concerns are addressed as quickly as possible, if known.

Q. My question is if it is possible to designate a time of the day in which retirees could use the gymnasiums.

With four gyms at JBSA-Lackland, perhaps a two-hour period could be allocated to retirees at a time when attendance by military personnel is at minimum.

I have used the gyms for more than 30 years and I am grateful for this privilege. Even a one- or two-day access would be appreciated by the retirees. Thank you.

A. Thank you for contacting us regarding your concern. Unfortunately, JBSA installations are in HPCON Charlie and are only allowing mission-essential personnel to enter for official business.

To ensure we maintain combat readiness for our military and other mission essential members, and to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19, JBSA Fitness Centers and Aquatic Centers are limited to military members, mission-essential Department of Defense civilians and first responders only.

JBSA senior leadership and medical advisors will continually assess our health protection posture and implement changes to the services provided based on a detailed assessment and leaders' decisions.

JBSA Security Forces install base access kiosks to enhance social distancing efforts

By John E. Gutierrez
502ND SECURITY FORCES GROUP

COVID-19 has reshaped many of our day-to-day processes. Joint Base San Antonio Security Forces have responded to these changes to provide social distancing in the way they are processing customers through their JBSA-Visitor Control Centers, or VCCs.

On a combined average across JBSA, the Visitor Control Centers process 21,640 customers per month, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to this, the 502nd Security Forces Group has installed new kiosks that will further reduce the health risks during customer check-in when requesting base access.

The check-in process is very similar to the process at the JBSA pharmacies or the ID card offices around JBSA that are currently using a similar kiosk. The new 502nd SFG customer service kiosks will take this to next level, allowing customers the ability to check-in from their phone or pre-enroll from their computer.

Some customers already use this type of check-in process at local customer service stores in the community. The new kiosks will allow customers to check-in on one of the three new platforms.

The first platform would be the standard method of visiting the VCCs in-person to check-in at the kiosk. The second platform is a pre-enrollment website where customers would submit their information prior to coming into the VCCs. The third platform is the ability to enroll on the customer's cell phone.

By utilizing any of the three platforms, customers will be placed in a queue for their turn to be serviced which will expedite the process giving customers a better customer service experience.

Even for customers that may not have a cell phone, Security Forces have also invested in a pager system very similar to the ones used at local restaurants that notify you when your table is ready.

The intent of the kiosk and pager system is to minimize the number of customers in the VCCs and to allow customers to wait outside in the comfort of their vehicles until they are called to be serviced by being messaged on their cell phone or notified on the pager device.

Website links are posted in this article and will be posted on the JBSA.mil website that will give people information on the pre-enrollment website where they can further reduce their wait time by entering in vital information that assists in producing a base access pass.

The 502nd SFG looks to provide the best possible customer service experience while adhering to social distancing practices during this pandemic.

The URLs for each kiosk at the VCC locations are:

» JBSA-Lackland Luke East -
http://eipublisher2.evogence.com/short_url/?8odkDx12

» JBSA-Lackland Valley Hi -
http://eipublisher2.evogence.com/short_url/?T9zZgfl0

» JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Hospital BAMC -
http://eipublisher2.evogence.com/short_url/?GVYCDr25

» JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Walters Street -
http://eipublisher2.evogence.com/short_url/?HqO17923

» JBSA-Randolph -
http://eipublisher2.evogence.com/short_url/?7vO5TN27

The QR codes for each location are:

JBSA-Lackland Luke East
VCC Kiosk QR Code



JBSA-Lackland Valley High
VCC Kiosk QR Code



JBSA-Fort Sam Houston I-35
VCC Kiosk QR Code



JBSA-Fort Sam Houston
Walters VCC Kiosk QR Code



JBSA-Randolph VCC Kiosk
QR Code



COURTESY PHOTO

An example of the new kiosks at the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Luke East Visitor Control Center. The intent of the kiosk and new pager system is to minimize the number of customers in the VCCs and to allow customers to wait outside in the comfort of their vehicles until they are called to be serviced by receiving a message on their cell phone or being notified on the pager device.

Black History Month — The Kitchen Table: Reflections on the past, visions for the future

By Rachel Kersey

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio joins the millions of Americans celebrating Black History Month 2021 by honoring the history of African Americans in the military and considering ways to move forward in unity for the future.

“Black History Month makes me reflect on all the milestones and wonderful things that Black people have done to make life better for Americans,” said Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider, Joint Base San Antonio and 502nd Air Base Wing command chief. “I realize that I am standing on the shoulders of giants, and I would not be where I am today if it was not for those that came before me.”

Charles A. Anderson, an African-American Air Force veteran born in 1934, remembers a world where a man like Snider could not rise to his rank in the service.

“I know President Truman said, ‘I want our military integrated,’ but we weren’t even close to an integrated Air Force at that point in time,” he said.

Anderson enlisted in 1954. He recalled training to be a firefighter, but was abruptly moved to work in food service. When he was later selected to move overseas to be a firefighter, some members of his leadership were not happy.

“[My new leader] said, ‘We didn’t ask for you,’ and I said, ‘All I know is I have orders that I’m to report to this detachment,’” Anderson said. “Oh, he was furious. Being African-American affected your career path.”

Anderson remembered a number of racially motivated brawls in the segregated dormitories and in his personal home in Hawaii.

“I see all these Black chiefs, I see these full colonels, and I’m looking at the evolution of what has transpired since I was in uniform,” Anderson said. “I never would have believed it, but here it is.”

In a short series of video interviews, Anderson and Snider discuss the progress the military has made toward racial reconciliation, as well as the work that remains.

“I have been serving my country for

“Black History Month makes me reflect on all the milestones and wonderful things that Black people have done to make life better for Americans. I realize that I am standing on the shoulders of giants, and I would not be where I am today if it was not for those that came before me.”

Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider, Joint Base San Antonio and 502nd Air Base Wing command chief



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider (right), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio command chief, embraces his wife of 22 years, LaShae, after an interview at JBSA-Randolph Jan. 19.

more than two decades now, and it has been the greatest honor of my life to serve in the military and to protect this great nation,” Snider said. “I believe in America and what America stands for, so it troubles me to see how some have regressed back to a mindset that is not helpful to where we need to be going as a nation.”

“Our country is split and we have to ask why,” Anderson added. “It goes back to the kitchen table; it starts way back then.”

Anderson said having knowledge of history is essential, especially the history of family values shared around the

kitchen table. He urges Americans to investigate the historical roots of the division in our nation.

“Go back to the kitchen table, right where mothers and fathers and grandpas talk about the country they live in and where they want to go, because everybody says we want a more perfect union, but we have a lot of work to do,” he said.

“This is real to me,” Snider said. “I find myself more protective of my family because I want to make sure my family is taken care of. It’s important for me to do my best to create the right environment, the right world, so that when my son

grows up, he can do great things by his work ethic and his character.”

Both men hope all services continue to evaluate ways to make the military a more equitable community.

“I think we need to continue to have more tough conversations, and I think we need to continue to find ways to improve communication down and across the chain,” Snider concluded.

Keep an eye out for Black History Month videos featuring Snider, Anderson and others posted on Joint Base San Antonio’s Facebook page this month at <https://www.facebook.com/JointBaseSanAntonio>.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

AACOG-led consortium seeks Sentinel Landscape status for JBSA-Camp Bullis

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis sits astride the Southern Edwards Plateau on the Northwest edge of San Antonio. This gem of JBSA is vital to military training and readiness as it provides a rugged tactical training area in this Texas Hill Country landscape essential to the training of all military services' combat medics and Air Force security forces.

In an effort to protect and sustain JBSA-Camp Bullis' mission, the Alamo Area Council of Governments, or AACOG, is leading a consortium of 16 partner organizations seeking to have the area recognized at federal and state levels as a Sentinel Landscape.

Building a consortium of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental entities, and gaining Sentinel Landscape status will leverage complementary resource conservation efforts to sustain endangered species, water quality, and military training in the area, which is something Larry Dotson, AACOG Compatible Use Program manager, believes will greatly advance common land use objectives by opening the potential for additional funding sources.

"Each of our 15 partners brings a unique perspective to the table," Dotson said. "From the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District to the Hill Country Alliance to Texas A&M University to the U.S.



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

U.S. Air Force Defenders from the 343rd Training Squadron participate in 13th Annual Fallen Defender Ruck Nov. 6, 2020, at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Fish & Wildlife Service, our diverse group is working together to assemble a competitive application for Federal Sentinel Landscape designation."

Leaders at JBSA also support AACOG's effort to protect the area.

"The lands at JBSA-Camp Bullis are an integral part of

our training mission at Joint Base San Antonio," said Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander. "Protecting the area will help maintain military readiness while also protecting the natural resources and wildlife located there."

JBSA-Camp Bullis

encompasses nearly 28,000 acres, of which approximately 22,000 acres are invaluable to field training and maneuvers for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and multi-service medical training.

In contrast, the area is also home to several endangered species, including the golden-cheeked warbler, a

small songbird that migrates thousands of miles from El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and Mexico every March to breed and nest exclusively in central Texas, including on the lands of JBSA-Camp Bullis.

Sentinel Landscape status might also mitigate the issue of increased light pollution in the area, which negatively affects military training.

Over the last few years, as northern San Antonio has grown, the light pollution at JBSA-Camp Bullis has become a concern during military training operations, and the designation of the area as a Sentinel Landscape could help lessen that concern.

If the area receives the Sentinel Landscape designation, an integral part of the coalition will be the participation of private landowners, who could voluntarily support the designated lands by adopting and maintaining sustainable land management practices around the installation and ranges, without giving up their development rights. Landowners whose property falls within a sentinel landscape boundary may also be eligible for priority consideration for certain programs.

Those interested in learning more can view the interactive landowner resources tool, which provides information on the federal and state assistance programs that offer tax reductions, agricultural loans, disaster relief, educational opportunities, technical aid, and funding for conservation easements.

NTAG SA officers selected for Navy national recruiters of the year

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Evans and Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Thomas, both of Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio, have been selected as national recruiters of the year by Navy Recruiting Command.

Evans, NTAG San Antonio medical officer recruiter, is the National Medical Officer Recruiter of the Year, and Thomas, NTAG San Antonio Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate recruiter, is the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Recruiter of the Year, Nation. The awards are for their accomplishments in Navy recruiting for fiscal year 2020.

Both of them were also recognized as recruiters of the year at the local level for NTAG San Antonio.



COURTESY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Evans (left) and Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Thomas (right), both of Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio, have been selected as national recruiters of the year by Navy Recruiting Command.

Evans, 44, has served in the Navy for 12 years and has been a Navy recruiter for more than two years. His primary recruiting area is the Waco-Temple area of Central Texas, where he focuses on recruiting college students to become officers in the Navy Medical Service Corps as physicians, dentists or nurses.

"I get a chance to bring in commissioned officers into the United States Navy and that is pretty cool," Evans said. "I get to change people's lives. They have a passion for service. I connect their passion for service into reality."

When Evans started out as a recruiter, his biggest challenge was establishing connections at Baylor University in Waco, where he gets most of his recruits.

He said the campus had

RECRUITERS continues on 9

JBSA flips switch on for new Smartflower solar energy devices

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio flipped the switch on for two new flower-shaped solar power devices Feb. 1, furthering the base's efforts in energy conservation and eco-friendly initiatives.

The Smartflowers consists of 12 petal-shaped solar panels which open when the sun rises and close when the sun goes down, and each is equipped with an inverter to convert solar energy into electricity. They are also programmed to follow the direction of the sun, maximizing the amount of exposure and solar energy they receive, according to Adam Murdaugh, 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron mechanical engineer.

"They track the sun as they go through the sun's cycle, and when the sun sets, they return to a 'home' position and prepare for the next sunrise," Murdaugh said.

The solar flowers measure 16 feet across when the petal-shaped solar panels are opened and nine feet when the panels are folded and at rest.

Murdaugh said each solar flower has the capability of providing 6,000 kilowatt-hours of energy annually, which will



TRISTIN ENGLISH

Members of the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron and CPS Energy demonstrated the new Smartflower solar energy device at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 1.

offset the electrical load at each JBSA location where they are installed.

One of the systems is located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and helps provide power to the electronic marquee at the Walters Street entry control point, which displays messages and announcements to

motorists. The other, located at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center parking garage, helps light the garage and run the personnel carriers used to transport patients to the building.

Each solar flower contains a sealed lead-acid battery which backs up the computer program

inside the device, Murdaugh said. The battery also provides power to fold the solar panels if the power shuts off, and when power is restored, the battery will recharge and the panels will unfold and resume tracking the sun.

Murdaugh said meters have been installed on the devices to

keep track of how much energy they use and conserve.

The installation and startup of the solar flowers has been a long process, and was delayed due to COVID-19.

In February 2020, solar flowers were installed at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston electronic marquee sign location and the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center parking garage. The onset of the pandemic delayed getting the devices working, as COVID-19 restrictions prohibited technicians from the manufacturer from traveling to JBSA until this year, Murdaugh said.

The installation of the solar flower devices is one of several solar energy projects JBSA and the 802nd CES have been involved in. Other projects include a solar carport at Building 5595, which houses the 802nd CES at JBSA-Lackland; lighting retrofits at a number of facilities; and the construction of thermal storage tanks at JBSA-Lackland and at JBSA-Chapman Training Annex.

"JBSA's overall strategy is conserving energy, and we are doing just that with the Smartflower, collecting solar energy to offset the electrical load on the base," Murdaugh said.

RECRUITERS

From page 8

been underutilized as a recruiting area for years and it took him several months to make contacts and connections at the university. Once he did, Evans said he was able to gain access to building relationships with faculty, university administrators and students, which has increased Navy recruiting awareness and people joining the Navy.

According to Evans, his past service in the Navy as a hospital corpsman has helped

in connecting him with college students who are in the medical field.

"I can speak not only their language, but I can speak to the exact experience they will have in the field of Navy medicine and address their concerns," Evans said. "In general, I can paint the picture of what the next 10 to 20 years of their lives are going to be like."

Thomas, 39, has served in the Navy for 17 years and has been a recruiter for five years. He became a Nuclear Propulsion Officer Recruiter, or NUPOC, recruiter two

years ago.

Thomas' recruiting focus is applicants who have science, technology, engineering and math degrees who want to serve as nuclear engineers on submarines and other ships that have nuclear reactors, or nuclear engineer instructors at technical schools.

"My recruiting job is unique because I get to recruit sailors who will do some of the toughest, most challenging jobs in the Navy," Thomas said.

Thomas said one of the most rewarding parts of being a recruiter is the feeling he is

helping to change people's lives. He said he keeps in contact with the Sailors he has recruited and he takes satisfaction in their successes as they progress in the Navy.

"They have let me be a part of their life now," Thomas said. "All of them are officers. It's a rewarding feeling to see how they have grown in their Navy careers."

Thomas, a San Antonio native, enlisted in the Navy in 2003 and then got out and became a peace officer. He rejoined the Navy in 2007 as a Reservist assigned to a Naval Reserve unit at

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

He became a recruiter with Navy Recruiting District San Antonio in 2015, which became NTAG San Antonio last year.

Both Evans and Thomas were picked for their respective awards among those serving across the Navy Recruiting Command, consisting of a command headquarters, three Navy Recruiting Regions, 26 Navy Talent Acquisition Groups, or NTAGs, and 64 Talent Acquisition Onboarding Centers, or TAOCs, that serve more than 1,000 recruiting stations around the world.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Community Pharmacy relocates

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Fort Sam Houston Community Pharmacy has moved into the new Army and Air Force Exchange Service (Exchange) located at 2500 Funston Road at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the contact number remains the same: 210-295-9965.

A virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 16 on the Brooke Army Medical Center Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BrookeArmyMedicalCenter.

“The relocation of the Community Pharmacy into this new facility will provide customers with a one-stop shopping experience for both their prescriptions and other shopping needs,” said Army Col. Stacey Causey, BAMC pharmacy chief. “It will also allow us to provide the best pharmacy experience for the JBSA community.”

The new pharmacy is about 1,600 square feet larger than the old location and is designed to allow a better overall operational flow and more workspace for the pharmacy team to safely work.

“The pharmacy has eight prescription windows, which is a vast improvement over our old location,” Causey said. “Additionally, the pharmacy now has a dedicated patient counseling space to allow for private



JASON W. EDWARDS

Army Spc. John Petersen, pharmacy technician, verifies a prescription with a customer at the Community Pharmacy in the Exchange Feb. 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

one-on-one counseling. The location of the pharmacy also provides a safer and larger parking experience for patrons as the previous parking lot became heavily congested with patient traffic.”

The Community Pharmacy fills an average of 330 new prescriptions and 1,440 refills daily.

“That’s more than 417,600 new and refilled

prescriptions a year,” Causey said. “Those are some impressive numbers and with this new space I’m sure we will be able to do even more.”

Currently, people are required to call all the BAMC pharmacies in advance to have new electronic prescriptions processed for pick-up which is being done to assist with COVID-19 social distancing requirements. New and renewal electronic prescriptions will be processed and ready for pick up within one hour. However, prescriptions received within one hour of the pharmacy closing will be ready for pick up the next business day after 9 a.m.

On average, new prescriptions take about 30 minutes to fill. For prescription refills, customers generally wait about 2 minutes for pick up.

“In mid-March, people will have another option when picking up their prescriptions at the Main and Fort Sam Houston PX pharmacies,” Causey said. “They will be able to pick up their prescription by using the ScriptCenter Express Prescription Pickup kiosk.”

Pharmacy personnel will load the patient’s prescription into ScriptCenter kiosk and the patient will simply log in to retrieve them.

“We are proud of our pharmacy staff,” Causey said. “They work very hard to serve our patients and we want our patients to have the best experience possible when they visit any of our pharmacies.”

Local ROTC cadets support all-star football game

By Danielle Avington

5TH BRIGADE, UNITED STATES ARMY CADET COMMAND

On what was a great day for high school football, 112 high school seniors from 62 local San Antonio high schools competed in the San Antonio Sports All-Star Football Game at Heroes Stadium in San Antonio Jan. 30.

Prior to kickoff, cadets from The University of Texas at San Antonio Army ROTC 5th Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command, teamed up with the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion San Antonio to speak with spectators as they entered.

Army ROTC cadets spoke with parents, youths and community partners about ROTC opportunities and their leadership experience within the ROTC program.

Cadet Ashley Smith is an active duty Soldier in the U.S. Army, but is now a full-time college student and cadet at UTSA Army ROTC. She was one of the cadets who volunteered her time to work the event and had the special duty of participating in the Color Guard to present the colors during the National Anthem.

Smith will commission as an Army Officer upon her graduation. She said she never would have imagined she’d be where she is today, but with the Army and Army ROTC, she’s gained many exciting opportunities.

In the game, Team Gold defeated Team Black, 44-31.



PHOTOS BY DANIELLE AVINGTON

Prior to the kickoff of the San Antonio Sports All-Star Football Game Jan. 30, cadets from The University of Texas at San Antonio Army ROTC 5th Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command, teamed up with the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion San Antonio to speak with spectators as they entered Heroes Stadium in San Antonio.



Cadet Ashley Smith (above), an active duty Soldier in the U.S. Army and also a full-time college student and cadet at UTSA Army ROTC, was one of the cadets who volunteered her time to work the event and had the special duty of participating in the Color Guard to present the colors during the National Anthem.

LACKLAND

543rd ISRG opens Joint Collaboration Facility

By Joshua Rodriguez

SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE (AIR FORCES CYBER)
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 543rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group Joint Collaboration Facility, or JCF, took place at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 29. The ceremony, presided over by U.S. Air Force Col. Ty Gilbert, 543rd ISRG Group commander, was attended by the facility's current class of out-of-access joint force service members.

The JCF is the first collaborative environment of its kind at JBASA-Lackland and is designed to bring together out-of-access service members who are currently awaiting security clearances together to collaborate on intelligence and cryptologic projects supporting the joint environment.

"There are a lot of fingerprints and lot of vision on this effort, the team from the 543rd, the 16th and the other joint service commanders," Gilbert said. "This will bring joint members together to think boldly and collaboratively to build relationships and learn things that will sharpen their trade crafts and serve them throughout their careers."

The 543rd ISRG Group completed the initial operating capability almost exactly a year ago, Feb. 6, 2020. Due to COVID-19 protocols and various circumstances, they have now achieved full operational capability, or FOC.

"We are excited; FOC means we have a plan and the ability to take in our service members and give them the ability to work on their tradecraft and not allow those skills to atrophy," Gilbert said.

Out-of-access service members are those in a limbo status as they await the process of receiving their proper security clearance.

"Having a place like the JCF, and to be available to prepare the service members and train there, means a lot," said a U.S. Army staff sergeant stationed at JBASA.

As he reminisced about his first duty station, the staff sergeant said it is a blessing to be a part of the JCF and to help the junior service members prepare for their career, helping them hit the



MANUEL GARCIA

Joint service members stand with U.S. Air Force Col. Ty Gilbert (center), 543rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group commander, as he cuts the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the Joint Collaboration Facility, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 29.

ground running. He wanted to be able to give back to the community the way he was brought into the community.

The JCF is a place that allows joint service members to continue working on their skills while supporting unclassified projects such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, cyberspace network operations, publicly available information analysis, research, and service-related training. The facility will keep service members actively involved in their community versus being assigned to other units outside their career field while they

await their clearances.

"The members assigned to the JCF were a previously untapped joint multi-domain resource that now have a workspace to showcase talent and innovative ideas," Gilbert said. "Don't consider this mission complete, consider this a step forward where we can build on our service member's skills."

The 543rd ISRG is a force provider for national cryptologic operations and serves as the Sixteenth Air Force's primary service cryptologic component to the Department of Homeland Security. The group provides

air, space and cyberspace signal intelligence analysts for National Security Agency/Central Security Service Texas as well as Air Force National-Tactical Integration for Air Forces Southern and Air Forces Northern air operations centers. The group also supports cryptologic mission sets within North American Aerospace Defense Command, United States Northern Command, as well as United States Southern Command.

Editor's note: Soldier's name omitted for security reasons.

433rd SFS defenders return from deployment

By Senior Airman Brittany Wich
433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 30 defenders with the 433rd Security Forces Squadron, 433rd Airlift Wing, reunited with their families at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 31.

The Reserve Citizen Airmen returned from a six-month deployment to Southwest Asia where they provided base security.

"The 433rd Security Forces Squadron has a proud history of stepping up and deploying when the nation calls," said Maj. Matthew Darisse, 433rd SFS commander. "Despite the challenges presented with the global pandemic, they did the same thing over the last six months. I'm certainly proud of their efforts."

Tech. Sgt. Steven Redgate, 433rd SFS, embraced his family and spoke on his deployment experience.

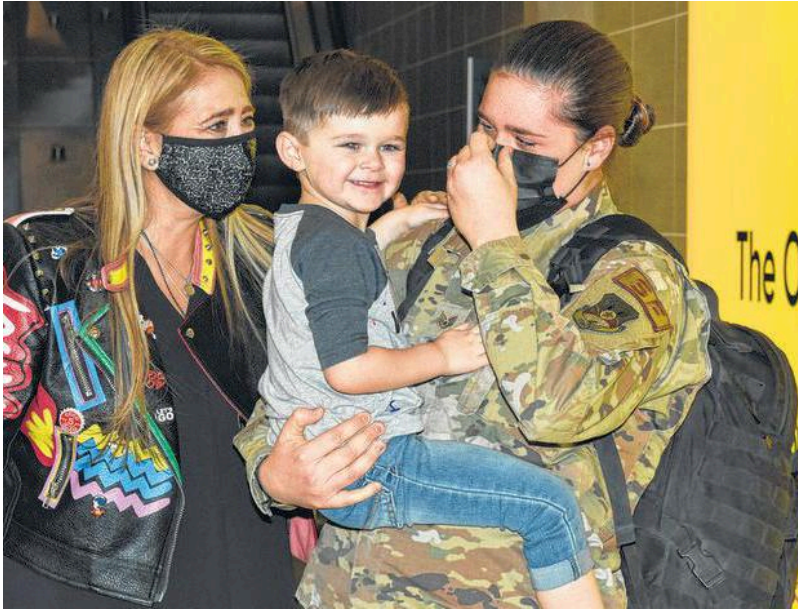
"Our team was really, really good," Redgate said. "We helped each other out. Leadership was great, they stepped in covered our shifts during Christmas and Thanksgiving so we could eat together."

Brenda Lee Redgate, the sergeant's wife, said there were difficulties in the absence of her husband but the support from family, friends and other spouses of deployed defenders got them through.

"I'm just happy that he's home and he's safe," said Brenda Lee Redgate. "And I'm glad that everybody else got to come home safe as well."

One tool in place for spouses of deployment members is the Key Spouse program. This program keeps the spouses of deployed service members connected with each other and squadron leadership, to provide support for these families. Darisse said the program is critical especially during the global pandemic that bring new challenges for service members and their families.

"We can't thank the family members of our defenders enough for their sacrifice," Darisse said.



SENIOR AIRMAN BRITTANY K. WICH

Staff Sgt. Venus Rich, 433rd Security Forces Squadron, reunites with her son, Kyle, and mother, Alicia Rich, at the airport in San Antonio Jan. 31.

"The 433rd Security Forces Squadron has a proud history of stepping up and deploying when the nation calls.

Despite the challenges presented with the global pandemic, they did the same thing over the last six months. I'm certainly proud of their efforts."

Maj. Matthew Darisse, 433rd Security Forces Squadron commander



MASTER SGT. KRISTIAN CARTER

Corinna Treviño and son Ezra welcome Staff Sgt. Marco Treviño, 433rd Security Forces Squadron, home from a six-month deployment Jan. 31 at the San Antonio International Airport.



TECH. SGT. MIKE LAHRMAN

Tech. Sgt. Steven Redgate, 433rd Security Forces Squadron, speaks to a reporter from a local television station during an on camera interview at the San Antonio International Airport Jan. 31.

"I'm just happy that he's home and he's safe. And I'm glad that everybody else got to come home safe as well."

Brenda Lee Redgate, spouse

Portable exercise equipment ‘working out’



By Vanessa R. Adame
37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Physical readiness has long been a priority for the U.S. Air Force and now as COVID-19 is posing restrictions on fitness centers, portable training units located throughout the base are providing a convenient option for service members.

The fitness systems, known as Beaver Fit Gym Boxes, are built into 10-foot shipping containers. The containers include items such as climbing ropes, medicine balls and kettlebells, and are designed for training that can accommodate up to 50 people at one time.

The 37th Training Wing acquired 12 Beaver Fit boxes last year as then-wing commander Col. Jason Janaros sought to promote physical fitness and readiness. Prior to the acquisition, portable containers had been successfully utilized by the Special Warfare units at the Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex and various joint service units at JBSA-Lackland.

The gym boxes, which include equipment from resistance bands to squat racks, are designed for easy assembly and transport. The 12 units are currently housed at squadrons throughout the 37th TRW, with 10 at

JBSA-Lackland, one at JBSA-Chapman Training Annex and another at JBSA-Camp Bullis. The 37th TRW plans to buy two additional Beaver Fit Gym Boxes this fiscal year.

“The boxes offer a centralized location for members to work out within their squadrons considering the limitations COVID-19 has impacted the fitness facilities,” said Capt. Keith Jones, 326th Training Squadron. “Additionally, the boxes provide the fitness capability to squadrons who do not have a gym or workout area, making it more convenient for members to incorporate a workout regimen within their duty day.”

One of the containers was recently relocated from the Security Forces Training Complex to the 837th Training Squadron to provide better access to members. The move has proven useful for instructors of the International Force Protection to maintain their physical fitness and improved access for members who use the Beaver Fit Gym Boxes.

“It’s very beneficial having this equipment here, especially now with COVID,” said Staff Sgt. Ernesto Gutierrez, 837th TRS. “We don’t have to drive to the gym; we can do a quick 30- to 45-minute workout. We have all the equipment here.”

Staff Sgt. Carlos Zapata, 837th Training Squadron, performs a deadlift during a workout at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 21. The Beaver Fit Gym Box was relocated to the 837th Training Squadron from the Security Forces Training Complex last year to provide better access to members.

COVID-19 convalescent plasma; saving lives today

By Staff Sgt. Amanda Stanford
59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department of Defense Blood Donation Centers are looking for volunteers to donate COVID-19 convalescent plasma. COVID-19 convalescent plasma is human plasma collected from individuals whose plasma contains anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies.

“Do for somebody what they can’t do for themselves,” said Staff Sgt. Kiersten Zardee, Armed Services Blood Bank Center non-commissioned officer in charge of apheresis operations. “Giving those

antibodies saves lives.”

The Department of Defense set a goal to collect 10,000 units in 2020. The goal for 2021 is to sustain the amount of CCP collected at each location.

In an effort to help reach that goal, the Armed Services Blood Donor Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland has set a goal to collect 20 units a week.

Patients who have recently recovered from COVID-19 and want to donate can contact the Armed Services Blood Donor Center at 210-292-8100.



STAFF SGT. AMANDA STANFORD

A blood bag rests on a cart before being processed for COVID-19 convalescent plasma Jan. 30 at the 59th Medical Wing Armed Services Blood Donor Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. CCP can be collected two ways; through plasma donation or through whole blood donation.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

By Rachel Kersey
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and Joint Base San Antonio wants to bring awareness to teens experiencing physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and digital abuse from current or former partners.

"Millions of teens in the U.S. each year suffer from teen dating violence. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey indicate that nearly 1 in 11 female and approximately 1 in 15 male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence in the last year," said Tonya Lee, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's violence prevention integrator.

Nearly 10 percent of high school students report being

abused by a partner within the past year, she added.

Additionally, about 1 in 9 female high school students and 1 in 36 male high school students report having experienced sexual violence in the last year. The surveys show 26 percent of women and 15 percent of men who were victims of sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime reported experiencing it before the age of 18.

"Unhealthy, abusive or violent relationships can have severe consequences and short- and long-term negative effects on a developing teen," Lee said. "Youth who are victims of teen dating violence are more likely to experience symptoms of depression and anxiety; engage in unhealthy behaviors like using tobacco, drugs and alcohol; antisocial behaviors like lying, theft, bullying or hitting; and consider suicide."

Some tips Lee would pass along to parents of teens are:

- ▶ Define and model behaviors of healthy relationships.
- ▶ Describe the different types of abuse and their warning signs.
- ▶ Set expectations and boundaries for your teen's dating behaviors.
- ▶ Offer support, understanding and patience to teens.
- ▶ Don't make assumptions about your child's partner or the nature of their relationship.
- ▶ Be respectful of your teen's feelings, approachable and intentional about establishing an open line of communication.
- ▶ Know when to ask for outside help to solve a problem.

"It's never too early to get the conversation about healthy relationships started," Lee said. "Having open lines of communication around dating rules can help to make sure teens are on the same page. It is important that teens know adults are there for them. Many teens worry that adults won't



COURTESY PHOTO

Tonya Lee (center), Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph violence prevention integrator and Randolph Community Action Team members (from left) Dr. Aaron Moffett, Gina Ramirez, Maria Preda and Master Sgt. Ebone Walker gather for a photo after hanging orange ribbons around the installation Feb. 1.

believe them or understand. It's important to meet them with understanding and patience."

For help with teen dating violence, Lee advised reaching out to school counselors, the Family Advocacy Program, the installation chaplain, the Military and Family Life Counselor, Military OneSource. Additional resources are available from organizations such as The National Child

Traumatic Stress Network, Love is Respect, That's Not Cool, the CDC and Futures without Violence.

"My passion has always been to support people and let them know they are not alone," Lee said. "We need to ensure there is a consistent message to prevent all types of interpersonal and self-directed violence within all types of relationships."

433rd Airlift Wing recognizes 2020 annual award winners

By Master Sgt. Kristian Carter

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Following a year of unprecedented events, the 433rd Airlift Wing continued a new trend of modified operations by announcing the 2020 wing annual award winners during a recognition ceremony 30 at the wing auditorium at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 30.

Traditionally, award winners are announced during the wing's annual award banquet. However, this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony, hosted by Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd AW commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Shana C. Cullum, 433rd AW command chief, was limited to senior leadership, nominees and a few support personnel for in-person attendance.

The ceremony was live-streamed on multiple platforms allowing the audience to view the event remotely. Also in remote attendance were Brig. Gen. Jeffrey T. Pennington, 4th Air Force commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Cynthia Villa, 4th AF command chief.

"In the past, this has been a much more formal ceremony," McClain said. "COVID-19 being what it is, we have had to adjust throughout the year." He continued by saying the wing plans to



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRITTANY K. WICH

have a bigger event sometime later in the year.

Following McClain's opening remarks, Pennington and Villa spoke briefly to congratulate the nominees on their accomplishments.

"We're humbled and honored, as always, to be with a bunch of heroes as

they take an opportunity to recognize some of their outstanding achievers from this past year," Pennington said. "I just wanted to let everyone know how much we love and appreciate you. We miss you as we are not right there. We prefer to high-five our folks in person when we can."

Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd Airlift Wing commander, speaks at the wing's annual award winner recognition ceremony Jan. 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The award winners are:

- Airman Category: Staff Sgt. Stephany Carrillo, 433rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron
- Noncommissioned Officer Category: Tech. Sgt. David M. Rudd, 433rd Medical Squadron
- Senior Noncommissioned Officer Category: Master Sgt. Jason Henry, 733rd Training Squadron
- First Sergeant Category: Senior Master Sgt. Samuel G. Caballero Jr., 26th Aerial Port Squadron
- Company Grade Officer Category: 1st Lt. Madison C. Glemser, 433rd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Field Grade Officer Category: Maj. Teanglia A. Moore, 74th Aerial Port Squadron
- Flight Commander Category: Maj. Luke L. Williams, 74th Aerial Port Squadron
- Civilian Category I: Martin R. Calles Jr., 433rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Civilian Category II: Nicole Garcia, 433rd Force Support Squadron
- Civilian Category III: Donald M. Bowen, 433rd Civil Engineer Squadron
- Honor Guard Member Category: Master Sgt. Julie Fuleky, 433rd Medical Group
- Alamo Wing Combat Ready Spirit Award: 433rd Medical Squadron

Department of the Air Force institutes Office of Diversity and Inclusion

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The Department of the Air Force, in support of both the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force, stood up the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Jan. 11.

In June 2020, former Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett stood up a Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, which has evolved into this new office. The organization will work directly for the secretary of the Air Force and continue to address the strategic impact of diversity, inclusion and equity on Airmen, Guardians and

their families.

Tawanda Rooney, a career member of the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service, is the acting senior advisor on Diversity and Inclusion. Prior to this position, Rooney served as deputy director, Concepts Development and Management Office, Secretary of the Air Force.

"The Department of the Air Force is committed to enabling all Airmen and Guardians to thrive in a diverse and highly inclusive environment," Rooney said. "Our office will lead this charge and continue all the good work the Task

Force initiated. Diversity and inclusion are warfighting imperatives and we need to capitalize on all available talent by enabling a culture of inclusion where every member is respected and valued for his or her identity, culture and background.

The ODI was established based on the recommendations of both the Office of Secretary of Defense and Air Force Inspector General independent review of racial disparity, ordered by the secretary of the Air Force and the Air and Space Forces service chiefs, released Dec. 21, 2020.

The inspector general's review focused specifically on

assessing racial disparity in military discipline processes, personnel development, and career opportunities as they pertain to Black/African American Airmen and Guardians. The new office is charged with identifying and changing policies and procedures, removing barriers and other practices that may have an unfair effect upon underrepresented Airmen and Guardians.

The office is a cross-functional team of military and civilian Air and Space professionals that represents communities across both services and applies

subject matter expertise to the changes being considered. Members represent different ranks and perspectives, both minority and majority groups, whose sole focus is to make changes that create an equitable environment for all Department of the Air Force personnel.

The task force and Office of Diversity and Inclusion have made strides in the past months, including efforts such as an emblems and mottos review and tracking administrative discipline data.

For more information on diversity and inclusion efforts across the DAF, visit www.af.mil/diversity.

RANDOLPH

559th Flying Training Squadron pilots test new immersive training devices

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

The T-6 Texan II pilots assigned to the 559th Flying Training Squadron participated in testing new immersive training device, or ITD, prototypes from Feb. 1-5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The ITDs are a type of virtual reality technology that uses simulations to create the feeling of being in a physical world and are used for various types of training, including Undergraduate Pilot Training and Pilot Instructor Training.

The squadron used a contracted company to brief, facilitate, and gather formal feedback on what instructors and student pilots thought of the new ITD. The feedback was gathered by a wide demographic of new and experienced pilots, and pilot instructors. It's based on functionality, simplicity, and user-friendliness, and will be used to determine what changes the ITD needs.

"The intent is to be able to pull the right training to the right level of device," said Mike Edwards, contractor and project manager. "Pilots can use this equipment to perform thorough aircraft checks."

The evaluation began by having each pilot complete a questionnaire. Questions included what type of flight experience each pilot had and what their experience using virtual reality was. Following that, pilots used the Learning Management System, or LMS.

The LMS is a program pilots use to log onto the ITD. They



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TYLER MCQUISTON

U. S. Air Force Capt. Kyle Maloney, a pilot temporarily assigned to the 559th Flying Training Squadron, test flies a T-6 Texan II simulator during an immersive training device evaluation Feb. 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

are able to check their courses, grades, flight tasks, assignments, set up exercises, and change virtual weather conditions.

"We look at different squadrons in different locations to better determine what training tasks are needed to effectively train pilots," said Julian Abich IV, contracted senior engineer.

The evaluation process continued when pilots put on a virtual reality headset and

began a flying simulation. The pilots ran through a series of virtual tasks, which included starting the aircraft, taking off on the virtual runway, and conducting their usual flying training activities.

"We ask them certain questions such as, 'How did the stick feel, how did the rudder feel, and are the petals accurate?' The main goal that we are trying to get here is to see if the VR equipment will be effective training for these

different scenarios," said Michael King, contracted engineer.

At the conclusion of the simulation, pilots took a final survey.

"The simulations give instructors good flexibility to do more off-script types of training," said 2nd Lt. Adam Payne, a pilot instructor training student assigned to the 559th FTS.

Maj. Nathan Moseley, 559th FTS assistant director of

operations, praised the virtual evaluation and compared it to getting stronger at the gym.

"Exercising reps in the aircraft can become quite expensive, so having the ability to perform repetitions in the virtual environment will save costs and will allow students to practice flight administration, cross-checking, task management, and several other competencies that are required to succeed in the dynamic flight environment."

Mentorship in the Air Force develops the Force

By Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

Mentors and mentees virtually attending the two-day Air Education and Training Command Leadership Mentoring Symposium Jan. 26-27 were given tools needed to inspire and advance the force through mentoring.

"Everyone needs mentors, and my advice is to find mentors within and outside of your career field, as well as mentors who look like you and don't look like you," said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AETC commander, during his opening remarks. "Mentors can give you ideas, perspectives and feedback from diverse perspectives, and the relationships you develop will make you a better leader, Airman and overall a better person."

Mentorship is a professional relationship in which a person with greater experience and wisdom guides another person through development, both personally and professionally. The overall goal of mentoring is for a mentee's potential to be maximized.

"Early in my career I thought if I came to work and

did my best, then everything would work out," said Col. Seth Graham, 14th Flying Training Wing commander. "While that is true to a degree, mentors can help you be deliberate and plan. Mentors are there to help guide you with career progression, advancement and meet deadlines you may be naive to."

Speakers for the event also explained that mentoring fosters and develops diverse strengths, perspectives, and capabilities that begins with inclusion.

"Mentorship fosters a culture of inclusion because it promotes communication," said Col. Heather Blackwell, 81st Training Wing commander. "While an Airman may not be comfortable with talking to their supervisor about inclusion issues, surely they can bring it up with their mentor. This will give Airmen the opportunity to communicate at every level."

Mentoring is a responsibility for all leaders and resources are available to help guide mentors and mentees interested in self-development.

"The greatest responsibly for any leader is to mentor and coach the people who will eventually replace you,"

said Maj. Gen. William Spangenthal, deputy commander of AETC. "I challenge you to make mentorship, both as a mentor or mentee, a priority and deliberately invest time and energy into this effort because it is not just about making one person better, it is about making the entire organization better."

For a mentoring tool kit, go to AF Handbook, Air Force Mentoring Program and copy and paste the following URL into your internet browser: https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_at/publication/afh36-2643/afh36-2643.pdf

Those interested in finding a mentor are encouraged to utilize the Air Force mentoring tool, MyVector, when formally selecting a mentor. On MyVector, mentees will be able to, in real-time, invite participants to serve as mentors, select mentors based on preferences, chat with their mentor online, and complete a mentoring plan. Additionally, on MyVector, mentees can find the Air Force competencies, a tool for self-development.

For those interested in mentoring, register on MyVector. For more information on mentorship, email HQAETC.A1D.Workflow@us.af.mil.

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 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.

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)
- » 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."

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 at afpc.civiliandevelopment.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.se.cft@us.af.mil.